



### ***Back from Atlanta convention***

Just concluded Atlanta convention was a resounding success. The turnout was outstanding surpassing our collective expectations notwithstanding the fact that most of the people from Nigeria that expected to come could not due to visa problems.

We arrived at Atlanta on Thursday afternoon one day before the official gathering started. I was surprised to find that many other folks were early birds too. The following day saw arrivals at the hotel en masse. Every shuttle bus arrival from the airport brought more and more of Nibo folks to the hotel. For us the yearly reunion had begun.

#### **Day 1 (Friday):**

Robby Obiekwe chaperoned some of us to his house where we were treated to a delicious onugbu soup prepared by Mrs. Uzoamaka Obiekwe. We washed down the meal with California merlot.

On returning to the hotel, we found that Nibo indigenes and their families had almost overtaken the hotel. They were to be found at every one of the upper 6 floors of the hotel. The usual nickname salutations could be heard at every corner as our people ran into each other. Some had not seen each other for one year and for others many years had passed. We knew by the share numbers we saw on Friday night that something big was going to happen. The normal faithful crop of Nibo indigenes that you are bound to find in every conven-

tion were there (I will touch on this at a later issue) and then there were more. Some first timers and some who have been missing for some years were there also.

The afternoon was punctuated by a trip to Mrs. Helen (nee Ube) Akponyia. More treats were to follow as her family dined and wined us. With the evening looming, we cut short our visit to make our way back to the hotel for the convention plenary session at 9:00pm.

The Friday night meeting started as scheduled. We were blessed by the presence of our patrons Chief (Sir) Dr. Ralph Igwebuike (Ugo Nibo), Chief (Sir) Lawrence Ogbuefi (Okeazu), and Chief (Sir) Engr. Okoye (Mmili na ezulu ora) who traveled from Nigeria to be part of this convention. The night started with dinner and it was in the process we quickly came to the realization that attendance was under estimated. We have never had this many people in attendance for our Friday pre-convention meeting in the past. Our kudos to Nibo people for showing up in such large numbers. We got down to business after dinner provided by the Atlanta branch of our organization. Our provost Tony Anachebe (Ugochimalueze) and his assistant Linus Ebele provided comic relief while providing orderliness throughout the night. We watched a video presentation of the hospital project progress. Meeting ended around 1a.m.

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#### **Special points of interest:**

- Get to know our officers
- Recent graduations
- Have you fulfilled your pledges this Quarter?
- Next convention set for July 2012 in Washington DC metropolis
- Ever wondered about onyekulie? Read the feature article.
- Online payments now available

**Back from Atlanta continued**

**Day 2 (Saturday):**

We started with breakfast and then more items on the agenda were discussed.

Before our internal fund raising was initiated, the union presented appreciation plaques to donors from last year who had contributed at least \$1000. Fund raising session was punctuated by comic relief provided by the provost Tony Anachebe. Many people donated.

Then the evening saw culmination of the events. The gala night hall looked impressive. It looked like it was just the right size. Little did we know we were in for a surprise. It did not take long before it was overflowing with people. The hall ways were jam packed, sitting inside the hall was scarce despite having more than 350 seats at the onset.

Our children entertained the audience with a fashion show. The Atlanta traditional Etilogwu dance by the youths did not disappoint. Our very own Igba Enyi cultural dance troupe of Atlanta took the floor in what one can simply describe as spectacular performance. This was followed by the Nibo USA Women dance. I was proud to be from Nibo watching the pomp and gaiety. Nigerian music from the DJ was blaring throughout and everybody had a good time. We raised some funds for the hospital. The events were scheduled to end at 2:00AM but actually ended at 3:00AM. Many people wanted to continue the festivities, but hotel/city policy would not allow it. So the events ended at 3:00AM.

