

2016 Ways and Means Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 12, 2016

9:00 a.m.

(via video conferencing)

I. **Welcome** – Othniel McGriff, National Vice Chairman & Ways and Means Chairman brought the meeting to order and opened @ 9:12 a.m.

II. **Roll Call**

a. Cherrie Hawkins	DC
b. Gwen Shannon	NY
c. Vickie Boyd	NY
d. John Jackson	Pittsburgh
e. Shelia Hawkins	DC
f. Elsie Bowden	Detroit
g. Cortnie Squirewell	Detroit
h. Ken Shaw	NC
i. Vendetta Fleming	NY
j. Cheryl Hatton	Detroit
k. Othniel McGriff	Detroit
l. Robin Phoenix	NY

III. **Opening Prayer** – Cousin Cheryl Hatton

IV. **Remarks by National Chairperson, Robin Phoenix**

Informed committee of the Cousins National Administrative Team:

Robin Phoenix	National Chairperson
Othniel McGriff	Vice Chairman
Cheryl Hatton	Secretary
Shelia Hawkins	Treasurer
Eric Brevard	Parliamentarian
Ken Shaw	PR / Webmaster
Gwen Shannon	Historian
Betty Hunt	Chaplain

V. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes from 2015 Ways and Means Meeting read by Cheryl

Motion made by Cousin John Jackson to approve

Seconded by Vickie Boyd

Ayes: 11 Opposes: 0

Motion Carried

VI. **Old Business**

a. 2016 Detroit Reunion Summary Report – Cousin Elsie Bowden

Reported – 182 registrants

Banquet attendees = 142 (132 adults + 10 children)

Room Reservations: Thursday = 23; Friday = 37; Saturday = 39

Question: Was an assessment sent in? None has been sent to date.

Assessment is \$10.00 based on per adult attending Banquet.

- b. Financial Committee Report – Cousin Shelia Hawkins, Treasurer
\$1394.88 = Beginning balance
\$1,299.48 = New balance (minus cost of website fee since July and reimbursement for recognition plaques)
- c. Scholarship Committee Report – Cousin Cherrie Hawkins, Chairperson
 - i. No applicants
Committee consisting of Robin, Betty and Elsie has not met. Jurea Harris is interested in serving and may be replacing Robin.
 - ii. Scholarship Funds – Cousin Elsie Bowden
\$1,061.98 = beginning balance minus \$500.00 for children’s activities in Detroit. \$327.00 will be re-deposited. Balance of interest will be \$888.98. Total Assets of CD = \$7,888.98
Cousin Elsie opened discussion re: the use of the Scholarship funds (CD) in Detroit.
- d. Youth Committee Report – Cousin Cortnie Squirewell
Saturday afternoon, during the reunion, children were taken to laser tag and had an enjoyable time.

VII. New Business

- a. Chapter Recommendations
 - i. Detroit Chapter recommends that a committee be established to revise and update the National Cousins By-Laws.
Cousin John Jackson moved to accept
Cousin Cherrie Hawkins seconded
Question – What are next steps?
Vote: Ayes – 11 Opposes – 0
Motion carried to accept

Detroit Chapter recommends that the National Cousins Scholarship Committee review and revise the criteria / requirements for perspective applicants.

Discussion rendered that the committee already has that charge.

Cousin John Jackson moved not to accept

Cousin Ken Shaw seconded

Vote: Ayes – 10 Opposes – 0

Motion carried not to accept

- ii. NY recommends that at Thursday's business meeting of the June, 2017 Reunion, Chapter Chairs and Executive Members come prepared to discuss the last revised By-Laws and answer any questions that family have at the Saturday Business meeting. A copy of the By-Laws will be included in the reunion Welcome Packet.

Cousin Ken Shaw sent everyone an electronic copy of By-Laws during the meeting.

Cousin John Jackson moved to accept

Cousin Cheryl Hatton seconded

Vote: Ayes – 10 Opposes – 0

Committee volunteers: John, Ken, Cheryl, Othniel and Gwen (suggested)

- iii. Cousin John Jackson recommended that an assessment be established (like \$2.00/person) to maintain the National website so we can avoid individuals from going in their pockets.

Discussion: Cousin Ken Shaw mentioned that there are venues and entities that can keep the website financially solvent.

AMENDMENT TO RECOMMENDATION: Use National treasury funds to pay website fee for a year. Cousins Ken and John will work together on a website sustainability plan.

Cousin Cheryl Hatton moved to accept

Cousin Cherrie Hawkins seconded

Vote: Ayes – 10 Opposes – 0

Motion carried to accept

- b. Chapter Updates
 - i. DC – None
 - ii. Pittsburgh – None
 - iii. Baltimore – Disbanded
 - iv. NC – Interest in starting NC Chapter by Cousin Jazmine Campbell (Peay)
 - v. NY – Report provided extending an invitation to NJ to join them
 - vi. Detroit – Resting
- c. Membership Directory Update – Cousin Cheryl apologized that directory was not ready by reunion but reported that Executive Board, Ways and Means Committee and POCs were sent completed directory electronically in July, 2016.

VIII. **2017 Reunion Update** – Cousins Vickie Boyd and Robin Phoenix Embassy Suites has been secured in Secaucus, NJ.
No double beds available – only kings, but couch is sofa bed.
Room Rate = \$169.00 + tax (~18%); Includes complementary full breakfast and free parking.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Cousin Othniel McGriff gave history of how the \$7,000.00 came into existence that was placed into Scholarship Fund CD in 1991.
- b. Cousin Ken Shaw expressed passion for keeping the scholarship funds for youth during the reunion if not for applicants.
- c. Discussion held on keeping focus on how to get, keep and sustain our youth's involvement in the reunion. Cousin Cortnie Squirewell offered some suggestions and ideas on how to get younger members involved. Cousin Cortnie was asked if she would continue to be the National Youth Coordinator and she agreed.
- d. Discussion held on number of delegates on Ways and Means Committee via the By-Laws.
- e. Question asked about how to get pictures on website of 2016 reunion. Cousin Ken Shaw indicated to send to him. Cousin John Jackson said he would upload DVD onto website.
- f. Cousin Othniel McGriff offered his contact information, inclusive of e-mail, home address, and phone # which is:
Othniel McGriff
9144 Grayfield
Redford, MI 48239
(313) 515-2008
omcgriff@sbcglobal.net
He requested that of each W/M committee member send same to him.
Discussion was held re: active and inactive family member list.

X. **Closing Remarks** – Cousin Othniel thanked everyone for attending meeting
Cousin Robin thanked Cousin Othniel for chairing

XI. Adjournment

Cousin Cheryl moved to adjourn meeting at 12:11 p.m.
Cousin seconded
Vote: Ayes: 10 Opposes: 0
Motion carried