November 10, 2022

Honorable Calvin Stevens, Region IV Council President, Blacks In Government, Inc., called the Regional Executive Committee meeting to order via teleconference on November 10. 2023, at 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST). He welcomed members to the last executive committee meeting for 2022 and asked Mr. Arnold Taylor to do the invocation. He then proceeded to do the roll call.

**VOTING MEMBERs**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| OFFICER | NAME | STATUS |
| President | Honorable Calvin Stevens | Present |
| Executive Vice President | Mr. Arnold Taylor | Present |
| First Vice President | Ms. Ruby Dunson | Absent at Roll Call |
| Second Vice President | Mr. Danny Wade | Present |
| Third Vice President | Ms. Katie Course | Present |
| Treasurer | Honorable Alice Mercer | Present |
| Assistant Treasurer | Dr. Janice Boss | Excused |
| Secretary | Ms. Antoinette Wait | Present |
| Asst Secretary | Dr. Vera McKethan | Present |

Of the voting members, a quorum was established with seven (7) present, one excused, and one absent at roll call.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

**Regional IV Directors**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **POSITION** | **NAME** | **STATUS** |
| Director | Mr. James Clausell | Present |
| Director | Mr. Famous Johnson | Excused |
| Historian | Ms. Peggy Wilson | Excused |
| Parliamentarian | Mr. Al Taylor | Present |

**Committee Chairs**

| **COMMITTEE** | **CHAIR** | **STATUS** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Awards Committee | Dr. Wilda Parker-Collins | Present |
| Finance Committee | Ms. Paula D. Lacount | Absent at Roll Call |
| Awards | Dr. Wilder Parker-Collins | Present |
| Program And Planning | Ms. Sandra Glenn | Absent at Roll Call |
| Communications And Public Relations | Ms. Veronica Godfrey-Robinson | Present |
| Legislative And Legal Review | Ms. Shekita Maxwell | Vacant |
| Conference Planning | Ms. Peggy Wilson | Excused |
| Membership Committee | Mrs. Ruby Dunson | Absent at Roll Call |
| Bylaws Committee | Honorable Alice Mercer | Present |
| Evaluation Committee | Mr. Danny Wade | Present |
| Affirmative Employment/EEO | Ms. Katie Course | Present |
| Corporate Sponsorship | Dr. Janice Boss | Absent at Roll Call |
| Health And Wellness Coordinator | Ms. Mary Beal | Absent at Roll Call |
| Strategic Planning | Dr. Deborah McClanahan | Present |

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Mr. Arnold Taylor moved to accept the agenda as presented. Honorable Mercer provided a 2nd to the motion. President Stevens asked to pass the motion without objection, and Dr. McKethan objected because the review of the September 22 minutes was missing from the agenda.

Honorable Mercer noted that a motion was on the floor to accept the agenda as presented with a second. She stated that the motion on the floor needed to be amended to add those two additions to the agenda. We never approved the original motion. Now what we will do it he was still on the floor. We had a bill. Okay, I am moving in May. I want to make a man D. Motion to add the two executive committee minutes to the agenda. Hon Mercer then motioned to amend the motion to add a review of the March 24 and September 22 minutes to the agenda. Mr. Arnold Taylor seconded the motion, and it passed without objections.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

President Stevens asked Dr. McKethan to present the March 24 and September 22 minutes for review. She shared the March 24 and September 22 minutes via Zoom. Dr. McKethan stated that she would show the minutes page-by-page to see if there were any edits. All corrections were made on the screen as needed edits were identified. The corrected March and September minutes were approved and submitted to the Communication and Public Relations Committee to be filed

**OFFICER TRANSITION REPORT S**

President Stevens continued with the officer transition reports according to the Region IV policy and procedures manual, paragraph 3:8. Transition of officer policy and procedures pages 12, 13, 14, and 71. He reported that he sent the transition checklist to the outgoing officers, Miss Antoinette Waits, the Secretary for Dr. Vera McKethan, and he sent it to Honorable Alice Mercer. I have already said those, and just for the record, I did email, not an email. I just put it in the chat for everybody. He said that he had a gavel, and it would be presented in person to the new council president. The Region also has a banner. He had an easel and an easel pad, and all those items would be delivered to honorable Mercer whenever they met in transition. I would be either during an executive committee meeting or a council meeting. Everything else was sent electronically; the bylaws, policies, and procedures manual.