**Day 3 (Sunday):**

A day of byes for those who were departing on Sunday. The Anachebes welcomed all to their home for lunch at Tony's (Ugochimalueze) and then at Gilbert's (Udenweze) house. And dinner was at Chris Ogbuefi's (Chinemeaku) house. I regrettably missed dinner at (Chinemeaku) after returning too late from another family afternoon visit to Braselton. I heard that okporoko and isiewu overflowed there. I am still salivating. A brief stop over at Ben Nnadozie capped the night. We departed Atlanta the next day. Another convention had come to an end. Mission accomplished. We will be gathering next year, same time in Washington DC metropolis for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual convention. If you missed Atlanta, you missed a lot. Start now to prepare for next year. Support our efforts to finish the hospital project. You can still donate even though you missed out on the fun.

Sincere thanks to Ken Orji President Atlanta branch, Tony Anachebe, Gilbert Anachebe, Chris Ogbuefi, Ben Nnadozie, Robby Obiekwe and the whole Atlanta branch of Nibo union USA for the southern hospitality shown to all of us during this brief stay. Also our sincere gratitude to the national executives for their selfless efforts to our organization. Thanks to Nibo folks who attended.



Bosah Erike (Ikolo 1)

**Get to Know our officers: National President Godfrey Okechukwu Ezeigwe**

My name is **Godfrey Okechukwu Ezeigwe**, son of **Mr. & Mrs. Ben N. Ezeigwe**, from Umuakpom, Ezeawulu Nibo, Awka LGA. I was born in Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria. I attended Saint Stephens School from my kindergarten through elementary/primary school levels. I attended Agulu Boys High School (along with a good number of Nibo sons) and finished in 1974. Later in 1974, I attended Saint Augustines Grammar School, Nkwere and completed my Lower and Upper six levels in 1976, before leaving for the USA.



In September 1976, I moved to Portland, Oregon to attend college at the University of Portland. After my first year, I moved to Boston, MA in 1977 to attend the Northeastern University, Boston, MA, where I received my first college degree, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Management) in 1980. I also attended Bryant University where I received my Masters in Business Administration, including studies in Finance in 1982.

Since 1977, I have lived and worked in Boston, and moved to Brockton in 1990 to settle with my family. Throughout my life, I have sought the opportunities to serve in leadership positions: class Monitor during my first and second year in high school; school Labor Prefect during my senior year at Agulu Boys; Onyeabor house prefect during my Upper six at Saint Augustines School. In addition, I was elected to serve as the Second Vice Chair for the Brockton Democratic Party in 2001 & 2002, and First Vice Chair in 2003 & 2004; Treasurer for the Nigerian Christian Fellowship at Trinity Church, Boston from 2000-2007 and then Financial Secretary from 2007-2009.

As soon as my brother Mr. Bernard Ezeigwe (Ichie Akubuko) informed me of the Nibo Union USA, I became a registered member of the Union in 2000 during the 3rd annual convention in New York. Since then, I have been an active member of the Union. During the 2002 (5<sup>th</sup>) annual convention in Los Angeles, I was elected as the National Vice President, and continued to serve in that role for four years. In the spirit of helping the Union to move forward, my wife and I hosted the 2006 (9<sup>th</sup>) annual convention/[gala night & fund raising event](#) in Boston. In addition, during that 9<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Boston, I was re-elected as the National Vice President. Again, I continued to serve in that capacity for another four years until 2010. Subsequently, at our last annual convention in Los Angeles, I was elected to serve as the current National President for the Nibo Union USA.

I have been employed with the **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority**, a wholesaler of water and/or sewer services to 60 member communities since 1986. Employed as a **Financial Analyst**, and later promoted to Financial & Administrative Manager. In this role, I direct the development and management of the Executive and Support Services Divisions annual current and capital budgets of over \$15 million, including variance reporting, spending projections, and performance objectives. I manage the divisions' administrative activities and procedures, and assist the Executive Director with coordination activities, and planning processes related to organizational restructuring, staffing and efficiency improvements. I direct the implementation of all Authority policies and procedures relative to administrative and financial matters including personnel, affirmative action, budgeting, accounts payable and procurement. I am responsible for Coordinating the implementation of internal audit assignments and responses to audit findings resulting in numerous recommendations for improved productivity, cost savings and increased internal controls. I manage the production and reporting of the MWRA monthly Management Indicators report (Yellow Notebook) and Board of Directors quarterly report on Key MWRA Performance Indicators (Orange Notebook) for operational, financial, workforce and customer service parameters.

