



**TAFARI MAKONNEN SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
IN NORTH AMERICA (TMSAANA)
www.tmsaana.com**

Board of Directors
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December 28, 2020

Dear TMS Alumni and Friends of TMS,

With our best wishes to you and your families for the Holiday Season and the 2021 New Year of health free from the COVID-19 pandemic that has paralyzed the world, your Board is pleased to update you on TMSAANA activities undertaken during the last two Quarters of 2020.

TMSAANA's Heartfelt Condolences is extended to the families of a number of TMS Alumni and TMS Friends who passed away since our last update that we are aware of. These include, Ato Sereke Michael senior technical teacher in New Jersey; the steadfast human rights defender Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam; human rights and political activist Ato Issac Kifle; renown actor, director and theatre administrator Ato Tesfaye Gessesse who graciously joined us at TMSAANA's Second General Assembly in 2014 and enacted **Ato Kebede Michael's "ታሪክና ምሳሌ" third chapter, "ፎካ"**; journalist, Ethiopian Airlines executive and African Union official Ato Yohannes Kifle who with his TMS Alumna lifetime partner, Woizero Yemserach Felleke, played major role in the establishment and operation of our sister organization in Ethiopia, the Tafari Makonnen School Alumni Charity Association (TMSACA). ***May They All Rest in Eternal Peace.***

Extension of the Term of the Current Board of Directors: As communicated to you on 19 October 2020 by Ato Bayou Tadesse and Ato Berhan Dargie, Election Committee of the Board of Directors of TMSAANA, despite their concerted efforts no alumni were willing to serve on the Board. As a result, the current Board reluctantly agreed to their request to extend its term until the next in-person General Assembly is held in 2021. We strongly urge interested alumni to participate in the work of the current Board as observers so as to join the next Board and ensure the continuity of TMSAANA. Of the current five current Board members, one has served 8 years and three have served 6 years, which is unhealthy for any membership organization. ***We assure alumni that serving your alma mater is one of the most satisfying endeavor!***

TMSAANA Support to families in the TMS vicinity affected by the COVID-19 lockdown: Besides the damaging health effects of COVID19, including death, it is inflicting major hardship on poor families due to loss of their minimal earnings and their inability to meet their basic food needs. With the special voluntary contribution made by 30 TMSAANA members, the Board, assisted by TMS alumni in Addis (Artist Lulseged Retta in particular) provided two round of food donations to poor families in the vicinity of the College where TMS students come from. **See this short video of the distribution of the second donation**, also posted on the TMSAANA website. The events' pictures are posted on the **website "Photo Gallery" 'TMSAANA COVID19 Donation'**. Once the current political challenge in Ethiopia is overcome, this and our student assistance programme will help us further support our request for the TMS name restoration.

TMSAANA website: Please visit our website, in particular the **"Class or Group Photo"** tab where you may find your classmates and friends. Send for posting class or group photos you may have.

TMSAANA Scholarship Tuition and Financial Support: The College has reopened and students are taking class in person. Based on the assistance request plan received from the College for the Ethiopian Calendar 2013 (see enclosure), TMSAANA provided funds for 800 students - sanitation cost for 400 female students and scholarship tuition for 400 students (200 female and 200 male), **amounting to \$10,200 or the annual membership payment of 85 alumni.**

2020 and 2021 Annual Membership Contributions:

As of 28 December 2020, only 40 alumni (30%) have paid their annual \$120 membership due, the lowest TMSAANA has received. As in the past, few alumni have made sizable generous contributions, while others made multi-year membership payments and additional donations.

The Board strongly urges you to send both your 2020 and 2021 membership dues (\$240 total) and any additional donation you may wish to make, so that we can continue to assist the needy and meritorious students we are supporting. Please send your payment payable to TMSAANA through one of the following three options (with direct Bank Transfer as the preferred option):

- 1) **Bank Transfer:** TMSAANA TD Bank Acct. No. 426-440-8216 (with copy to mseyoum84@gmail.com),
- 2) **Check:** TMSAANA c/o Ms. Merafe Seyoum, 34 Metropolitan Oval, #6H, Bronx, NY 10462,
- 3) **PayPal:** Available on www.tmsaana.com or alumni@tmsaana.com

As usual, we welcome your feedback and comments.

With Season's Greetings and best wishes for a speedy return to normalcy of our lives,

Bisrat Aklilu,
President,

"ይህችንም የዕውቀት ምግብ ቀጥታ የምታሳድጋችሁን ተማሪ ቤት በጥበብ እድገት ስለሌሎች በምትገለጻለሁበት ጊዜ እግዚአብሔር እንደየዕድላችሁ በሚሰጣችሁ ዕውቀት የሀገራችን መሣሪያ ናችሁ እንዳትጠብቁ እንደትሰጡ እንዳትወድቅ እንደትበረታ እንደትረዱዎት ለለምናችኋለሁ።" ልዑል አልጋ ወራሽ ተፈሪ መኩንን, ሚያዝያ ፲፱ ፲፱፻፲፯ የተፈሪ መኩንን ትምህርት ቤትን ሲከፍቱ ካደረጉት ንግግር

"This school is an instrument which will operate on our country's behalf through the knowledge which God gives to each of you according to your lot, once you have matured in wisdom and have become vigorous in intelligence. So, I beg of you to help the school which nurtures you, give you the food of knowledge: to see that it does not shrink but expands, that it does not fall but grows in strength." From Regent Ras Tafari Makonnen's April 27, 1925 Inaugural Speech of Tafari Makonnen School