

# **BACDA-USA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESENTS**

## **THE STATE OF OUR UNION ADDRESS**

### **We Are Heading In The Right Direction**

**Dear BACDA-USA members,**

The year 2005 has come and gone and we thank God for the blessings he has showered on us. We have faced many challenges in our personal lives and as an association. We trust that the *Benyame's* are interceding for us. For that, we are very grateful.

I wish to thank the members of my executive for sticking with me, and the entire NEC for their contributions towards stabilizing and mobilizing their respective chapters and committees. The strength of BACDA-USA is predicated on the unity of our chapters and the extent to which our committees are organized and focused. Together, we shall move NEC's agenda forward and achieve much this year, after the tragedies we experienced at the close of last year. I wish to report to you today that BACDA-USA is off to a good start in 2006.

### **A) Achievements in 2005**

During the past five months, we have realized the following achievements:

- 1) Adoption of a comprehensive BACDA-USA by-laws.
- 2) Completion by the Audit Committee of its work and publication of recommendations.
- 3) Financial analysis of convention expenses and income by the Financial Secretary.
- 4) Creation of a new committee for culture and the appointment of a new chairman.
- 5) Launching of a national group life insurance initiative, under the leadership of an executive coordinator.
- 6) Laying the groundwork for a new health, culture and education initiative by the heads of the respective committees.
- 7) Establishment of a new website hosting and design contract between BACDA-USA and Nugio Webmaster.
- 8) Holding of our first national executive committee meeting in Maryland on November 5, 2005 and
- 9) Establishment, for the first time, of a partnership with our brothers and sisters in England (ABI-UK) and Sweden

### **Our Obligation: Financial Commitment**

My dear members, as our association is growing and the needs of our people back at home are slowly being or not being addressed fully, so too are our obligations. Last convention in New Jersey we saw a record turnout of members from all over the USA. ***This huge turnout recorded the highest single day national dues collection in BACDA-USA history. Over nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9655.00 to be exact)*** was collected for dues. The Washington DC chapter

took the lead with four thousand two hundred and forty five dollars (\$4,245.0). Chapter breakdown:

Washington DC	\$4245.00	(84 members)
Georgia:	\$830.00	(16 members)
New England:	\$385.00	(7 members)
California:	\$55.00	(1 member)
Dallas:	\$330.00	(6 members)
Houston:	\$170.00	(3 members)
Minnesota:	\$110.00	(2 members)
New Jersey:	\$930.00	(18 members)
Delaware Valley:	No chapter at that time. Under independent members	
Independent members:	\$1500.00	

### **Cash on hand:**

As of the publication of this address the total amount in our bank coffers is eighteen thousand dollars **(\$18,000.00).**\*\* The financial secretary has made the financial statements available to the NEC. Please contact your chapter leadership for specific details of the report

I will like to refer all chapter presidents to **Article III-C of the by-laws** which states “**chapter president shall ensure that national dues are collected in their chapters**”. If chapters are not collecting national dues, now is a good time to start.

### **Annual Chapter Dues**

Many chapters have not paid their **chapter annual dues of \$200.00**. As of today, only the following chapters have paid for 2004-2005: California, Washington DC, Houston, Minnesota and New Jersey. Georgia made a partial contribution of \$300.00. Total dues to collected was \$300.00 for 2003,2004,2005 years. Please contact the Financial Secretary. Chapters that did not make this contribution should make them available to the NEC financial department ASAP. **Total unpaid dues: \$900.00** (Delaware Valley \$200, Georgia \$300, Dallas \$200, and Boston \$200)

### **The Mortuary Project**

Some of you may have head that the Cameroon government has built a mortuary in Bangem and Tombel. That is indeed true. The Divisional Officer (DO) for Bangem sub-division Mr. Bertrand Awumfak confirmed this when we met with a few members from the Washington DC chapter during one of his visits to Washington DC area last summer.

So the question is, what happens to the money already collected that is in a separate bank account (lock box), and what happens to those who have not yet paid into that fund? These and many other issues will be key on the next convention agenda. But as we await these discussions on the fate of this money, **I will like to advise everyone, that payment of the \$200.00** (I propose that we change the name to BACDA-USA General Project Fund) **is still mandatory**. Chapter presidents should also ensure that this money is collected at the chapter level. A total of fourteen hundred dollars **(\$1400.00)** was collected at the New Jersey convention. A total of about fourteen thousand dollars **(\$14,000.00)\*\*** is in the special account fund.

