

Subject: FoSL E-Newsletter for March 2015 - member through 2016-03-31

From: FoSL autosender <webmaster@fosalone.org>

Date: 03/07/2015 02:25 PM

To: James.Brown@p3slh051.shr.phx3.secureserver.net (Jamie), "Jr." <jamie@fosalone.org>



Friends of Sierra Leone

PO Box 15875

Washington DC 20003-0875

March 2015 E-Newsletter

Kushe and welcome to FoSL's first E-Newsletter! We're hoping to have a few of these a year to provide information inbetween paper newsletters. Please email meghan@fosalone.org with any suggestions or requests for information you'd like included in future e-newsletters.

PROJECTS UPDATE

"Due to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, it became evident that there would be no "business as usual" there for some time. The Board of Directors opted to change our projects program to make it quicker and easier to get funds to community groups on the ground to stem the Ebola tide and assist those in need. Since those changes were implemented, FoSL has funded five projects at over \$8300. And more applications are coming.

The first funding went to the We Yone Child Foundation (www.weyonechildfoundation.org). Their request for \$1521 was used to fund Ebola education in some of the poorest slums in Freetown. They worked in 19 communities for three weeks in January, reaching at least 500 households per week. Their full report is due by the end of this month.

Since then, four other groups have received grants: Nar Sarah Clinic in Kabala (\$1500), Fare, working in Freetown and upcountry (\$1500), Conscience International in Freetown (\$800), and KITE-Sierra Leone in Makeni (\$3000). All of these groups are working to do education, provide materials for sanitation, and feed people affected by quarantines, disabilities, and travel bans.

My thanks to the FoSL community for their generosity in responding to this crisis in our beloved Sierra Leone. Remember that 100% of your donations go directly to Sierra Leone. We will continue to fund such groups as long as our funds allow. “

For the application and more information please check our website.

<http://fosalone.org/ebolaRelief.php> or email Jim Hanson jimH@fosalone.org

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

It has been eight months since the work of our Ebola Crisis Task Force began to gain assistance for West Africa in general and the people of Sierra Leone, in particular. The main objectives were to collect and ship needed supplies to Sierra Leone and to encourage the U.S. Government to expand its efforts to countries other than Liberia. Partial success was achieved. A great deal of medical supplies were collected and shipped. Our efforts resulted in Cuban doctors going to Sierra Leone. Applying pressure on the U.S. through advocacy and lobbying effort helped hasten the arrival of the UK Ebola Treatment Centers in Sierra Leone. All of these actions helped lay the groundwork for an organization that will serve Sierra Leone into the future.

Our successes were due in part to great effort and to good timing. The disappointments resulted from having objectives that were beyond our reach within the time we needed to get organized. We believe, however, that everyone who worked on the Ebola situation can count their efforts successful. We have worked hard for a good cause.

The fight against Ebola is not over. It is too soon to even be sure we are winning the battle. New unexpected cases are appearing and there is still great cultural resistance.

Many people in all three countries may be letting down their guard, and the bats that carry the virus are still around. However, the needed resources to fight Ebola are now on the ground.

With our initial objectives accomplished or overtaken by events, we are going to focus on new goals. We all know that Sierra Leone will need help in rebuilding the healthcare system, the education structure and the economy for years to come. It would be a tragedy if the enthusiasm and organization that has been established were not maintained. We will continue to support the Sierra Leone Government while encouraging more assistance and cooperation from the United States.

Jim Sheahan - jim@fosalone.org

Amadu Massally - Amadu@fosalone.org

[WE HAVE A MAJOR NEED FOR YOUR HELP](#)

Nominations for the FoSL Board of Directors

The current term of elected FoSL Board Members has expired and we need to elect new ones. The first step in this process is to solicit your nominations for these positions. Please refer to our FoSL website at www.fosalone.org, select "about FoSL," and then "FoSL by Laws" to review the responsibilities of the various positions.

Please consider becoming a member of the Board. Our meetings, held the 2nd Friday of each month and last about an hour. We make use of telephone conferencing technology which enables us to include our Board members from across the country -- Hawaii, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and DC. We have become adept at holding this type of meeting and your participation would be greatly appreciated and fully utilized.

Please nominate yourself or anyone that you feel is interested in participating in FoSL. We will confirm their interest before placing them on the ballot next month. Please

email us the nomination form below to bruzekkp@comcast.net by **Monday, March 30, 2015**.

Also, check the address label on your Newsletter; only paid up members can vote in the election.

Nominations for the FoSL Board of Directors:

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____

Public Affairs #1: _____

Public Affairs #2: _____

Director at Large #1 _____

Director at Large #2: _____

Director at Large #3: _____

Director at Large #4: _____

Submit to bruzekkp@comcast.net by Monday, March 30, 2015.

Or you can submit nominations to:

Friends of Sierra Leone

P. O. Box 15875

Washington, DC 20003-0875

The following 7 people are up for reelection:

Peggy Murrah – President

Aiah Fanday – Vice President

Patty Bruzek – Secretary

Jim Sheahan – Public Affairs

Amadu Massally – Public Affairs

Fallah Lamin – Director at Large

Anthony McMillon – Director at Large

[HEALTH UPDATE FROM PAST PRESIDENT MIKE DILIBERTI](#)

“I’m physically getting better, but my mind still needs some work before I can say that I’m through this. I can’t believe it’s been more than a year. My current medication is pretty good. Thanks!” Mike