

**Post Convention Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 31, 1995
Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center**

1. Call to Order -- Chair H.T. Guerrero called the meeting to order at 3:50 pm
2. Ascertain Quorum -- Quorum was ascertained with all members present, in addition to Del. Bennet T. Seman.
3. Approval of 8/24/95 Minutes -- minutes was adopted unanimously without changes.
4. Reports
 - a. Press Conference -- trying every effort to reach the public however way it can, the post convention committee held a 10:00 am press conference on Tuesday, 8/23/95 at our weekly meeting venue with majority members present. Apparently, it was successful as members felt they succinctly expressed the committee's overall goals and objectives for its public education program with the media present.
 - b. Approval and Reprogramming of \$150,000 -- much to the anxiety of the members, they were all grateful for the allotment of the much needed \$150,000 from the Governor for the post convention's work.
5. Old Business
 - a. Senate Action on Special Election's Bill -- apparently in the afternoon on the same day the press conference was held, Chair Guerrero and Vice Chair Fleming were able to be at the afternoon Senate session to lobby for and intently listen to the special elections bill. According to them, Senators Esteven King, Fusebio Hocog and Ricardo Atalig were all supporting the special elections bill. Chair mentioned that Sen. Jesus Sablan was a little unsure of where his support is. Sen. Thomas Villagomez was off-island. Evidently, there was a move by Sen. Paul Manglo'na of Rota (with advise and consent of Senate counsel Steve Woodruff) to extract only the provisions dealing with "Local Government," "Legislative Branch" and "Executive Branch" from the entire amendment package to be tossed to the public for balloting in the upcoming November mid-year elections. Senate counsel Woodruff incidentally advised that (1) the legislature has the prerogative to decide how amendments are to be packaged due to the fact that the Third Constitutional Convention did not set any directions and (2) absent this direction from the "Convention" there is the potential for litigation, hence, the Courts should come in should it be deemed necessary.

Post Convention Committee members were flabbergasted by such a move contending that for the Senate to think they have the prerogative to decide how amendments are to be presented for balloting is overstepping into the statutorily mandated duty of the Post Convention. The senate's duty is to pass legislation, along with the House, to allow for a special elections of the amendments. Simply, the packaging of the amendments for balloting is the duty of the Post Convention, not the legislature's.

b. Approach to public education program -- discussion followed on ways to educate the public. Among the options were (1) to ask the assistance of the PTA and cluster schools to coordinate in gathering residents for public hearings; (2) to create a very simplified leaflet version (much like JQ's which he disseminated to his constituents after the convention proper ended) highlighting every proposed amendment in all three languages for easy comprehension and distribution to lay people, high school students of voting age, parents, etc.; (3) to focus on educating the lay people much more than the educated since the educated will definitely understand a more simplified public education program; (4) word of mouth to those we meet socially and who are interested in learning about the amendments.

c. Status of Carolinian translation -- apparently, the Carolinian version of the proposed constitutional amendments have yet to be completed and returned to the post convention. VChair Fleming volunteered to consult with Mr. Cris Kaipat about the status of his translation. Del. Nogis recommended that in light of the time constraints Mr. Jesus Elameto of the Carolinian Affairs Office be tasked of translating the amendments in Carolinian since his office has been receiving calls regarding it.

6. New Business

I. Attachments (see attached)

a. Howard and Deanne's 8/30 Memorandum on Article-by-Article packaging for balloting were distributed to the members.

b. Howard and Deanne's 8/26 Memorandum on important points to remember in our public education program efforts were distributed to the members.

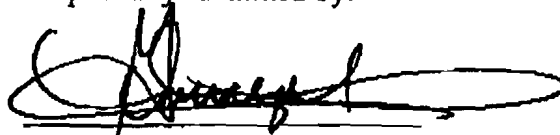
c. Press Release of 8/29 on Council of Indigenous Affairs for Frank Rosario to disseminate to the media were also distributed to the members.

7. Announcements

a. Chair Guerrero announced he will finally be off-island as he wasted no time to happily notify the members of his long-awaited overdue time away from the island.

- b. Third Convention Committee Chairs and Post Convention Vice Chair will be attending the Regular Monthly Membership Meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, 9/6/95.
- c. Printed book copies of only the proposed constitutional amendments (not the analysis) were distributed to members for redistribution to groups and/or individuals as part of our public education efforts.
8. Adjournment – there being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Oliver DLR. Gonzales", written over a horizontal line.

Sec. John Oliver DLR. Gonzales
(9/1/95)

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FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

No. of pages (including cover page) 1

TO: Herman T. Guerrero *H.T.G.*
Chair, Post-Convention Committee
Third Constitutional Convention

Tel: 670/235-0843

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FROM: Deanne Siemer

MESSAGE:

Herman:

Here's a start on the justification for putting the amendments on the ballot on an article-by-article basis. We are working on a legal memo collecting all the authorities from the various states. The state of the law looks quite good, particularly in California.

Thanks for the help on the airline tickets.

Deanne

*Recvd 8/31/95
H.T.G.*