

CAMEROON COMMUNITY OF GEORGIA

CAMCOGA General Assembly

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Sunday, February 10, 2019
TIME: From 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
VENUE: Afro Caribbean Restaurant (Sea Breeze)
5075 Austell Rd, Austell, GA 30106

REPORTS:

The CAMCOGA General Assembly monthly meeting took place on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at the Afro Caribbean Restaurant (Sea Breeze) hall. The meeting began at 5:15 PM with a prayer from the Vice-President, Mr. William Tandongfor who praised God for his grace in our life and asked God for His presence during the meeting and deliberations. He also welcomed all members to the meeting.

The president presented an outline of the meeting agenda to participants who approved it.

→ Planning for the May 11th, 2019 CAMCOGA Cultural Festival

Referencing the CAMCOGA bylaws Section 2, Paragraph E, the President has stressed that it is the responsibility of CAMCOGA to promote the cultural diversity of the people of Cameroon in Georgia and beyond.

Regarding traditional dances, we identified 14 cultural groups in our community, and it was agreed that the CAMCOGA Executive will send them a written invitation addressing the dress code, the traditional dances as well as the nature of their support. All participants to the event must come in traditional outfit and cultural dances should be coordinated and synchronized compared to prior years. All cultural groups that confirm their participation will perform whereas alumni and social groups are encouraged to notify the organizing committee of anything they want to be involved in. There will also be a traditional focus guest artist sponsored by the president's family who will perform in between to avoid boredom.

The event will start sharp at 9 PM and groups that are ready should perform first. Given our constant challenges to start our community events on time, a suggestion was made to change the indicative starting time from 8 PM to 7 PM on the flyer.

Regarding the taste of the Cameroonian cuisine, it was agreed that the organizing committee will extend a request to cultural groups in our community to bring a traditional dish or two. Also, a representative of each cultural group will be responsible for serving their traditional dish to invitees and presenting the specificities of the food as necessary. A set time for the food to be presented will also be communicated to respective cultural associations.

About the distribution of drinks, it will be “cash bar”. CAMCOGA will sell drinks and anything not open will be returned to the store. A system of customized tickets will be used to ease the distribution process. Should any bottlenecks occurred in the planning stage, CAMCOGA will then work with community members interested in the distribution of drinks for a profit.

With regard to the location, The Hall Event Venue in Austell, GA was chosen because it was cheaper than the competition i.e. \$2,600. It can also accommodate a set up of 30 tables. Participants agreed that tables should be covered with traditional cloth whereas classic decorating material could be used on the chairs.

Invitations will be sent to CAMCOGA affiliated groups, traditional title holders, friends of Cameroon, supporters and donors. A special protocol will be in place for the traditional title holders and clergy. They will be announced upon arrival. The Vice President, Mr. William Tandongfor is responsible for managing invitations to non-Cameroonians. Sponsorship requests will be also sent to corporations.

PostScript: It was agreed that any cash contributions made by a CAMCOGA affiliated group to support the cultural festival will be accounted for as their annual registration fee.

→ **Steps towards the implementation of the CAMCOGA Discount Card**

The president presented the timeline for the implementation of the “CAMCOGA Discount Card”. As a reminder, CAMCOGA will issue a “Discount Card” to individual members of CAMCOGA affiliated groups for an annual renewable fee to be determined. The holder of the “Discount Card” will have access to discounted rates when utilizing services from approved businesses including Legal, Health, Financial, Insurance, Car repair, Photo/Studio/DJ, Shopping, Housing, Computer, Wellness, Travel and Car buying.

There is an ongoing effort to build a database of businesses through the CAMCOGA master website www.camcogainc.org. The target is approximately 120 businesses including Cameroonian and non-Cameroonian owned that will partner with CAMCOGA. The target period for the launching of the “CAMCOGA Discount Card” is the Summer of 2019.

CAMCOGA will print individual cards and assign a membership ID to each cardholder. Therefore, part of the proceeds of a fundraising drive for the cultural festival will be used to buy a printer and supplies.

→ **Matters Arising**

- Congressman David Scott (GA-13) 16th Annual Job Fair on April 12, 2019 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Georgia International Convention Center. Ben wants the community to participate in this job fair not only as job seekers but also as volunteers.

Here is the link to register <https://davidscott.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=1365>

- Congressman David Scott (GA-13) 15th Health Fair on August 10, 2019 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mundy's Mill High School.

The community is encouraged to participate in this health fair offering free health screenings including breast cancer exams; Prostate cancer (PSA); HIV/ AIDS; Diabetes (glucose); Blood pressure; Asthma; Cholesterol; Mental health; Sickle cell; Vision; Dental; Orthopedic; and more.!

Here is the link to register <https://davidscott.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=1366>

- Mr. Tedonzong Tchoutezo announced that the Association Patsombung America, Inc will organize their first annual fundraising in Atlanta on July 6th, 2019. Members of this association are originated from Batcham in the Western province of Cameroon. Participants to the meeting asked Mr. Tedonzong to register this association with CAMCOGA before the event could be listed on the community events calendar. Mr. Tedonzong emphasized that his association has only 4 members and the CAMCOGA Executive promised to address this issue offline.

Mr. Tedonzong also encouraged the Cameroonian community in general to participate in annual events organized by the Association for the Advancement of Africa and other African communities in Georgia. The main speaker in their last year event was Plo Lumumba and more eminent speakers will be invited in the future including the Cameroonian Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III. The president acknowledged his remarks and promised to work closely with Mr. Tedonzong to change that trend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Stella L. Ful
Secretary of the Meeting

Ben Ekwalla
President