

GCLOBA Europe – General Meeting
Sunday 2nd October 2016

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Introduction of executives and Agenda.
3. Presidential update (Constitution amendments).
4. Report on Reunion Event - Social Secretary.
5. Financial Report - Financial Secretary.
6. Updates on GCLOBA National Exco meeting with LASG (Gen Sec).
7. Report from the procurement committee
8. Setup of Finance committee/Fund Raising committee for GCLOBA Europe.
9. Discussions on Europe sponsored initiatives.
10. Agreement on dues and frequency.
11. Frequency of General Meeting.
12. Discussions on Calendar of activities for the year.
13. AOB.

Attendees

1. Larinde Williams – 79
2. Olumide Johnson – 75
3. Femi Fakoyede – 77
4. Yomi George – 74
5. Olumide Rabiun – 77
6. Lewis Okechukwu – 79
7. Seye Gureje – 76
8. Kunle Balogun – 76
9. Lolu Lanlehin – 79
10. Dimeji Lanlehin – 77
11. Wole Sowemimo – 77
12. Joshua Adesanya – 85
13. Bola Lawanson – 75
14. Abimbola Akingbade – 75
15. Oladipo Fadeyi – 76
16. Sam Onigbanjo -79
17. Deleke Opeodu - 83

Executives Present

1. Larinde Williams – President
2. Bims Akingbade – Social Secretary
3. Lewis Okechukwu – Finance Secretary
4. Joshua Adesanya – Gen Sec

Meeting Proper

1. Commenced with opening prayer – Pastor Joshua Adesanya (Gen Sec) @ 4.15pm.
2. Presidents Update
 - Reaffirms GCL Europe's commitment to align its agenda with the national association.
 - National Exco met with officials of LASG, where a number of key OBA requests were granted.
 - i. Change the name of the school back to Government College Lagos, Eric Moore with immediate effect.

- ii. Revert the Junior school uniform back to White shirts & shorts.
 - iii. Restore the schools original sign post.
- Due to the states free education policy the OBA committed to providing the replacement white uniform for the junior school pupils.
- A number of old boys have donated money towards the provision of the uniforms, the restoration of the signpost and the painting of the perimeter fencing of the school on Eric Moore road.
- On the issue of refurbishment of the school, the LASG officials led by the permanent secretary raised concerns around the safety of the existing legacy structure. However, it agreed to have an independent structural survey done.
- If the structure is certified safe by the independent surveyors, the LASG will grant the OBA permission to refurbish the school.
- The refurbishment works it was confirmed would need to be completed before the beginning of the next academic term in September 2017.
- It was all agreed that extension can be requested if the refurbishment work cannot be completed within the specified term scale.
- The national president plans to lay a commemorative stone to signify the commencement of the refurbishment projects. TBC.
- Update was also provided on the apparent lack of communication and transparency of the national association and the presidents perceived reluctance to engage with both Europe & NA presidents. This is further evidence by the lack of communication and dialogue with both chapter president on the outcome of the meeting with the LASG and his plans to lay a commemorative stone to commence the refurbishment work on the Saturday 1st of October.
- Also raised was the issue of the constitution and suggested amendments to recognise the diaspora chapters and to include some of its officials into the National Executive.
- The house was informed that the constitution review committee made several recommendations which were sent to the national executives via its Gen Sec. on January 1, 2016 but since then there has been no response from the National association on the suggested amendments.
- This issue was discussed extensively and the house agreed that the Europe oversight committee comprising of the following people, **Seye Gureje, Kunle Balogun, Yomi George, Femi Fakoyede**, should dialogue directly with the national board of trustees.
- Constitution Amendment – GCLOBA constitution presently doesn't recognise the DIASPORA. Suggestions have been made but this hasn't yet been ratified.
- The amended constitution has been sent to the current Gen Sec, but nothing has happened on the constitution as yet.
- Old boys can't vote unless being physically present at the venue of the election.
- How can Diaspora old boys pay dues to GCLOBA National when currently we're not recognised?
- All the same the Naira equivalent would be remitted to the National when we get to the point of paying dues.
- Clarification needs to be sought on the position of the BOT with regards to the setup of the DIASPORA.
- North America is faced with the same frustrations as Europe. As a fall-out of the issues, the Exco of North America decided to resign because they feel they can't work with GCLOBA National.

- SG – raised a point of order
 - GCLOBA membership is voluntary
 - We have a love for the school but we need to tap into and support what is happening in Nigeria.
 - We shouldn't create another parallel. For global projects, we tap into it.
 - We need to challenge Niyi and the "status quo". How do we put our point across effectively?
- JA – raised a point from SG's comments "How do we challenge the status quo and make our position of not being happy with the current National Leadership accountable?"
- SG says that the first set have failed us. They don't engage with us at all. This is because the first set believe that they weren't being respected and so had to step back.
- Action – Credit to be given to the current and past leadership of GCLOBA.
- More engagement of GCLOBA with each other.
- GCLOBA Europe is a voluntary body governed under the charities commission in the UK. We will be aligned to GCLOBA Nigeria and its ethos.
- SG will engage with BOT and engage them on the amended constitution.
- SG is proposing to add 2 more people to the oversight committee members increasing their numbers to 5 so as to make voting and agreement easier.
- SG is proposing Kunle Balogun and Dr Yinka Akinfehinwa. SG and KB to liaise and ask Dr Yinka if he has the time and will make the commitment. If he says YES, the it's carried.

