LIBERIA
171st INDEPENDENCE DAY
Dinner & Ball
“God Bless Liberia”
SATURDAY
28 JUL 2018
6:00PM

Hosted By:
The Organization of Liberians in Minnesota
Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
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HAPPY 171ST INDEPENDENCE TO ALL LIBERIANS

As Executive Director of OLM, I want to encourage everyone to join me and the team of volunteers to make a difference in our community.

The Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM) is our own community organization. It will take the collective efforts of every Liberian to make this organization what we want it to be. Each and every one of us receives a reward for what we put in time to do. When we work, we get paid. When we sacrifice the time to go to school at the end we are awarded diplomas, and degrees. So, if we want to accomplish greater things in our community organization, we must put in the time and do the work. Our reward will be the Community Organization we can all be proud of.

Over the last year I’ve worked closely with OLM. Many Liberians and friends have come with great ideas and suggestions for programs, development and activities. Some expressed the need for us to have: playground, radio station, Liberian mall or business center, larger community center a clinic that serves Liberians and so on. All of these are excellent ideas, but we need Liberians to come and help, contribute financially and voluntarily to make the difference we want. OLM doors are open to you. Stop by sometime and try. If we give up on our organization, we give up on ourselves. If we complain about the organization and make no meaningful contribution, we complain about ourselves. If we undermined the organization, we undermined ourselves. is true because OLM started from the heart of caring, loving Liberians some 43 years ago. They established it to help each other.

Today, OLM is still providing that helping hands to everyone we can reach. We advocated in the cold and snow for Liberians immigration issues, we support when tragedies like death hates our community. We provide services to our elders, youth and children. All of these are sacrifices the leaders of our community makes each and every day. If you ask anyone who is serving as a leader today, they will tell you that their work never ends when the office doors closes. As leaders, we work 24/7. Our telephones rings all the time with questions, concerns, and needs. We are constantly thinking about ways to improve our community with the very little resources we have. We do this because we simply care about you—our community and everyone in need. Today, we say “Our 26 On You.” Thanks to all who have continuously work with us through the hard times and good times. The sacrifices you make each day makes a difference in our community.

Paul Swengbe Wilson
Asst. Executive Director

Joel S. Reeves
Youth Coordinator

Toungor Vonleh
Finance Director
The Organization of Liberians in Minnesota
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Chairman

Georgett Gray
Executive Director, OLM

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Member
THE ORGANIZATION OF LIBERIANS IN MINNESOTA (OLM)
The organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM) is a 501 (c)3 Non-profit organization that caters to the needs of Liberians in the State of Minnesota. Founded in 1973 and incorporated in 1979, OLM's mission is to provide social services to immigrants and refugees in the areas of education, housing, health, employment and other social initiatives. OLM membership extends to the over forty thousand (40,000) Liberians living in the State of Minnesota. The organization is led by an Executive Director and a nine-member board of directors. Our partners include: businesses, counties, tribal, State and Federal agencies, civil society and non-profits.

OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Youth Enrichment Program
- Afterschool Program
- Program for the Elderly (Seniors Program)
- Health Awareness
- Immigration and other Advocacy
- Civic Engagement
- Social Services & Outreach

THE YOUTH: The Youth Enrichment Program targets the ages 14 to 18 years in the community. Our goal is to help engage youths in a positive way, mentor and educate them about Laws, talk about career choices, encourage them to complete high school and continue to higher education, introduce them to specialized training, and connect them with individuals in various organizations, companies, and corporations. We also keep participants informed about their community, culture, and motivate them to lead healthy and productive lives as they excel.

AFTERSCHOOL HELP: In collaboration with Mualaynu Youth Initiatives, we provide afterschool tutoring to children and youth in grades 3rd to 12th. This program is offered once a week, on Thursdays from 5pm to 7pm. Students get help with homework, school papers and other school related activities and assignments.

OUR ELDERS (SENIORS): The need for senior programs extends to adult literacy to training, health awareness, programs and other activities. A survey conducted in 2017 showed that most of our seniors are unaware of federal and state laws, programs such as home care services, health insurance, social and other services outside of the Liberian Community. Seeing the need to engage this population, the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota established the Community Senior Program.

WHAT WE NEED
OLM provide services to a very large community. Our Community Center is too small to accommodate us. We need to relocate to a bigger facility. We need funding for programs.

- Our kids need more space for their afterschool programs.
- Our elders need space for programs, recreation and activities.
- Our youth need a place they can feel safe, hang out and interact in a culturally sensitive environment.
- Our community need a center large enough to accommodate the needs of our people, hold community meetings and other recreation activities.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2018 HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES. YOU HAVE MADE OUR COMMUNITY PROUD! YOU INSPIRE US ALL.

