



# Monthly RVAC Meeting

**Date:** 19 March 2015

**Location:** 11 Holland Avenue, Ottawa

**CO-Chairs:** Carl Laguerre and Zelma Buckley

**Minutes prepared by:** Behiye Cinkilic (Vice Chair - Communication Officer)

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**Present :**

Carl Laguerre  
Zelma Buckley  
Paulette Barker  
Debbie Thomas  
Paul Abi-Mansour  
Behiye Cinkilic  
Sandra Griffith-Bonaparte  
Marie-Françoise

**Regrets:**

Elizabeth Pecana  
Antoine Moise  
Sandra DiGnagbo

**Guest**

Larry Rousseau

**Resource Person**

**Amarkai Laryea**

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**Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Carl Laguerre at 6:10 PM.**

**1 - Adoption of the Agenda**

Brother Carl suggested that Item 4, "International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21st) Activity" is dealt with as Item 2 on the Agenda, as Brother Larry who participated in the meeting as a guest had to leave early due to his other priorities. It was also noted that the letter written by Amarkai to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Minister in relation to an immigration case should be discussed under the Item "Varia". **Motion to adopt the amended Agenda was made by Sister Sandra Griffith-Bonaparte and seconded by Sister Debbie Thomas, and carried unanimously.**

## **2 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21st) Activity**

Larry spoke about the high number of people accepting the invitation and stated that the room would accommodate between 100 to maximum 120 guests. There were 40 additional chairs ordered. He summarised the format of the panel being carried out in two parts, allowing two speakers at a time and having a health break in between. He further explained the expected role and responsibilities of each executive based on the panel program prepared. Larry also emphasised the importance of the harassment and no scent policy being communicated to the audience before the discussions start. He added that there would be coffee and tea and pastry for 100 people, and gifts to be presented to each speaker. The gift for Elder Dumont would also include tobacco.

## **2 – Adoption of the Minutes of the February 19, 2015 Meeting**

In response to a clarification request from the floor about the nature of Leadership Training mentioned in the Minutes, Brother Amarkai explained that this initiative was a two-day training undertaken to bring the membership together and discuss various issues. Members were matched with mentors in order to build-up the union and provide the medium for exchange of information. **Motion to adopt the minutes was made by Brother Paul and seconded by Sister Zelma and adopted unanimously.**

## **3 - Business arising from the February 2015 Minutes**

Although it was originally agreed the following had to be discussed under the Item "Varia", the course of meeting invoked the discussion about the letter Brother Amarkai drafted addressing the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Chris Alexander to request his intervention in the immigration case of the Indian family who is separated from their two-year old child. Members adopted the letter as drafted and agreed to send it to the Minister having been signed by the Co-chairs.

The next item arising from the minutes of the previous monthly meeting was the pamphlet being prepared for describing the regional committees. Sister Zelma stated that the status of the pamphlet would be discussed at the next Regional Council Executive Meeting.

## **4 - Committee Training by Amarkai Laryea**

Amarkai presented a short but substantial training session on "**Discrimination and Human Rights**". Amarkai started his presentation with the description of discrimination, how racial discrimination could be identified, and what the 11

prohibited grounds were under the Canadian Human Rights Act. He continued by explaining what could be the discriminatory practices in a workplace and what legislative, legal and administrative instruments and mechanisms could be used as recourse to these violations. Amarkai also explained the importance of timelines and evidence building in filing grievances in workplaces. Brother Amarkai's presentation received intense interest and appreciation from the members in attendance.

## **5 - Varia**

Brother Amarkai mentioned that PSAC was preparing a video on the Universal Childcare matter and they were looking for racialised members to take part in the said video. He asked those who might be interested in being featured in the video to contact Alroy Fonseca.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Brother Paul and seconded by Behiye.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

**Next meeting, 16 April 2015 at 5:45pm**