Ms. Wait forwarded the minutes to Dr. Vera McKethan for the 2022 Spring council meeting, plus the draft for the 2022 Fall council meeting. She also forwarded the bylaws and policy procedures manual to Dr. Mckethen. He reported that he did not receive a report from Dr. Janice Boss; however, she had communicated with Miss Claudine Ervin, who was on the call.

Honorable Mercer reminded President that some decisions would have to be made by December during his tenure and would affect the next year. She stated that she wanted to make sure the executive committee members covered the decision about having the regional executive committee meeting in Tampa, FL, in January with the NEC because the Council President would need to sign the contract by December 10. Mr. Arnold Taylor expressed a point of order about the discussion since it was not on the approved agenda. Honorable Stevens stated that he understood his point of order; however, the transition discussion was a verbal report. The question Honorable Mercer asked was very critical. President Stevens explained that it was suggested that the Regional executive committee commit to meeting face-to-face in Tampa, Florida

The intent was for the voting members to have a face-to-face meeting. He not because it would require allocation of funds, travel, and lodging; he wanted to go on record of deciding at the November meeting. He requested a motion from the body that voting members have a face-to-face meeting. The rationale was that the Region would be the host region. They wanted to attend the National President's inauguration.

Ms. Katie asked what the cost to the Region would be for two nights.

President Stevens replied that the calculation had not occurred, but the room would cost about $360 a night. Honorable Mercer replied that the NEC plan was to invite all of the Regional Council presidents. Since she was the incoming Regional President and was on the NEC, National will pay for her and Mr. Danny Wade, who was also on the NEC. She planned to ask the National Treasurer to cover the Executive vice president instead of her. They also have extended invitations to Region 4's local chapters. Mr. Arnold Taylor noted that the budget included consideration of face-to-face meetings for the Spring and Fall Councils and asked what implications would be for this new expenditure. Honorable Mercer noted that they would have to do a redress for the travel expenses. Dr. Mckethan stated that she usually does self-pay, so the number of voting members the Region would have to pay for would be reduced by one.

Honorable Mercer noted that the officers noted to be funded by the Region were Honorable Stevens, Ms. Ruby Dunson, Ms. Katie Course, and Ms. Claudette Ervin. President Stevens entertained a motion for the executive committee to meet face-to-face in Tampa. Honorable Mercer moved that the Regional Executive Committee have its first executive committee meeting in conjunction with the national leadership in January 2023 in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Danny Wade provided a second. The motion was approved without objection. He stated the REC officers would receive additional information as soon as Honorable Mercer notified the NEC because she is still the Treasurer.

Mr. Al Taylor asked if the bank had resolved all issues so she could fully control that account. Honorable Mercer responded that everything had been resolved. She also stated that either she or Stevens could sign checks as long as they are signed before the end of 2022. Mr. Arnold's chair asked if he was still on the account. The response was yes because he is still executive vice president. A discussion ensued about who would be able to sign as Honorable Mercer would be transitioning from Treasurer to Council President, and the Treasurer position would be vacant. Plus, some appointees had to be approved by the executive committee. Honorable Mercer stated that she would review the policy and procedures to determine if she could have a meeting before face-to-face to approve her appointee. President Stevens replied that she could call an emergency meeting. Mr. Al Taylor offered an alternate solution since the assistant Treasurer, who was elected, could sign the checks after December 31 as long as she was placed in the bank account.

Mrs. Veronica Goffrey-Robbinson asked for clarification as to whether the first meeting of the executive committee with the standing chairs will not be in January. President Stevens stated that her assertion was correct. He stated that Hon Mercer would have a list of candidates for approval at the January executive committee meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Region IV Tracking Log (last updated March 24, 2022):** Mr. Arnold Taylor

Mr. Arnold Taylor stated that he would have. He updated the tracking log for Mr. President and President-elect for the January 2023 meeting. All exec committee meetings, as well as the council meetings, will be presented in his January report.

