

IABPFF  
EXECUTIVE BOARD ZOOM  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2022

Meeting was called to order @ 1900 by **Vice President – Gary Tinney**

Opening Prayer by **NER Director Tidwell**

Roll Call by **Sister Wanda Butler**

President – Carrie Edwards-Clemons - Present

Vice President – Gary Tinney – Present

Executive Director – Freddie Brooks - Absent

Recording Secretary – Keisha Wilson - Present

Corresponding Secretary – Khalilah Yancey - Present

Treasurer – Gwen Sistare - Present

Financial Secretary – Shawn Gary - Present

Sgt-At-Arms – Tonia Reed - Present

NCR Director – Tony Jones - Absent

NWR Director – Bruce Boyer - Absent

NER Director – Frank Tidwell - Present

SWR Director – Lionel Newby - Absent

SER Director – Brenda Brooks - Present

SCR Director – Allvin Douglas – Present

Past President – Addington Steward

Quorum established

Reading/Adoption of the minutes

SCR Director Alvin Douglas made a motion to accept the minutes with any changes that may be necessary. Seconded by Tonia Reed Sgt-At-Arms.

Motion passed to accept the minute. No Abstentions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sister Sistare – Treasurer gave a brief report. There are still several chapters and Region's that are not financial. The NER was the only regions, she was able to close out so far.

SER has not sent anything.

SWR was closed out early that day. Tacoma has not paid.

SCR & NCR are being worked on at that time,

In reference to the Convention, the room block is up to 35.5% capacity. Registration fees and hotel registration are coming in a little slow.

There has been at 3 ads and 4 registration applications for the convention.

Sister Wanda Butler asked if anyone attempted to contact someone from Lion's Apparel?

Motion was made by Sister Keisha Wilson, Recording Secretary to accept the Treasurer's Report with any corrections that may be necessary. Seconded by Frank Tidwell, NER Director.

Treasurer Report passed. No Abstentions.

### **Regional Director's Report**

**NER Director Frank Tidwell** shared that he has 27 chapters listed and 4 of them are in financial default. They will be receiving letters from the international stating, if they are not financial by October 1, 2022, they will become nonaffiliated.

As of 2022, he has 19 financial chapters and 3 that are working to become financial. On April 4, 2022, Director Tidwell joined a zoom meeting with the Vulcan Pioneers of Newark with 23 members in attendance. He was impressed with a company called True Connect. This company helps struggling households connect to the internet and a free tablet for \$30.00 based on income.

Director Tidwell had a meeting with members of the NER Region and approximately 30 members were in attendance. Conversation based on the Golden Anniversary and all they can do to register for the convention and rooms. Also spoke about the awards, T-shirts, events and transportation to be presented in Hartford along with Gary Tinney. The t-shirts will be done by Brother Holmes out of Las Vegas. He has assigned and submitted the name of two individuals

to work with the awards committee Past President Stewart. A question was asked if the comedy was to be used to generate revenue? And clarity was needed before going forward.

Director Tidwell asked Director Brooks if she was charging for their event during the convention and she stated yes! Because the donation will be going back to the International. Director Brooks will know a better cost later.

Director Douglas asked if Director Tidwell was trying to do a fundraiser for your region or the International. A meeting will be scheduled with Brother Lionel for him to sell his dinner.

Director Douglas asked where was the official hospitality going to be? The Phoenix house or Hotel?

There will be both. Director Tidwell asked since we have the QR code for the membership id cards, what are we going to use to identify our members as they attend various functions?

Will we have the badge with a lanyard or was it eliminated?

Sister Sistare, Treasurer stated the badge has not been eliminated. There was a question about the one we had, if that one was still working? The one we had is not working. She is in the process of looking at some badge machines and she will advise every one of her decisions.

Madam President suggested that anyone attending the Phoenix house to please have on your convention badge to verify the members from other patrons. Director Tidwell asked how much are the banquet ticket being sold for? The response was TBA at the next meeting the convention committee.

Director Tidwell asked a question for Brother Hyson/Brother Pearson. Some of the members have submitted their dues and they are still denied access to the website. There are chapters that are financial, but the 2022 financial list has not been updated to reflect that they are. Why does it take so long to update what chapters are financial after payment has been submitted.