Prior to joining the MWRA, I worked as Sr. Money Market Operations Bookkeeper with Bank of New England, Inc. and managed the financial transactions for municipal bonds and financial futures of over \$10 million; produced daily transaction reports and confirmations to the bank traders and clients and trade reconciliations. In addition, I also worked as Research Assistant and processed international funds transfer transactions, including monitoring, researching and resolution of missing funds transferred to foreign banks.

I am married to my beautiful wife, **Anna** and we have two children, **Chizoba and Ndubisi**. We are currently residing in Brockton, MA. I love my surroundings to be peaceful; anything that will bring peace among others makes me happy. I enjoy music and dancing, traveling, swimming and most major sporting events.

**From the Desk of Financial Secretary:**

***YOUR MONEY.***

The recently concluded 2011 National convention of Nibo Union USA held in Atlanta Georgia from July 15-17 2011 raised over \$25,000.00 in donations and pledges, for the construction of Nibo Hospital. Nibo Union USA has contributed over \$250,000.00 towards this project.



This is Nibo Union USA money watch.

Sincerely Yours  
**Kene Erike**  
Financial Secretary.

- Have you fulfilled your pledges this Quarter?

**ONLINE PAYMENTS**

We have updated our website to make it easier to pay your dues or pledges online  
Make donations or pay your dues and pledges online securely via PayPal  
by clicking on **Donate**

Please visit our website at <http://www.nibousa.org>

**CHECK PAYMENTS**

Please make checks payable to: **Nibo Union USA, Inc.** and send to :

*Financial Secretary:*

or

*Treasurer:*

**Kene Erike**

**Christopher Ogbuefi**

**280 Prince Avenue**

**5253 Vinnings Spring Court**

**Freeport, NY 11520**

**Mableton, GA 30126**

**Feature Article: Onyekulie na Nibo**

The beginning of fear of **Onyekulie** in Nibo and environs used to be the beginning of wisdom. Now what is **Onyekulie**? Who knows? All I know is that it terrifies people who are having their beauty sleep by making sure all lights are out (**akpọọ fa mụ ọkụooo!!!!**). It discourages **ije abani**. It has an uncanny knowledge of happenings, gossips, rumors and stories in the town. **Onyekulie** must be supernatural because it knows things ordinary human beings do not know.

It knows who is eating **ọkụkọ or ewu** that they do not own and cannot afford. It knows which young girl is flitting from one young man to the other. It even knows married men or women who are visiting where they should not visit. It knows who has just committed abortion (**itekwe ime**) as soon as that happens. You see '**Onyekulie bụ agbara**' **ma ọbụrụ nwanyi Owere. Onyekulie bụ ndi mmọọ.**

Onyekulie has a senior brother whose name is **Ọsụlụ**. **Ọsụlụ** is the enforcement arm of **ndi mmọọ**. When somebody has done some very serious thing and needs to be punished **Ọsụlụ** swings into action. **Mmeegwegwe, mmeegwegwe Ọsụlụ asụba ngwongwo.** **Onyekulie** knows unknowable things. **Ọsụlụ** does undoable things. Nobody tells you that **Ọsụlụ sụlụ**. You see with your two eyes, the one you use to see **mmọọ na mmadụ**, that **Ọsụlụ** did something. **Ọsụlụ** will move immovable things. Logs, **ogwe nkwụ** and other heavy things move when **Osụlụ** shows up. Palm trees are magically torn apart by **Ọsụlụ**, even heaps of sand are moved. I have even heard it told that **Ọsụlụ** can move a house. I have not seen, but then I am not so old so maybe it happened when I was not born.

Now why did **ndi mmọọ** abandon us to the rot that is happening today? Why did **ndi mmọọ** leave us unprotected and we have kidnapers and armed robbers and their informants and collaborators within us. Why did **ndi mmọọ** stop using **Onyekulie** to keep us on the straight and narrow and **Ọsụlụ** to punish or enforce when the need arose.

