

President's Welcome Address



I want to thank our distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen that took time out of their busy schedules to be with us today. Welcome to the first African Union's Festival of Arts and Culture. African's in this community have yearned for a community-wide recognized African Day similar to Cinco Di Mayo and Chinese New Year celebrated by our friends, neighbors and the community at large. We know that it will evolve slowly. However, we believe that with the help of our distinguished guests, friends and neighbors from the cities of Reno and Sparks, anything is possible. Therefore, we are laying the foundation for our ultimate dream with this event. I also want to thank all the members of the African Union of Northern Nevada for coming together in an effort to put on this festival. There is no turning back until we make an African Day a recognized community activity.

The African Union of Northern Nevada (AUNN) was formed on May 16, 2001 with the following objectives:

- To promote social, and cultural exchanges between the organization and the community;
- To promote matters of common interest;
- To foster closer relations with other organizations, and ensure justice and equity.

The AUNN is a not-for-profit organization of Africans that seeks to preserve, and disseminate the rich historic-socio-cultural heritage of Africa. Additionally, the AUNN seeks the help of our friends in the advancement of the African culture, and the intellectual and professional development of our members.

We have been blessed as an organization with talented and passionate leaders starting with the leadership of our first president Mr. Victor Wowo. The Wowo administration laid a solid foundation for the administration that followed headed by Mr. Peter Aiyuk. Mr. Aiyuk enhanced the foundation before handing it over to my administration, which will continue to build and improve this organization of ours.

My vision is to make the AUNN a better and stronger organization. This will be accomplished by having better access to other organizations and funding sources for our activities. Our task will not be easy, but I am confident we are up to the challenge. We will continue to play a vital role in our community by helping those less fortunate and seek better cooperation and collaboration with other organizations.

Today we have taken a giant step toward achieving some of the stated objectives by holding this festival. As our symposium panelists tackle the issue of how Africans abroad can help the continent, we should continually look for ways for people in Africa and America to work together.

I thank everyone for participating in these activities. Long Live the African Union of Northern Nevada! Long Live Africa! Long Live the United States of America!

Vita Ozoude, CPA, CMA, MBA

President, African Union of Northern Nevada