Sister Sistare, Treasurer stated even though we have some people that have paid, we don't have a roster. Some rosters have been received and she was going to send those in to be updated for access. Director Tidwell said the webpage is showing that the NER it is at 38%. Based on his calculations, it should be 90%. Sister Sistare stated she just finished their information 4/28/22. She has sent that information to Brother Hyson, and it should be updated shortly. But all the chapters had not submitted a roster. We do not have a roster for each chapter. Director Tidwell stated the members that have paid are still being denied access. They have paid their dues and because a roster has not been submitted is the reason, they cannot get access to website? Sister Sistare stated that is correct because she does not know who you are paying for. Director Tidwell stated he will have to resolve this issue sooner than later because there are individuals upset that they do not have access to the website. Sister Sistare stated she understand Director Tidwell's concern, but they are not following the procedures. The operating procedures were sent out and they not following directions. They

are sending rosters in the Regional Treasurer but are not forwarding me a roster. Or not submitting rosters at all.

**SCR Director Alvin Douglas** reported Madam President sent out a guide that she wanted the Director's to touch on. How many chapters are engaged? His treasurer informed him that there are 10 that are financial, and she was still working on closing them out. There are 16 all together and 6 chapters that are not financial. San Antonio & Ft. Worth has not been financial in for several years. Lafayette, LA attempted to start up again but there is no momentum to move forward. New Orleans has some internal issues going on. KC Pride is not financial, and KC Affect are having financial issues as well. Chapter highlights or Community Outreach to report is none. Past President Stewart started something in St. Louis. He remembered he touched on it at the last Executive board mtg. He stated it seems like a good project and he encourages everyone to support him on that. Regional activities reporting he had a zoom call on 4/19/22, which happen to be one of the better meetings in a while. Brother John Reed and Sister Regina Wilson from the election committee was also there with a lot of needed information. The SCR decided they are not going to Dallas this fall. They are going to focus on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that will be sometime in October 2022. More information to follow about the Dallas Black Firefighters 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They will attempt to meeting in Hartford in August. Baton Rouge will host their next conference and that will be the fall 2023 and it will be an election year for the SCR.

Madam President Edwards-Clemons asked if there was anything the International can do to assist/outreach with the Chapters that he hasn't heard from? Director Douglas stated he will reach out and see what can be done?

**SER Director Brenda Brooks** reported she will submit her report in writing later. She has a lot going on. She did want to report that she has 4 chapters that had paid online, and they are not able to build a profile. They are still showing pending. She has some retiree which have made this same complaint while is Chattanooga. Madam Director Brooks would like to place everything she has in writing. The Convention was very well attended.

Vice President Tinney advised everyone that NWR Director Bouyer was attempting to get on but couldn't. SWR Director Newby nor NCR Director Jones were not logged in as well.

NER Director Tidwell had a question about the hospitality suite at the hotel about a dollar amount so all regions and chapters can be on the same page.

### **Committee Reports**

**Sister Sharon Mathis, Chair of Upward mobility and Training** - along with Brother Lance Blakely has submitted her report. They conducted a training in Chattanooga on how to manage the website, when it comes to training. Captain Blakley went over credentialing overviews, the Center for Public Safety and Excellence. In the meeting, we asked for feedback on what is it they would want at Hartford? Some of the things in basket training, public speaking, Radio

etiquette, community relations, interviewing techniques, mock interviews, and mental health. Sister Mathis and Brother Blakley meet every Tuesday to make sure everyone will be pleased with the upcoming training for Hartford.

Madam President Edwards-Clemons advised everyone that Sister Regina Wilson will be doing a presentation on the Press Kit, Radio etiquettes and public speaking. We also have two mental health professionals that will be in attendance as well. We have Clifford Beers and another Dr whose name is not available at this time. Madam President Edwards-Clemons reached out to BCOC if they would like to participate? She does know that Brother King does an awesome job, and she is looking forward to it all.

Sister Regina Wilson wanted to clarify the Press Kit has nothing to do with Radio Etiquette at all. The Press kit is how to collect information, how to have a press conference, how to deal with the media, how to generate press through social media.

Madam Director Brooks reported she has Brother John Reed and Sister Regina Wilson are working on the Directors about having meetings in reference about the upcoming elections.

**Past President Stewart, Awards Committee Chair** – along with NER Director Tidwell. They have assigned two people to awards committee. They will update us around May of any changes. If there are any chapters that need anything, to contact Past President Stewart for more information. It is spelled out with the different awards. Mom & Pop Pins & Service Awards. Whatever information received will be forwarded to the Executive Board for the approval and then the Treasurer to be purchased.

Sister Sistare, Treasurer asked if there was a count on the mom & pop pins? Madam President spoke with Past President Stewart and since we are doing this for 2020 and 2022 recommended, we order the pins.

