



FoSL President

Usually at this time of year I am either participating in or coming back from our annual meeting. This year's meeting wasn't held and instead those who could gathered in Alexandria, Virginia to honor and say goodbye to Ambassador and Mrs. Bockarie Stevens. We also recognized Nadia Bangura, secretary to the Ambassador. It was a delightful evening, marred only by what was apparently the worst traffic jam in Alexandria's history. Several members were unable to reach the venue. For those who did, it was a very nice event. We will miss Ambassador Stevens greatly and we wish him well.

I have been able to visit Sierra Leone several times over the past year. Some things improved such as more consistent power. Some things seemed worse to me such as less available water. And some things didn't change at all such as traffic. Perhaps the greatest improvements were the airport's physical facilities and the arrival/departure procedures.

Friends of Sierra Leone has been fortunate in that so many of our members are generous. We funded more projects this year than we have in the last several years. If you were one of our donors, no matter how much you shared, thank you very much! Later this year, some of our members will visit Salone and travel to some of our past projects to see how they are faring.

Next year's annual meeting is in the initial planning stages. At this time, we are seriously considering a return to Sapelo Island - a barrier island off the coast of Georgia that has a rich history connecting it to Sierra Leone. If this is the chosen venue, I encourage you to commit early to participating as space is limited. If you would like to host an annual meeting or you have a suggestion where we should meet, please let me know. We are open to new places and assistance in putting a meeting together.

Finally, we will be holding Board elections for many positions early

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next year. If you are interested in a position, watch the listserv for important information. If you aren't interested in running for a position, please participate in voting! We need your vote!

Our next newsletter will be the December edition which is a printed edition. If you would like to submit an article, please do so.

Annual Meeting and Dinner with the Ambassador

The 2018 Friends of Sierra Leone Annual Meeting was a little different from other years when we met on Wednesday, June 20th. We hosted a dinner for Sierra Leone Ambassador Stevens, his wife, Musu, and Nadia, the Ambassador's Secretary and a valued staff member at the Sierra Leone Embassy. The Ambassador's time at the Embassy has come to an end and we wanted to be sure to thank him for all he has done to build relationships with Friends of Sierra Leone through the years.

Ambassador Stevens is highly regarded in the Sierra Leonean Diaspora Community in the United States. He is known as the Peoples Ambassador. In recent history, he is the only Ambassador that embraced the Diaspora Community by gracing Sierra Leonean events and meetings in search of cohesiveness and Community Outreach.



Ambassador Bockari Stevens

We have held countless meetings at the Sierra Leone Embassy for board retreats and Annual Meetings. Our being able to do this has saved us a lot of money we would have had to spend on meeting sites. Musu even cooked cassava leaf for us at one of our meetings.

A number of FoSL members were present at Chart House Restaurant in Alexandria, VA for the dinner. It is a beautiful restaurant right on the Potomac River. We would have had even more in attendance but there was a terrible accident in the area and many of the roads leading to Alexandria were blocked. We were very sorry they could not make it that evening.

After delicious appetizers and an equally good meal, we listened to some speeches by Peggy, Aiah, Anthony and then the Ambassador talking about our experiences through the years. Ambassador Stevens expressed his gratitude for the meal AND for a very long working relationship with FoSL. We all agreed that we have been very fortunate to have this strong relationship between the Sierra Leone Embassy and Friends of Sierra Leone.



Ambassador Stevens, Peggy Murrah



Anthony McMillon speaking



Aiah expressing his thanks and appreciation



Carl and Margarita Munana



**Aiah Fanday greeting
Wendy Diliberti and Nadia**

Letter from Ambassador Stevens

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
1701 19TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009



TELEPHONE: 202-939-9261/2/3/5
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June 22nd, 2018

Peggy Murrah
President
Friends of Sierra Leone

Dear Peggy,

Musu and I would like to sincerely thank you and members of the Friends of Sierra Leone (FOSL) for organizing the Dinner to honor us on June 20th, 2018. You gave us an opportunity to meet and say farewell to the people we worked with during my tenure of office. This was clearly a reflection of the love and devotion FOSL has for Sierra Leone.

I was thrilled and appreciative to see guests that attended the dinner, both local and out of state.

As I bid farewell to you all, I hope and pray that the love and dedication of FOSL towards the people of our beloved country will not fade away. Working with you was a real joy and I believe that the same support we received from you will be extended to the incoming Ambassador.

