



**AKWA IBOM STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
NIGERIA, USA INC.**

**National Secretariat
P.O. Box 651
Warren Michigan 48090**

**Obong E. Umana
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**Godwin Ekpene, Rph
National Vice President**

**Isong Ekpenyong
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**Unyime Ekpenyong
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Chairman Fundraising Committee
(704) 968-6755**

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Convention Consultant
(313) 683-5573**

2009 22nd National Convention

Check point "Ten days to go live....."

At last..... August 2009 is here.....alas! It's colloquium time.

The 22nd Annual Convention of Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria is almost here, the buzz is in the air, rich and colorful attires have been purchased, travel bags are packed or about to be packed, the youths are all excited.....so what's new?! And all this while, through the blustery autumn, in winter chill, through spring blossom, in the summer time, the National Convention production team, working with the Michigan Team, toiled to bring our members and associates a fabulous convention experience; a convention to remember. The Michigan Team looks forward to receiving you in all your splendor.

The 2009 National Convention has been designed with you our members and associates in mind. Four simple objectives have guided and guarded the planning committee in content development viz.:

1. Social networking to the max
2. Business networking and opportunities for wealth creation
3. Promotion of the rich culture and cuisine of Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria
4. Fundraising to enable Association's works of Charity & erection of an "Akwa Ibom Cultural Center USA" (a brick & mortar facility of our own).

From the moment you arrive, look out for our hospitality team at the Airport terminals to welcome and guide you to the transportation pickup point. Journey to the Hyatt Regency in style, through the scenic route. At the Hyatt Regency, regent's treatment awaits those that have **pre-registered** for the **National Convention** through the AKISAN **hassle free online registration** facility. Please visit www.akisan.org now and register for the 2009 convention. **Register All.**

The 2009 National Convention opens with the much talked about **Governor's Ball**. This semi-private event offers the entrepreneurially inclined exclusive opportunity to network in a cozy and sensuous atmosphere, while being treated to exquisite cuisine, champagne toasts, and soft music to sooth. **RSVP before Friday the 7th of August.....**very limited accommodation to preserve the feel. **Be one of the lucky hundred!** Remember, **portion** of your \$150 donation is **tax deductible**.

Now if you are up for the mingle and tingle, try the hotel St. Regis in historic New Center area of Detroit where the **Singles Mix and Mingle** will be in full "swing" with Sir Wilker's music pumping all night long. Ah! **Singles only please.....**watching you!!

These Thursday night events will serve as the prelude to Friday's Business Expo, Association's Business meeting, a sumptuous "Taste of Africa", and our Cultural Extravaganza. For the first time in our Association's history, young women and men will delight you, even as they compete for coveted prizes in the beauty, cultural dance, and style show. Don't step away for a single moment, for all night long, you will be transported to hard core Akwa Ibom in food and culture....have you had "edita iwa and ekpumo" lately? How about "utasi seasoned soup"? ... Did I mention "ukang" to be auctioned away!!

Now let me comment on the Association's business meeting for a moment.....



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The 2009 business meeting session promises to define the **way forward** for Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA Inc. This business meeting is for you, the owner-members of the Association in good standing. The business session is where you pass a vote of confidence (or lack thereof) in your servant leadership, set the path to the future, and ratifies our plans for next year. You will receive financial reports and doings of your elected officers since.

In recent weeks you have asked us about "that \$1000 gift", we hear you, and will answer you. You have asked us about the Academic Excellence Project, we hear you, and will answer you. You have asked us about the Scholarship awards, we hear you, and will answer you. You have even asked us about this exciting building called the "Akwa Ibom Cultural Center", we hear you, and will tell you all about this gem in the making. You have asked about the Emergency Trust Fund and how it works for you in time of need, we hear you, and will tell you how we intend to make it work for you.

So, register now, because only **registered** members, councilors, Board of Trustees members, and national executive members can come into the meeting chamber. **NEW!**

Oh! look at that, **one aligned team, with owner-members, together with their representative Councilors (National VPs), holding accountable their elected Board of Directors, and the Board appointed Operating Executives.....One Team One Goal One Akwa Ibom State Association.....think about that future state....zero cogs quartet** in your wheel of progress.

Then comes Saturday, your fitness regiment is contained with Youth Olympics, miscellaneous sporting events, and health fair. Please pack you gym outfits. But return in time for the Town hall Conference and Governor's Forum. We are expecting candid, yet serious conversations (on education, healthcare delivery, commerce & industry, and public safety in Akwa Ibom State), all in good taste and with an open mind to unlimited possibilities. Do not miss this one because it promises to be hard hitting, give and take, educational, and informational; in love, in peace, and for the common good.

We will then quiet our minds down with a five course banquet fit for Kings, Queens, Princes, and Princesses of Akwa Ibom. Oh! Did we talk about your wallets? Don't leave home without them, for we intend to give you the privilege and opportunity to practice your love of giving. You have always opened your hearts and your wallets in love; I trust that you will donate generously in support of all our projects, from **abused Children relief actions** in Akwa Ibom, to the building fund for "**Akwa Ibom Cultural Center USA**", to continued human capital investments through **Scholarship awards**, we need your support.

Over the next few days, we will feature select profiles of some of our distinguished Akwaibomites and Associates, who are among the 2009 award recipients. Please join us as we celebrate and toast the award recipients who have differentiated themselves through relentless **Giving, Advocacy, and Volunteerism.**

God's travelling mercies as you journey into Michigan.

See you at the 2009 National Convention. *Obong Umana.*