

**Ways and Means Committee Meeting
Minutes
Vision of Hope Baptist Church
November 11, 2006**

- I. Meeting opened with prayer from Cousin Betty Hunt**
- II. Cousin Gerald Brevard welcomed committee to DC for W/M Mtg.**
- III. Cousin Ken Shaw reviewed Roberts Rules of Order**
- IV. Roll call was taken:**

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- 3. Elsie M. Ousley
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- 4. Cortnie Wilson
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- 5. Shirley Hawkins
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- 6. William J. Anthony
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18. Elaine Shelley
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Approval of Agenda

Agendas and recommendations were distributed

REPORTS

Scholarship – Report was read independently. Questions about the amount of interest and whether there had ever been \$500 worth of interest accrued in a year. Options were asked about as opposed to interrupting the principal such as individual contributions, fund-raising.

Cousin Anthony asked about possibly redistributing the increasing the interest bearing account for one of higher yield. Cousin Elsie indicated that it is possible to change the account...based on the decision of the committee today.

Ken indicated that a fund raiser may be the way to go.

Discussion was held about placing a cap on the number of applicants and/or an update on the criteria.

Gerald has indicated that he has asked Betty to be the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee with asking other people to serve. He wanted to have people in the educational field to be on the committee. Revamping committee is his goal.

Kathy indicated that there is still the issue of awarding the 2006 recipient her award.

Without NY being here, at this juncture, there is no way of knowing if there are funds available from 2006 Reunion.

Betty asked that the money be placed back into a CD account from the current savings account.

Summary: as of 2007 reunion, there will be a new scholarship committee functioning. This was done because Bennie as chair, has not attended a reunion unless its in Detroit.

Structure: 5 person committee to set guidelines and report back to Ways and Means mtg. Betty Hunt and Othniel have agreed to serve. English has been asked by Gerald, but has not been heard from. Elsie has agreed to serve. New committee will begin January 1, 2007.

Introduction of Cortnie Wilson to Chair the Youth committee, was made by Ken. He welcomed her indicating that anything she needs, don't hesitate to ask. No comments from Cortnie.

Question: Elsie asked about a youth list from each chapter to be submitted for Cortnie's information.

Ken went around the table to indicate who will be responsible for sending youth lists to Cortnie.

Will return to scholarship committee later.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DETROIT Chapter recommendations were read

Elsie opened for discussion, CDH seconded

Betty wished to have this turned over to scholarship committee

Anthony suggested to have 1 scholarship per year.

Based on the discussions: suggestions were made to place a cap on the number of scholarships should be given to new committee. Ken amended that a deadline for the plan be established. Gerald suggested that committee have a working application ready with criteria and guidelines by March 31, 2007 for new

applicant, maybe. Ken suggested that with the nuances that possibly we take time to get everything established. Anthony concurred with Ken. Scholarship committee will meet in June with new application. So, there will be no scholarship awarded in 2007.

Recommendation 1 – The Scholarship Committee set a cap (limit) on the number of awards per year, not to exceed three per year at \$500.00 each.

Outcome: Recommendation #1 will be tabled and reassigned to new Scholarship Committee.

Recommendation 2 – The Scholarship Committee be granted access to the principal of the scholarship fund, until a formal fundraising plan be established.

Outcome: Recommendation #2 will be tabled regarding use of the principal. Kathy suggested having a back up plan in case NY/NJ doesn't show up today. Cousin Hawkins suggested and concurred with Kathy. Betty indicated that she will see that the 2006 recipient gets her award.

Recommendation 3 – The principal balance on the Scholarship fund does not drop below \$_____.

Outcome: Recommendation #3 – Discussion about not touching the principal by Betty. Tabled because there was discussion about not putting caps or bottoms on the principal. Instead of touching the principal, think outside of the box.

RECESS

Re-convening after NY/NJ arrived:

Ken recapped everything up to this point for the NY/NJ members.

Cousin Gwen reported: 67 people requested to have their monies donated to the scholarship committee which totaled \$1,640.00.

Assessment: \$1,030.00 from reunion

National Treasury Report

John Jackson submitted checking account bank statement in the amount of \$603.64. He has yet to submit the internet bill (@ ~ \$19.00/month for 6 months).

Elsie motioned, Gerald seconded

All in favor to accept.

Betty questioned why National Treasury report was given at the W/M committee.

John responded that it was just for informational purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS (Returned)

Scholarship

Outcome: Acknowledgement was made that Scholarship committee recommendations were repetitive of Detroit's recommendations.

BALTIMORE Recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Recommend changes to Chapter I, Article I, Section I, and other sections of the By-Laws identifying officers of the organization, striking references to both the Corresponding Secretary and the National Public Relations Chair.

