



Bassa High School Association Boost economy of Silver Spring, MD Temporarily

By: Roy Reeves

The weekend of August 18 – 20 2009 brought a temporary boost to the economy of Silver Spring, MD when graduates and former students of the Bassa High School gathered for their annual reunion. Members came in from several States including Rhode Island, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Delaware, Texas and New Jersey, among others.

Some hotels in the area had to turn down guests without reservation because the BHS convention had reserved many of the rooms for the entire weekend. Car rentals and gas service stations also benefited from the influx of members attending the BHS events that lovely August weekend.

Events were kicked off by a welcome reception at the home of our Chairman of the Board and Financial Secretary, Nuku and Serena Reeves. This lasted well into the evening and even spilled over into the early morning hours. There were plenty to eat and drink, and guests danced to the latest music had to offer.

Saturday's events included a late morning brunch with a variety of back home and western items on the menu. The business session was incorporated and extended into the afternoon. Among other things achieved during the business meeting was the awarding of merit based scholarships adopted from the recommendation of the scholarship committee. Funds were appropriated to purchase printers and accessories for the computer lab and several key offices at the institution. These have since been purchased and delivered. The business meeting was climaxed with the holding of general elections. Officers elected to run the organization for the next two years included: Wilmot Howard as president, Lucinda Nagbe as Vice president, Frances Potter as Secretary, Alexander Morris as Treasurer, Serena Reeves as Financial Secretary, Mildred Karpeh as Chaplain. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Mrs. Joanna Caulcrick and Mr. Arthur James (narrowly defeating Mr. Victor D. King).

The highlight of the entire weekend was Saturday evening's dinner and dance. The occasion was graced with the presence of two of our former Peace Corps Volunteer Teachers and their Spouses, Mr. William Hares and Ms. Patricia Rielly. Mrs. Diana Harmon was very instrumental in having several members attend for the very time and her efforts deserve commendation. Rev. T. Ron Weegar, a minister of the gospel and first time attendee came all the way from Baton Rouge, LA. He praised the Association's efforts in trying to lend a helping hand to our Alma Mata and promised to be a regular at future reunions. Our guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. James Elliott, a prominent Liberian Pathologist practicing in the Washington, DC area. He challenged the association do more than just have a social gathering annually. He praised the efforts of our association to assist in helping the less fortunate back home. We were entertained to the sensational voice of our own CC Barnard. She kept the crowd on its feet including our former Peace Corps Teachers.

Some members had to catch early Sunday morning flights. The rest of us were treated to an elaborate Sunday brunch at the home of our Treasurer and his lovely wife, Alexander and Musu Morris. Providence, RI was unanimously selected as the venue of 2010 reunion. We look forward to having an equally successful time (if not better). Members are encouraged to invite former students and graduates for this once a year event. We all need to follow the Diana Harmon example. Thanks and appreciation to all those who contribute in any way to making these events successful. Those who missed, missed a lot, but it is not too late. Mark your calendars and make preparations for Providence, RI for the 2010 events. It is the residence of the current President and Mrs. B. Wilmot N. Howard and I certain that they will do their best to make it second to none.