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**NEWS RELEASE**

***For Immediate Release***

**ULAA NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS PROTOCOL FOR INAUGURAL EVENT; HELENA, MONTANA MAYOR, WILMOT J. COLLINS IS ULAA SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR**

**WASHINGTON, January 18, 2018 – The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA or The Union), officially announces protocol for its inaugural event. In a communication dispatched to the office of the National Secretariat, the National Administration says all is set for the inaugural event slated for Saturday, April 14, 2018. The event will begin with a Joint Session of the Board of Directors, National Leadership Council and the National Administration. Important issues about the future of the Union, such as Natural Born Liberian Citizenship, Out of Country Voting (OCV), the prospects of Liberia under President George Manneh Weah will be few of the many issues to be discussed.**

**According to the communication, political leaders from the Republic of Liberia, the Diaspora USA, Europe and other West African countries will attend. Hon. Wilmot J. Collins, Mayor of Helena, Montana, will be the Union Special Guest of Honor. Mayor Collins recently won the mayoral elections in Helena, Montana, to become the first Liberian Refugee to defeat a four-term Republican incumbent Jim Smith.**

**In a telephone conversation with ULAA National General Secretary, Arthur Weah Doe, Helena City Mayor said, “My Brother, who am I to refuse an invitation from my own people; I accept your invitation, and I will be there.” He joked, “You know what happened on April 14 ehn?” And I replied, “This is why your people want you to serve as their Special Guest of Honor, because you know small Liberian history.”**

**Meanwhile, the following individuals have been appointed to the Inaugural Committee. They are:**

- 1. Mrs. Emmanuette Nagbe, Chairperson, ULAA National Planning Committee**
- 2. Ms. Tenneh Johnson, Co-Chair**

3. **Mr. Amara Kamara, Secretary**
4. **Mr. Samuel Wilson, member**
5. **Ms. Theresa Sesay, Member**
6. **Dr. Aurelia Curtis, Chairperson, Local Planning Committee**
7. **Rev. Hilary L. Lymus, Co-Chairperson, Local Planning Committee**
8. **Minister Beatrice Y. Johnson, Member**
9. **Suleiman Tunis, Member**
10. **Charles Stevens, Member**
11. **Abraham Tucker (SILCA President)**
12. **Jennifer Brumskine, Board Chairwoman, SILCA**
13. **Bartee Togba, Advisor**
14. **Arthur Weah Doe, ULAA National General Secretary, Ex-officio**
15. **Alexander Bazzie, ULAA National Treasurer, Ex-Officio**
16. **Rev. Phillip Blamo, Eastern Region Vice President, Ex-Officio**
17. **Frank Carter, Northern Region Vice President, Ex-Officio**
18. **Zara Sherman, Western Region Vice President, Ex-Officio**
19. **Eminent Emmanuel Wetee, Advisor**

**The National Planning Committee and local Staten Island chapter are undergoing massive preparation, and they have been holding series of telephone conferences and periodic face-to-face meeting to make the Inaugural program a success.**

**Also, at the Inaugural program, the Union will honor distinguished personalities, and it will continue its fundraising efforts to help member organizations and support schools in the Republic of Liberia. The Union, therefore, releases the below protocol and encourages all Liberians, stakeholders and friends of Liberia to turn out to support ULAA.**

#### **ORDER OF THE INAUGURAL PROGRAM**

**Friday, April 13, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Meeting with the Borough President**

**Staten Island City Hall**

**Friday, April 13, 2018**

**Meet and Greet (T/VBA)**

**Morning Session**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

**BREAKFAST**

**8:00 a.m. – 8:45 A.M.**

**First session**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 A.M.**

**Second session**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**LUNCH**

**12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M.**

**THIRD & Final session**

**12:00 noon – 2:00 P.M.**

**Evening Session**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018 –Arrival, photographing, seating, exchanging greetings**

**6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

**DINNER**

**8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

**SPEECHES & AWARDS**

**9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.**

**GRAND MARCH**

**10:00 P.M. – 2:00 A.M.**

**Master of Ceremony**

**ULAA Chief of Protoco**

**Please note that both sessions will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10314.**

**For all other information and latest news, please visit the Union website at <http://www.ulaalib.org> or call the Union Toll free at: [1-866-592-4480](tel:1-866-592-4480) or local number at: [202-688-2792](tel:202-688-2792)**

**HOTELS INFORMATION**

**Staten Island New York Hotel**

**Wild Avenue**

**Staten Island, NY**

**Tel: [1-866-599-6674](tel:1-866-599-6674)**

**Hilton Garden Inn**

**1100 South Ave**

**Staten Island, NY**

**Tel: [1-855-809-3512](tel:1-855-809-3512)**

**Holiday Inn Express Staten Island West**

**Wild Avenue**

**Staten Island, NY**

**Tel: [1-855-799-6861](tel:1-855-799-6861)**

**The Harbor House Bed & Breakfast**

**Hylan Blvd**

**Staten Island, NY**

**Tel: [1-866-599-6674](tel:1-866-599-6674)**

**Ramada Staten Island**

**N Gannon Ave**

**Staten Island, NY**

**Tel: [1-855-809-3509](tel:1-855-809-3509)**

**Hampton Inn & Suites**

**South Ave**

**Staten Island NY**

Tel: [1-855-799-6860](tel:1-855-799-6860)

**Comfort Inn Staten Island**

**Wild Ave**

**Staten Island, NY**

Tel: [1-855-809-3507](tel:1-855-809-3507)

**The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) is the umbrella organization representing Liberians and their various organizations in the Americas. ULAA is a voluntary, nonprofit, and non-governmental organization formed on July 4, 1974 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America. The mission of ULAA is to advance the just causes of Liberians and Liberia at home and abroad.**

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