

**FINAL REPORT**

**ON**

**2017 REUNION OF AKATAKYIE USA  
MANASSAS, VA  
(September 01 – 04, 2017)**

**BY**

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General Secretary, AKATAKYIE USA**

**December 15, 2017**

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# PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY REPORT

On behalf of the Executives and Trustees, I want to thank all of you for contributing to a successful 2017 Annual Reunion of AKATAKYIE USA in Manassas, VA. We came together in the spirit of unity and strength to execute successfully the business of the Association. Under the theme *Legacy with Impact*, we made significant inroads into the mission of serving our alma mater and our fraternity with strength, selfless dedication and urgency of spirit. A dinner was hosted to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Opoku Ware School and Saint Louis Secondary School in 1952. At the 2017 Reunion, we recounted our progress, inaugurated the Endowment Board, and became familiar with the progress and challenges facing Opoku Ware School through the Headmaster, Dr. Alexis Frimpong Nimoh. We raised significant funds (with fun) at the dance-fundraising event and capped the events with a Cookout Event the following day. These events provided a 360<sup>o</sup> review of the past, the present and the future of AKATAKYIE USA as we move forward toward achieving strategic goals for impacting Opoku Ware School and the global alumni networks. I want to share with you a summary of the funds we raised during the 2017 Reunion in Manassas, VA.



Figure 1: Income and Expenditures

Figure 1 shows income and expenditures distribution for the 2017 Reunion. The income of \$71,434.31 is distributed as follows: Endowment Fund (43.5%), Dinner Fundraising for AKATAKYIE USA (20.5%), Pre-Reunion funds (21.6%), Raffle Ticket Sales (10.2%) and Revenues from the Brochure (4.2%).

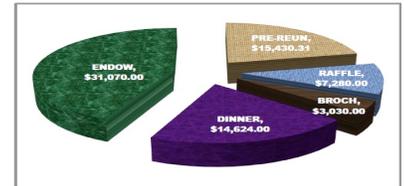


Figure 2: Distribution of Income

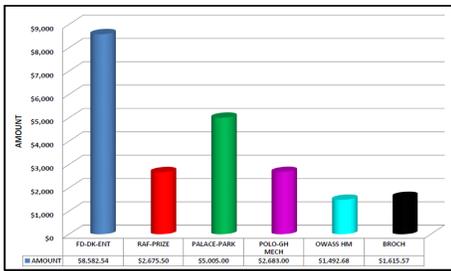


Figure 3: Distribution of Expenditures

Figure 3 shows Expenditure distribution. Expenditure of \$22,054.29 is distributed as: Food/Drinks/Entertainment (38.9%), Raffle Prizes (12.1%), Palace and Park Rental (22.7%), Polo Shirts and Ghana Merchandise (12.2%), OWASS Headmaster (6.8%) & Brochure (7.3%).

