

NATIONAL COUSINS WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, November 16, 2019 via Zoom

9:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Othniel McGriff

Wyvetra Crawford

Sheila Blamo

Gerald Brevard

Bennie McGriff

Betty Hunt

John Jackson

Sherri Sivels

Robin Phoenix

Elsie Bowden

Barbara Lewis

Cherrie Hawkins

Artie Thompson

Brenda Thompson

Barbara Johnson

Robert Johnson

Vickie Boyd

Nett Johnson

Cheryl Hatton

AGENDA

I. WELCOME

Othniel McGriff, National Chair/W&M Chair

II. OPENING PRAYER

Betty Hunt, National Chaplin

III. ROLL CALL

Cheryl Hatton, National Secretary

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cheryl Hatton

Motion: John Jackson/ Seconded: Betty Hunt – Motion Carried

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Bennie McGriff, National Treasurer

December, 2018 – Elsie closed the CD and deposited \$7,534.89 into Detroit Chapter Cousins account for temporary storage.

July 8, 2019 – Elsie deposited \$405.00 from 50/50 Raffle at SC reunion for Scholarship Fund

July 29, 2019 – SC sent \$845.00 (assessment from reunion participants)

August 28, 2019 – Received check of national treasury funds from Sheila Hawkins

September 5, 2019 – National Treasury account established at MI First Credit Union

Savings - \$1928.34 + 845.00 = \$2,773.34 (National Treasury)

Checking - \$7534.89 + 405.00 = \$7,939.89 (Scholarship Fund)

Gerald motioned to accept treasury report with necessary corrections/Betty seconded

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Where did money come from for scholarship?

Othniel gave historical overview of how lawsuit in Detroit from reunion in 1988, was won and awarded \$5,000 for Cousins Scholarship.

Cherrie moved / Gerald seconded to approve Financial Report

Motion Carried

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Othniel McGriff

a. 2019 S.C Reunion Summary

Robert Johnson

169 Registrants

*Cherrie Hawkins moved to have more detail in the report to help future reunion planners encompassing breakdown of adults, children, banquet participants, etc. Seconded by Betty.

Motion Carried

Cherrie will e-mail template/info to Robert.

b. Scholarship

Cherrie Hawkins

Nothing to report other than from 50/50 raffle. \$388.00 collected from raffle. Cousin Harvey Ellis who won donated his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund. Additional contributions of \$17.00 was made = \$405.00

*Cousin Gerald brought up to have National Cousin incorporate as we once were. Cousin Betty suggested to have an attorney to speak to the body to determine pros and cons of incorporation for a non-profit group.

Cousin Othniel brought about clarity to the issue of incorporation with keeping in mind to protect the body/the family should anything occur during a reunion.

Cousin Artie mentioned specifics of securing “event insurance” that would protect the group from any prospective issues/lawsuits/etc.

c. Youth Committee Report

Wyvetra Crawford

As her charge is to increase youth participation, she utilized social media as the mainstream for young people to use to remain connected. She has increased the total number of members on the Cousins Facebook page from 200 to 326, with more cousins being added weekly. The goal is to create a venue where all cousins can post and socialize throughout the year. Reported, additionally, is that she has been in communication with the Youth Coordinator for the DC Chapter about activities for youth during the 50th Reunion.

Lastly, it was mentioned that she has been working on coordinating a Winston-Salem Chapter and to have the group formed by the end of the year.

QUESTION: How are we capturing the people from Facebook to include them into the directory or make sure we keep them included? Cousin Sheila indicated that she has the form for Cousins to complete and will direct them to complete one.

d. ByLaws Committee Report

John Jackson

John reported that as of the business meeting at this year’s reunion, everyone was asked to go onto the website to read through the revised ByLaws and get back to him by October, 2019 deadline. To date no one

contacted him. The ByLaws Committee has met this fall to correct some grammatical errors.

Motions to accept the revised ByLaws – Gerald; Seconded by Betty

Motion Carried

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Othniel McGriff

- a. Chapter Updates - Othniel asked what chapters were being represented at this meeting. Responses – DC, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Atlanta [GA], Detroit, SC & NY
 - i. Buffalo is re-organizing. Working on getting a bus to reunion. Betty
 - ii. Atlanta is currently organizing. Barbara Lewis
 - iii. Detroit is meeting monthly and looking at ways of getting to 50th reunion. Cheryl

- b. Membership Directory Update – No Report

- c. Historian Report

Sherri Sivels

Sherri reported that she has been researching members of the various family branches to identify connections between the eight names. She has done so through several articles either online, in newspapers, our Facebook site or magazines. Also within her research, it was suggested that the family might like to participate in finding out more about our ancestry by accessing an African ancestry company – AfricanAncestry.com. Having reached out to the company, Sherri is hoping to have the company to come to the reunion to do a presentation at the upcoming reunion.

