

Conference Program Jinner Dance

COBAANA 2024 CONVENTION - NEW JERSEY SATURDAY, 31st AUGUST, 2024

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COBAANA CHAIRMAN'S

- Farewell Message

It is with much delight and nostalgia that I pen this farewell message to the good family of COBAANA and our invited guests. Taking into consideration the fact that this is my last message to you as the Chairman of this great family, I want to first thank my predecessors who through their dedication and hard work brought the association to the level before my assumption into office as the Chairman. I also want to thank the leadership I worked with over the years whose commitment, hard work and tenacity help us open a new chapter in the history of COBAANA. I again want to take this opportunity to thank the local planning committee from Trenton and Newark chapters who came together and worked with the Convention Planning Committee (CPC) for this year's convention.

Though I occupied various positions within the association before I became the Chairman, when I was elected the Chairman of this association in 2018, little did I know the hefty task ahead of me. But with the help of God and the support and cooperation of the members, I can now look back to say that we have fought a good fight though there is more room for improvement. During my maiden chairman's address in 2018, I promised that my administration was going to concentrate on the areas of welfare, Education, Health, the youth and creation of new chapters. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and its accompanying difficulties, we were able to make strides in those areas. I would like to, with your permission, highlight some few achievements during my tenure as the chairman of the great COBAANA.

In the area of health, and in line with our theme for many years—THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE IS OUR CONCERN, during my tenure as Chairman, COBAANA was able to send Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to the three regions during the Covid time, send surgical cabinets to the same three regions and donated three incubators to the Drobo, Goaso and the Atebubu hospitals.

COUNCIL OF BONO &
AHAFO ASSOCIATIONS OF
NORTH AMERICA
COBAANA 2024

NEW JERSEY CONVENTION
August 30th - Sept. 1st



Flt. Lt. Samuel Kofi Tandoh (Rtd) COBAANA Chairman

During the first ever COBAANA homecoming convention held in Ghana in June last year, we were able to assemble a team of medical professionals from North America to undertake a medical outreach at Duayaw Nkwanta hospital. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all the professionals who took part in the outreach and say that we are very grateful to you.

It has been the aim of COBAANA to increase the number of chapters within the family and during my tenure, two new chapters (Dallas and Atlanta) joined the association. It is with great pride to say that our famous Group Assisted Program (GAP), a quasi-life insurance program for members was established during the period of my chairmanship.

This is a fund contributed by members and in the unfortunate event of the death of a member, a sum of money is paid to their beneficiaries. As of now we have over 350 members who have enrolled in the program and all the beneficiaries of those who have passed on have their benefits paid out to them. Apart from the GAP contribution, we have also established a system where each chapter is mandated to contribute to the family of a deceased member. This has strengthened the bond of oneness within the COBAANA family.

Under my administration, I am delighted to see a revived and vibrant youth wing of COBAANA operating and we know we will rest in peace when our time is over and we hand over this great association to the next generation to take on the mantle of leadership. To all those who are in charge of organizing the youth, I say, well done.

Fellow delegates and invited dignitaries, COBAANA believes that we have a social responsibility to the land of our birth and we always look for an opportune time to help our people. During my tenure, we were able to complete renovation work on a four-unit classroom block that was initiated by my predecessor into an ultra-modern classroom at Ayakomaso, a farming community along the Sunyani – Berekum road and we continue to assist this school in many areas.

When my administration took over, the association was not formally registered as an NGO both here in North America and in Ghana but today as I am leaving office, I can say with pride that we are registered as an NGO with the State of Ohio in Columbus. Not only that, we have also with the same State, registered for (501) (C) (3) which will allow us some tax incentives as an association. (cont'd on page 6)

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Special Guest Profile

Dr. George Valencia Samson is the President/CEO of World Medical Relief, a Southfield based non-profit charity organization founded in 1953 that sends medical equipment, supplies and medicines to the sick, poor and elderly people in our local communities and to 130 developing nations overseas.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Samson came to World Medical Relief in 1991 and became the Chief Operating Officer and Director of International Programs at World Medical Relief.