Thank you to our vendors, partners, sponsors and community. Without you we won’t be where we are today. We appreciate your participation, partnership and participation. OLM AND THE ENTIRE LIBERIAN COMMUNITY SAYS …..THANK YOU YA!
OLM YEAR IN REVIEW—OUR COMMUNITY

AfterSchool

Seniors

United we are stronger!

STAND WITH LIBERIANS IN THIS IMMIGRATION STRUGGLE!
Order of Program

Arrival and Seating of Guests

Invocation

Pastor Francis Tablah
Liberian Ministers Association

Welcome and Recognition of Guests

Mr. Arthur Biah – OLM Board Vice Chairman

Reading of Proclamation

DINNER IS SERVED

The Opening Selection

Ms. Sylria Jah

Liberia

Mr. Jesse Mongrue - Author & Historian

HONORING GRADUATES SLIDE SHOW

Mr. Sizi Goyah – OLM Board of Directors

Performance:

Mr. George Ferris

About OLM

Mrs. Georgette Gray, Exe. Director, OLM

Introduction of our Guest Speaker

Ms

The Guest Speaker

Governor Mark Dayton

HONORING & PRESENTATION

Statement from The Government of Liberia

Culture Performance

Statement from OLM Board of Directors

Mr. Abraham Bah
Chairman, OLM Board of Directors

Remarks

City and Government Officials

Vote of Thanks

Mrs. Christiana Gandah
Chairlady, Liberia’s Independence 2018

Liberia's National Anthem

Performance

Mr. Zack Roberts

Grand March

Mr. Benoni Grimes

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: MR. ERNEST NORRIS & MS. JUMA DENNIS
DISK JUNKEY: MR.
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CONTACT:
A KELVIN GRAY – OWNER, BSc, ENROLLED AGENT

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About the Liberian Nurses Association-MN (LibNA)

Purpose:

The purpose of LibNA, MN is to create a platform for Liberian nurses to promote the health of the community through outreach, education, advocacy, social empowerment and collaboration with other professional organizations for societal advancement.

Goal:

The goal of LibNA, MN is to collaborate with healthcare professionals to utilize their knowledge and expertise for health promotion and community enrichment.

Objectives:

- Serve as mentors for new nurses and support career advancement among established nurses in our community.
- Provide a means of professional networking among Liberian nurses as well as nurses of other nationalities.
- Serve as a standard of excellence in nursing practice in the Liberian community.
- Support LibNA, MN member’s full participation in the nursing profession and expand membership working with other Liberian Nurses Associations in the country to create an umbrella for the association.
- To use the association as a means of providing healthcare education to the Liberian community.
- Assist new immigrants with nursing career from Liberia on how to navigate the educational system for credential evaluation.
- Serve as mentors for Liberians who are aspiring to become nurses by guiding and educating them on the process of entering the nurses program.
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Jesse Mongrue is a noted author and policy scholar on U.S./Liberia's relations. He has written an account that depicts the cultural, social, and political connections between the two countries. His second and most recent book addresses the success stories of civil society, good governance and democratic reform in Africa. Jesse is also a doctoral candidate in Organization Development at the University of Saint Thomas, Minnesota. As a scholar-practitioner, he has done a number of interventions in organizations including a five-year strategic plan for the Liberian Business Association, New American Alliance for Development and consulted at Mount Holyoke College in Western Massachusetts. Jesse has also done several professional development presentations at universities and communities in Minnesota. He is originally from Liberia and currently resides in the City of Vadnais Heights, a suburb of Saint Paul, Minnesota along with his wife and four children.

Message of Congratulation to the Country of Liberia on its Independence Day Celebration

On behalf of The Minnesotan Africans United, we extend our most heartfelt congratulations to the Country of Liberia and its people in the celebration of their 171 years of living as an independent nation! As a membership organization for African immigrants in Minnesota, Minnesotan Africans United is centered on bringing the voices of all African immigrants together through a coalition around advocacy, creating awareness, and increasing access to resources of African immigrants. The Organization of Liberians in Minnesota has championed this goal of a strong partnership of one Africa and one voice in unity to make a difference in the lives of African immigrants. We continue to wish all of you a wonderful celebration with progress, safety, peace, justice and prosperity for all!

Thank you
Basil Ajuo,
Interim Executive Director
Men’s Clothing Coming Soon...

Our thanks and appreciation goes to everyone and every organization that helped one way or the other to make this year’s Independence programs and activities. - OLM