

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**COVERING THE PERIOD  
JULY 2000- JUNE 2002**

**SUBMITTED TO  
THE MEMBERS OF**

**OLD TIMERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA (OTSAM)  
TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2002**

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**INTRODUCTION:** The purpose of this report is to account for all projects carried out under my watch and to bring closure to all the activities I conducted in the name of OTSAM as president, from July 2000-June 2002. During the period under review OTSAM undertook the following projects: Organization, Fundraising, Outreach Programs, Neighborhood Youth Development, Building a sense of Community.

### ORGANIZATION

In July 2000 a group of male Liberians residing in Minnesota resolved to form an Old Timers Soccer Association, (OTSAM). The association elected Albert Cooper-Vice President, Alfred Peters-Secretary, Quiqui Sumo-Treasurer, Tarnue Moryan-Coach, Stanley Cooper-Team Manager, Wilfred Harris-moral leader and your humble servant, Sando Wayne-President. To complete the process of organization, the new leadership drew up a constitution and circulated it to all members for review and correction. The process of review and corrections having been completed, the leadership convened yet another meeting for the formal approval of the constitution which consummated the whole process of OTSAM organization in July, 2000.

The constitution defined the name of the organization as OTSAM and affirmed the association's commitment to the attainment of the following broad objectives under "Article II PURPOSE -

- **THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION ARE:**
- **Sec-1** To promote sports and recreational activities
- **Sec-2** To support and strengthen our families
- **Sec-3** To promote education, economic and the social advancement of our community
- **Sec-4** To empower the youth of our community to live a productive civic life
- **Sec-5** To maintain physical fitness and live a healthy life
- **Sec-6** To be a positive role model for the youth of our community
- **Sec-8** To promote socialization and cooperation"

Whether we have results to show for our individual roles in the fulfillment of these broad objectives is a question for each of you. What I can attest to is that I provided the leadership and the constitutional framework for this association to take advantage of, and aspire to these noble ideals. Though sundry actions may detract attention from these pursuits, however, I encourage each of you to go back and read your OTSAM constitution which I personally presented to you in the summer of 2000, for guidance.

Since then, OTSAM has enjoyed widespread public support from residents of the Twin Cities. Our records show that we have had 48 visitors to our weekend trainings, while at the same time sending ripples of open invitations far and wide. Be that as it may, it will interest you to know that OTSAM's constitutional requirements for membership have been met by only 14 residents of the Twin Cities. While efforts at increasing our numerical strength through numerous trials and persuasion abound, the sympathizers and visitors to our physical trainings, games and related activities are far removed from that which OTSAM holds sway. Hence, the inertia to acquire membership as defined under "Membership." Article III, Sec-8, OTSAM Constitution, "Individuals who are financial." Financial means having paid his/her entire amount of affiliation fees as determined by the Treasurer in accordance with this constitution in the last one year." It is two years now since OTSAM was organized and the founding members committed themselves to a fee of \$25 per head before being considered a member. From a total poll of 48 interested participants in OTSAM's activities, the organization's strength lies in 14 members.

It will interest you to also note that the constitution which we all approved for our governance defines separate roles and clearly established titles/positions for the smooth operation of the Association.

## **PREAMBLE**

We the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasure and benefit of an African Association, inspired by our love for soccer and our desire to foster peaceful co-existence among ourselves and with our American host, constitute ourselves the OLD TIMERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA, (OTSAM), and enact this constitution as our governing law. Guided by our African customs and tradition, it shall be our purpose to encourage the promotion of values that will derive social, economic and education opportunities for our people and community.

### **Article I NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be "OLD TIMERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA", hereinafter referred to as "OTSAM".