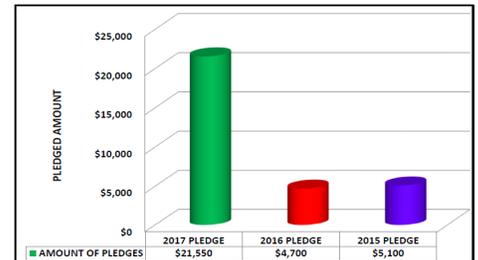


Figure 4: Outstanding Member Pledges

Figure 5 shows the Endowment profile. To date, \$50,000 has been raised, \$185,000 pledged, and \$765,000 remains to reach \$1 M by 2020. Thirty-six individuals have pledged the minimum of \$5,000 as Board members. They include Kat. Captain Edward Bandoh (B71), Kat. Kwadwo Boakye (G24), Kat. Richard Okine (C3), Kat. Aaron Poku Appiah (V6), Kat. John Kessie Mensah (V7), Kat. Victor Innocent Owusu (V14), Kat. Charles Owusu Boamah (V20), Kat. Nana Agyemang Bawuah (V30), Kat. Nana Joe Mensah (V53), Kat. Kwadwo Poku (V119), Kat. Kwaku Poku (W23), Kat. Samuel Nana Forjuoh (W93), Kat. Winston Osei Akoto (H15), Kat. Henry Andoh (H55), Kat. Gilbert Addo (H97), Kat. Anthony Adade (H154), Kat. Kofi Owusu Sekyere (T72), Kat. Thomas A. Baafi (X43), Kat. John Eshun (X46), Kat. Samuel Frimpong (X78), Kat. Kwabena Ofori-Awuah (X132), Kat. Kofi Owusu Boaitey (O55), Kat. Paul Kontoh (O79), Kat. Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111), Kat. John Hulede (Z7), Kat. Thomas Owusu Boahen (AB62), Kat. Nana Osei Akoto (AB89), Kat. Joseph Adjei (AC38), Kat. Agbeko Agbenyiga (AC44), Kat. Kwame Adu-Gyamfi (AC210), Kat. Peter Asiedu (AL70), Kat. Kwabena Ampofo-Appiah (AQ83), Kat. Kwaku Owusu Appiah (AM67), Kat. David Amo-Osae Jr. (AM108), Dr. Gregory Gelles, Dr. Owusu Kizito and Dr. DeBrenna LaFa Agbenyiga.

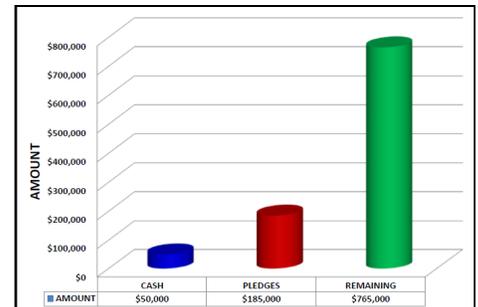


Figure 5: OWASS Endowment Profile

I want to thank the following for a successful 2017 Reunion: **National Executives and Trustees** for their leadership, sacrifice and outstanding contributions; **Organizing Committee** for its selfless dedication, sleepless nights and hard work; **Chairman Kat. Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111) and Co-Chairs Dr. Gregory Gelles and Mr. Charles Kumi** for their leadership and support; **Akatakylie** who contributed funds for hosting the events; and our friends and partners from **SLOPSA USA, SMOSA USA, YAGSS USA and KROBO NA**. Once again, thank you all for your love and support. May God bless and keep you all!!

Regards,

Okatakylie Samuel Frimpong (X78)  
President, AKATAKYIE USA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a summary of events and activities at the 2017 Reunion in Manassas, VA within September 2 (Saturday) and September 4 (Monday), 2017. The report covers the official inauguration of the Opoku Ware School Endowment and the administration of the Oath of Leadership and Responsibility to the Endowment Board, a Business Meeting and a session with the Headmaster of Opoku Ware School. It also covers the dance-fundraising and the Cookout events and the official inauguration of the DC-MD-VA (DMV) Chapter of AKATAKYIE USA. As contained in the summary report from the President, the total 2017 Reunion income was \$71,434.31 from Endowment, Dance-Fundraising, Pre-Reunion funds, Raffle Ticket Sales and Brochure Revenues. The total expenditure of \$22,054.29 covering Food/Drinks/Entertainment, Raffle Prizes, Palace and Park Rental, Polo Shirts and Ghana Merchandise, OWASS Headmaster and Brochure. The total outstanding pledges from 2015 to 2017 are \$32,350. The Endowment funds to date include \$54,920 cash contributions, \$197,080 pledged contributions, with a remaining amount of \$748,000 to reach the \$1 million target by 2020. The 2017 Reunion was very successful through the hard work of the Organizing Committee, contributions by members of AKATAKYIE USA, the support from our fraternal organizations and the leadership of the National Executives and the Board of Trustees. The 2018 Reunion will be held in Alexandria, VA.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2017 AKATAKYIE USA Reunion took place in Manassas, Virginia within September 2 (Saturday) and September 4 (Monday), 2017. The theme of the Reunion, *Legacy with Impact*, drove the meeting agenda and laid down future strategies to redeem tomorrow's promise for Opoku Ware School. The School faces critical challenges, including crumbling landscape and infrastructure, abandoned projects and overall inadequate financial resources for sustaining academic excellence. The Reunion featured the official inauguration of the Opoku Ware Endowment Board, a Business Meeting and a session with the Headmaster of Opoku Ware School, Dr. Alexis Frimpong, on Saturday (September 02, 2017) morning, a dance-fundraising event in the evening of the same day and a Cookout session on Sunday (September 03, 2017). On the eve of the Saturday events, the Executives and the Board of Trustees of AKATAKYIE USA, the Executives of SLOPSA USA, the OWASS Headmaster and other dignitaries were honored with an inaugural dinner to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Opoku Ware School and Saint Louis Girls Secondary School. The dinner was hosted at the residence of Ms. Grannies Badu, Organizing Secretary for SLOPA USA with the assistance from several SLOPSA USA ladies. Below is a summary of the report on the activities of the 2017 Annual Reunion.