He was appointed as President/CEO in October, 2009.

As President he directs the monthly distribution of three million dollars (\$3M) worth of donated medical supplies, equipment and medicines for overseas as well as the many local programs instituted by World Medical Relief to benefit Metro Detroit residents.

Dr. Samson holds a PhD and prior to this degree attended Angeles University Foundation in the Philippines earning a Bachelor's degree in Management and Associate Degree in Nursing.

Dr. Samson celebrated 32 years of service to humanity last year, 2023. His belief is, "Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself - It is what you do for others".

GUEST SPEAKER



Dr. George V. Samson PhD
President / CEO
World Medical Relief

COBAANA'S Aims and Objectives

The basic objectives of the Council of Bono and Ahafo Associations of North America (COBAANA) include promoting, assisting, fostering, ensuring, and activities, projects, and programs that will constructively contribute to the furthering, achieving, and enhancing the well-being, understanding, and the good name of all members, of the Bono, Bono East and Ahafo Regions and of our people wherever they may be.

This includes but not limited to:

- 1. Assisting and identifying programs for the development of our three (3) regions.
- 2. Fostering and maintaining strong, meaningful, viable, and cooperative links with government and non-governmental agencies in our regions.
- 3. Seeking out and/or creating avenues and areas for investment and other economic opportunities for associations.
- 4. Encouraging and facilitating recruitment of qualified persons for employment at both regional and national levels in Ghana.
 - 5. Supporting and promoting fund raising activities.
- 6. Promoting the Bono and Ahafo culture in particular, and fostering a sense of Ghanaian and African values in general.



















Special Guest Profile Guest of Honor



Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Dr. Agyemang Badu II is a Ghanaian traditional ruler who is the Omanhene (or paramount chief) of the Dormaa traditional area (Dormaaman) in Ghana. He is also the President of the Bono Regional House of Chiefs; Chairman, Judicial Committee, National House of Chiefs; Member, Standing Committee, National House of Chiefs.

Known in private life as Justice Daniel Mensah, a High Court Judge, Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Dr. Agyemang-Badu II ascended the Dormaa throne after the demise of his grand uncle the late Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Agyemang-Badu I in 1998.

He was enstooled on June 6th, 1999.

According to the chiefs and people of the traditional area, the paramount chief has sought the overall interest, well-being and holistic development of not only the Dormaa people, but the nation in general.

His achievements span from promoting peace, education, youth development and humanitarian services.

Nana is also the founder and Life Patron of Aduana Football Club, Ghana.

Special Guest Profile



Dr. Nick Danso Adjei is a renowned Ghanaian industrialist whose entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to national development have made him a leading figure in the country's business landscape.

Born in Nkoranza/Bredi, Dr. Danso Adjei showed an early aptitude for business, engaging in petty trading at just 11 years old.

Dr. Nick Danso Adjei at just 11 years old.

After completing his basic education, Dr. Danso Adjei traveled to Spain to further his education, where he quickly established himself in the business world, rising through the ranks of Cilogar Construction and Exporting SL to become a partner in the company.

In 1992, he returned to Ghana, where he founded the Royal Nick Hotel, the largest hotel in Tema today, and established Nick & Cilogar Limited, which is now known as Royal Lighting Limited and specializes in sanitary wares, building materials, and tiles.

Dr. Danso Adjei's entrepreneurial pursuits extend beyond Ghana's borders, with his companies operating in Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, and Gambia, among other countries.

His business ventures include the establishment of Ghana Link Network Services Ltd, a destination inspection

Event Chairperson

company that enhances trade facilitation and helped in revenue maximization for the Ghanaian government at the Tema port. He is also the founder of Nick TC-Scan Limited, the first African company to provide non-intrusive scanning of containerized cargos using state-of-the-art technology.

