



UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS (ULAA)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ULAA NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION HOLDS SUCCESSFUL POLICY MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC; ATTENDS GGAA'S PRESIDENTIAL BALL

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2016 – The National Administration of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) over the weekend held a successful one-day policy meeting. Discussions at the policy meeting surrounded both internal and external matters, which are the modus operandi of the Union's advocacy. In his opening remarks, the President of the Union Wilmot W. Kunney said since the founding of the Union, there has not been any documented standards of operations for the Union, and the reason for this policy meeting is, as he described it, "for the National Administration to prepare a smart, bold and systematic operations through well-established policies, where the National Administration and the National Leadership Council will uphold in furtherance of the Union's Constitution and General Principles." He continued, "Let us look back and review current activities of the Union and contribute our brilliance so that our people, member organizations and stakeholders can believe in the Union again."

Henceforth, discussions surrounding the internal matters included,

- 1. State-to-state membership voting**

- 2. Protocols and seating at General Assembly (GA) /conventions**
- 3. Programs/events**
- 4. Conflict resolutions**
- 5. Member chapter's reporting**
- 6. Representations on ULAA Board**
- 7. Member chapters' recruitment and incentive bonus and**
- 8. New chapters' applications.**

For the external matters, dual citizenship, voters education, school projects, increased advocacy on corruptions, bad governance, free press and freedom of speech, gender equality, accountability, the right to education, amongst others.

Those in attendance were: Wilmot W. Kunney, National Executive President; Vamba Fofana, National Executive Vice President; Arthur Weah Doe, National General Secretary; and Alexander Arku Bazzie, National Treasurer. Other officers who attended the meeting include, Jennifer Gray-Brumskine, Executive Director, National Social Service Commission, Mr. Y. Wloti Hne, Chairman, External Affairs, Mr. Bartee C. Togba, Executive Director, Liberian Diaspora Development Fund; Mr. Freeman Chea, former Liberian Association of Pennsylvania (LAP) Representative to ULAA Board and current Policy Advisor to President Kunney.

Speakers presented summary papers, and at the end of the policy meeting, the National Administration agreed on the following:

- 1. That the Union's top national officers, was held at its office in Washington, D.C. Those who were also in the meeting tomorrow, May 7, 2016. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. EST, at the 1629 K Street address of the Union. The meeting is expected to review past activities of the Union and bring to speed permanent administrative policies and procedures to cover all roles of National elected Officers and, standing and ad-hoc commissions. All blue print policies and procedures will be documented and form part of the Union's operational manual.**

It can be recalled that in early April, 2016, the National General Secretary of the Union, Mr. Arthur Weah Doe issued a news flash concerning the holding of the Union's post-inaugural policy meeting. Secretary Doe, who is also the constitutional head of the Union's National Secretariat, moved swiftly, upon

instructions from the National Executive President, H. E. Wilmot W. Kunney, to make necessary arrangements.

In a related development, President Kunney has issued an imperative citation to all officers of the National Administration to be present and on time. President Kunney also mandated each official and head of Commission to prepare a two-page Executive Summary for presentation. “Each of should prepare a two-page executive summary to get ready to make your presentation.” He continued, “Your presentation will be transformed into permanent policies and procedures for the Union’s operations, which will form part of the Union’s new policies and procedures manual.”

Additionally, all officers and commission heads began submitting their two-page summary presentations on Monday, May 2, 2016. The cut off day was May 4, 2016, and from all indications, the policy meeting is headed for success. Those who are expected to attend the policy meeting are: Wilmot W. Kunney, National Executive President; George Toto, Chairman of the Board of Directors – in Observer status; Tarlow Miller, Doyen of the National Leadership Council; Eminent Emmanuel Wettee, Chairman, All Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship; Vamba Fofana, National Executive Vice President; Arthur Weah Doe, National General Secretary; Alexander Arku Bazzie, National Treasurer; Rufus Arkoi, Chairman, Ways, Means & Finance; Jennifer Gray-Brumskine, Executive Director, National Social Service Commission, among others.

Meanwhile, the National Executive President, H. E. Wilmot W. Kunney will lead a high power delegation to the Presidential Ball of the Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas (GGAA) in Richmond, Virginia. In a letter of invitation to President Kunney, signed by Mr. Taylor Smith, Chairman of the 2016 GGAA Convention Committee and approved by Mr. Fred Gwyan, President of the GGAA, and reads in part, “Mr. President, in consideration of our unwavering commitment to peace and unity in our communities and amongst ourselves and your leadership untiring efforts in making sure that our communities are united, the President of our Union, Mr. Fred T. Gwyan is honored to personally invite you and your executive to the 2016 Convention of the Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas in Richmond, VA.”

Members of President Kunney’s delegation includes, Vamba Fofana, National Executive Vice President; Arthur Weah Doe, National General Secretary; Alexander Arku Bazzie, National Treasurer; Bartee Togba, Executive Director,

**Diaspora Development Fund; Y. Wloti Hne, Chairman, External Affairs;
Mohammed Kromah, Chief of Office Staff, Office of the President.**

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