### 2.0 BUSINESS MEETING (SEPTEMBER 02, 2017)

The Business Meeting started at 8:35 am with an opening prayer by Okatakyyie Frank Marfo (AX370), Public Relations Officer (PRO) for AKATAKYIE USA. All Akatakyyie present at the meeting introduced themselves by names and school numbers. The Business Meeting continued with the following agenda items: (a) Endowment Fund; (b) State of AKATAKYIE USA; (c) News from Chapters; (d) AKATAKYIE USA Finances; and (e) Forum with Opoku Ware Headmaster.

- (i) **Endowment Fund and Inauguration of the Board:** The first section of the Business Meeting was chaired by Okatakyyie Samuel Frimpong (X78), President of AKATAKYIE USA and Okatakyyie Captain Edward Bandoh (B71), Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Okatakyyie Frimpong discussed plans to raise at least \$1 million over 3 years to set up the Opoku Ware School Endowment, whose annual interests will fund projects, renovations and continuous maintenance of the infrastructure and facilities at Opoku Ware School. This effort requires a minimum of 50 donors each contributing \$5,000 bringing in \$250,000 (a quarter of the initial corpus of \$1 million). A concerted effort will be made to reach out to other Akatakyyie and non-Akatakyyie for contributions from \$1,000 or more per donor to reach the target of \$1 million. The focus of the fundraising effort will be in the USA but there is a future plan to make the Endowment a global effort. The fundraising effort will also be extended to attract corporate and foundation donations. A constituted Board of Directors will be responsible for investing and managing the fund on behalf of AKATAKYIE USA. The President intimated that 20 members had pledged the \$5,000 contribution to become members of the Board. Okatakyyie Frimpong also presented Dr. Greg Gelles, Professor and Chair of Economics at the University of Missouri, a non-Akatakyyie, who had pledged the \$5,000 to become a Board Member, to AKATAKYIE USA to great applause. Okatakyyie Kwame Adu Gyamfi (AK126) volunteered to serve as the Chair of an Endowment Sub-committee for marketing the endowment among Akatakyyie. After the introduction

of the Board Members present, Okatakyie Bandoh administered the oath of leadership and responsibility to the current Board Members present at the Business Meeting. Okatakyie Bandoh charged the Board to execute its responsibility with care, probity, accountability and effective administration.

**(ii) State of AKATAKYIE USA:** The Co-chairs for the business meeting of AKATAKYIE USA included Akatakyie Kwabena Ofori-Awuah (X132) and Kwadwo Poku (V119), Trustees of AKATAKYIE USA. In his introductory remarks, Okatakyie Ofori-Awuah exhorted members to do more for our Alma Mater. President Frimpong gave the “State of AKATAKYIE USA” presentation in which he outlined the current state of the association and the main 2016 activities. He concluded that the current state of the association is strong in many facets but emerging in others. At 9:10 am, the President asked for a moment of silence for all the departed Akatakyie and relatives of Akatakyie in the past year and those currently affected by Hurricane Harvey. There was a special thank you to all Akatakyie, especially those in the Houston area who escaped the effects of Hurricane Harvey to attend the Reunion. The President mentioned that AKATAKYIE USA had contributed \$11,000 to fund the construction and administration of the Alumni office at Opoku Ware School. The President also discussed the \$25,000 investment in the Water and Sanitation Project for St. Mark, St. John, St. Andrew, St. Luke and St. Thomas at the School. Phase I of this project was completed and officially handed over to the School on May 18, 2017. The President urged members to focus on completing the crumbling ICT project at the School and stressed that this project could benefit from the future interests from the Endowment Fund. He also stressed the need to focus on renewing the landscape and the aesthetic beauty of Opoku Ware School. He also emphasized the need to find solutions to the problems of erosion, poor sanitation and the general decay of campus infrastructure and facilities.