## **Open Book policy**

This administration has an open book policy. You all have unfettered access to all financial records. These records have been made available to the NEC and the chapter presidents should have copies. Chapter leadership should make these available to their members. Do not hesitate to contact the appropriate officer with any questions you may have.

**\*\*The figures on the official financial report supersedes any discrepancies in this address.**

## **B) Our agenda for 2006**

### **a) Education Committee**

1) Under the leadership of Olga Ejuma-Ekume, Chairwoman of the Education Committee, in collaboration with the Provincial Delegation of Youth & Sports, we have a Scholastic Achievement Award Program in place this February 2006. Individual members and chapters are sponsoring this project.

2) We have in the works, a project write-up for **two pilot libraries** in Tombel and Bangem. This write-up will be completed and ready for NEC review and possible funding by May 2006.

### **b) Health Committee**

Under the leadership of Dr. Roland Mesue, Chairman of the health Committee,

1) The committee is researching the possibility of launching a **Mobile Clinic** and the purchase of two ambulances for the Bakossi areas. Details of these projects is still in committee

2) ECOLABS, an Ohio based chemical company, donated 24 boxes of 72 4 oz bottles of hand sanitizers. This was the work of the chairman, Dr. Mesue.

### **c) Communication Committee:**

1) The long awaited BACDA-USA News magazine will be out any time now. Stay tuned. The Editor in chief, Linus Ngide and his entire communication staff are working overtime to bring it to you. 2) The web site is also getting some much-needed facelift. Our website coordinators, Fritz Koge and Dr Asome are working hard to make this possible. Your help is highly needed especially Chapter presidents and committee chairpersons.

### **d) Ekosse Special Project.**

The chairman, Benson Njumbe, is working hard with our contacts in Cameroon to jump-start and move forward the dialogue.

### **e) Cultural Committee**

The Cultural Committee Chairman, Nhon George Enongene, will be working with the national organizing committee to add some spice on the convention 2006 in Houston.

### **e) Fund Raising Committee:**

The Fund Raising Committee under the able leadership of Maggie Sone, is tirelessly looking for funding for some of our long term projects. Her committee is also looking into ways of raising small funds through special fund raising initiative. Details are still in committee.

## **CONVENTION 2006**

As we all know by now, convention 2006 will be held in Houston, Texas. Plans relating to logistics are already in the pipeline. The gala and meetings halls have been secured and arrangements are being finalized for accommodation and transportation.

## **The date for BACDA-USA Convention 2006 has been set for July 28, 29 and 30, 2006.**

The Houston chapter is very excited to be this year's host and they want this to be the convention to remember. We are also very excited, as this will be our first convention since taking over the administration of BACDA-USA affairs.

### **National Organizing Committee**

The National Organizing Committee will work closely with the Houston Chapter to make the logistical process smoother. This committee will be responsible for helping the Houston Chapter to:

- a) Draw up a budget and request for funds from NEC
- b) Finalize logistical issues such as Hotels accommodation, air and ground transportation etc
- c) Plan fund raising and cultural activities.

### **Convention 2006 Organizing Committee members are:**

- 1) Lucy Nzelle: **Chairlady**
- 2) Joel kalle: Houston Chapter President
- 3) Evelyne Epie: Vice President, BACDA-USA
- 4) Maggie Sone: Chairlady, Fund Raising Committee
- 5) Nhon George Enongene: Chairman, Cultural Committee
- 6) Manga Ekiti: National Financial Secretary
- 7) Mekang Ngole: Host Chapter Organizing Comm. Coordinator.

### **Partnerships with the Bekosse in Europe:**

We are very happy to report that we had an initial contact with our brothers and sisters in England last November 2005. The Vice President, Ms Evelyne Ngane Epie, represented BACDA-USA in an initial face-to-face meeting with the Bekosse in London, England (ABI-UK). Their President, Devine Ediage Ngole, pledged on behalf ABI-UK, to work with BACDA-USA "in what ever way possible towards advancing development programs in Ekosse". The Vice President, on behalf of BACDA-USA, pledged to keep the communication channels open.

With this ambitious agenda, we hope that 2006 will keep all of us quite busy. We need your support as we seek to move our agenda forward. None of these projects can be accomplished without our joint efforts. If there is any thing you can do to help any of our committees, if you know of anyone who can be of help to BACDA-USA, please do not hesitate to contact the chairperson of that committee or myself.

Once more, thank you for your kind cooperation and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

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