In addition to his business ventures, Dr. Danso Adjei is committed to giving back to society and has undertaken several corporate social responsibility projects, including the construction of a mortuary facility for St. Theresa's Hospital in Nkoranza and the establishment of an education endowment fund in the Bono East Region.

His companies have also provided financial support to hundreds of less privileged Ghanaian students and monthly financial assistance to widows in the Bono East Region, among other initiatives.

Dr. Danso Adjei's impact on Ghana's economy and society has been significant, providing jobs to Ghanaian youth and professionals through his various companies. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, with Azteca University conferring on him an Honorary Doctorate Degree Award for his hard work and immense contribution to individuals, society, and the nation as a whole, taking into consideration his creativity and innovation.















COBAANA Chairman's Farewell Message (cont'd. from page 3)

Similarly, in Ghana, COBAANA has also been registered as a Non –Governmental Organization, something we should all be proud of. Internally, we have restructured our financial systems and with a solid financial team in place, we have moved to a stage of proper financial management.

I cannot end this piece without talking about the proposed COBAANA Dialysis Center. Taking cognizance of the increase in kidney related diseases in Ghana in general and particularly in the three regions (Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) coupled with the fact that almost all the Dialysis treatment centers in Ghana are scattered along the coastal regions, my administration decided to solicit for financial and material support to establish a center closer to our people to cater for their kidney related disease needs. Last year, over 100 COBAANA members from North America went to Ghana for a fund-raising event and we want to thank all those who in diverse ways made the event a success. We are in Newark this year for a similar fund-raising event after which we will commence the construction of the project. I want to take this opportunity to encourage all delegates and invited guests herein assemble to help us achieve our financial goal so that we will within the shortest possible future get this ultramodern facility become a reality because the health of our people should always be our concern. I must say that we are grateful to the Sunyani Traditional Council for giving us free land to be used for the COBAANA dialysis Centre.

Looking into the future, I must say that the dynamics of operating associations like ours are changing so I implore the

Special Guest Profile Event Co-Chairperson



Dr. Yaw Owusu Baah

Yaw Owusu Baah, born in Dormaa Ahenkro to Teacher (Mr Baah) and Nana (Auntie Anna). Started primary education in Dormaa Presby school but father was transferred to Accra so completed primary education in Accra (Burma Camp Primary). Started secondary education at Drobo Secondary School in 1983 and moved to Sunyani Secondary School from Form 2 up to Sixth Form.

Attended Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for both Pre-med and medical education with Clinical station in Komfo Anokye Hospital.

Moved to USA later and did residency in Internal Medicine, graduated in 2010.

Dr. Yaw Owusu Baah has been working as hospitalist in Garnet Medical Center, New York, since 2011. Currently a Teaching Physician (Medical students & residence). Associate Medical Director for Hospital medicine; Physician Advisor for Garnet Health Medical Center.















incoming administration to take advantage of this wind of change and move our association to a higher level. We cannot continue to do things in the same old fashioned way and expect different results. Let us modernize our operations and take advantage of the changing technological wind that is blowing so that we will not be left behind. Again, it is my prayer that all those from the three regions who are not members of COBAANA and even those not from the three regions residing in North America but shares the aspirations and vision of COBAANA should join us to help ourselves and our people back in Ghana. Though the task ahead is huge but with unity, tenacity of purpose and with one mind, the sky will be the limit. Once again, I thank you all for your advice, support, encouragement and corrections during my tenure as the Chairman of this great family and may God bless you all. Have a fruitful deliberations at this year's convention. God bless you all.

Long Live COBAANA. Long Live Bono, Bono East and Ahafo Regions. Long Live Ghana.

SAMUEL KOFI TANDOH
CHAIRMAN

Special Appreciation to...