### **Article II PURPOSE**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION ARE:

- Sec-1 To promote sports and recreational activities
- Sec-2 To support and strengthen our families
- Sec-3 To promote education, economic and the social advancement of our community
- Sec-4 To empower the youth of our community to live a productive civic life
- Sec-5 To maintain physical fitness and live a healthy life
- Sec-6 To be a positive role model for the youth of our community
- Sec-8 To promote socialization and cooperation

### **Article III MEMBERSHIP**

- Sec-1 All persons who have attained the age of 35 and are interested in the game of soccer shall be eligible for membership.
- Sec-2 Membership includes all those who were members immediately prior to the enactment of this constitution. Notwithstanding, anyone wishing to become a member thereafter may apply for membership with the committee on membership.
- Sec-3 Full membership is open to resident of Minnesota.
- Sec-4 Associate membership is open to those actively and regularly engaged in soccer practices with OTSAM as well as other persons who may find themselves indisposed to the rigors of soccer practices, notwithstanding share in the values and aspirations of this organization.
- Sec-5 Full membership includes all OTSAM privileges as well as the rights to hold office and to vote for the officers of OTSAM.
- Sec-6 Application for membership shall be submitted at regular meetings.
- Sec-8 Individuals who are financial shall enjoy Membership in OTSAM. Financial means having paid his/her entire amount of affiliation fees as determined by the Treasurer in accordance with this constitution in the last one year.
- Sec-9 When a new member has been admitted, his/her name shall be entered in the membership register by the Secretary. All entries to the membership registrar shall be signed and dated by the Secretary.
- Sec-10 All members of OTSAM shall be liable to pay dues, fees and fines

### **Article IV OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

- Sec-1 The officers of this organization shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coach, Team Manager and Moral Leader.
- Sec-2 Officer of OTSAM shall occupy their position through election by a simple majority of the Membership.
- Sec-3 All elected officers shall make up the Executive Committee of OTSAM.

## **DUTIES OF OFFICERS:**

**Sec-5 THE PRESIDENT** shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them in accordance with standard parliamentary procedure based on Robert's Book of Order.

The President shall:

Sec-5a convene all meetings of the Executive Committee once every two months and represent the organization at all times.

Sec-5b enforce due observance and compliance with this constitution and by-laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents adopted by the organization, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of president.

Sec-5c appoint members to the Standing Committee as needs arise with the approval of the Executive.

Sec-5d break any tie at meetings.

**Sec-6 THE VICE-PRESIDENT** shall assume all the duties of the president in his or her absence and serve as member of all sub-committees.

Sec-6a He/she shall carryout those duties of the president delegated by the president subject to the approval of the executive committee.

Sec-6b He/she shall exercise editorial control, subject to the direction of the Executive, over OTSAM Newsletter.

**Sec-7 THE SECRETARY** shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, official business transactions, keep a roll of members, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read or distribute communications at each meeting, and mail written meeting notices to each member.

Sec-7a it shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the constitution of the OTSAM and have it with him/her at every meeting.

Sec-7b He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions on the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.

Sec-7c At the expiration of his/her term, he or she shall turn over all items belonging to the organization to his or her successor.

**Sec-8 THE TREASURER** shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to OTSAM; keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended; pay no bills without proper authorization (by OTSAM or its officers constituting a business committee).

Sec-8a At the end of each quarter he or she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts to the membership of OTSAM during regular meetings.

Sec-8b At the end of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to OTSAM to the organization to his/her successor.

**Sec-9 THE COACH** shall supervise and conduct all recreational activities.

Sec-10 **TEAM MANAGER** shall be the chief procurement officer of OTSAM. He shall also be the principal assistant of the coach.

Sec-11 **MORAL LEADER** shall mediate all **CONFLICTS** and submit a report to the Executive Committee. He shall provide counseling services to families in need.

## **Article V ELECTION AND REMOVAL**

Sec-1 Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members present at the regular meeting of the organization in January of each year.

Sec-2 The officers of OTSAM shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the meeting called for that purpose.

Sec-3 an Executive Officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of a special regular meeting called for that purpose.

Sec-4 Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the vacancy or resignation.

Sec-5 A member may have his/her affiliation to OTSAM suspended provided the following procedure is adopted:

The member that has been unfinancial for one year shall show cause to the regular membership why he/she should not have his/her membership suspended.