**Oyibo**. It is not **Oyibo nke enugo** or **Oyibo nke be onyedili** or **Oyibo nke nwunye di anyi**. It is **Oyibo** from **ufesi**. The one that brought "civilization", guns, Christianity etc.

**Oyibo** brought a lot of things good and bad. We seem to have imbibed mostly the bad. Where we imbibed the good we watered it down to suit us like we did with Christianity. The bulk of the Christians will go to church on Sunday and to **alusi** from Monday to Saturday. We became "**Ụsụ**" the bat. We do not fly and we do not walk on the ground. We kind of, sort of, do all of them. The Christian will hold the Bible in one hand and be stealing with the other. The **ogo mmọọ** will swear falsely not believing that anything will happen to him anymore. In days past if he swears falsely the **alusi** will follow him. In the days gone by the Christian will be struck dead when he tells lies in the face of God, like the husband and wife who falsely declared their tithes and died instantly. We are not standing firmly with the Christian God and we also pay lip service to our own local deities. That is why. That is the answer to **ndi mọọ** abandoning us to our own fate.

**Feature Article: Onyekulie na Nibo**

Ọsụlụ and Onyekulie are more or less retired. By the way somebody says that Onyekulie now has blackberry. You see there is hope. Maybe something good will come out of it. So what do we do? Do we fully try to rely on the Christian God? If we are truly relying on him don't we think that he will be able to institute his own Onyekulie and Ọsụlụ to guide and protect us? This he can do in his own way through his church, priests, individuals, the police, the government of the town (Nibo Union) even those with blackberry, red berry etc etc. Not every Nibo person wants to go the Christian way and that is their choice. Whichever way they go it should be remembered that there is a minimum level of decency and truthfulness that is expected from every citizen.

In those days if the head of a household saw somebody eating a chicken or goat that does not belong to the family he did something about it. He woke up early in the morning and shouted at the top of his voice that somebody is eating something that does not belong to them and that he and his family are not part of it. Nke onye butelu nya budo sọ ya. He is on his own, we do not and will not partake of his loot. I invite people to call their parents, uncles and aunties to confirm this. **But now they will ask him if there is more so that he can go back another day.** A public servant who has not built a house or bought a "Jeep" which his normal salary cannot buy is scorned.

We should have **Onyekulie** that will ask people how they bought a car worth N7,000,000 when their annual salary is N700,000 and they have children in school and other such expenditure. We should have **Onyekulie** that will alert us about the young unemployed man who is lavishing thousands on women and ask them if it is their share of kidnap ransom. The young man who is a petty trader or an unemployed graduate who suddenly brings home a car and parks should tell **Onyekulie** how he bought the car. **If he doesn't or can't may be ndi mmọọ will send Ọsụlụ ka fa jee sụọ ngwo ngwo na be nnia.**

**Mme mme.**

**Nwoye Nwoye Ọkpụnụ OO**

**Nwoye Nwoye Ọkpụnụ OO**

**Nwoye bia guba egwu OO**

**Nwoye bia gbaba egwu OO**

**Nwoye bia kwebe egwu OO**

**Agbisi gbaa ọrụ ọkụja OO**

**Agbisi gbaa ọrụ ọkụja OO**

**Ejike Kalajine Anigbogu**

(Agbiligba na Nibo)



**News from Tri-state branch**

Nibo's forum spiritual leader Apostle Onyechi Daniel and his wife of Elohim Powerhouse ministry were in tri-state area and was hosted by Okwy Obealor and his wife at their home in Westchester NY recently. Some members joined the Obealor family and Apostle Daniel and his wife for an evening of food, drinks and reminiscing. The night ended with prayers.



Standing from left to right: John Erike, Mrs. Amuche Nwobu, Cyril Nwobu, Bosah Erike, Kene Erike, Gordie Nwobu, Okwy Obealor and Mrs. Rose Obealor.

