

YCHS Past Students Association- Jamaica Chapter
Minutes of Meeting
held on
April 21, 2007
at
Merl Grove High School Library
Constant Spring Road, Kingston

Present were

Geraldine Sinclair, ***President***
Patrick Russell, ***Vice-President***
Joy Speare, ***Treasurer***
Vannette Brown, ***Secretary***
Martin Gooden, ***Past President***
Al McDonald
Rey Smith
Alfred Duncan
Oatis Wisdom
Roosevelt Richards
Carol Alexander
Lawrence Alexander
Jacky Peat-Smith
Lyndon McFarlane
Elgin Holness
Jen Clare
David Gayle
Evrod Nam
Glendon Nam
Faith McFarquhar-Gordon
Kirk Rose
Michael Dunn
Alanzo "Oliver" Green
Joseph Allen
Claudette Watson
Norman "Jumbo" Wright
Beverline Brown-Smith
Jennifer "Jenny Jenny" Small
Petra Speare
Lloyd Speare
Milton Brady
Godfrey Taylor

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Apologies for absence

Beverley Hawthorne, YCHS Principal
Val Dacosta-Timoll
Andrew Swaby
Wendell "Suga" Marsh
Sheldon Brown
Lindsey Forbes
Yvette Linton-Walters
Victor Rose
Anne Johnson-Martin
Gilbert McDonald
Dorsett Gabbidon
Dorothy Walters

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Geraldine Sinclair at 11:25am and prayer was offered by former head girl Carol Tracy-Alexander.

YCites were given a warm welcome by the President which added to the tremendous greetings and applause that were given to each attendee as they walked in.

Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were reviewed and corrections made to pages 2 and 3. Page 2 should read – "Attendees were urged to bring in their contributions and to solicit funds from other past students to bring to the meeting." While Page 3 change is – "Sponsorship letters are to be drafted and sent out soliciting donations from the business sector for materials needed for the Labour Day project".

The minutes were confirmed by Patrick Russell and seconded by Joy Speare.

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School Bus Drive

The cheque for J\$1M cheque was handed over by YCite, First Caribbean Bank Managing Director Milton Brady to Chapter President Geraldine Sinclair. This signified that the past students indeed matched the FCIB Challenge. To date, we have collected approximately J\$1.3M in addition to the FCIB's contribution. However, J\$600,000.00 is still needed to purchase the school bus. Past students are therefore urged to contribute to this historic and worthy cause. A token of appreciation was presented to Milton. This included a YCHS tie along with a set of epaulets. Immediately, Milton placed the tie around his shirt.

Joy Speare has received the concession letter from the Ministry of Education for the bus.

A big thank you to media personality, YCite Jennifer Small (Jenny Jenny) who made sure the moments were captured with a cameraman from CVM/TVJ broadcasts.

Also in attendance for this joyful occasion were the current Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy and current Music Teacher.

A 1999 Toyota Coaster, a prototype of the bus to be purchased was on exhibit for all to imagine what the 2003 model will actually be like.

YCite Elgin Holness, who the bus is being sourced from, became the designated driver for the day by giving the bus full of YCites from the meeting a "test drive" in the exhibit bus at the venue's parking lot. This was a cherished occasion.

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Fundraising – Report

Fish-Fry/Concert

It was suggested that we should still go ahead with the fish fry and the concert but have them like a lyme.

As always, Treasurer Joy Speare collected dues of J\$500 from those in attendance. It was reminded that the collection of these dues help with providing the refreshments at the monthly Chapter meetings.

Communications - Report

Website

With the aid of an In Focus Projector, YCite Al McDonald along with another communications team member Jen Clare displayed the website www.ycalumni.org. The registration page is now available for Past Students to fill out.

Rey Smith suggested that YCites start visiting the website and that YCites submit as many eMail addresses as possible to the yorkcastlealumni@gmail.com eMail account for inclusion in eMail distribution. He reminded past students that funds are needed to maintain the website and for us to get this, we need to solicit YCites to advertise on the website.

We were reminded that the cost of the website's development is J\$40,000.00 and that we will be incurring J\$1,100.00 per month to maintain the website.

Martin Gooden suggested that the maintenance fees be taken from the treasury until money is earned from the website.

Jackie Peat volunteered wholeheartedly to help with the communications team. In addition, Glendon Nam indicated his availability and suggested that a website launch should take place.

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Michael Dunn also volunteered to assist the communications team and with his announcement of his relocation to Florida, he indicated that he would endeavour to contact as many YCites in that U.S. state for them to become a part of the past students association.

Labour Day Project at YCHS

President Geraldine Sinclair is to get an update on the tasks to be done at the school for the Labour Day project on Wednesday, May 23rd. All were encouraged to come out and participate.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Upon a recommendation by former chapter President Martin Gooden, current President Geraldine Sinclair is to chair the 50th Anniversary Celebrations Committee. She is expected to have monthly meetings with sub-committees before the regular 3rd Saturday Chapter Meeting. This is to provide the Chapter meeting with an update of the plans. We are still seeking additional volunteers to work on the 50th Anniversary committee.

Bumper Sticker for 50th Anniversary Celebration

Commendations were extended to YCite Clement "Jimmy" Lawrence for the artwork for the banner and the bumper sticker.

Although YCites at the March meeting were satisfied with the bumper sticker artwork presented, it was suggested at the April meeting that we get more ideas for the bumper sticker before actually printing them.

Upcoming Events

May 19th monthly meeting has been cancelled. It is being designated as the Labour Day Project at YHCS on Wednesday, May 23rd. All were in agreement as the next monthly was scheduled for St. Ann.

June 16th will be the next monthly chapter meeting, to be held in St. Ann. All were reminded that chapter meetings are held each 3rd Saturday at 11am.

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AOB

It was the consensus of the attendees that we try and encourage more past students to attend the chapter meetings. Former Chapter President Martin Gooden also suggested that we have events to motivate more YCites in participating in the Chapter's activities. He commented that in general, individuals typically do not like attending meetings but will support the events, such as those being organized by the Chapter. Jackie Peat-Smith recommended that we get some powerful media coverage to highlight the association and its activities.

Past President Martin Gooden also said that there is over J\$200,000.00 in the Co-operative Credit Union account available that can be accessed by the Past Students Association.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. Upon which YCites, chatted and mingled for quite sometime after, enjoying the memorable occasion (lyme) of course with the delightful refreshments provided.