Outcome: 1. Ken read the recommendation and explained to have ByLaws as a working document. He will WITHDRAW this recommendation.

Cousin Gerald suggested that Cheryl be recording/corresponding secretary, in addition to W/M committee. Cheryl accepted.

Recommendation 2 – Recommend additional Section to Chapter II, Article I, requiring elected and appointed Officer to attend at least two of the three reunion events during their terms.

Outcome : 2. Ken explained recommendation regarding appointed offices and making a commitment.

Gerald motioned to accept, Elsie seconded

Discussion: Betty – requested further explanation

Gwen – maybe not a recommendation isn't needed, but more of a national selection process. Further discussion regarding accountability as Cousins as appointed officers. Gerald has given his concern that he feels that any elected officer is expected to be in attendance at the reunions. He wasn't aware of all of the committees and members on those committees. Cousin Anthony indicated that regulations are legislated under a democratic society. How do we add to this constitutionally? Kathy explains both sides of situation. Officers who don't attend and members who attend, but don't hold an office. She agrees that there needs to be accountability and a process.

Gerald agrees with the recommendation and refer it to the By-Laws committee.

Ken reiterates that there needs to be a process of accountability determined. Ken makes a motion to amend the original recommendation to read:

That there be a process of performance and accountability be developed for the election and appointed officers.....

PASSED

Recommendation 3 – Recommend additional subsection to Chapter III, Article I, Section 4, requiring the Scholarship Committee and hosting location to provide scholarship applications for the following year's reunion.

Outcome: #3 - WITHDRAWN

PITTSBURGH Recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – It is recommended that the National Chairperson appoint a general treasurer and establish a Cousin's National checking account in his/her hometown for more efficient and timely operations.

Outcome: John read and explained, as former Chair, with experiences. Suggesting that the National Treasury checking account follow and is placed in the city with the National Chairperson for handling business matters. Questions/discussions – Anthony discussed agreement. Kathy agreed as in the death of Cousin Roland having all of the records. Gerald spoke in favor of the recommendation. Shelia Johnson has been appointed as National Treasurer. Betty suggested to strike motion because it is currently in the By-Laws Chapter II, Article I, Sections 1 & 2, so this is recommended to be STRIKEN.

PASSED

Recommendation 2

Outcome: Cousin Betty recommended the second recommendation be striken. Cousin Betty indicated that, that is the responsibility of the Chairperson as an appointment. Discussion of the CD chair as Elsie with Kathy co-chair from Gerald.

Recommendation was WITHDRAWN

New Business:

2007 Reunion update

Reunion will be moved to Hilton in Crystal City in Virginia, but close to DC. Room rates \$119, parking \$10.00/day, with in / out priviledges – Registration: \$55.00. Hotel is in close proximity to malls, airport, restaurants. Notices will be mailed out at the beginning of the year. Host members were asking for people to participate in the Cousin Idol. Host group is thinking outside of the box for activities. Not decided about a picnic, rather tour to the Winery, Festivals, Banquet, tours (Trolley or Duck). Looking at activity for Thursday arrivals to the casino with transportation.

Cousin Anthony discussed how the host committee has tapped all avenues to accommodate all age groups – youth to middle age to seniors. The hotel features a “quiet floor” for people who prefer more silence. Host committee has tried to accommodate the family with all types of activities for all age groups indicating that this, too, is an educational city. Cousin Anthony mentioned that new monument for Dr. Martin Luther King is being developed. Midnight tour of DC is being considered as an option.

OPEN FORUM

Cousin Gerald commended the host committee for a job well done. It was definitely beneficial to the scholarship committee.

Gwen corrected the notion that the picnic is a tradition for DC Chapter. So, if they don't wish to do a picnic, they don't have to do so.

Gerald has appointed John Jackson as the web master and Gwen as the historian. Gwen mentioned that Marjorie McMurray passed away 2 months ago who was instrumental in history.

Kathy discussed the costliness of souvenir booklets.

DC Chapter is trying to get an original of the Ebony that featured the Cousins' story.

Gwen mentioned that a few years ago there was a discussion about going to Nigeria. Looking at 2008, Gwen is organizing a trip outside of reunion, to Nigeria to trace our roots.

Discussion about if there is no chapter in that city, there should not be a reunion. It was very costly when done this way. It was also mentioned that if the reunion is handled properly, it pays for itself.

In lieu of a scheduled reunion, there were discussions of having the trip to Nigeria or cruise be organized.

Gerald mentioned that there had been a cookbook that never materialized or put it on the web as on eBay as things to sell what people don't want.

Discussion about the website and how to get more people to hit the site.

The 2006 Ways and Means Committee was adjourned with prayer by Cousin Betty.