



We Are the Voice International Organization's Impromptu Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

June 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 2pm (EST)/ 6pm GMT by the President, Anna Nana Assah Agbotse via a Zoom Conference call.

Present

Anna Nana Assah Agbotse
Dr. Roger Koranteng
Dr. Carolyne White
Alexander E. Deku
Michelle Oppong-Ampofo
Isaac Opoku
Sheriff Andoh Abban
Kenneth Gyamerah
Erica Nana Akua Acheampomaa
William Williams

Moderator

Anna Nana Assah Agbotse

Welcomes & Introductions

- Welcome & Open Table Talk: Michelle and Erica introduced themselves including their positions and their roles within the organization.
- Anna welcomed everyone to the second Board of Directors meeting.
- She thanked everyone for making out the time to attend the meeting,

Discussion of We Are the Voice International Bi-Annual Report

- The summary of the bi-annual report from the Office of the President.
 - The office consists of President (Anna), Executive Secretary (Ada), Financial Officer (KC)
 - There are two sub-departments underneath this office, which are the finance department and the I.T. department.
- Anna stated that in the overall report there are about 34 pages, including 4 pages for notes, which she mentioned was very intentional because she knows there are individuals who would want to print out and write down certain pointers or jot down ideas of whatever stood out to them.
- There are 7 departments (2 sub departments, 5 main departments) explaining how they basically did from the months January-May, including data of growth and reflecting on how they were able to begin their process. Also, how they assembled into how they are today.
- Anna gave a huge congratulations to everyone for keeping order.

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- She expressed that she likes accuracy and she said that the goal of this bi-annual report is not for us to look good, but it is really for us to honestly say that these are young college students running this organization.
- She mentioned that it is also to show ourselves approved of what we are capable of doing.
- Anna then gave a typical example of a departmental annual report. She referred to the Podcast department.
- Then, Anna opened the room for discussions and attendees gave their commentary:
 - Mr. William Williams asked Anna to talk a little bit more about issues that she had with getting people to view her agenda with some of the podcasts just for clarification.
 - She went on to say that they really push forward business agendas, however we are still pushing because when she last checked the organization has about 3 more followers.
 - Anna then handed it over to Erica, the media head director to further answer Williams' question.
 - Erica said that one of the ways her team does try to gain followers is by making sure they are consistent in posting. Also, by sharing the post on their own personal pages. She stated that she also encourages the We Are the Voice International team members to do the same if they can on their WhatsApp and other media platforms.
 - She said we realized that it has helped a lot because some of her friends from school and home, as far as they follow her page can see the content from WATV and even a couple of people have reached out to her to ask her questions about who we are.
 - Anna also gave great great credits to the interview lives that we have because it lets people understand what we are about. (The main goal of the live is to support these hidden heroes in these countries and communities who are doing amazing work).
 - He mentioned the idea of posting on our personal pages and that getting things out there frequently is certainly something that he thinks we should continue because that's what helps and bottom line people have to know what's going on.
 - Williams also said that he was wondering if we looked at any particular current event issues or political issues that are happening in Ghana or the United States and then had podcasts or instagram lives to attract people who have something to say.
 - Anna replied saying, "Yeah, absolutely". She thanked him for mentioning that and went on to say that we had an Instagram live with one of the founders of NSARS NYC and she expressed that she believes that this was one of our most successful lives because people really joined.
 - Anna also answered Williams' question of the podcast by saying that it is season 2.
 - Carolyne White gave her commentary: She said that her impression from reading the report is that we spent a great deal of time creating a structure and creating accountabilities for each person participating in the structure.
 - She stated that she was also left with the impression that all of these people are working on a voluntary basis (she asked Anna if that is accurate), to which Anna replied, "Yes".
 - White said she would be interested long term in some mechanism to track the sustainability of people involved in the organization.



