

## President's February 2013 Message!

From: **Paul Duke** (orokduke@att.net)

Sent: Thu 2/14/13 3:20 PM

To:

Dear ENA-USA members,

I am pleased to announce that since we contracted with the Sheraton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut for this year's convention in July, a few members have made their hotel reservations-and we say thank-you guys!.....**but what will really be exciting.....would be the rest of us making our hotel reservations this February and checking this item off our "convention to do-list"**.

This year's convention will again shine the spotlight on the Efik Youth in Diaspora. As a consequence, our theme is: "**Ensuring that all Efik Youth are Educated**". ENA-USA will be awarding College Scholarships to Ten (10) deserving youths at this year's convention Gala/Fundraising night.

The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Panton Okon. Dr. Okon has a Doctorate degree in Space Welding Engineering, but his life long passion is in teaching Math and Physics in High School. He is currently a faculty member at a Chartered High School in Oklahoma City and we are excited that his keynote speech will focus on articulating a holistic approach to education; not just for the youths but also for adults as well.

In keeping with our commitment of "it takes a village to raise our children", my 2012-2014 budgets which were recently approved by the National Executive Committee, provides funding for College Scholarship Awards to deserving youths. These budgets will be presented to the general membership for ratification at this year's convention "Business Meeting" on Friday, July 26th.

We are very hopeful that this award ceremony will become a permanent fixture during our yearly convention to serve as a testament of ENA-USA's commitment to give back to its members and their families. We are pleased that Mr. Tony Henshaw has graciously accepted to chair the College Scholarship Committee for the next two years. This committee will coordinate with each Chapter President to select, screen and recommend prospective recipients to the Exco for the scholarship award.

Our Youth Wing will be playing a very special role at this year's convention, so look out for further details. Several weeks ago, the Youth Wing retained a printer to design the "Raffle Tickets" for drawing at the Gala Night as part of the Youth fundraising efforts. These 5,000 tickets have already been mailed to respective Chapter Presidents and friends. I would like to encourage all of you to support their efforts by purchasing and selling these tickets to your friends and co-workers for only a \$1 each. **Join me in congratulating Ette Stephen Trimmell, the Youth Wing President, and his executive committee for a fantastic job in their strategic efforts. They truly represent the organization's bright future, and we are very proud of all of them.**

Mma Afi Duke and her committee continue to make significant progress with the planning of the convention. Invitation cards have been printed and distributed to the chapter presidents. The printer has started working on the Program Booklet and all remaining printed items. Members wishing to have their personal messages or businesses advertise in the "Program Booklet" can begin to email their ad to Mma Afi Duke at [afi475-efik@yahoo.com](mailto:afi475-efik@yahoo.com). In addition, a hard copy of the ad and a check made out to the **Efik National Association USA, Inc.**, should be mailed to Mrs. Afi Duke; 16 Lacey Lane, Norwalk, CT 06854.

The Following breakdown below are the official Advert fees for this year:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Front Page          | Reserved |
| Inside Front Page   | Reserved |
| Back Page Ad        | \$400.00 |
| Inside Back Page Ad | \$250.00 |
| Full Page Ad        | \$150.00 |
| Half Page Ad        | \$80.00  |
| Quarter Page Ad     | \$50.00  |

On a lighter note, as we look ahead to St. Patrick's Day in March, we wish our members and friends a Happy St. Patrick's Day. The St. Patrick's College, Calabar (SPACO) will have its Alumni Reunion USA on March 15-17, 2013 at the Doubletree by Hilton Crystal City. Group Rate: \$109.00/night. Group Code: SPC. Address: 300 Army Navy Drive, Crystal City, VA 22202; Tel: 800-222-8733. You are all invited.

I recently asked a cross section of our members what they would like the planning committee to do a little differently from past conventions, and the consensus is MORE DANCING and LESS SPEECHES;

**Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen get ready "to whine" on the dance floor all evening and night with DJ Rix on the ones and twos!!!**

Finally, on a personal level, I will continue to explore ways in achieving a lasting peace in our community. Also, as people of faith, join me in prayer for God to touch some of our members going through very difficult times such as a loss of employment; medical conditions and the loss of a loved one.

A Happy Valentine's Day to all of you, and your loved ones,

Chief Paul Basse-Duke  
National President  
ENA-USA