Nana Kwame Baffoe IV Nkoranza Manhene

Nana Bofobene V Dwenem Manhene

Nana Kwasi Bosomprah Goaso Manhene

Convention Planning Committee (CPC)

The COBAANA Convention Planning Committee (CPC) was setup to help provide guidance to the host chapter of our annual convention to ensure consistency and smooth execution of profitable fundraising activities. Membership in the committee is made up of representatives from all the chapters forming COBAANA. Each chapter nominates one representative to represent them at CPC. This person is responsible for participating and updating his/her chapter about CPC items under review or consideration. In a nutshell, CPC's mandate is to work with the various local planning committees to deliver on COBAANA's fundraising activities.

Below is our mandate: We work with the local planning committee to:

- 1. Propose a budget for approval.
- 2. Choosing the venue for meetings, picnic and hotel accommodation
- 3. Decide on the menu at the convention, the welcome Brunch and food to be served at the Sunday Picnic
- 4. Decide on the gate fees for the dinner /dance which should be approved by the general assembly
- 5. Come out with the menu and purchases for the various food items for the convention.
- 6. Ensure that all logistics eg. Basket for Kofi ne Ama, gate keepers, banners, envelops etc are made available for use at the convention
- 7. Review of convention successes and failures

A Brief History of COBAANA

The idea of bringing Bono & Ahafo Associations in North America under one umbrella association was brought by the Bono and Ahafo Association of Denver, Colorado, during their inauguration; graced by the presence of Osagyefo Oseadeeyo Nana Agyeman-Badu II on July 19, 2003.

A day after the inauguration, July 20, 2003, representatives from Bono & Ahafo Associations in North America present at the inauguration convened at the residence of Mr. Sadiq Annor of Denver. Present at the meeting were Denver, Chicago, New York and Toronto.

The name Council of Bono & Ahafo Associations of North America (COBAANA) was unanimously approved. An interim executives were selected to lead the new association. They were: Mr. Samuel Tuah of Toronto as President, Mr. Edward Mensah of New York as Vice President, Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah of Chicago as Secretary, Mr. Sadiq Annor of Denver as Treasurer and Mr. Samuel Tandoh of Denver as Financial Secretary.

Due to lack of communication between the executives, the association became dormant. During the inauguration of Bono & Ahafo Association of Columbus, Ohio, in 2008, Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah brought up the issue again at an informal meeting. Associations present at the meeting were Columbus, Chicago, Toronto, Denver, New York and Washington DC. The consensus was that Mr. Joseph Ntow-Duku of Toronto and Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yebouah of Chicago should spearhead the formation of the umbrella association.

Back in Chicago, Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah wrote a draft constitution and also designed the logo of the association. Through the help of Mr. Ben Kodom-Ayensu of Chicago, a conference call line was secured. Through this medium representatives from Chicago, Columbus, Denver, Toronto and Washington DC started monthly meetings to streamline the draft constitution.

At the inauguration of the Bono and Ahafo Association of Worcester, a formal meeting was held to discuss the progress of the association. At that meeting, Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah presented the logo to members. The logo comprised of two crossed swords representing power and authority surrounded by Adinkra symbol representing our culture. These were encased by two olive branches representing peace and unity. Inscribed in the middle of the logo was the motto; "Yen Man Nti" (Love of our Nation). At the same meeting, members selected Toronto to host the inauguration of the association.

Discussions and amendments to draft the constitution was completed in January 2010 and the inauguration date was set. Through the hard work of the Bono and Ahafo Association of Toronto spearheaded by Mr. Joseph Ntow- Duku, six associations, namely; Chicago, Columbus, Denver, Toronto, Washington DC and Worcester convened in Toronto, Canada on May 29, 2010.