The President also mentioned that the growth of city/area chapters would expand our reach to Akatakyie in the USA to impact Opoku Ware School. A growth of up to 10 chapters by the year 2020 will extend the Association’s reach to its members across the United States. Currently, we have chapters in Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and in New England. The DMV Chapter was inaugurated at the 2017 Reunion on September 03. Year groups will also be strengthened since Akatakyie have a unique bond with their classmates and with whom they started school and studied and did several things together. The future of AKATAKYIE USA looks brighter and it is envisaged that its membership could be between 500 and 1,000 by 2020. The President’s presentation is contained in Appendix A of this report. The Treasurer, Okatakyie Kwaku Poku (W23), exhorted Akatakyie to pay their annual dues of \$120, of which 50% (\$60) goes to the national treasury and the rest stays in the local chapter’s coffers. The DFW Chapter was recognized for leading in dues payment to the Association. He also mentioned that Akatakyie contributed \$14,420 toward the 2017 Annual Reunion expenses. The detailed statement of account for the 2017 Reunion in Manassas, VA, as well as that for the 2016-2017 financial year is contained in Appendix B.

**(iii) Reports from City Chapters:** As part of the Business Meeting, the existing City Chapters presented reports covering their activities throughout the 2016-2017 year.

- a) New England (NE):** Okatakyie Nii A. Ollenu (AN198), President of NE Chapter, brought well-wishes from the NE Chapter. The chapter was inaugurated in 2016 and they have had few get-togethers and met through conference calls. They are working hard to increase their numbers and would like to host the 2019 Reunion.
- b) Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW):** Okatakyie Michael Attah (F10), President of the DFW Chapter, stated that the 2016 Reunion in Dallas brought in \$36,000 to the association, the largest from a Reunion up to that year. The Chapter was inaugurated in 2015 and they currently consist of 40 members. The DFW delegation comprised four (4) chapter members at the 2017 Annual Reunion in Manassas, VA.
- c) Houston:** Okatakyie Kwame Adu-Gyamfi (AK126), President of the Houston Chapter, reported that the chapter has 26 members and was doing well. The Houston Chapter was recognized for its resilience in flying out of the Houston Airport to attend the 2017 Reunion notwithstanding the impact of Hurricane Harvey.
- d) Chicago:** Okatakyie Sarfo Kantanka (AN118), President of Chicago Chapter, reported the current membership is 11. The Chapter hosted the 2006 reunion and the members have been working hard behind the scenes to increase its membership. The chapter is currently in a rebuilding mode. However, they boasted of sending some quality jerseys to Owass a few years ago.