Bims Akingbade's update

- The reunion was a success. The right people were selected to be in the planning committee. The turnout was great but not as many GCL old boys turned up.
- Way forward – How do we involve more old boys for future events? How do we engage them? We need to find a strategy to entice people.
- Little attendance from GCL Old boys on other old Students events.
- Planning committee members had to dip into their pockets because GCLOBA Europe didn't have anything in its coffers.
- Active projects should be used to engage participation among old boys in the diaspora.

Lewis Okechukwu's update

- Lewis gave an update on the financial report for the reunion.
- 194 tickets were sold for the reunion - £6,790
- Total Spend - £7,541.00
- Total Income during Re-union - £7,690.00
- Positive net of £149 which is in the account.
- Larinde did T-Shirt sales and gave an update on that.
- Dues - £10/month. This should start from October.
- Account number will be communicated shortly via the Whatsapp channel for Europe. The account details have been received from the bank but we were asked to wait for an official go-ahead. At the moment there are two signatories (Financial Secretary, Gen Sec) on the account but a member of the oversight committee will also be added as a signatory.
- The Executive will confer with the oversight committee member when spend is over a certain limit. Joshua Adesanya announced that the exact detail will be communicated to members.

Larinde Williams reminded us that we have an old account which we're trying to get back. Once we get the funds we will transfer it into a special account for projects.

Dues will be paid separately into the Association account.

Snr Yomi George – Let's have a membership drive. Lessons learnt from 40th anniversary will be shared with **Lewis Okechukwu**.

Absent Vice President – Adewale Adetoro

Joshua Adesanya raised the point of an absent VP, who has been absent from GCLOBA activities for over 4 months.

SG raised the motion to have him removed.

Olumide Johnson said we should give the VP, Adewale Adetoro an opportunity to respond to whether he wants to continue or not.

We'll send a letter to the VP asking him whether he wants to continue as VP. We will give him 10 days to respond if he's still interested.

SG's report on Project Hope

- SG gave an update on Project Hope.
- A builder and engineer were engaged who gave us a quote on refurbishing the senior block. This included – Demolition, Walls, Roofing, Replacement of doors & windows, Electricals, Plumbing, Finishing, Painting & decoration, fittings & fixtures and recovery of sewage system.
- This came in at a preliminary cost of N64.5M. (Bear in mind that it hasn't yet been negotiated).
- Project Hope committee decided to have 2 more quotes from contractors but this hasn't come in as yet, especially as this quote was for the senior block only. We will require quotes for the Assembly Hall & Admin block.
- Further quotes for the Admin block and Assembly Hall hasn't come in as yet from the first builder as he hasn't had time to go back to the school.
- There have been quotes received from 2 different sources on the provision of Desks & Chairs for staff, as well as Desks & Tables for the students. This can be part of GCLOBA Europe "Project Hope" initiative. We require about 250 double chairs/tables for students.
- Every single project we (GCLOBA Europe) do will have a separate account and will have its own executors/project boards.
- We need to set up a fund-raising committee for the various projects.

General Updates & Discussion

- SG wants us to go ahead and develop the school and not have to wait for LASG.
- We need to start a project asap so that Old Boys can be engaged and then see that something has started.
- "Quick win" projects have been identified but need to be executed asap.
- It's possible that GCLOBA Europe can pick up the refurbishment of the senior block as its "Project Hope" initiative.
- Sam Onigbanjo offered to go through the amended constitution and come up with suggestions as to how it can be tailored to GCLOBA Europe.
- Sam Onigbanjo believes that we start off with a constitution that can be binding on GCLOBA Europe which will cover us as a charity in UK. It doesn't need to be sent to anyone to amend. This issue was getting contentious so we decided to circulate it to members.

- Deleke Opeodu gave us an update on how his class set are contributing. He is suggesting that we have a list of all Europe members and have them contribute a set amount as a levy. This will be different from dues to be paid. He also suggested that we have a particular fund raising event to further drive up the amount.
- Larinde suggested that all members of Deleke's set register on gcloba.com. Deleke said Larinde will be given the opportunity to address his set.
- A GCL badge was given to all members present for the meeting.
- Further badges are on sale for £5 each. Please contact Larinde Williams or Joshua Adesanya.
- There is also a strip of Aso Oke available for £10. This is to be worn at any GCL-related event. Please contact Larinde Williams or Joshua Adesanya if needed but it is suggested that all Old Boys in Europe have one.

Frequency of General Meeting

- It was decided that due to the exigency of the projects to be executed, we have a general meeting every 2 months. Meeting every 3 months will not augur well. 2 months was adopted.
- It's very likely that the next meeting will be in December. This will be communicated to all members in GCLOBA Europe.
- The project we are embarking on will be communicated to all.
- A fund raising committee will be set up and a subsequent fund raising event will be put together.

Meeting Adjournment

- Larinde Williams moved for the adjournment of the meeting.
- The meeting ended at 7.15pm.