



UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS (ULAA)

**The Secretariat
364 W Deer Park Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

Contact: Arthur Weah Doe - National General Secretary

E-mail: worwinweah@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ULAA NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION HELD CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH COUNTY LEADERS

GAITHERSBURG, MD, December 17, 2015 – The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas held a consultative meeting with leaders of county organizations on Wednesday, December 16, 2015. The consultative meeting took place via teleconference.

In his opening statement, ULAA President Wilmot W. Kunney welcomed the leaders of the organizations and thanked them for accepting the invitation from the National Administration.

President Kunney referenced the name “ULAA” to refresh the leaders’ knowledge of ULAA’s representation in the Diaspora as the “umbrella” organization, and called on them to join to expand this “umbrella” to serve the needs of Liberians in the Diaspora and to advocate for social justice, democratic governance, peace, and economic development in Liberia. “I recognized your strength as a member of the U.S Diaspora, and the important role you can play in working with ULAA to strengthen the voice of Liberians in the Diaspora as we advocate for a better Liberia” said Kunney.

President Kunney continued, “We have been finding the best way where ULAA and county organizations can collaborate better in our common interests, and this is the time.” President Kunney made a passionate appeal to the county leaders to join the Union as stipulated in the Union’s constitution. The President further observed that county organizations are closer to their people, and in order to reach out to the people of Liberia, ULAA must form strong partnership with all Liberia national county organizations.

Chapter VI, Article 2 of the Union Constitution states:

The Union shall have a membership system representing Liberian Community Associations, Liberia National County Associations, and non-Liberian Organizations with vested interest in Liberia and Liberians. Political parties and entities and organizations that support political parties shall not be member(s) of the Union.

Article 4

Liberia National County Associations shall be comprised of National County Organizations representing Counties in Liberia and operating in the jurisdiction of the Union. Only one National County Association shall represent a Liberian County in the Union.

For their part, leaders of the county organizations expressed profound gratitude to President Wilmot Kunney for reaching out to them. The counties leaders said ULAA has been around for quite some times now, and if ULAA is to be the true “umbrella” for all Liberian organizations, it is necessary to reach out to all national county organizations.

Furthermore, the leaders thanked President Kunney for the invitations, and said they are upbeat to form part of ULAA, especially at this time when the homeland is facing serious national challenges. “We all love our people and country, but the continuous injustices that have been meted out against our people on a daily basis are something that we need to come together under one accord to address,” one county leader said. “Due process is important in the discharge of justice, and it is frustrating to see the Government of Liberia holding Liberians in jail for a protracted time without due process, and I am happy that ULAA has called us to form part of its advocacy,” said another county leader.

Meanwhile, as the first steps towards forming a strong collaborative relationship, the county leaders and ULAA agreed to establish a common

calendar of events to avoid conflicting schedules. The leaders and ULAA also agreed to attend and patronize each other events, and also hold consultative meetings on a quarterly basis during which time the county leaders will receive briefings from ULAA or national and other issues, and the county leaders will brief ULAA on development in their organizations. “With this new marriage, we believe that this will go a long way in cementing the relationship between the county organizations and ULAA,” said ULAA Boss Wilmot Kunney.

In closing, President Kunney extended invitations to the county leaders to attend ULAA’s March 26, 2016 inaugural ball in the city of Philadelphia.

The following county organizations attended the Consultative meeting : United Nimba Citizens Council UNICO) ; Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas (GGAA); Grand Bassa County of America; Margibi Association of America; Sinoe County Association of America (SCAA); United Bassa Organization of America (UNIBOA); Montserrado County Association of America.

In a related development, the National Administration will be holding its second consultative meeting with the National Leadership Council on Friday, December 18, 2015. Discussion around the meeting will include a 60 day report since the induction of ULAA new officers. The National Administration is calling on all member organizations’ leaders to attend.

#