



Monthly RVAC Meeting

Date: 17 September 2015

11 Holland Avenue, Ottawa

Co-Chairs: Carl Laguerre and Zelma Buckley

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth Pecana (Secretary)

Present:

Carl Laguerre
Zelma Buckley
Paulette Barker
Elizabeth Pecana
Paul Abi-Mansour
Vicky-Lynn Smith
Sandra DiGnagbo
Ralph Daguilh
Debbie Thomas
Lovinsky Cherestal
Natasha Duckworth

Regrets:

Antoine Moise
Joanne Robinson
Behiye Cinkilic

Resource Person

Nairra Tariq

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Zelma Buckley at 5:57 PM.

1 - Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to accept the Agenda was made by Sister Vicky-Lynn Smith and seconded by Brother Lovinsky Cherestal. **All were in favour except Brother Paul Abi-Mansour. Motion carried.**

2 - Minutes of the July 2015 Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes as recorded was made by Sister Elizabeth Pecana and seconded by Brother Carl. **All were in favour except Brother Paul Abi-Mansour. Motion carried.**

3 - Business arising from July 2015 Minutes

- Sister Nairra read the President's ruling on the discontinuation of the Membership Benefit Fund. Sister Paulette said that in the past this fund was not solely used as a hardship fund in the event of a strike but that in

general, it was used to assist members in financial difficulty. Brother Paul said that since a motion was passed in the last meeting to challenge this ruling, a sub-committee should be formed to draft a letter to Sister Benson.

- Sister Zelma provided the feedback on Jam Day. The iPod raffle prize has not been claimed. The phone number on the ticket was illegible. Sister Zelma tried several random combinations and could not reach the lucky winner. Someone recommended that she do a reverse address lookup to see if a phone number could be located. If the winner does not show up with the corresponding ticket stub, this prize will be raffled at another event. The proceeds from the raffle for a total of \$59, was donated to MDAC's Feeding of the Five Thousand. All in all, it was a successful event.
- Brother Carl said that he had not received any recent communication regarding the purchase of the magnets. Sister Nairra will follow up with Brother Alroy.
- The screening of Selma at Dundonald Park was a big success. The park was packed. An estimated 1000 people thronged this event. RVAC had a table, CLC was present as well. Brother Larry spoke at this event. The movie highlighted the struggle for equal voting rights. A successful and timely community outreach stressing the importance of standing up for your rights.
- Sister Zelma reported that the refugee family from Sudan would be arriving on 21 September 2015. Her church is supporting this family for a year to adjust to the new environment, and ultimately, self-sufficiency. There was a query/discussion about government support for refugees. Sister Paulette commented that when a refugee is sponsored by an organization, the support falls on the shoulders of the sponsor. Sister Zelma requested an RVAC donation.

Sister Vicky motioned to donate \$200 to the church for the family, if it was budget feasible. Sister Debbie Thomas seconded the motion. ***All were in favour except Sister Paulette. Motion carried.***

(An amendment to the motion was proposed to reduce the donation from \$200 to \$50 which subsequently did not garner enough votes.)

3 – October 3rd Regional Council Meeting

Sister Zelma encouraged everyone to attend the meeting. Sister Behiye is out of the country and Sister Elizabeth is unavailable. A couple of members said that they would have to check their schedules to see if they could attend the meeting.

4 – NCR Union School (November 29 to December 4, 2015)

Everyone was encouraged to sign up for the Union School. It is an in-residence union school in Montebello, Quebec. One of the courses which attracted a few of the RVAC members was the discrimination/harassment course. There will be a selection process to screen in active members of the union. The deadline to apply is October 20, 2015.

5 – Racially Visible Regional Conference (RVRC)

Sister Sandra DiGnagbo talked about the eight year long wait for this resolution to be passed. She proposed that RVAC begin preparing for this conference. Sister Nairra indicated that the RVRC would possibly be held toward the end of 2016. Sister Paulette felt that RVAC members needed to work together on the planning/groundwork by themselves to gain the necessary experience and skills.

6 - Human Rights Day – December 10, 2015

There was a recognition of an upcoming busy fall schedule comprised of events like the NCR Council meeting on October 3rd, Union School, OFL etc. It was a consensus to hold a movie night – Mandela. Sister Nairra is responsible for booking the JK Wylie room at Gilmour. Several volunteers signed up to assist in the planning as follows:

- Ralph Daguilh
- Nairra Tariq
- Elizabeth Pecana
- Sandra DiGnagbo
- Zelma Buckley
- Paulette Barker
- Carl Laguerre

6 – Upcoming Events

- All Candidates Debate – National Association of Federal Retirees
September 23, 2015 at the Shenkman Arts Centre, Orleans from 1-4 pm
- September 21 in lieu of September 19 – Sparks and Kent @noon for about 30 mins (September 19 which falls on a Saturday)
- Take Back the Night Sept 24 - 6:15pm - Elgin and Gilmour
- Taxi Drivers Demonstration September 18 - City Hall at noon
- December 10 – International Human Rights Day
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination Racial Discrimination

With no further items to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Brother Carl and seconded by Brother Paul. **Motion carried at 7:47 pm.**

Next meeting, 15 October 2015 at 5:45pm