Cousin Betty mentioned that there was a pamphlet, which is now a pdf, that can be accessed online, entitled Black Family Research (with records of information from the national archives).

- c. Chapter Recommendations
 - i. DC Chapter Recommendations

#1 – Due to the chapter just rebuilding, the chapter is requesting a loan of \$900 as an advancement from the National Treasury, to assist with securing a hotel for the reunion that is requesting a \$1900 deposit. The intent is to reimburse the money during the winter.

Gerald moved to accept the recommendation pending anything better;
Seconded by Betty.

Motion Carried

#2 – Use of \$500 from Scholarship fund for youth activities during the 2020 reunion.

Betty moved to accept the recommendation; Seconded by Gerald.

Motion Carried

#3 – To revisit the idea of renaming the Cousins Scholarship Fund to the Michael Payne Scholarship Fund.

Betty moved to accept the recommendation; Seconded by John

Question/discussion held. The motion was amended to read the change in name to be National Cousins Scholarship Fund in Memory of Michael Payne.

Motion Carried

ii. Detroit Chapter Recommendations

#1 – Recommended to simplify the criteria for scholarships to a) include the non-traditional student as well as the traditional; b) to follow up with scholarship recipients; and c) to keep the requirement of being a family member.

Gerald withdrew his motion to accept the recommendation with the exclusion of A.

Motion by Nett to table recommendation; Seconded by _Elsie _____ Motion carried!

#2 – Take original amount of settlement from Detroit Chapter's lawsuit from 1988 reunion of \$5,000 to be placed in the Scholarship Fund and the remaining amount of \$2,534.89 (or corrected amount of \$2,939.89) to Detroit Chapter.

Moved by Betty to accept; Seconded by Gerald.

Motion Carried

#3 – To change the banquet from Friday to Saturday.

Motion by Betty and seconded by Cherrie to decline. Voice vote was made but results couldn't be determined, so voting by name.

Votes to decline: 5

Votes not to decline: 8

Abstentions: 1

Motion to change banquet to Saturday was carried.

#4 – Recommended to hold Executive Board meeting conducted earlier than the Thursday of the reunion to help decrease cost of trip for the Board.

Motion by Gerald to table until reunion; Seconded by Betty

Discussion held that a quorum of the Executive Board was present at this meeting. Motion was amended, voted on and carried.

VIII. **2020 WASHINGTON DC REUNION UPDATE**

Cherrie Hawkins

Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA is being considered. Rooms = \$117.78/night (includes tax); Parking = \$17/day (with in and out privileges); Breakfast buffet = \$8 (with \$10 off coupon); Bus parking available at no cost; Shuttle to and from Pentagon Mall and Reagan Airport. Visit to African American Museum is being planned.

IX. **OPEN FORUM**

Othniel McGriff

Elsie asked question about Fallen Leaves listing on the website and how far back they went because she noted some omissions, i.e. her parents, some Thompsons, etc.

It was responded by Shelia that she took more of the most recent losses, but would appreciate any assistance Elsie could provide.

X. **CLOSING REMARKS**

Othniel McGriff

Othniel invited Sheila Blamo, National Vice Chairperson, to have a few words.

Newcomers' comments: Artie Thompson, Robert Johnson, Nett Johnson, Barbara Lewis & Bennie McGriff. Additional comments were made by Gerald Brevard, Cherrie Hawkins & Betty Hunt.

Chairperson Othniel McGriff made final remarks.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Othniel McGriff

Motion was made by Cheryl to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 p.m.; Seconded by Betty

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Hatton, National Secretary

LST

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CORRECTION TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER'S RECOMMENDATION #2

From the \$7,534.89 CD, the amount to be placed into the Scholarship Fund should have been \$5,534.89. The \$405.00 from the 50/50 raffle was not reflected in this amount. So, the actual amount that is to go into the Scholarship Fund is \$5,939.89 with \$2,000.00 remaining with Detroit Chapter.

Sorry for any undue confusion.

Thank you,

Cheryl