BEPƆW SO HANN

NYAME NE HENE

ABUGISS 94/96

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER
FOR A STRONGER SISTERHOOD

CURRENT STATE OF ASSOCIATION
BY
OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

(SEPTEMBER, 2020 – OCTOBER, 2022)

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Abugiss 94/96-year Group Association (the Association or Group) was the brainchild of three ladies. In 2008, the three pioneering ladies; namely Ama Afi Adu, Nana Yaa Agyemang and Jemima Aduamoah Addo held the initial group meeting at Accra Mall following which Nana Yaa Agyemang formally estalished the group on WhatsApp in March 2013.

At the inception of the group in 2013, the total membership was less than **fifty** ladies. As of September 2022, the total membership of the group on WhatsApp is one hundred and seventy ladies.

The Group has three (3) branches consisting of the Local Branch which is the main branch located in Ghana, the UK Branch, and the US Branch. Each of these branches has elected Executives; however, the Local Branch Executives are elected by all members of the Association of the three branches. The Local Executives have the responsibility of working with the Executives of the UK and US branches to ensure the Group continues to be vibrant and grows spiritually and mentally to Support Each other for a Stronger Sisterhood. The President and Secretary of the Local Branch also represent the Group at the National Executive Committee of Aburi Girl Secondary Old Girls Association (AOGA).

This report provides an overview of the governance structure of the Group, a review of activities/accomplishments /challenges over the last two years, the financial standing of the Group and provides some recommendations for the future effectiveness of the Group.

2. GOVERNANCE:

The Association is led by Executives with clear roles and responsibilities stated in the old year Group constitution.

The Executive position of the Local Branch as per constitution is occupied by

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organizing Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Public Relation Officer

3. 2020-2022 REVIEW:

In September 2020, we, the outgoing Executives, took over from the previous Executives led by Theresa Donkor from 2015 to 2020. At the point of handover, the previous Executive had successfully seen to a great 25th Home-coming Anniversary at our Alma Mata. The Executives appointed at the time were (now the outgoing Executives):

OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

President	-	Jessica Afua Boahemaa Owusu
Vice President	-	Frempomaa Osei Tutu
Secretary	-	Victoria Ashiabor
Treasurer	-	Mina Osae
Organizing Secretary	-	Mansa Ayisi-Okyere
Social Secretary	-	Joana Mensah
Public Relation Officer	-	Edzodzi Segbefia

Our mandate as Executives of the Group for the past two-year period was to ensure continuous constructive and productive activities to maintain the Group in the years ahead. Achieving the mandate was no mean feat, given the unprecedented challenges that ensued with the onset of COVID-19 which prevented us from holding the usual physical meetings the Group was used to. This meant the Executives had to come up with innovative ways to sustain the Group.

By the Grace of God, we were able to overcome most of the challenges and are proud to be handing over to the next set of Executives, an extremely vibrant and well-respected year Group.

3.1. GROWTH:

The Group since its setup in 2013 has seen continuous growth in membership. From the initial membership strength of less than 50 to its present membership across all branches of 170 ladies. At the time of handover, the membership stood at 145. As of September 2022, the membership of the Global Group stands at 170. The breakdown per branch is as follows:

Ghana	–	88
UK	–	41
US	–	41

The total number of ladies enrolled in 1994/1996 for O Level and A Level was 238. We have lost two ladies (Barbara and Lorna). The Association membership as of September 2022 is 71.43% of the expected membership.

To monitor growth and ensure the Association and the Executives have the contact information of each member, we setup a database which was collated by the Local branch Secretary and distributed among the secretaries of the other two branches. The data contains details of next of kin of each member to enable Executives contact them in case of an emergency.

3.2. PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

As indicated earlier, our mandate as Executive for the years 2020 – 2022 was to ensure continuous constructive and productive activities. In addition, we were also required to collaborate with other year Groups and Schools, from time to time, sponsor the National Science and Maths Quiz of our Alma Mata, and continue to maintain the ICT Lab we refurbished as part of the anniversary celebration.

To enable us to achieve these goals alongside the prime objective of our executive which was to build a stronger sisterhood devoid of divisions and disagreements, the Executive, in collaboration with our UK and US branch Executives, instituted new ideas to help achieve these goals.

