

# President's 2014 New Year Message Tribute!

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From: **Paul Duke** (orokduke@att.net) This sender is in your [safe list](#).

Sent: Sun 1/12/14 7:09 PM

To:

My Dear ENA-USA Members & The Efik Community At-Large,

Happy New Year to each of you and your lovely families. May the New Year bring each of us an abundance of God's favors.

## A Tribute to ENA-USA Unsung Heroes!

It is not often that a leader is successful in assembling a team with great personalities to run an organization such as the ENA-USA Executive Committee members, who have served the Efik community with distinction, integrity and professionalism.

Let me crave your indulgence to permit me pay a “Community Service” tribute to these current & past executive members, and share with you many of the accomplishments we achieved together over the past 3 1/2 years of my presidency;

## August 2010-July 2011 (First Fiscal Year):

### New Sub-Committees Set-up

- During the first three months of my presidency, we created (4) four subcommittees to focus on the following keys operational policies, namely: (1) Health & Wellness, (2) Website Design & Support, (3) Membership Outreach, and (4) Fundraising. In 2012, a fifth subcommittee was created for College Scholarship Awards.

### Relationship with the Palace of the Obong of Calabar

- I was very humbled when His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu-V, the Obong of Calabar, invited me in my capacity as the National President to attend the Signing Ceremony of the New Efik Constitution. My attendance during this occasion in December, 2010, opened the doors of opportunity and forged new relationships resulting in the appointment of Chief (Dr.) Chris Effiong, as the ENA-USA Special Representative to The Obong’s Executive Forum.

### Purchase of ENA-USA Cultural Costumes

- In an effort to own valuable cultural assets, we purchased our first (idem) Ekpe and (6) six new Nkpaya dance costumes in 2011. Currently, we are proud the Association has a modest inventory of several (idem) Ekpe, and other cultural costumes. **Chief (Dr.) Chris Effiong, Dean of Cultural Affairs is not just passionate about the Efik Culture and Tradition but, he is equally passionate about acquiring the best costumes of historical significance. We thank**

**Ete Chris for his love, passion and his great knowledge of the Efik Culture as he continues to share his gift.**

### The ENA-USA Website & Updates

In May 2011, we launched a state of the art website to introduce the world to the Efik Community in the USA. Make time and visit the website at [www.efikusa.org](http://www.efikusa.org) and see our regular updates that include the 2013 Stamford Convention Photos, 2013 Medical Mission Photos, and our newest Chapter; Nka Ima Obio, Reno/Lake Tahoe. **We thank both Chief (Dr.) Anne Wagner for working with me during the design phase of this project to provide context to the website and MMA Liz Trinnell for her leadership in managing the site with her team.**

### 2011 Efik National Convention, Houston, Texas

The first of three very successful Annual National Conventions was hosted in the City of Houston with record number of invited guests in attendance. Senator (Princess) Florence Ita-Giwa graced the occasion as the Special Guest of Honor, representing the Obong of Calabar. **MMA Grace Matthews and her planning team set the “Bar High” on how to host successful National Conventions and achieve new milestones in fundraising at the same time.**

### New Board of Trustees

The ENA-USA Executive Committee set-up a new board of Trustees, mandated as an advisory committee. **We commend the Board's Chair, Dr. Rosy Rowan and her esteemed members for provoking topical issues of cultural and intellectual importance within our community.**

### **August 2011-July 2012 (Second Fiscal Year):**

#### First Medical Mission to Cross River State

In October, 2011, we embarked on the first Medical Mission to Cross Rivers State, providing 1,500 indigenes with “Free Medical Services”, including screening, physical examinations and drug prescriptions. We also partnered with local clinics for patient follow-ups. Additionally, we donated a few Dental Equipment and Furniture worth over \$20,000.00 to furnish CRUTCH's new Dental Clinic. This donation was a collaborative effort with Nka Ikem Esit, DC Chapter.

His Excellency, Sen. Liyel Imoke, the Executive Governor of CRS on behalf of CRS Government hosted our mission team of 24 volunteers from the United States, providing the team with free feeding, accommodation, transportation, and security.

The Palace of the Obong of Calabar and particularly, His Eminence: Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, The Obong of Calabar, played a very significant role during this medical mission, providing additional logistical resources including daily field lunches and transportation during the week long mission.

Ultimately, this medical mission was possible because of the vision and leadership of **MMA Felicia and her very devoted team members willing to serve many Cross Riverians without access to Primary and Affordable Care.**

### ENA-USA Tax Exempt Status is Current

The ENA-USA is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, with an Effective Exemption Date, beginning, April 17, 2012. **We are proud of Ete Inyang Ebio's longevity, as the longest serving Exco member who enjoys serving his community.**

### 2012 Efik National Convention, DC/Rockville, Maryland

The most celebrated Efik National Convention took place in Rockville, Maryland in July 2012. The dignitaries in attendance included The Executive Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency; Senator Liyel Imoke; His Eminence; Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, the Obong of Calabar, some current and past members of the Nigerian Congress and the many guests within the States and around the world who attended the august occasion. **We applaud the planning chair, Mma Liz Trimmell and her team for their focus, steadfastness and total dedication to the Efik cause.**

### August 2012-July 2013 (Third Fiscal Year):

#### 2012 College Scholarship Awards

For the very first time, ENA-USA awarded College Scholarship checks in the amounts of \$1,000.00 each to (8) deserving youths in our communities in August 2012, across the country, totaling \$8,000.00. **This effort was led by Ete Tony Henshaw and his team and we commend their absolute fairness in selecting the award recipients.**

#### 2012 Disaster Relief and 2013 Community Support Efforts

In late 2012, about 49,000 people were displaced by devastating flood as a result of the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroun. The communities most affected were Biase, Ikom, Ogoja and Odukpani local government areas. Many homes were washed away as a result of erosion. The Health and Wellness Committee of ENA-USA mobilized our community across the country and began the "Clothing and Shoes Drive". These items were shipped in January, 2013 to the Obong's Palace to coordinate and distribute to affected areas.

