

LESA USA – 20th Annual Convention

BALTIMORE, MD

Every year with Gratitude, we come together as an Organization; as a Sisterhood from various parts of the world, in Thanksgiving to our Father for His Love, for His Blessings, for His Guidance and most of all His Grace and Mercy He so unselfishly bestows upon us daily. We come together with **ONE GOAL**; We come together with ideas; with projects in mind on how best we can **"EMPOWER THE GIRL CHILD."** How best we can lift her up so all she does is **"SOAR"** in every arena of life? With each passing year, we remain in awe of our **FAMILIES, FRIENDS, DONORS SPONSORS**, who consistently give up of their time, their resources; and show up consistently and out do the previous year. **THANK YOU IS NOT ENOUGH**, and we are uncertain as to when it would ever be. But there's no one within our Organization that can best express our gratitude better than our National President, Ms. Christine Nkwain.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION SYNOPSIS –

by Ms. Christine Nkwain

Permit me begin my Word of Thanks by thanking God for all His Mercies that endureth forever. I



I thank Him for His Grace upon all our lives and upon LESA USA, Inc. I thank Him for blessing us with 20 Years of Excellence and Prowess. I lift up my hands in Honor, Adoration, Thanksgiving, and Praise unto Our God, who sitteth on His Mighty Throne in Heaven. He alone is Worthy! We are nothing without Him! We are Conquerors because He continues to reign amongst us. God showed up on Thursday and stayed with us all through the weekend, easing the events and ironing out the creases that appeared. Please join me in thanking the God we serve and sending forth thanksgiving to Our Blessed Holy

Mother, our Matron, who interceded and intercedes for us.



I remain in awe, in regards to the love, loyalty, kindness, sisterhood, friendship, collaboration, joy and peace I witnessed from every LESAN this weekend. We were void of crisis and void of resentment and dismay. The atmosphere was electrified by love, joy and unity. Even when pockets of frustration, disapproval and discontentment appeared, the Spirit of God erased the rumblings and the sour taste and replaced it with forgiveness, tolerance, perseverance, flexibility and understanding. I commend everyone for being a good sport this weekend and dying to self to make others happy. May God bless and keep each one of you always. May we continue to grow under the guidance and protection of God. May this Spirit of Oneness and Love forever cement us.



I thank our Gracious Hosts, LESA DC Awesomes, for exaggerating their generosity and hospitality. They gave and gave and gave. They ensured every guest was welcomed, fed and taken care of. President Bidy and Vice President Irene Hedi stayed on their feet all weekend long. Branch Committees showed us the excellence of delivery. Hospitality Committee, 5K Race Committee, Food and Drinks Committee, Barbecue Committee, Magazine Committee, Entertainment Committee, Transportation Committee, Children's Outing Committee, Sister-to-Sister Committee, Fundraising Committee, Decor Committee, Mass Committee showed us that when we plan, we deliver. Thank you, LESA DC Awesomes, on behalf of LESA USA. The feedback was off the hook.

I thank LESA SSForce who have stayed exemplary as the Epitome of Teamwork and Servitude. Your dedication and selflessness are greatly appreciated, and you model to the Association what Executive Management should be - Humble Serving. You all make me so proud.



I then thank all our families and our friends who spent the weekend with us. There is no event that runs without hiccups or moments of chaos, but our guests remained gracious and kind all weekend long. For that I am grateful.



I thank our reputable Dignitaries, who graced our weekend in presence, through representatives or via messages:

- The Governor of Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan. He sent a representative with the Governor's Citation to LESA USA, Inc.
- The Mayor of Baltimore, MD, Mayor Bernard Jack Young. He sent a Ceremonial Letter to us.
- The Ambassador of Africa Union to the United States of America, H.E. Dr. Arikana Chihombori Quao, who was our Gala Honorary Speaker. She came escorted by her husband, Dr. Quao, a humble and renown, Psychiatrist.
- The Ambassador of Cameroon to Brazil, H. E. Martin Mbeng and the Ambassadors Dr. Mrs. Laura Mbeng as our Convention Dignitary Guest of Honor. They donated substantially to our cause.
- Our Keynote Speaker, Delegate Wanika Fisher, Esq. The 1st African Descent Woman in the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 47-B.
- Our Anniversary Speaker, Mrs. Abam Mambo-Doh. She is our very own Lesan.



- Bishop Michael M. Bibi. The Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda. He sent us a Ceremonial Letter.
- Sister Mary Kemjei, the Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes. She sent a Ceremonial Letter and another Letter of Prayer at the start of our Convention.
- A Special Thanks to the following individuals:
 - Mr. Wilson Dacosta, our Chairman, and the CEO of GE Angola. He graciously started our Fundraiser and promised to top the donations to \$50K, just in case we did not reach our mark.
 - Ms. Sally Njume, our Chairlady, and CEO/Owner of Briele Home Health Care and LaBelle Home Health Care.
 - Mr. Brendan Simo, our 2019 Anniversary Hero, Co-Founder of Bron-Tech Solutions.
 - Ms. Vera Songwe, our 2019 Anniversary Heroine, United Nations Head of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Our very own Lesan and my Inspirational classmate.
 - Mr. and Mrs. Sherrell, both Senior Managers within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Directors who could not make it but donated so kindly to our organization.
 - Mr. Roman Oben, NFL Champion Winner, our Anniversary Celebrity who donated by participating in our Silent Auction with his signed NFL Winning Jersey.
 - Mrs. Mary Atanga Morfaw who founded the idea of 'LESA" in 1971 in Cameroon.
 - And all six Past National Presidents of LESA USA, Inc.

(Check out our 20th Anniversary Magazine for more info re the above Dignitaries)

I thank each one of these Dignitaries for gracing our weekend celebration, one way or the other. A breakdown of the weekend follows for those who were unable to join us. For now, I humbly say thank you to you all, thanking God that He brought you safely and took you all back home safely. May we remain cemented in love and continue to propel higher and higher in Excellence and Prowess.

Oye Our Lady of Lourdes!!!

Oye LESA DC the Host!!!

Oye LESA SSForce!!!

Oye LESA USA, Inc.!!!

Love You Always,
Your Humble Servant,

Ansama