1. THEME FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD:

To ensure all members of the Association understood the objective/ mandate of the Executives, we came up with a theme for the period of service and a logo that was aimed at constantly reminding ladies of what the Association is all about.
The theme and logo were,

“SUPPORTING EACH OTHER FOR A STRONGER SISTERHOOD”

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2. COMMITTEES:

We also set up committees to align with the needs of the Group. The committees were perceived to be instrumental to the achievement of the mandate set for the Executive and realization of the objective of Supporting Each Other for a Stronger Sisterhood. Nine committees made up of ladies from all three branches were set up with each led by an Executive and supervised by either a President or Vice President of one of the branches. The nine committees had a total membership of about seventy ladies. The committees were;

a. Prayer Committee
(Lead: Jemima Aduamoah, Local Branch Member):

The Prayer Committee was setup to address the spiritual and mental needs of the ladies. They introduced the once in the month prayer sessions which were extremely successful. In collaboration with the organizing Committee, they also held a Thanksgiving Zoom Session that was loved by the ladies. We are extremely grateful for their support and prayers.

b. Medical Committee
(Lead: Frempomaa Osei Tutu, Vice President):

The committee's duty was to educate ladies on health-related issues and to assist with any medical issues. This committee was one of the most active and most successful at achieving its mandate.

c. Business Committee
(Lead: Abigail Ackah-Baidoo, UK Branch Member):

The committee's duty was to promote the businesses of the ladies and to educate them on finance and business-related issues, etc. Some of the successes of this committee was the introduction of our website- www.aburi9496gals.com and the Market Days.

d. Social Committee
(Lead: Joana Mensah, Social Secretary):

The committee was responsible for sending out birthday gifts, attending funerals, weddings and keeping the WhatsApp page active etc. This was a very dynamic committee, and they introduced the Friday Sister Activity which re-introduced sisters and gave opportunity for us to know what each sister was currently doing. They also introduced the Presidential Initiative where members were given a gift on their birthday.

e. Organizing Committee
(Lead: Mansa Ayisi-Okyere, Organizing Secretary):

This was another active committee. They introduced the yearly calendar of activities for all the three branches. They also organized the Father's Day and Mother's Day activities in collaboration with our Odade3 brothers to raise funds for the Association. They also oversaw our carol's night celebrations, etc. Their contribution went a long way to keep the Association vibrant. Please note, the calendar of activities that was undertaken by the Association for the past two years will be handed over to the incoming Organizing Secretary by the outgoing Organizing Secretary.

f. PR Committee
(Lead: Edzodzi Segbefia, Public Relations Officer):

The committee ensured every activity we undertook had enough publicity to steer interest and increase attendance. They came up with beautiful flyers to achieve this aim. The committee also manages all the social media platforms of the Association. All passwords will be handed over to the incoming PR officer by the outgoing officer.

g. Legal Committee

(Lead: Afua Adubea Donkor, Local Branch Member):

This committee oversaw advising the ladies on any legal matters arising.

They also reviewed and redrafted the constitution to meet the present needs of the Association.

h. Website Committee

(Lead: Felicia Adu, UK Branch Member):

The committee was set up after the introduction of the website. Their duty was to ensure the website continued to achieve its purpose and to attract the right level of traffic.

i. Finance Committee
(Lead: Mina Osae, Treasurer):

The committee oversaw managing the finances of the Association and ensuring our monies were used correctly and invested properly.

Other Committees:
NSMQ Committee

The NSMQ Committee was already in existence under the leadership of Jessica Owusu at the time we took over. However, since the lead was now the President of the Association, the chair position was handed over to Rebecca Dottey. The committee is responsible for monitoring, raising funds and assisting the Group in supporting the NSMQ team of our Alma Mata. These tasks were successfully executed in 2021 and the NSMQ team got to the quarter finals of the competition.

The roles and responsibilities of the committees mentioned above are found in the link below.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY36ia6SOSvKCvpfiTXZwfBOZJ_EqAOXT

Each outgoing Executives is mandated by the constitution to provide a handing over report to their counterpart who will be taking over from them. We will ensure this process is thoroughly done so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

3.2.1 REFLECTIONS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMITTEES

Setting up the committees stimulated the ladies to come out and assist the Executives in achieving their mandate. A lot of the committee leaders did a fantastic job for which we are extremely grateful. However, the exceptional efforts of the following ladies were noticeable,

1. Rebecca Anyan:

She was actively involved with the prayer committee and never refused any opportunity to pray for the Group.

2. Morag Klufio:

She was the chair for the monitoring sub-committee of the NSMQ Committee and she actively supported all activities of the NSMQ team.

3. Abigail Ackah Badioo:

Abigail assisted the group/ committees with all our presentations, zoom meetings etc.

4. Sandra Quantson:

Sandra assisted the social committee with their birthday flyers.

5. Kafui Dei Tutu:

Abena was instrumental in assisting with the Business Committee's market days on the platform once every month.

6. Abena Essel:

Abena was instrumental in assisting with the Business Committee's market days on the platform once every month.

7. Felicia Adu:

Felicia, although resident in Australia with a huge time difference, was instrumental in ensuring the website was always kept interesting.