Sitting: Apostle and Mrs. Onyechi Daniel

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Nibo Union USA Convention and Gala: Celebration, Pageantry and Path Forward.**

Let me begin by giving kudos to our wives, brothers and sisters in Atlanta Georgia for putting on a big show for us. It is exhilarating that it lived up to the original aspiration of the organization which was to create a forum for Nibo people to get together once a year for a family reunion among other objectives. Thanks to Almighty God because it is gradually becoming a reunion of Nibo people all over the world. I will like to express my personal gratitude to Chief (Sir) Dr. Igwebuike (Ugo Nibo), Chief (Sir) Lawrence Ogbuefi (Okeazu Nibo), Chief (Sir) Engr. Christian Okoye (Mmili na ezolu ora Nibo) These eminent Nibo personalities have been in the forefront of making Nibo Union USA what it has become. It is equally fulfilling that personalities like Barrister Chukwunke Ebele (Aku tigbuo), Mr. Mark Ukeche (Ezeoke) from Abuja and our sister Mrs Comfort Ubosi were in attendance. The promotion of her book in Igbo language was a major highlight of the convention. The book signing by our brother Dr. Robins Ezenezi was noteworthy too. It was also in the spirit of the family and therefore praiseworthy that General Arize Ebenebe's family was represented by his beautiful wife Mrs Sylvia Ebenebe.

As we congratulate ourselves for the job well done, we should continue to learn and improve. For example, we should learn from the shock we experienced on Friday night of the convention and ensure that we are not taken unawares in Washington DC metropolis. Analysis of the attendance record of our convention in recent years will show that the surge we experienced in Tri-States in 2009 has continued and climaxed in the Atlanta convention. Hence, barring extraordinary circumstances, we should expect that surge to continue and should therefore plan for it especially on Friday nights. To that end, the National executive must be involved to ensure that adequate provisions are made. As I have said in the past, Nibo Union USA yearly convention is a unique reunion and a celebratory event that we must devote the resources necessary to reflect and achieve that objective. As most of you may agree with me, our kids are getting use to the annual celebration and we can not afford to disappoint them nor our brothers and sisters who come from all corners of the globe. For Washington and subsequent conventions, it may be necessary to inform our people to plan for the Sunday after the convention because, that is when we have the time to unwind, felicitate, build and re-establish acquaintances. It is also when elaborate entertainments are provided. Members of Nibo Union USA should be advised not to plan other events or entertainment at the same time so that most convention attendees will meet at one place to conclude the re-union.

Few days ago, a friend and a ex-chairman of Abatete Union USA called to ask me about the Atlanta convention and also inquire how we have been able to succeed and thrive where others have failed. I gave him some ideas based on our experiences but again, when I reflected on where we are as an organization, it is easy to see that The Good Lord Has blessed our efforts and granted us His mercy. On that note, I wish to salute all the members of Nibo Union USA for their achievements and camaraderie; but we should not loose sight of the keys to our success – peace, love, duty, respect for each other and the desire to make a difference. **Please, let's continue to show the light.**

**Nibo Crisis**

While we celebrate our Nibo citizenship in USA, it is disheartening to read about the crisis and social disorganization at home. Even though some prominent sons and daughters of Nibo have discussed the issues and offered solutions in the forum, yet, the crisis seem to be multiplying by the day and there is no coordinated effort to bring a permanent and lasting peace to the town. As I have written before in the forum, we can build ten hospitals, Civic or administrative centers and all forms of road network; however, these facilities will not be put to their optimal use if there is no peace in the town. It will be reckless and counterproductive to wait it out and eventually realize that we have created a huge divide that will be difficult to fix. Nibo Unions all over the world must think seriously where we are heading and determine if that is to the best interest of the town.

May The Lord continue to bless and guide Nibo Union USA!

May The Lord continue to bless and guide Nibo town and her servants!

**Sir Charlie Chiedu (KSC)**





**Graduations**

**Dr. Chinwe Erike** is the daughter of **John and Tracy Erike** of the tri-state branch of our organization. Dr. Chinwe graduated from State University of New York , School of Medicine and has just completed her fifth year of triple residency at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio.

Dr. Chinwe's residency was in **Psychiatry, Child Psychiatry and Pediatrics**. She will begin her medical practice in Connecticut soon.

Please extend your congratulations to Chinwe and her proud parents who also had another daughter **Chioma Erike** graduate from Buffalo State College with a bachelors degree in childhood education.