The first COBAANA representatives' meeting was held to promulgate and adopt the constitution and election. The elected officers were; Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah of Chicago, Chairman, Mr. Alex Ankomah of Toronto, Vice Chairman, Mr. Paul Gyau of Washington DC, General Secretary, Mr. Padmore Gyau of Worcester, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Francis Apraku of Toronto, Treasurer, Mr. Daniel Asante of Columbus, Financial Secretary, Mr. Samuel Tandoh of Denver, Publicity Officer and Miss Mina Annan of Chicago, Assistant Publicity Officer.

The inauguration was graced by the presence of Honorable Kwadwo Nyamekye Marfo, Regional Minister of the then Brong-Ahafo Region, Osahene Nana Kwaku Aterkyi, Omanhene of Kukuom and President of the then Brong-Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs and Nana Abena Boatemaa, Queen Mother of Domase No. 1 and President of the then Brong-Ahafo Queen Mothers Association. The inauguration was a success and soon thereafter New York and Calgary came on board.

On July 2, 2011 all eight chapters convened in Chicago for our first convention which was also successful and profitable. During a visit to Ghana by the then Chairman Mr. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah, he paid a visit to the Regional Hospital in Sunyani. A list of needs was presented to him and upon his arrival back in Chicago presented the list to COBAANA. Top on the list was Bed sheets and at a conference call meeting members approved and one hundred bed sheets were sent to the hospital.

Columbus, Ohio, was the next venue for COBAANA convention and on September 1, 2012 all eight chapters convened in Columbus. At the annual meeting to elect new executive members, the then Chairman Rev. Kwasi Amponsa-Yeboah withdrew his candidacy, reason being that he was retiring and will leave for Ghana for good. The election results was as follows: Chairman, Mr. Alex Ankomah, Vice Chairman, Mr. Daniel Asante, General Secretary, Mr. Paul Gyau, Vice Secretary, Padmore Gyau, Treasurer, Mr. Francis Apraku, Financial Secretary, Mr. Samuel Tandoh, Publicity Officer, Miss Mina Annan and Assistant Publicity Officer, Mr. Seth Bonsu. The convention was successful and profitable.

In early 2013 a philanthropist in Chicago gave the Bono and Ahafo Association of Chicago eight (8) Stryker multi purpose beds valued at two thousand and four hundred dollars (\$2,400) a piece. The association presented the beds to COBAANA and the beds were shipped to the Regional Hospital in Sunyani.

On August 31, 2014 Washington DC hosted the third convention and was well attended ad profitable. Cincinnati became the ninth chapter to join COBAANA. By voice acclamation New York beat out Calgary to host the 2014 convention.

















COBAANA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



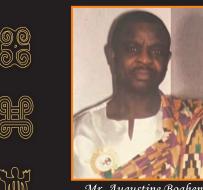
Mr. Samuel Opoku Appiah Vice Chairman

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Flt. Lt. Samuel Kofi Tandoh (Rtd) Chairman



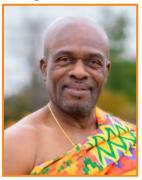
Mr. Augustine Boahen General Secretary



Mr. Thomas Kyeremeh Assist. Secretary



Mr. S. K. Boakye Boateng Financial Secretary



Mr. Seth Bonsu P.R.O.



Ms. Henrietta Agyei Assist. PRO



Nana Akua Durowaah Owusuwaa Aduomi IV Treasurer



COBAANA Planning Committee (CPC) Members



Mr. Francis Apraku Chairman



Mr. Ben Kodom-Ayensu Vice Chairman



Dr. DeGraft Kwafo **Secretary**



Nana Akua Amankwah Assist. Secretary



Mr. Frank Henneh-Ababio



Mary Mens



Mr. Padmore Gyau



S. Kwabena Boakye Boateng





Mr. Richard Druyeh



Mr. Ruben Boakye



Mr. Andrew Kumalo





Atlanta, Georgia Chapter



Members of the Atlanta, GA Chapter - Established in 2016

Fin. Secretary



MEDICAL OUTREACH IN DUAYAW NKWANTA, GHANA - 2023 by GHANA HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEERS OF GEORGIA INCORPORATED



Nicholas Fosu
PharmD, MBA
President, and Founder, GHVOG,
Lead & Coordinator of the Mission.