Ms. Claudean Ervin reported that she communicated with Dr. Boss and provided her with a copy of the assessment letter. She also provides the roll call sheets and the sample of the 99 postcards via email. President Stevens welcomed Ms. Claudine Ervin from the Magnolia chapter as the Region's new assistant Treasurer.

Honorable Mercer noted that the only other new business was the need to send something about Regional Training Conference (RTC) for 2023. President Stevens responded that it would be addressed at the November meeting because time was of the essence. The voting members needed to vote soon on a day to provide the information to the membership. Honorable Mecer suggested sending the call to host the RTC to the chapters and letting the interested chapters respond. Honorable Stevens asked if the plan was to have a face-to-face. He noted that there was no discussion at the Fall Council meeting about a face-to-face or a virtual RTC, and it was never brought up. Honorable Mercer stated that most incoming officers were present at the meeting. Therefore, the executive voting members could decide to go face-to-face and send information out.

Mr. Arnold stated that the motion probably could be made, but he would speak against letting a chapter host at this time. He suggested that the exec committee host the spring Council meeting instead of sending it out to the chapters. Mr. President noted that he did not have a proper motion yet. He also stated that he would have to include the RTC, the executive committee, and the spring council meeting. Mr. Taylor agreed with that and stated he was considering the amount of money that would be spent in January. He believed that if the executive committee hosted the RTC, it would benefit the Region financially.

President Stevens expressed his appreciation and noted that for the last three years, the Region had not spent any money, plus it was time for the Region to meet. His assertion was also based on feedback from members in the Region. He noted a motion was in order to go forward; He stated that the body could do that while the executive committee was present rather than waiting until the new administration started in January. He suggested sending the letter now to see if the chapters would respond. If they did not respond, the executive committee would have to host the RTC.

President Stevens said it was time for a motion so the voting members could vote on sending the letter to the chapter presidents. He asked if there were any objections from this executive committee. If not, there was no need to vote. Mr. Arnold Taylor stated a motion to be made to decide whether there would be a face-to-face. If passed, one needed to be made to send the letter to the Chapter President. President Stevens asked Mr. Arnold Taylor would like to make that motion. He moved that Region four would have a face-to-face RTC spring and Spring Council meeting for the year 2023. Ms. Katie Course seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

Honorable Stevens asked if he needed a motion for me to send the letter. Honorable Mercer stated that was part of the Region's policy, so no motion was needed. Honorable Stevens stated he would send it to chapter presidents and provide a courtesy copy to the executive committee member. He noted that he would provide suspense 30 days from the date, making the response due by December 30, 2022.

**Good of the Order**

* President Stevens expressed his appreciation for their work in the various capacity of either executive committee elected or standing committee chairs. He stated that he had learned and grown a lot in the position.
* Mr. Al Taylor stated that he had grown in his position with the Executive Committee this year, and he appreciated the cooperation that he had received from the exec committee and the entire Region.
* Director Clausell gave a huge thank you to all the outgoing officers for their service, dedication, and leadership to this organization and a big congratulations to all the newly elected members coming on.
* Ms. Katie Course stated that it had been an honor and a pleasure to have served under President Steven s leadership. She emphasized that she had grown personally and professionally and would continue to grow under the next administration. She looked forward to working with the honorable Alice Mercer, and my Surah does, for the next two years.
* Mrs. Veronica Goffrey-Robinson noted that Veterans Day was November 1, and she wanted to ensure that she thanked all for their service. She also thanked President Steven for his leadership and outgoing and incoming officers.
* Mr. Danny Wade thanked President Stevens for his leadership and for leading by example, and for being a great mentor to him.
* Mr. Arnold Taylor thanked President Stevens for everything he had done for the Region. He stated that he looked forward to working with the incoming officers.
* Ms. Claudine Ervin stated that she looked forward to working with the Region to make it the best Region.
* Ms. Antoinette Waits thanked President Stevens for his leadership.
* Honorable Alice Mercer, incoming, said thank you to all for their vote of confidence in her to serve. She plans to utilize all 800 members because everybody has a role and can contribute, and everybody has something to 'offer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Danny Wade offers a prayer. President Stevens at 10:05 pm Eastern time, 9:05 pm Central time without objection.

Respectfully,