

**YCHS Past Students Association- Jamaica Chapter
Minutes of Meeting
held on
January 20, 2007
at
Merle Grove High School Library, Kingston**

Present were

Carol Alexander
Jennifer Clare
Al McDonald
Patrick Russell, *Vice President*
Geraldine Sinclair, *President*
Rey Smith
Joy Speare, *Treasurer*
Doreen Brady-West
Beverley Sutherland-Lewis
Orlando "Ruddy" Schaaffe
Roosevelt Richards

Apologies for absence

Vannette Brown, *Secretary*
Beverline Brown-Smith
Pauline Lawrence
Evrod Nam

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Geraldine Sinclair at 11:41am.

Prayer was offered by Carol Alexander.

Welcome was extended by President Geraldine Sinclair. Special welcome was extended to Orlando Schaaffe visiting from Miami and attending the Jamaica Chapter monthly meeting for the first time. This was followed by an introduction from each person present.

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Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Each person was given an opportunity to read the minutes from the previous meeting held on November 18, 2006.

The minutes was confirmed by Jen Clare and seconded by Rey Smith.

Drive for the YCHS Bus

The YC Bus drive was launched on Saturday November 25, 2006. Joy Speare reported that the launch was a success. Commendation was given to members of the association who were able to attend the launch.

Principal of YCHS, Mrs. Beverly Hawthorne, was in attendance and gave her support at the launch.

Other schools in the area attended the launch and gave their support, namely West Wood High and Brown's Town High.

Treasurer - Report

Joy Speare reported on the financial success of the school bus drive launch as the alumni have been able to meet the First Caribbean International Bank challenge of matching J\$1,000,000. The contribution breakdown now in the FCIB account is as follows:

YCHS PTA	J\$20,000.00
Milton Brady	J\$20,000.00
New York/Florida Chapter	J\$495,000.00
Toronto Chapter	CAN\$7,652.00

It was reminded that the bus is expected to cost approximately J\$3,000.000. Joy Speare will follow up with YCite Elgin Holness (who the alumni is sourcing the bus from) on the exact cost of the bus.

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Rey Smith reminded the meeting attendees that the funds raised by the YCHS PTA towards the Bus Drive should be used to maintain the bus. The alumni will have responsibility for the following costs only for the first year:

- Certificate of fitness
- Motor vehicle licensing
- Motor vehicle insurance

On another note, Beverley Sutherland-Lewis suggested that the money in the First Caribbean International Bank account be placed in another financial institution that would give higher interest returns. However, the meeting attendees disagreed and stated that the preference should be given to FCIB for any other investment instrument.

Attached is the Treasurer's full Report presented at the meeting.

Fundraising - Report

Fish Fry

Kingston leg of the fish fry was initially set to take place on February 17, 2007. However the date is at this time is unrealistic. Pauline Lawrence is the committee chairperson for the Fish Fry. She has however indicated that she will not be able to avail herself at this time and therefore another person from the committee should take the responsibility for the event. The 27th of April 2007 was the suggested date to have the fish fry.

Bumper Sticker for 50th Anniversary Celebration

Vice-President Patrick Russell will get quotations on the bumper stickers. The sticker will be used as a means of advertising the upcoming YCHS 50th Anniversary celebration.

Other

Geraldine Sinclair suggested that each person should still contribute J\$1000.00 towards the school bus drive.

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Communications - Report

Website, Registration Section

Jennifer Clare stated that the website is functional with the exception of the registration section. Jennifer indicated that the developer of the website expressed “frustration of not being able to meet the completion deadline due to issues with the programmer she contracted to assist her”. The developer is currently trying to get a new programmer to complete the registration section.

Rey Smith pointed out that the communications team should not get bogged down with the fact that the Registration section is incomplete as there exists another avenue in which online registration can be done.

On this note, Jen Clare pointed out that two sections of the website site, “Roll Call” and “In DAH House” were dependent on registration and therefore the registration section needs to be completed.

Website, Cost

The website project began in August 2006 at which time a partial agreed payment of \$28,000.00 was paid to the developer. The full cost of the website development is \$40,000.00.

Website, YC-CHAT

The YC-CHATonline discussion forum is now complete and all YCites can begin using that awesome method of linking with other YCites.

Website, TUCK SHOP

One request by a YCite has been made so far to place an advertisement in the “Tuck Shop” section, which is the designated area of the website for placing classified advertisements.

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Founders Day 2007

- YCHS Founders Day was held on January 16th 2007.
- However unlike previous, this event was not well attended by alumni
- It was pointed out that perhaps lack of not being aware could have been the cause
- A report on Founders Day was given by Chapter President Geraldine Sinclair who was in attendance. She indicated that she ceased the opportunity to announce the bus drive to those present.
- Also in attendance was Chapter Treasurer Joy Speare.
- The guest speaker at the Day's celebration was Reverend Michael Llewellyn.
- An overview of the school's history was given by the principal.

Matters Arising

• **Career Expo (Day)**

- The alumni would like to participate in the 2007 YCHS career day.
- Al McDonald suggested that a career expo be held instead of a career day. This should offer a variety to YCites from different professional background.
- Doreen Brady-West suggested however that since the school already plans a Career Expo (Day), the alumni should participate as a resource and should assist in finding persons to participate in this event. She indicated an interest in helping to coordinate on behalf of the alumni.
- It was suggested that the date for the Career Expo should be best decided by the school's guidance counsellor.

• **Alumni Dinner**

- Jen Clare reminded the attendees about the events discussed such as the annual alumni dinner.
- All agreed that this should still be planned for last quarter of 2007

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• **Labour Day Project- 2007**

- February's meeting of the Chapter is to be a visit to YCHS. This is to determine what needs to be done on Labour Day.

• **50th Anniversary Celebration**

- With Ruddy Schaaffe in attendance, Rey Smith suggested that Ruddy begin to organize YCites living in Florida who to begin their involvement in the plans for the 50th Anniversary celebration
- The 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee need to begin meeting for planning of the celebration in 2008
- Based on a recommendation from Treasurer Joy Speare, June 29, 2008-July 4, 2008 was agreed as the week for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. This recommendation will coincide with the annual YCHS graduation exercise.
- Concerns raised:
 - to have the existing students' participation in the celebration.
 - air fare cost for YCites, living overseas, during that time of the year.
 - suggestion was made to approach Air Jamaica for a group fare.
- The following events were suggestions for the week-long celebration:
 - Church service
 - Sports competition between existing and alumni YCites
 - Debate
 - Alumni attendance at Annual YCHS Graduation

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• School Sports Participation

- Rey Smith reported on YC's lack of participation in a number of sporting events due to lack of funding
- The school did not participate in the last season of Headley Cup. The school also has not participated in the last three seasons of the DaCosta Cup.
- In a written report from the school's coach, Leroy Smith, the following is a cost breakout of preparation/participation in the following athletic events:
 - Cricket - \$822,000.00
 - Track and Field (Boys & Girls Champs) - \$175,000.00
- The school however participates in high school basket ball competition and is doing quite well
- A further update on the schools sports programme will be given at the next Chapter meeting

Up Coming Events

February 17th – Monthly Meeting – at YCHS, Brown's Town, St. Ann

April 27th – Bar-B-Fry, Kingston

May 23rd – Labour Day project at YCHS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.