The secretary shall give written notice to the member to show cause why his /her membership should not be suspended, at least one month in advance of the annual election.

Sec-6 A member may be disqualified from membership of OTSAM provided that the following procedure is adopted:

- A member has first been suspended. At the first meeting following his/her suspension, the member must show cause why he/she should not be disaffiliated at the time of credentialling.

The secretary shall give written notice to the member to show cause why he/she should not be disqualified, at least one month in advance of the first annual regular meeting.

A member may be disqualified by resolution of the first regular meeting carried by a two-thirds majority.

A member who has been disqualified may reapply for membership in OTSAM in compliance with Article III.

A member who has been suspended from membership shall be liable to pay any overdue subscriptions, but no further liability for subscriptions that were applied outside of regular dues during the period of suspension.

#### **Article V MEETINGS:**

Sec-1 Regular meetings shall be held on the last Sunday in each month.

Sec-2 the President upon the written request of any five OTSAM members may call meetings.

Sec-3 Notices shall be sent out to members concerning special meetings and the businesses to be transacted. Such notices shall be sent so that they arrive not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

Sec-4 Robert's Rules shall govern all proceedings of business in OTSAM

Sec-5 Two-thirds majority of the membership sitting at any regular meeting, which shall henceforth be considered as a quorum, shall carry out normal businesses of the organization.

Sec-6 Only members of OTSAM shall have speaking rights during meetings. All other persons attending the meeting may speak with the leave of the person chairing the meeting.

Sec-7 The first item of business at meetings shall be the consideration of the credentials of members.

#### **Article VI ASSESSMENT AND DUES:**

Sec-1 A regular monthly assessment of \$ \_\_\_\_ per member is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article III Sec-10 for the purpose of providing funds for expenses.

Sec-1 The regular monthly assessment shall be set by the membership each year during its first regular meeting.

Sec-2 Except as provided in section 1 hereof the assessment will be due on the third day of each month.

#### **Article VII STANDING COMMITTEES**

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- SOCIAL & PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE
- CONSELLING & FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE
- MEMBERSHIP & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
- COMMITTEE ON CONFLICT AND PEACE

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Sec-1 The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of OTSAOM. In the absence of the general membership, the executive committee shall supervise the coordination and functioning of the work of the standing committees of OTSAM.

Sec-2 On issues, which the executive is not bound by constitution or policy, the executive has the power to, act on behalf of OTSAM.

Sec-3 The executive shall have the authority:

- To alter any budget for which allocation was made by OTSAM.
- To allocate money to any new budget item
- To decide policy not inconsistent with any order or resolution of OTSAM.
- To appoint, remove and prescribe the duties and term of reference of committees, which are not provided in the constitution.

Appointment and removal of a committee member shall require a unanimous resolution of the Executive.

Sec-4 It shall be comprised of elected officers of the organization and shall meet to finalize agenda items, prepare programs, informational reports, and collaborate on the business of the organization.

Sec-5 The process for general decision-making (including the expenditure of funds shall be conducted by a simple majority of the membership in attendance at a scheduled executive meeting.

Sec-3 The Executive Committee may, with a majority vote, authorize expenditures of up to \$500 for routine operational expenses.

Sec-4 each member of the Executive Committee shall head one of the Standing Committees provided for in this constitution.

## **COMMITTEE ON CONFLICT AND PEACE.**

Sec-1 This committee shall consist of five members (appointed by the President of OTSAM).

Sec-2 The committee shall direct investigation, invite proper inquiries, establish technical facts and testimony and report its result to the organization for action.

## **Article VIII DISBURSEMENT OF ASSETS**

Sec1 Should the organization disband, the executive committee shall disburse the assets to the members based on the input of each to the overall expenses of the organization. Should no officers be available, the Moral Leader shall be authorized by at least 40% of OTSAM's membership to make the disbursement to all that hold full membership.

## **Article IX AMENDMENTS:**

Sec-1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership.