We would also like to acknowledge the great support offered by the husband of Kafui Dei Tutu, Mr. Felix Esiape, for the design/ maintenance of our website and with the development of the election app used by the Association during the 2020/ 2022 elections.

3.3. MEETINGS:

General Meetings (GM) for the Association and Executive meetings are held once every quarter.
Global Executive meetings were held once a year.

The attendance at GMs improved significantly from an average attendance of twenty ladies to an average of thirty-five ladies over the two-year period. The attendance at meetings indicated an increase in the level of interest in the Association's activities and the vibrant nature of the Group.

Initially, meetings were held at Accra Mall, Regent Hotel etc. However, we introduced a new concept of meeting in ladies' homes. This requires ladies having an attitude of "bring and Share" and the Executive devising themes for the meetings which included "Kenkey Party', Jollof Party", "Garden Party' etc. We believe this approach tomeetings whipped up a lot of interest among ladies.

In terms of financing the meetings, the Executives ensured they kept this at a maximum amount of Ghc400 and bridged the cost gap by encouraging ladies to bring along whatever they could to the meetings. This approach, as indicated, was welcomed wholeheartedly by the ladies. The Ghc400 spent on the meetings was used for purchasing water and hiring of chairs and canopies for each venue. Minutes of all meetings will be handed over to the Incoming Secretary by the Outgoing Secretary.

3.4. FINANCES:

The active members of the Group are described as members who have paid their dues. As of today, out of the eighty-seven members of the Local Branch, seventy have paid their dues, five members dues have been waived due to financial and/or health reasons, and twelve ladies have not paid their dues. SMS has been sent to all members indicating whether they have fully paid their dues, how much they owe or if their dues has been waived.Our accounts are located at Ecobank and UMB. We have Momo accounts with MTN and Vodafone.The signatories on the accounts are that of the President, Treasurer and Secretary. This will be changed to signatories of Incoming Executives. The President, however, is the principal signatory to all the accounts.The Outgoing Executives handed over cash amount of Ghc42,000 in our Ecobank Account. As of September 2022, the Group has total amount of Ghc99,855.58 in the Group's various bank accounts, and momo accounts. The Association funds have amounted to an increment of 137.75% on the money inherited from previous Executives.

The statement of accounts for the Association, the bank accounts details, momo numbers, the list of paid/ waived and unpaid members etc. will be handed over to the Incoming Treasurer by the Outgoing t\Treasurer.

3.5. GROUP LIFE INSURANCE:

The Association has an existing GroupLife Scheme with EnterpriseLife Assurance Company. The scheme has been in existence for the past four years and has covered ninety-two ladies across the three branches. For the year 2020 – 2022, the Scheme paid out a total of thirteen claims to cover parents of ladies who have passed on.

We are glad to say that we did not have to pay out a claim for the loss of a member during this period and for this we are grateful to God.

3.6. ASSETS:

The year Group has the following assets:

- 35 pieces of 25th anniversary mugs
- 25th anniversary brochures
- Pen drive containing 25th anniversary picture
- MTN, Vodafone momo chips and Ecobank cheque book

3.7. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES:

“ The following were the achievements over the two-year period:

- Amendment of the Abugiss 94/96 Constitution: the constitution was re-viewed in 2020.
- Dues was increased to Ghc240 per year due to the economic situation in Ghana.
- Doubling the funds that was inherited from the previous Executives
- The increment of the GroupLife benefit from Ghc3,000 to Ghc5,000 and Ghc10,000 as per member request.
- Successful collaboration with Odade3 94/96: The Executives of the two Associations have a WhatsApp platform that aids the collaboration.
- Successfully supported the school for the 2021 NSMQ competition.
- Put in place a structure for venues for General Meetings.
- Organized continuous innovative activities to raise funds to cover the basic expenses of the association; and
- Group participation in meetings and events improved significantly.

The only major challenge the Executives experienced during their term of office was collection of dues from members. Although the non-paid members reduced significantly and there was a collection success rate of 85%, we believe with a constant reminder coupled with a continuous interest in the Association, we can reach a 100% payment rate.

3.8. MAJOR UPCOMING ACTIVITY

The Association will be celebrating 30 years of leaving their Alma Mata in June 2024. The Association will be expected to donate to the school.

3.9. RECOMMENDATION

The outgoing Executives would like to recommend the following for the consideration of the incoming Executives:

- The setting up of a welfare fund that can help ladies during their retirement period.
- Come up with other activities to easily encourage members to pay dues and encourage more ladies to attend the General Meetings.
- Do more of the Executive Series Lectures to educate the ladies on various aspects of life.
- The introduction of a system to fund trips for few ladies when they must travel out of Accra for a funeral.
- Ways to encourage ladies to travel out of Accra for funerals.

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The Outgoing Executives SAYS,

THANK YOU!

For Supporting us during our Tenure in Office.