- e) **Atlanta:** Okatakyie Kwaku Owusu Appiah (AM67), Trustee, also mentioned that the Atlanta chapter was trying to rebuild with the election of new officers and hope to host a future Reunion.
  - f) **Florida:** Okatakyie Kwadwo Poku (V119), Trustee and a member of the emerging Florida Chapter, reported that the Chapter is currently building the membership. They have had three meetings and the younger Akatakyie-ACs, ADs and AQs are on board to move this group forward toward a future inauguration.
  - g) **DC-MD-VA (DMV):** This Chapter was inaugurated at the 2017 Reunion. Okatakyie John Hulede (Z7), Interim President, noted that the main goal was to identify every Okatakyie in the DMV area via a massive outreach to move the chapter forward.
  - h) **New Jersey:** Okatakyie Thomas Owusu (AB62), Trustee, reported that their activities have been slow, but that they were planning to host few activities with the SLOPSA USA Chapter in the area to boost their numbers.
  - i) **New York:** Okatakyie Yaw Amoah (O34) reported that they have been trying to re-organize and bring on board Akatakyie in the area.
- (iv) **Miscellany:** The following important items were highlighted at the Business Meeting and require attention.
- a) Okatakyie Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111), President and CEO of KinaPharma Ltd. of Ghana, mentioned the construction of an Assembly Hall and Okatakyie David Amo-Osae Jr. (AM108) asked for patience from AKATAKYIE USA for stronger cooperation and collaboration with Akatakyie Ghana.
  - b) Okatakyie Osei Kumi (P64) was recognized as the oldest Okatakyie at the Reunion. He was given a rousing round of applause by all present.
  - c) Mr. Peter Osei Adinkrah, a former Business class instructor's nephew has been instrumental in branding AKATAKYIE USA together with Kat. Kwaku Opari-Kumi (AK116) and Kat. Carmichael Ayi-Kumi (AK149) at a Highlife Radio Station in Brooklyn, New York.
  - d) Akatakyie also honored the presence of two of our own, Kat. Paul Kontoh (O79) and Kat Chris Nsiah (AM11) who has made Opoku Ware and Ghana great with their athletic feats.
  - e) Dr. Owusu Kizito, President and CEO of InvestiGroup LLC based in NJ, introduced the investment opportunities available to interested Akatakyie in areas like China, United States and many African Countries. He indicated that investment in Zimbabwe could yield about 35% return on investment.
- (v) **Headmaster's Report:** Akatakyie Anthony Adade (H154) and Patrick Osei-Owusu (AP141) acted as moderators for this session. Okatakyie Adade welcomed the current Headmaster, Dr. Alexis Frimpong-Nimoh, to the Reunion on behalf of AKATAKYIE USA. The Headmaster started his presentation with good tidings from the School and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Kumasi, Archbishop Gabriel Yaw Anokye, the 123 teaching staff and 130 non-teaching staff of the School. He started by showing a video of infrastructure at the school, the Quadrangle, the Administration Block and the Foyer. He mentioned that the School currently has 1,060 Form 3 students and about 1,190 Form 2 students. He stated that the current intake from the GES would be 700. This number could be increased to possibly 900 by GES.

The Headmaster answered prepared questions from members of AKATAKYIE USA covering areas of concern about Opoku Ware School. Below are the salient points and areas requiring immediate attention from his presentation: ***Salient points*** included:

- Inappropriate entrance to the school and security checkpoints;
- The walls need cementing. Drainage and a building-Novotel are in poor conditions;
- Erosion is rampant leading to occasional flooding;
- Atta Mills' classroom block built in 2011 needs renovation;
- Day students' food stand require renovation;
- Refuse dumps are all over the campus with nearby cattle grazing grounds;
- St. Mark's house has old

- Wooden beds that easily attract bedbugs;
- The ICT project needs to be completed;
- The Library needs painting and the Assembly Hall built by the government does not really fit into the school's architectural plan;
- St. Thomas Aquinas church has two Masses to accommodate all students;
- Some students are skipping prep daily. He noted that despite the truancy issues on campus, the overall WAEC results have been great for the past 2 years. There had been anonymous calls to WAEC to monitor Opoku Ware School results and this has resulted in extra eyes kept on our school; and
- OWASS placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Zonals and 4<sup>th</sup> in Super Zonals.



***Areas of immediate need and attention*** include

- Refresher courses for teaching staff;
- Monitoring student behavior;
- Refurbishing all science laboratories;
- A need for a computational laboratory;
- Bringing back morning prayers;
- Compulsory Saturday prep;
- Staff and student welfare to include a sick bay with no consultation fees;
- Student Representative Council had its first electronic elections;
- Re-activating boreholes (AV-AN and Akatakyie USA have taken the lead);
- Buildings are deteriorating due to over-usage and age;
- Wirings in buildings are old, weak and exposed and pose imminent danger to people;
- Bathroom and toilet facilities are horrible;
- Water problem leading to stench on campus. Some students have been defecating in the bushes nearby;
- Greenery on campus is non-existent due to erosion;
- Inadequate government budget allocation for feeding and maintenance;
- Decongestion of congested dormitories;
- Inadequate staff quarters (only 40 teachers live on campus out of 123);
- Grounded school's Neoplan Bus;
- Inadequate power supply (a generator is needed to maximize power needs);
- Need to reduce enrollment;
- Need fenced walls and security personnel;
- Old students presence to motivate students, staff and faculty.