On behalf of myself and spouse, Mrs. Musu Stevens, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bockari Kortu Stevens'. The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Bockari Kortu Stevens

Projects Report

by Jim Hanson

Six projects were approved for funding by the Board of Directors at their June monthly meeting. They are:

1. Street Child Foundation \$3000

Street Child has been on the ground assisting victims of the Freetown mudslide since Day One. This grant will fund the third phase of their program, offering training and small business loans to 35 victimized families.

2. Conscience International \$2928

This grant for the Kabasa Community in Kambia District will fund a community library with solar lighting to enable the community's students to study at night.

3. Rogbin Community Based Organization \$2860

This community in the Karene District will use these funds to expand their health clinic, adding three overnight rooms and an office, and install solar lighting for nighttime care.

4. Ebert Kakua School for the Deaf \$2000

This school in Bo will use their grant for a solar lighting system for nighttime study and evening activities at the school.

5. Kono District Global Organization \$2000

KDGO plans to install a well and pump to supply water to over 600 students at the Titambaya Primary School in Gbense Chiefdom.

6. Mama Bainda Women's Development Association \$1426

This group of widows and single mothers is located in the Mattru area of Bo District. The money will provide tools and seeds for them to increase their production of vegetables to sell in the local markets.

One more project was approved for funding at the July Board meeting:

Sierra Environmental Education Foundation \$3000

This group's mission is to construct safe and sanitary latrines at 10 primary and secondary schools in Port Loko.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our projects committee team for recommending these worthy projects from an especially large group of applications. With these projects, the total amount granted to projects in Sierra Leone so far in 2018 is over \$17,000. And, that would not be possible without the continuing support of you, our members. Thank you all for your generosity.

Jim Hanson

Projects Committee Chair

REHABILITATION OF DOMESTIC COMMUNITY WATER WELLS

KISSY YOUTH IN ACTION REPORT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kissy Youth in Action is a youth oriented action group, initiated to support Community Development project in the Kissy Community, Western Area in the Capital City of the Municipality of Freetown. These development projects includes; waste management, water and sanitation, raise community awareness on civil, social, economic and political rights, education, youths in drug addiction and youth violence.

The Kissy Youth in Action requested funding support from the Friends of Sierra Leone to rehabilitate five Community local wells used for household domestic purposes within the Kissy locality. The envisage rehabilitation work was to construct an apron, head wall, affix a cross bar with a pulley to safely fetch water from the well and a cover slab to ensure safety and to reduce the pollution rate from surface running waters and dumping of all kinds of solid materials. The funding was used to purchase materials such as, cement, iron rods, sand and stone, iron bars, drawing buckets and pulleys.

However, the cost of materials at the time the fund was sent escalated beyond our control, as a results the funds was only able to target three water wells, and there were unforeseen circumstances that were not part of the budget, and this has to do with re-digging of those wells to deepen their depths. for sustainable year round water supply. As a result, the service of a digger was hired for all three water wells.

Two of those wells were concreted with 2 meters heights to avoid caving or collapse in the mire future. These unforeseen circumstances limited the fixing of a pulley and a cross bar. Therefore the construction only concentrated in deepening the wells, inner concreting, construction of head walls and cover. It is the intention of KIYA to source additional support to fix the cross bars and pulley.

Below is a showcase of the constructed water wells in a pictorial form.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provide safe and clean water for 500 families for domestic use in the Kissy community

Provide safe and protected water wells in the Kissy Community

3. CONCLUSION

We want to thank the Friends of Sierra Leone for this support and hope to continue the relationship to rehabilitate more of this community water wells, we underrated the request made, that is the cost was not sufficient to accomplish the work as you can see.

Submitted by Michael Gbapie, Chairman, Kissy Youth in Action.



Kissy Water Wells

FoSL Membership Report

The current FoSL membership count is 125 active members with 1009 members in total. A big thank you to Jamie for updating the membership database. It is working beautifully.

Hannah Siebold, RPCV 2010-2012, has joined the Membership Committee and is working on maintaining the database and increasing outreach. We are

searching for a person to produce the FoSL newsletter. This would include preparing a layout and editing content.

Our FoSL Facebook page has a total of 905 likes and 899 followers. We feel that increasing our activity on a variety of social media platforms will facilitate the recruitment of new members as well retain current members.