Dr. Kwadwo Addae General Surgeon



Dr. William Oduro, MD Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialist



Dr. Emil TanoPlastic and Reconstructive Surgeon



Dr. Thelma Asare, MD, OBGYN



Dr. Frank Gyamfi General Surgeon

As part of the Council of Bono and Ahafo Associations of North America (COBAANA) homecoming convention held in Ghana in 2023, a team of medical professionals from the Ghana Healthcare Volunteers of Georgia undertook a medical outreach at the Saint John of God hospital in Duayaw Nkwanta in the Ahafo region of Ghana from May 22 to 27, 2023. This was the group's third medical mission trip to Ghana. The Ghana Healthcare Volunteers of Georgia Inc. (GHVOC) is a US – based nonprofit 501 C (3) healthcare Volunteers comprising medical doctors, pharmacists, nurses and other healthcare professionals registered under the State of Georgia, United States of America. GHVOC was founded to responds to the needs of many Ghanaians and other marginalized communities who have difficulty accessing and obtaining basic healthcare and other information about their health. The mission of GHVOC among others is to promote the general health of Ghanaians (both in US and Ghana) and other underserved communities through education and community health outreach programs. It is the ultimate goal of GHVOC to mobilize and raise funds to ship medical supplies and equipment and to organize health mission trips to Ghana.

During the outreach, the group offered free medical services including Gynecology issues such as menopause, fibroid, menstrual issues, hydroceles and many more. The team also undertook plastic and general surgery mainly hernia repair, Cleft Lips, Contractures, Keloids, Goiters, Hydroceles and many other medical services. It was all joy as patients who would have found it difficult to raise the needed funds for those surgeries came out of the operation theatres beaming with smile and praising the team for such a "gift". One remarkable thing which was special about this outreach was that the members of the team bore their own flight expenses to Ghana. The people of Duayaw Nkwanta and indeed all those who benefited from this medical outreach could not thank the team enough but pray for the blessings of the God who rewards every good deed on the group and their families.

(cont'd on page 27)

Calgary, Canada Chapter





Chicago, Illinois Chapter





Members of the Chicago, Illinois Chapter - Established in 1998.

George Amoh Vice President

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OBJECTIVE

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- Stress Free Retirement Account
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Cincinnati, Ohio Chapter



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Nana Kyereme President



Mr. Coleman Afriyie Vice President







- I. Best Aid in Gastrointestinal Problems
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 Fights Infections.
- 4. Treats Bad Breat
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 Skin Rejuvenation
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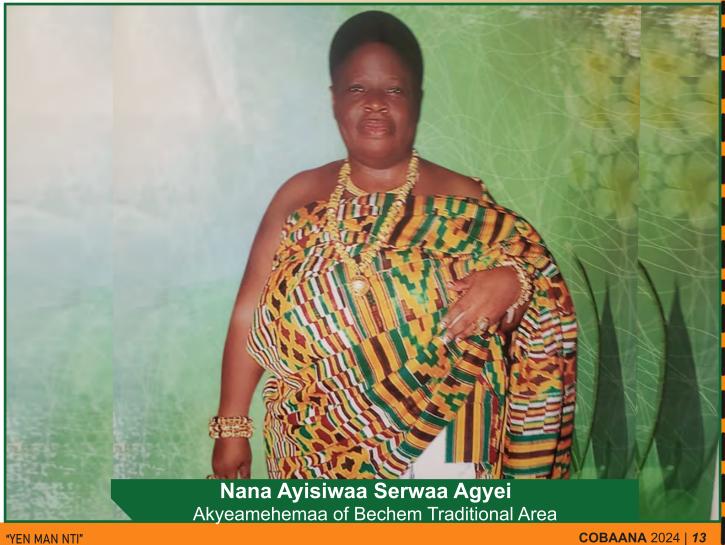
snowPhyllForte