***(vi) 65th Anniversary Luncheon:*** The Executives and the Trustees held a luncheon meeting that was catered by our special ladies from SLOPSA USA at the residence of Ms. Grannies Badu, Organizing Secretary for SLOPSA USA. The agenda of the Meeting focused on strategies for Endowment fundraising, partnership with Opoku Ware School and the 2018 Annual Reunion. The Meeting also focused on our relationship with our brothers in Ghana.

### **3.0 DANCE-FUNDRAISING EVENT (SEPTEMBER 02, 2017)**

One of the major events of the AKATAKYIE USA Annual Reunion was the Dance-Fundraising Event on Saturday, September 02. The Event started slowly at the Palace Court in Manassas, VA and with an opening prayer from Kat. Agbeko Agbenyiga (AC44), thanking God and invoking His presence for a successful fundraising event. The event Chair was Kat. Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111), President and CEO for KinaPharma Ltd. of Ghana, and the two Co-chairs were Dr. Gregory Gelles, Professor and Chair of Economics at Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO and Mr. Charles Kumi, CEO of Kumi Construction Management Corporation, Washington DC. In his remarks Kat.

Nsiah-Poku exhorted the audience (especially the Akatakyie brotherhood) to focus on what Opoku Ware School has done to impact their lives and give back to impact the current and future generations of Opoku Ware students. President Frimpong also exhorted the audience to commit to the Endowment Fund with the words of US President John F. Kennedy as he challenged the nation to put a human being on the moon and bring him back safely to the earth. The President's message was focused on the 2017 Reunion Theme, *"Legacy with Impact: Aiming for the Stars – The Vision of Akatakyie"*. He challenged all the Akatakyie and non-Akatakyie present to take a bold step by endowing a \$1 million Endowment that will change the future of Opoku Ware forever and for good.

Kat. Captain Edward Bandoh, Chair of the Trustees, introduced the Members of the Foundation Board, after which a brief focus on Opoku Ware School was provided by the Headmaster Dr. Frimpong-Nimoh. With fundraising interludes, the MCs, Kat. John Saka Addo (AD35) and Kat. Kwame Fosu Adu-Gyamfi (AK126) and DJ Kat. Albert Asiedu Ofei (AV252) for the night, dazzled the audience with a great combination of enchanting music and food, and with a call to invest in Opoku Ware's future. As the night advanced the audience responded to this call with contributions and pledges as they displayed their dancing skills with their spouses and partners. With a strong pre-Reunion fundraising efforts, and led by strong commitments from Kat. Kofi Nsiah Poku (\$11,000) and Dr. Gregory Gelles (\$5,000), the call to invest in Opoku Ware School received such a positive response that by the end of the fundraising event, AKATAKYIE USA had raised over \$250,000 in cash contributions and pledges. The fundraising effort received strong support from our fraternal friends including SLOPSA USA (our wives and #1 cheerleaders), YAGSS USA (our regal sisters Adehyee), SMOSA USA (our Catholic sisters and supporters) and KROBO NA (our new-found friends). We are grateful to all of them for their support for the night was successful because of their strong support and creative leadership.

#### **4.0 COOKOUT EVENT (SEPTEMBER 03, 2017)**

The 2017 Reunion was concluded with a Cookout event at the Eisenhower Park in Alexandria, VA on Sunday, September 03. The Cookout began with an opening prayer by Kat. Frank Marfo (AX370), National PRO and with information from Kat. Kwaku Wiafe (AD87) and Kat. Tony Afriyie (AD167). Members were treated to delicious Ghanaian foods and drinks. The event included the inauguration of the newest chapter, the DMV Chapter. The inauguration began with a call to order by Kat. Agbeko Agbenyiga (AC44), National Secretary. The Vice President, Kat. Patrick Osei-Owusu (AP141) outlined the history of AKATAKYIE USA and the operations of its Chapters as outlined in the Constitution of AKATAKYIE USA. President Kat. Frimpong officially inaugurated the DMV Chapter and presented a "Certificate of Membership" and two copies of the Constitution to Kat. John Hulede (Z7), DMV President, after which he (the National President) administered the "Oath of Leadership" to the new Executives of the DMV Chapter.