Shriver Award Winner

Arlene Golembiewski

We are proud to announce that the 2018 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service will go to Arlene Golembiewski (RPCV Sierra Leone 1974-1976) in recognition of her tireless efforts to help lift people from poverty to self-reliance through education and economic empowerment. NPCA will present the award during the annual [Peace Corps Connect](#) conference, August 23-25, 2018 in Shawnee, Pennsylvania.

Upon hearing the news Arlene expressed, "I felt so honored to hear I've been chosen for the Shriver Humanitarian Award. My Peace Corps service taught me I could make a positive change in the world through public service. This award really belongs to our Sierra Leone community partners. It's their leadership, creative programs and tireless work that have changed the lives of so many. I'm proud to have empowered them."

After retiring from Procter & Gamble as Associate Director of Global Health, Safety and Environment, Arlene returned to Sierra Leone in 2011 and rural Bumpah Chiefdom where she had been a Peace Corps teacher from 1974 to 1976. Still a poverty-stricken area today, the Chiefdom consists of 208 villages with a population of 40,000. Most live on less than \$1 per day from subsistence farming. 70% of its



people are illiterate, 70-80% of its teens cannot afford to attend school, there is no electricity or running water and travel on unimproved roads is difficult. On that return trip, Arlene connected with the now Paramount Chief with whom she once taught school. From asking how she could help, a scholarship fund for girls began. In her next two visits, Arlene and Paramount Chief Charles Caulker developed plans for a partnership to add adult literacy classes, computer training and an orchard growing program. By March 2013, Arlene founded Sherbro Foundation Sierra Leone (SFSL), a non-profit NGO whose mission is to help Sierra Leone move from poverty to self-reliance through education and economic empowerment. SFSL follows the Peace Corps model of working with grassroots organizations on community-led development that empowers them to meet needs they identify with resources they have.

Arlene serves as SFSL's volunteer Executive Director and has recruited an all-volunteer staff to support her. SFSL's local partner in Bumpah Chiefdom is the Center

for Community Empowerment & Transformation (CCET-SL). Living in the chiefdom and led by Paramount Chief Charles Caulker, CCET-SL members initiate and manage development programs for the Chiefdom. With SFSL consulting and initial funding, CCET-SL works with chiefdom leaders and local people to introduce programs with strong ownership. This ensures that locals participate, projects are viable and results are quickly produced. Programs have attracted more funding.

In five years, Arlene helped develop CCET-SL's organizational capacity for seven programs, directly improving the lives of over 8,000 people. These programs are already locally recognized as models of community-led development for reapplication by others. The scholarship program has helped more than 600 girls with more than 1250 awards and just



gave the first college scholarship. SFSL's website is www.sherbrofoundation.org.

Arlene also serves on the board of Cincinnati's East End Adult Education Center and the board of the Hillside Trust, a local land conservation and advisory group working to preserve the scenic hillsides of Cincinnati and N. Kentucky, many subject to landslides.



Check the date on email subject. Is it time to renew? If there is no date, or if the date is some time in the past, it's time to renew! Fill out and mail the form below with your check.

**Or renew through our website:
<http://fosalone.org/mbrs.php>**

FRIENDS OF SIERRA LEONE MEMBERSHIP FORM	
Name (include maiden) _____	FoSL needs your participation. Circle your areas of interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/ Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Events Would you be willing to be part of a network to receive information and contact your members of Congress at important times? (Please include your email address.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Home Phone _____ Email _____	
Day Phone _____ Occupation _____	
Relationship to SL (e.g., Sierra Leonean, PC, etc.) _____	
Sierra Leone Home _____ Years _____ to _____	
Membership: \$25 per Individual \$ _____	
Donation to Projects: \$ _____	
FoSL Circle \$1000 and up Supporter \$500 to \$999 Sponsor \$100 to \$499 Friend \$50 - \$99	
Overseas Mail (add \$10) \$ _____	
Total Remitted \$ _____	
Membership dues support operations for Friends of Sierra Leone, including meetings, newsletters, and the website. All other donations support FoSL projects in Sierra Leone.	
Dues and other contributions to Friends of Sierra Leone are fully tax-deductible.	
Thank you for your support! Please return this form with your check made payable to Friends of Sierra Leone to the address at the right. →	
PO Box 15875 Washington, DC 20003-0875	

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