

POST CONVENTION COMMITTEE
Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 19, 1995

The Post Convention Committee met on Tuesday, September 19, 1995, at the Post Convention Office, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center, Saipan.

Chairman Herman T. Guerrero presided. Post Convention Committee members present were E. Fleming, T. Aldan, and F. Nogis. Also present was B. Seman, Counsels Willens and Siemer. Absent were D. Maratita, J. Gonzales, and J. Quitugua and were excused.

Having established a quorum, Chairman Guerrero called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 7th was again suspended. Secretary Gonzales was unable to submit the minutes for its adoption due to death in the family. The minutes for the September 14th meeting was adopted.

REPORTS

Chairman Guerrero presented his draft response to Senator Paul Manglona's letter of September 7th. The Committee reviewed the letter and requested the Chairman to send his response to Senator Manglona as soon as possible.

The Chairman also presented a letter he has written to the President of the Northern Marianas College with regard to utilizing their educational resource center for media presentation.

Ms. Fleming reported to the Chair what had happened while he was gone and re-emphasized what were contained in the minutes of the September 14th meeting. At the same time, she reported that she has met again with the Carolinian and Chamorro translators and that they are moving ahead with the translations and hopefully, the Committee may received the final product in the not too distant future.

Counsel Siemer inquired if the translators can be submitting whatever they have finalized on the translation to the Committee in order for the Committee to begin reviewing the translations. F. Nogis has offered to assist Ms. Fleming with the Carolinian translators.

Ms. Fleming also reported to the Chairman that both the Chamorro and Carolinian translators may have to be compensated for their work since the Language Commission is taking longer than it should to translate the Chamorro version and Mr. Cris Kaipat has not submitted the Carolinian version to the office. Having discussed this matter, it was agreed that the translators would be paid and that it should be coordinated with one person per group -- the Carolinian translators will be headed by Mr. Jesus Elameto and the Chamorro translators will be under the supervision of Dr. Rita Inos.

Counsel Willens inquired about the form letters to offices and organizations. The matter was discussed at length. There was mentioned about the Vice Chair's letter to the Governor and counsels responded that they will be meeting with the Governor in the morning and will follow up on the matter.

With regard to sending the form letters to big companies and organizations, it was agreed that such would be limited to probably Duty Free Shoppers, Joeten Enterprises and other big businesses that employ majority of local people. Otherwise, this audience would have to participate at the village meetings to be scheduled.

Discussion also focused on how to address government employees. It was agreed that, upon concurrence with the Governor, government offices and agencies would be divided into three sections. Government offices and agencies on the southern and central sections of the island would meet with Post Con members at the Joeten Kiyu Library. Lower Base and northern section offices will meet at the Public Works compound, and Navy Hill and

Capitol Hill offices will meet at the Convention Center. It was also agreed that the meetings will be conducted three times a week -- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and there should be two sessions per day, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It was also agreed that there should be a contact person from the government with regard to scheduling these meetings and once the schedule is finalized, it is distributed to the offices so that each office can schedule and plan, in advance, how to divide its employees for these meetings. There was also consensus that should some employees missed their designated meeting schedule, they are more than welcome to participate at other meetings scheduled for government employees.

For village meetings, it was agreed that Tuesdays thru Thursdays of the week will be utilized for village meetings and the meeting time is 7:00 p.m. Designated areas for these village meetings were the schools for each village -- G.T. Camacho Elementary for San Roque and As Matus residents; Tanapag Elementary for Tanapag, Achugao, As Mahetog and surrounding areas; Garapan Elementary for Garapan, Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Navy Hill and surrounding areas; Oleai Elementary for San Jose Village and other areas in that vicinity; W.S. Reyes Elementary for Susupe, Chalan Kanoa Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4, As Perdido, and part of Chalan Piao; San Antonio Elementary will cover southern Chalan Piao, San Antonio Village and Afetna; Koblerville Elementary will cover Koblerville residents, southern As Lito and airport area; San Vicente Elementary will cover San Vicente Village, Dandan area, Fina Sisu and other surrounding areas; and, Kagman residents will join with Capitol Hill residents and other surrounding areas at the Convention Center. Ms. Fleming and Post Con staffer Ms. Guerrero have been requested by the Committee to work on the schedule and to coordinate with the appropriate people at the schools for these meetings.

It was also agreed that once the schedule is finalized, flyers will be prepared and distributed to the schools so that the students can take them home for their parents.

There was also discussion on the "President's Page" with the Tribune and somehow there was a misunderstanding with the Tribune staffers. It was decided that the Chairman will get in touch with the Publisher of the Tribune regarding his column. At the same time, it was agreed that counsels will meet with the Marianas Variety staff and see if a column can be provided to the Committee in order to address the amendments in their paper.

Chairman Guerrero informed the members that he wrote a letter to all the media on island with regards to coverage of the amendments and will follow up on that letter. Counsel Willens pointed out about the coverage on MCV and inquired whether someone could be assigned to work with Saipan Cable to provide the Committee the same coverage as that with MCV. Ms. Guerrero was asked to look into the matter. Coverage on the radio stations will also be looked into.

The Committee also felt that it is important to have presentation on Tinian and Rota and the dates and times will be announced later.

NEW BUSINESS

Counsels Willens and Siemer reported on their meeting with Board of Election Executive Director and Counsel. Ms. Siemer presented to the Committee a sample ballot which was discussed at their meeting. At the same time she also presented a ballot information booklet, in a draft form, that may be made available on election day for the voters use.

Both counsels requested that the sample ballot on the amendments be reviewed and at the same time copies be provided to the translators of the two languages so that they can begin work immediately and have the translated copies available no later than Monday afternoon since the Board of Elections has requested that the sample ballot be submitted to them no later than Tuesday, September 26th. Ms. Guerrero was directed to make copies of the sample ballot and transmit immediately to Mr. Elameto and Dr. Inos.

Ms. Siemer also reported that there is a problem with the Board of Elections due to lack of quorum. Currently, there are only three members, while four others are awaiting Senate confirmation. Chairman Guerrero said he will look into the matter.

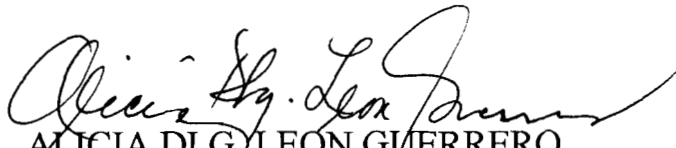
Ms. Siemer also presented to the Committee sample of newspaper inserts dealing on each amendment to the Articles in the Constitution. Discussion focused on the number of copies to be made and in what newspaper should the inserts be included. It was agreed that the Marianas Variety, Tribune and the North Star (Church bulletin) will be utilized for the inserts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Guerrero announced that the Committee will meet again on Thursday at 4:00 p.m., and directed the staff to contact as many delegates as possible for the Thursday meeting. He also mentioned that for the village and the government employees' meetings, he would like to encourage other delegates to join in this public education campaign.

There being no other further matters before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


ALICIA DLG LEON GUERRERO
Recording Secretary