

Welcome Address by the President

Mr. Vita Ozoude

The African Union of Northern Nevada welcomes you to our end of Year Christmas Party. Since this party only happens once a year, I plan on having a great time and I hope you are too. Before getting started, I want to take a minute to thank the African Union women that make this night possible. I will also like to introduce and thank the members of my administration for all their hard work throughout the year. Please stand up when I call your name and we will acknowledge all of them at once instead of individually: Here they are:

Vice President – Mrs. Ogechi Ugwulebo

General Secretary – Mr. Amadou Cuomba Ba

Treasurer – Mr. Eugene Anukam

Financial Secretary – Mr. Mukwuel Aiyuk

Publicity Secretary – Mr. Courage Osawe

Assistant Financial Secretary – Mr. Oliver Saah and

Assistant Publicity Secretary – Mr. Francis Kiiti

Please help me in giving these individuals a big hand of applause for making my life a lot easier.

Now Who We Are

As the VP said, the African Union of Northern Nevada is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our membership is composed of individuals from over six African countries. So, this organization is truly an African Union.

The organization was formed in 2001 with objectives such as:

promoting social and cultural exchange between the Union and the community; and to foster closer relations with other organizations.

As time went on, we realized the need in our community and wanted to do something about it. One of the officers introduced us to the Children's Cabinet. From then on our focus shifted to include:

- (1) Providing assistance to families in need in Northern Nevada by working with other charitable organizations.

For several years we have been working with the Children's Cabinet in their Adopt a Family Program. We are very passionate about this program and our members have contributed generously to make it a success year after year.

- (2) Members of the organization were coming up with ideas about what we can do to help not only our community but people in Africa. Some of the ideas were to provide scholarship to deserving students in our community and to make a real difference in the life of Africans living in Africa.
- (3) To accomplish some of our goals, we needed the ability to raise funds so we applied for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.
- (4) 2011 has been a good year for the African Union family, more than 8 of our children graduated from high schools and/or colleges and our application for 501(c)(3) recognition was granted by the IRS. In spite of the harsh economic situation, most of our members are still doing okay and we thank God for that.
- (5) To continue our charitable activities, we will be reaching out to all of you in the near future to help us raise funds to help those in need in our community. We also need to reach out to Africans living in Africa. We will be working with charitable

organizations and religious groups to provide clean drinking water and mosquito nets to curtail the ravages of malaria sickness.

- (6). As I was reminded before coming up here, that this is a Christmas Party and not a night of long speeches. So, I am going to conclude here but before I do that, I would like to acknowledge our outgoing General Secretary, Mr. Paulinus Alaribe for the great work he did for our organization. Mr. Alaribe served the organization as the General Secretary for 4 years. Thank you Mr. General Secretary. Please accept our little token of our appreciation by accepting this plaque from the AUNN membership.
- (7) Everyone here tonight is very important to us and we appreciate you. Our past president Mr. Victor Wowo has been very instrumental in bringing members of his church to our events. I want to thank Mr. Wowo and the members of the Second Baptist Church for all their support over the years. (Please give them a hand of applause).

Now, I would like to call on my priest to say a prayer for us over the food. Please join me in welcoming Reverend Father Jose Isaac of Holy Cross Catholic Community.

Thank you all and please enjoy the evening.

Vita Ozoude, President

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