**Chinedu Temple Uchegbune**

Graduated from Columbia University Law School in New York in May 2011

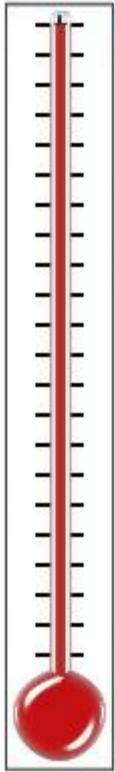
Chinedu hails from Ezeoye, Nibo

Building

Hospital Building Progress



Our **modern 40-bed hospital** building is now completed. Landscape work still remains. The next phase is to equip the hospital.

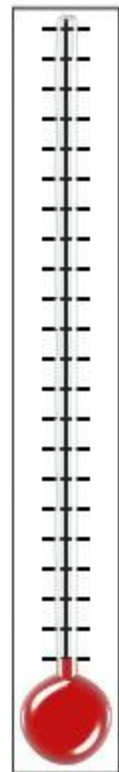


“Landscape will complete the building phase. Next phase is equipping the hospital”



Equipment

Some beds in the maternity section are in place



**Upcoming Events**

**National conference call scheduled for 9:00PM Eastern Time August 19th, 2011**  
**Agenda: Discussion about chaotic events at home. Please call in on time. TRhis is an im-  
 portant meeting**

**Atlanta Branch**  
 No announced events

**Houston Branch and Dallas/Austin Branch**  
  
 We are pleased to welcome the newly formed branches of the organization in Houston and Dallas/Austin.

**California Branch**  
 No announced events

**Tri-State (NY/NJ/CONN) Branch**  
 No announced events

**Chicago Branch**  
 . No announced events

**Washington DC**  
 Convention planning started.  
 Details will follow in the future

**Our Officers**

**National Executives:**

Ezeigwe, Godfrey O.	<i>President</i>
Orji, Kenneth	<i>Vice President</i>
Nwankwo, Chukwuka	<i>Secretary</i>
Ekwenugo, Gozie	<i>Asst. Secretary</i>
Nwobu, Godwin	<i>Publicity Secretary</i>
Okeke, Okwudili	<i>Asst.Publicity Secretary</i>
Erike, Kene	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Ogbuefi, Chris C.	<i>Treasurer</i>
Anachebe, Tony	<i>Provost</i>
Ebele, Linus E.	<i>Asst. Provost</i>
Nwankwo, Chukwuka	<i>Information Technology</i>

**Branch Chairmen/Presidents:**

Orji, Kenneth	<i>Atlanta</i>
Anigbogu, Kalajine	<i>Chicago</i>
Erike, Bosah	<i>NY/NJ/Conn (Tri-state)</i>
Onyilofor, Anene Phd.	<i>Washington DC</i>
Nwene, Barry	<i>California</i>
Ifeagwu, Chris	<i>Houston, Texas</i>
Ekwenugo, Tony	<i>Dallas/Austin, Texas</i>

**Other Committee Chairs:**

Nkenke, Ngozi Phd.	<i>New York</i>
Obiekwe, Michael MD	<i>Atlanta</i>
Ogbuefi, Chizoba	<i>Chicago</i>
Okafor, Chika	<i>Chicago</i>

**Wedding  
Announcement**



**Onyeka Nwobu and Chioma Eze**  
On **August 20, 2011** in Bridgewater, New Jersey

**Baby  
Shower**

Ada Nibo; **Uju Okeke**, Nibo Los Angeles Chapter Secretary is expecting a baby.

A baby shower was held on August 6th 2011 in Los Angeles.

Join us in wishing her a safe baby delivery in the next few weeks.

**New features**

*Upload and pay for convention advertisements online*

*Donate Online using PayPal*

*Picture gallery of projects and conventions*

**Our new website**

**[www.NiboUSA.org](http://www.NiboUSA.org)**

*Project updates*

*(Coming soon)*

*Video casting of projects*

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To submit a story, please send an email with subject line "NiboUSA Monthly"  
to:

[berike@optonline.net](mailto:berike@optonline.net)