Sec-2 Proposal for amendment shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting, provided all members have been noticed by mail of the intent to amend the constitution at said meeting.

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

In our effort to demonstrate a sense of social responsibility to our community, OTSAM under this leadership team engaged a number of sports enthusiasts, specifically soccer teams, in several friendly soccer matches. While winning is the desired result of competitive engagements, our overriding motivation for participation in these outreach activities was driven largely by a sense of social responsibility to our community and to ultimately forge a camaraderie through soccer. Notwithstanding, this association experienced one unfortunate incident while on a visit to Madison, Wisconsin at the invitation of the Liberian Association of Madison. Some of the stands I had to take in my capacity as the reporting authority were never without the effect of turning friends away. This is the test of character and leadership. During our Madison engagement one year ago, emotions flared between two of our prominent members, Messrs Stanley Cooper and Tarnue Moryan. Our quest for resolution led to one of the parties to the conflict adopting a withdrawal posture, shrewdly precluding himself from participating fully in OTSAM's activities. Although, we have no report of a closure on that unfortunate event, the silence that followed since then is worthy of note. Thanks to Mr. Wilfred Harries, our moral leader who takes credit for that calm, although this administration received no formal report on what he did or did not do to resolve the impasse, I am pleased to know that Messrs Stanley Cooper and Tarnue Moryan are still with OTSAM. However, this leadership team is pleased that he accepted the responsibility to intervene when asked.

Thanks to Mr. Richard Yarl, President of the Liberian Association of Madison, Wisconsin whose generous invitation and hospitality made OTSAM not only known in Madison, but created the forum for friendship between individuals to be built and renewed through sports. I should also like to underscore our administration's gratitude for the kind honor LAM accorded your humble servant to serve as guest speaker during the evening program marking Liberia's independence. In our message, we admonished our compatriots to continue to develop capacities and be prepared to transform their assets into capitals that will advance nation building in our beloved Liberia.

In the Twin Cities, we played a number of friendly matches to observe home coming celebrations of Liberian high schools. While these friendly encounters helped to achieve our outreach goals thereby swelling our membership, it also increased the association's popularity and promoted friendship and renewed contacts. After our friendly encounter with the alumna of the Cathedral High School, during its home coming celebration in Minnesota, the number of participants at OTSAM's practices and activities increased considerably. Every time we met at these outreach activities, friendships were forged, existing ones strengthened and new connections made. Today, we have in our midst the growth of friendly enclaves that continue to strengthen our vibrancy as a premier seed laboratory for community building. I like to pay special tribute to key individuals who have played very pivotal roles towards these achievements: Stanley Cooper and his family, James Horrace, Joseph Sebru, Tarnue Moryan, Quiqui Sumo, Alfred Peter, Rayford Hayes, Wilfred Harris and scores of unnamed OTSAM members.

Far from the pomp and pageantry that sustain the friendships of these memorable activities, this administration remains grateful to the following members: Stanley Cooper, Charles Dean, and Osaka Wesseh who provided the needed outfits (jerseys) for OTSAM's friendly sports performances against community organizations. When this leadership team was encouraging each of you to find reason in the individualized jersey project, these distinguished members continuously provided sanitized jerseys for all of our outreach activities. I wish to personally recognize their contribution in this report and trust that their example will not only shame us, but also steer us towards developing the will to contribute our fair share towards collective endeavors.

But where there is joy, there you will also find sadness. During the period under review, OTSAM mourned the loss of the fathers of the Hayes and Mr. Charles Dean. While, we did not do much at the time, our show of a widow's might has oil the relationship between the bereaved and each one of you. Again, we wish to express sympathy to the bereaved. And, to the memory of their love ones, we pray that their souls are resting in perfect peace.

We were also saddened by the loss of some of our stalwart members who contributed time and resources to OTSAM organization. Particular mention should be made of J. Tarnue Moryan, the coach. Tarnue's devotion to duty and consciousness of time is a trademark that is deserving of our emulation. Whatever other consideration may have strained his membership in OTSAM, it is my hope that he will find the courage to resume contact and pick up from where he left off in OTSAM.