**Sister Wanda Butler, Retiree Committee Chair** – At the last Board Meeting, Madam President asked her to assist with the Retiree's. She received a list from Sister Sistare and there are a lot of deceased members and omissions. She has a list with first names and no last names, no locations. It is going back to getting people registered on the drum and not having all the information. The retirees can have a page like everyone else? While in Chattanooga, she did a workshop on medication, and it was well received. Dealing with the top 10 medications that are used. She asked Shawn Gary is he working or retired? He is listed on the retiree list. He stated he is retired and started working again.

Madam President Edwards-Clemons asked will a F/B page be beneficial to your request? Sister butler stated it will not hurt. Madam President stated she will get with Brother Hyson and get that set up for her. For not only the sole purpose of reconnecting with the retirees.

**Sister Keisha Wilson, Scholarship Committee Chair along** with Sister Khalilah Yancey – She received a quarterly update from Brother Chris Johnson, recipient of the Ch. Joseph Jones Scholarship. He has excelled with a 4.0 gpa 98 in the degree program and a job well done for

him. The next Scholarship will be 5/1 through beginning of July 2022. Our committee will be making the announcement of the winner at the convention.

**Brother John Reed, Memorial Committee Chair** is looking for all the members that have passed to be sent to him from all the regions for the Convention in Hartford. NER Director Tidwell asked what will the names be used for? Brother Reed responded it will be read off for the Memorial at the ringing of the bell. Director Tidwell suggested that it would be nice if we had pictures of the decease. Brother Reed stated it is something that can be worked on.

**Brother Darren Hyson, ITC Committee Chair** - Along with Brother Robert Pearson have been working to get the financial members access on the site. One thing they want to make clear is that the ITC does not make any decision who has access without the Treasurer's approval. If there is ever a delay, the Treasurer is the first person to check with. It was good that Director Tidwell went to financial member's page. Because that is the page to go to for Regional Directors. That is the page that will be updated once they receive the information from Sister Sistare. If it is not updated, usually that mean we do not have the information. If there is a problem and the chapter is financial, please give them a call and they will try to resolve the issue. Pertaining to the committees and starting a page is not a problem. The ITC Committee will assist anyone with the committees with their pages.

NER Director Tidwell stated one of his members asked about the NER having an Instagram page. Can you connect the NER page to Instagram? Brother Hyson stated it is doable. The Regions have total control over what they want on their site as far as social media.

**Quincy Scott, Membership Chair** – reported an outline of how he will operate as a chairperson. He reached out to every Director about 6 months ago and introduced himself and offered his services to assist them to increase the membership. He is the State Representative for his Region in Virginia. Within the last 6 months, he has assisted 3 chapters and one of them is in Nigeria, which his local Chapter is sponsoring. Looking forward to continuing working with the organization.

### **New Business**

None to Report

### **Unfinished Business**

Tonia Reed, Sgt-At-Arms reported only 3 Regional Directors responded whether they have a Sgt-At-Arms or someone they can appoint to assist during the convention. So, she has moved forward looking for volunteers to assist her.

Sister Keisha Wilson, Recording Secretary wanted to make a motion to go back to our Quarterly Meeting and when this start?

Madam President stated she brought this up a while ago to meet every other month and was told no, you wanted to meet monthly. Now it is being brought up again per Sister Keisha

Wilson. Our Convention is in August and the Executive Board does not have to meet unless something comes up. The Convention committee will continue to meet each month, sometimes twice a month. A motion is in order, and we did start operating like this because of the Pandemic.

Sister Wilson made a motion to meet monthly until the Convention and after the Convention we go back to meeting Quarterly. Seconded by SWR Director Lionel Newby.

Madam President Edwards-Clemons stated it has been motioned and seconded the Executive Board meet monthly until the convention, and we can return to our regular schedule.

Regional Tidwell asked if we meet every other month until the Convention and then we can go back to the regular schedule meetings? (Discussion)

Sister Wilson, Recording Secretary made an amendment to the motion and stated we can meet every other month until the Convention and then return to our regular schedule meetings. Seconded by SWR Director Newby.

Any Discussion? None

Motion passed. No Abstentions.

NER Director Tidwell acknowledged the Paragon Society and all the arduous work they have done.

### **Good and Welfare**

Brother Shawn Gary, Financial Secretary asked for Prayer for a fallen firefighter from Dallas Fire Department.

NER Director Tidwell closed us out in prayer!