- She said she would encourage some form of people tracking their own experience in these roles.
- She also commented expressing what really great work and she is wondering about the fundamental concerns of each member of the organization and how do they see those concerns being fulfilled.
- Anna replied saying that it is something that we will look into tracking in our annual report and that we actually did do a survey that encouraged self-evaluation, but she believes that Dr. White's idea is to a greater extent and we will definitely put that into practice.
- White replied saying and explaining how critical failure is to us getting to where we eventually want to be.
- Anna even gave White an example of a challenging experience with the Podcast Team: When they almost got to the point where they wanted to dissolve everything.
- Anna also gave great props to the Podcast team for literally overcoming a failure.
- White responded saying, "What a great example". She thanked Anna for sharing that.

Discussion Focused on We Are the Voice International Health Report

- The Health Report is on pages 28-32.
- It focuses on not only the health of the organization, but also the personal health of everyone.
- Anna said we put that in the survey and we did one on one meetings that were recorded.
- Anna expressed that the survey was very deep.
- She said now we know who is experiencing what challenges and how we can help them to overcome these challenges.
- She then asked anybody if they had any questions about the health report. There were no further questions.

Overall Challenges & Resolutions - Beyond the Report

- Funding: Anna asked a question to all the attendees. She asked if we should put it in one project altogether or should we mention the specific ones that are active right now?
- Dr. White asked Anna if she established her non-profit status.
- White advised Anna saying that the first thing she would do is get clear that that's all in order and then asked Anna if she's looked at grant opportunities.
- Anna replied saying that the treasurer and herself are currently looking at grant opportunities that are funding young initiatives (not just in the United States, but also international grants).
- White responded saying that when you look at funders, it may be that they can fund a portion of what you're up to and not the whole organization or it may be that you can find a funding opportunity that would in fact allow funding for the whole organization.
- White also added to what she said by stating that she's imagining that that's quite a bit of research that has to be done.
- She then suggested that Anna might be able to access the Rutgers research office and talk to someone there about funding options.
 - Anna replied saying, "That is true".

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- White also suggested that Anna's thesis in school could be tied to the organization. She said that could be another route to consider.
- Anna replied saying that is true and thanked White for her suggestion.
- Kenneth gave his input.
- He first started off by thanking Anna for the update so far. He stated that he had gone through the report and can see that she is doing so much with the team.
- Kenneth expressed that he thinks that with where we are going as an organization, we need to come up with specific projects because there are other people who are not online. Even if they are online, they aren't exposed to empowerment initiatives that the organization is carrying.
- He went on to say that as an organization we can come up with innovative programs that target people in the U.S, young people in Ghana or any of the African countries we may have partnerships in.
- He said that he thinks that maybe we could sit together, brainstorm, and co-create specific projects that can be carried out physically and we can also look at ones we can do even as a webinar or training online.
- He expressed that he thinks we have the potential to do it and our impact will be very wide.
- Dr. Roger Koranteng gave his input as well.
- He told everyone that he glanced through the report and expressed that he liked the health check portion.
- He suggested that every six months or so we should do it again and you can see people's personal goals and interests. He then said it will enable us to strategize because we will need to have a strategy of bringing people in.
- In terms of funding, he began to explain how it involves legal status. He expressed that he hopes the organization has been registered as a non-profit in the U.S. and that the documentation should be right.
- Next, he said that we must have a website because people will like to go there and see what's going on there.
- When it comes to fundraising, he said that we have to know what our vision and goals are. We also have to know what these funding organizations are interested in, so he advised that we do a little bit of research to know what they are funding.
- He explained to everyone that there is a lot of funding for youth organizations and that our organization is in the right place.
- He also explained that funding is the lifeline of the organization and that any organization without any funding will not last for long because funding is needed for projects.
- He advised that we document the experiences, so that we don't forget and repeat it. He expressed the importance of learning from failure and how we do not repeat failures, but learn from them and move on.
- To conclude his commentary, he congratulated the team on the good work we are doing.
 - Anna responded letting him know that we will take all of that in great faith.
 - She expressed that this is amazing and she added that she knows with the detailed notes we will get to action immediately.



- She assured everyone that they will see some results in the annual reports and thanked them again.

Announcements

- Anna announced that annual reports will come out in December.
- Anna notified everyone that she will send the next meeting date and will email anything that we need to know.
- Lastly, on behalf of the We Are the Voice International Organization, Anna stated “We thank you so much for doing this with us” and that our report can be found online on the tab that says “reports”.

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