### Neighborhood Youth Development

This leadership team is pleased to salute the efforts of members Stanley J. W. Cooper, Sr. and Charles Dean for making our 2001 summer youth development program a success. These two men stand tall among us. Mr. Cooper wrote a youth program under my watch and along with Mr. Dean, they efficiently implemented it with no financial contribution from OTSAM, except the moral inducement from some of you and their own sense of social responsibility to our community. They used their time and resources to pull our youths out of their homes and engage their talents. As a direct result of their dual services to our community, our youths were organized into a winning team that came second in the celebrated Blaine International youth tournament of 2001. Sustained by the spirit of giving back to our community, members Stanley Cooper and Charles Dean again led our youth team to Atlanta, Georgia, where they participated in a locally organized tournament. These services are the very best test of leadership. And, it is in this vain that I salute the two distinguished members as first among equals. Their record of dedication is impeccable and laudable. They join the likes of Tarnue for emulation and discipline.



### Conclusion

My task ends here. Through your support, I have given you a constitution for governance; increase your popularity as far as the east coast and probably beyond; you are close to securing your first team jersey; you have built enclaves of friendships and support outside of your immediate families; a forum for contact and outside activities; and, the opportunity to learn from this experience will be yours for a long time. Just don't make this association a summer time affair as experience seems to suggest. Rather, you have the challenge to make it suffice for all seasons. Set achievable goals and evaluate the results on the strength of your contribution to that endeavor. This association has an opportunity for greatness in this community. But, it will not move beyond pettiness nor rise above the crab syndrome if you fail to contribute your fair share to its growth and progress. Two years after the founding of OTSAM, some of you are still sitting on the fence, not sure whether membership in this association is good for you. Others have even accepted constitutional responsibilities in OTSAM, while still holding back on their membership in the association. In order to be represented and your views heard, you too have got to be seen as a full fledge member just as the 14 individuals who complied with the membership requirements set forth in OTSAM's constitution. Good luck!

## DETAILS OF OTSAM FINANCIAL REPORT

### INCOME

#### Fourteen Registered Members of OTSAM

Registered Members	Fees \$25	Registered Members	Fees \$25
Rayford Hayes	25	Wilfred Harries	25
James S. Horace	25	Joseph Seley	25
Tarnue Moryan	25	Stanley Cooper	25
E. Quiqui Sumo	25	Joseph Ireland	25
Alfred Peters	20	George Harris	25
Horace Z. Gbanoe	25 check #1286	George Yuohy	25
Vincent Okonkwo	30 check # 4941; \$5 towards due		
Sando Wayne	25	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>

#### OTSAM Jersey Project \$50 per head

Contributing Members	Fees \$	Contributing Members	Fees \$
Joseph Seley	50	Joseph Sebru	50
Stanley Cooper	30		
Tarnue Moryan	50		
E. Quiqui Sumo	50		
Alphonso Bahn	50 in check #3269		
Charles Dean	50		
Sando Wayne	50		
Wilfred Harries	50	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>

**Contributors to Sip Night; Venue (Stanley Cooper's Residence**

Contributing Members	# pks	Sales
Noah Joseph	12	
Quiqui Sumo	12	
Clarence Yaskey	12	
Ivan Brown	12	
Sando Wayne	6	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$60.00</b>

**Social Committee's Report (Committee Chair Stanley Cooper )**

**Venue- Kwaku's Place-Brooklyn Park, MN**

Total Gate intake	\$640
Hall Rental Cost	285
DJ Service Cost	25
Unpaid Tickets	270
OTSAM NET-TAKE HOME	70

**EXPENDITURE**

Cost of Team Jersey \$1000.00

Total Payment Received by Charles Dean from OTSAM for Jersey \$765.00

Balance due before jersey is delivered \$235.00

Payment details to Charles Dean			
First Payment	Second Payment	Third Payment	Total
\$275	\$240.00	\$250.00	\$765