The Keynote Speaker for the Inauguration Ceremony, Kat. Charles Owusu Boamah (V20), Senior Vice President of African Development Bank challenged the new Chapter to live up to her obligations and the members of AKATAKYIE USA to commit strongly towards donating to the Endowment. Kat. Boamah demonstrated this commitment by pledging \$5,000 to the Endowment fundraising effort to become a member of the Board of Directors for the Opoku Ware School Endowment Fund. The night was concluded with a special vote of thanks and a closing prayer by Kat. Kwame Adu Gyamfi (AK126).

## 5.0 SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of the National Executives and Board of Trustees, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the following for their contributions in making the 2017 Reunion a great success. They shaped the planning and preparations, logistics, hosting, contributions and pledges and created the instruments for success for every phase of the Reunion.

- **All Akatakyie** who contributed towards the Pre-Reunion Fundraising, Dance-Fundraising and the Endowment Fundraising efforts. Special thanks to Kat. Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111) for \$11,000 and Dr. Gregory Gelles for \$5,000 contributions toward the Endowment Fund.
- **The Chair, Co-Chairs and Keynote Speakers:** Kat. Charles Owusu Boamah (V20), Kat. Kwadwo Poku (V119), Kat. Anthony Adade (H154), Kat. Kwabena Ofori-Awuah(X132), Kat. Kofi Nsiah-Poku (O111), Kat. Patrick Osei-Owusu (AP141), Dr. Gregory Gelles and Mr. Charles Kumi for their leadership and inspiration.
- **The Organizing Committee Members:** Kat. Kwabena Ofori-Awuah(X132), Kat. Frank Acheampong (X36), Kat. Kwarteng Asare (X55), Kat. Paul Acheampong (AC64), Kat. Noble Addai Mensah (AC132), Kat. Joseph Adjei (AD118), Kat. Kwaku Wiafe (AD87), Kat. Tony Afriyie (AD167) for their hard work, perseverance and dedication.
- **Headmaster of Opoku Ware School:** Dr. Alexis Frimpong-Nimoh for honoring our invitation to travel to the USA and making two presentations highlighting the current state of Opoku Ware School.
- **Kat. Nii Armah Ollenu (AN198)**, President of NE Chapter, **and his team** for their outstanding contributions toward public relations and marketing of the 2017 Reunion
- **Kat. Frank Marfo (AX370)**, National PRO and **Kat. Kwame Fosu Adu-Gyamfi (AK126)** for their outstanding contributions towards developing the brochure and polo shirts and their leadership in the raffle ticket sales.
- **Fraternal Organizations:** SLOPSA USA, YAGSS USA, SMOSA USA and KROBO NA for their strong support.
- **SLOPSA USA Ladies:** Ms. Grannies Badu, Ms. Winifred Smith, Ms. Jacqueline Bruce-Tagoe, Ms. Christiana Osei Bonsu, Ms. Akosua Akyeampong, Ms. Ernestina Pomaa Amaning, Ms. Akosua Osei-Akoto, Ms. Felicia Owusu-Sampah, and Ms. Perpetual Tsiquaye for catering the 65<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Dinner. Special thanks to **Ms. Grannies Badu** for her leadership, generosity and hospitality for hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Dinner.
- **The National Executives and the Board of Trustees** for their leadership and selfless contributions toward serving the association in various capacities and contributing strongly to the success of the 2017 Reunion.
- **The DMV Executives** who stepped up to lead the newest chapter of the Association.
- **All spouses, friends and families of Akatakyie** who supported the events in any form.

May the good Lord bless and reward you in multiple ways for your support, sacrifices, assistance and your selfless dedication towards making the events of the 2017 Reunion a great success.

## 6.0 CHALLENGES AND AREAS REQUIRING IMPROVEMENTS

The 2017 Reunion started slowly because the work of coordinating and putting things in place for the Reunion events rested only on the shoulders of the Organizing Committee members. These members made significant contributions towards organizing the Reunion events. The following challenges and areas requiring improvements must be attended to effectively for the success of future events.