ENA-USA donated \$500.00 to the America Red Cross on behalf of the victims of Super Storm Sandy in the New York Tri-State Areas and donated \$1,000.00 to Nka Ikem Esit Chapter to support their 2013 Community Outreach Effort.

**This disaster relief was successful as a result of the selfless efforts and sacrifices by Mma Felicia Bassey Akamune; Ete Francis Ironbar; Mma Veronica Archibong and Ete Sam Okon Eniang as the designated regional coordinators.**

### 2013 Efik National Convention, Stamford, Connecticut

The Efik people have always been synonymous with their colorful rich culture and traditional festivities. It was very fitting for this array of Colorful Décor to be the "Optic Theme" for our very successful convention in the New England State of Connecticut. Mr. Clement Ikpatt, the SSA Diaspora, graced the occasion as the Special Guest of Honor, representing His Excellency;

Chief Godwills Akpabio, The Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State. **We applaud the decorative talent of the planning chair, Mma Afi Duke and her team for bringing a new “Carnival Spirit” to the Efik Convention for the very first time.**

### ENA-USA Youth Wing

The National Executive and I are proud to convey to each of you that for the first time, our 2013 National Convention focused entirely on celebrating the progress and achievements of our Efik Youths. During the second day of the convention, the Youth Wing presented a “Command Performance” that included a Talent show; Efik Language 101; and the Crowning of Mr. and Ms. Efik USA. On Saturday, the YW leadership sponsored a Youth Forum & Networking and finally, during the evening Dinner/Fundraising Gala, each College Scholarship award recipient was introduced and recognized.

The Youth Wing of the ENA-USA raised the bar in Stamford, Connecticut and showcased their commitment for the advancement and celebration of the Efik Culture, Language, Art and History during the youth night. We welcome this coming of age and will continue to encourage their thirst and hunger for embracing the Efik Tradition and Culture. **We are proud of the leadership team of Stephen Trimmell, Lilli Robinson, Krystal Egbuchulam and Michael Akamune.**

### **August 2013-July 2014 (Fourth Fiscal Year):**

#### 2013 College Scholarship Awards

For the second time, ENA-USA awarded College Scholarship checks in the amounts of \$1,000.00 each to (9) deserving Efik Youths in our communities in August, 2013, totaling \$9,000.00. One additional award check will be donated to the United Negro College Fund for a minority youth who is not of Efik origin.

#### Second Medical Mission to Cross River State

During ENA-USA first Medical Mission in October, 2011, 1,500 patients were screened and examined. During the 2013 Medical Mission, 4,500 patients were screened, examined by consultants and given medications for 3-12 month’s supply. We also successfully performed 26 surgeries on patients and pleased to report they have all recovered well. We included Free Eye Examination to this mission and prescription glasses were given to many patients examined. This mission covered all three Senatorial Districts in the State; Northern, Central and Southern; for the first time.

The Cross River State Government for the second time hosted 38 volunteers including medical and non medical personnel from the USA. The Obong’s Palace was equally a co-host in this effort, and we are very appreciative of this long term relationship with the CRS Government and the Obong’s Palace as we prepare for the next medical mission in October, 2015.

#### 2014 National Convention; Reno/Lake Tahoe, Nevada

**Convention Theme: “The Efik Family Values and Community Empowerment”**

**Convention Location: PEPPERMILL RESORT, SPA & CASINO, Reno, Nevada**

On the heels of the previous three very successful National Conventions mentioned above, the Efik National Association USA Inc. **is proud to announce that under the direction of our new Convention Planning Chair, Chief (Prof.) Rosemary Effiong and her dedicated team**, the ENA-USA will be hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Efik National Convention from July 24-27, 2014, in Reno, Nevada.

The Resort Hotel has created a reservation page and it's now linked with our Convention webpage for members to begin making their Hotel Reservations.

Let's make this convention reunion a "ONE WEEK FAMILY VACATION", because Reno/Lake Tahoe, has been proclaimed the new Efik London (Obio Mbakara)

ENA-USA National Election Coming Up!!!

ENA-USA 3<sup>rd</sup> College Scholarship Awards Coming Up!!!

**We thank Lady Umo Udo, for her great efforts and patience as National Secretary, capturing the different view points in print during our monthly conference calls and providing the minutes on time. I also strongly believe, genuine loyalty is never purchased but earned as a result of hard work and personal sacrifices, so in that spirit, we thank Mma Lizzy Orok, Mma Anne Wagner (former VP) and my Vice President, Deacon Eyo Ephraim for their unwavering support over the years.**

Finally, I hope as we get closer to the "Changing of Guard" this July, more Efik Brothers and Sisters will be willing and ready to answer the "Community Service Call" when the newly elected National President ask you to join him or her to build on the progress we have made since August 1, 2010. I will close with these final thoughts;

**"Being surrounded with great personalities often lead to good policies"**

God Bless you,

Prince (Chief) Paul O. Basseyy-Duke  
National President  
ENA-USA