- With proper planning and engagement, the revenues from the Raffle Tickets sales could top \$20,000. The late start and the challenge that was executed by only few members of the Organizing Committee limited the success of this revenue generation scheme. This income generating source yielded \$7,280 (only 36.4% of its potential). In the future, the efforts for the Raffle Tickets sales must be expansive, assisted by many Akatakyie and coordinated very well by the local Organizing Committee.
- With proper planning and engagement, the revenues from the Brochure page sales could top \$25,000. In the future, the efforts for the Brochure page sales must be expansive targeting local businesses, assisted by many Akatakyie and coordinated very well by the local Organizing Committee.
- The prizes for the winning Raffle Tickets must be discussed with recommendations to the National Executives and secured very early to be used for advertising the sales.

- Coordination of purchases (food and drinks) must be planned, budgeted for early and discussed with the Coordinating Executive Sub-committee chaired by the National Vice President. The funds will be released by the National Treasurer to cover all purchases. These purchases must be receipted and accounted for properly for the National Treasurer's statement of account to the general membership.
- The Local Planning Team must recruit members from the rank-and-file membership to form a cluster of support team to execute the various sectors of the Reunion. For example, the Raffle Ticket sales could have a cluster of ten (10) people for the planning, printing and execution of the sales. The Local Cluster should also connect with the Chapters to ensure they are assisting the efforts appropriately and timely.
- The Pre-Reunion fundraising effort must start early and with message consistency and periodicity after the strategies used by Kat. Frank Marfo (AX370), National PRO and Kat. John Hulede (Z7), DMV President for fundraising towards funeral contributions.
- Difficulties and challenges in any sector of the Reunion planning and preparation must be discussed immediately with all Local Committee members and the Coordinating Executive Sub-committee and addressed appropriately and timely to ensure smooth progress. When and where needed, the Coordinating Executive Sub-committee must seek assistance from the National Executive Committee.
- The public relations and marketing for the Reunion could be handled by Kat. Nii Armah Ollenu and his colleagues and coordinated with the Local Team and the Coordinating Executive Committee appropriately and timely.

## **7.0 2018 REUNION VENUE**

With a major contribution and request from Kat. Edusei-Bawuah, Former Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, to the National Executives and the Board of Trustees, it has been agreed that the 2018 Annual Reunion will be held in Alexandria, VA. We are grateful to Kat. Edusei-Bawuah for his leadership and support towards the 2018 Reunion.

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The planning and execution of 2017 Reunion tasks started and continued very slowly but the Reunion finished strongly. This slow start was due to the fact that the planning and execution of the tasks rested on the shoulders of only the few members on the Local Organizing Committee. The total income and expenditures from this Reunion were \$71,434.31 and \$22,054.29, respectively. The unpaid pledges by members from 2015 to 2017 stand at \$32,350. The Endowment funds to date include \$50,000 cash contributions, \$185,000 pledged contributions, with a remaining amount of \$765,000 to reach the \$1 million target by 2020. The 2017 Reunion was very successful through the hard work of the Organizing Committee, the contributions by members of AKATAKYIE USA, the support from our fraternal organizations and the leadership of the National Executives and the Board of Trustees. On behalf of the National Executives and the Board of Trustees, I express sincere gratitude to the Organizing Committee, all members, and our friends and supporters who contributed in significant ways to make the 2017 Reunion a great success. Finally, we give thanks to the Almighty God for wisdom, strength, energy and resources for executing the mandate of the 2017 Reunion in Manassas, VA. I urge all hands to be on deck for a successful 2018 Reunion in Alexandria, VA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kat. Agbeko Agbenyiga (AC44)  
Secretary, AKATAKYIE USA

## **APPENDIX A: National President's Presentation**

Please refer to the accompanying document for the president's presentation delivered at the 2017 Reunion (during the Business Meeting on Saturday)

## **APPENDIX B: National Treasurer's Report**

Please refer to the accompanying document for the National Treasurers report on the Financial Standing of Akatakyie USA as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.