Columbus, Ohio Chapter





Newark, New Jersey Chapter



Ms. Juliet Appiah Amponsah - President



Nana Dr. Nsiah Acheampong - Vice President

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Members of the Newark, NJ Chapter - Established in 2003.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Connecticut, CT Chapter



Nana Akua Durowaah Owusuwaa Aduomi IV President



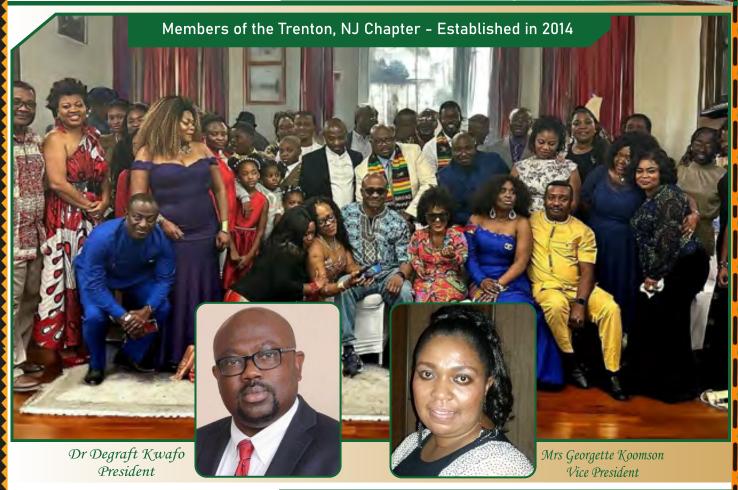
Paul Amoako Vice President



Members of the Connecticut, CT Chapter

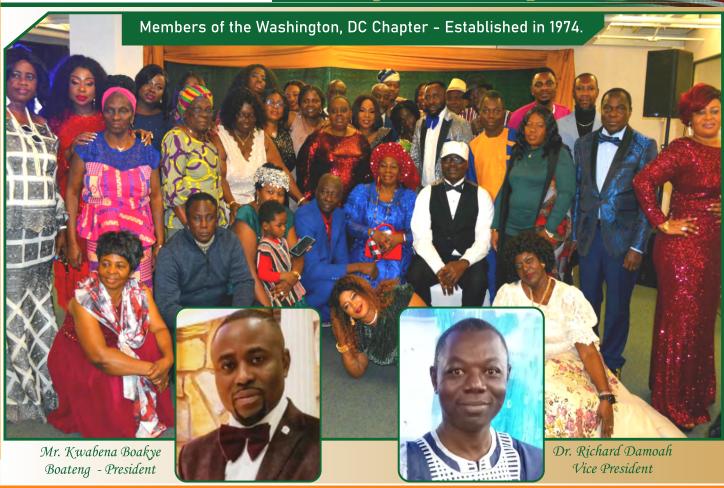


Trenton, New Jersey Chapter



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Washington, DC Chapter



COBAANA 2024 | **15**

Worcester, Massachusetts Chapter







Denver, Colorado Chapter







Mr. Sadiq Annor Vice Chairman

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Toronto, Canada Chapter



Mr. Samuel Opoku Appial Vice Chairman

Members of the Toronto, Canada Chapter - Established in 1982

New York, NY Chapter



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Dallas, Texas Chapter







Ivana Boamah Vice President







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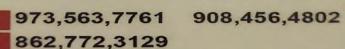
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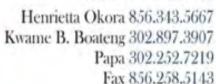






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GHVOG MEDICAL OUTREACH IN DUAYAW NKWANTA (cont'd from page 9)

On behalf of the entire COBAANA family, we want to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the team and we pray that the good Lord will continue to bless your hands so that this kind gesture can be extended to other bodies and individuals. Members of the team included the President and founder of GHVOC, Dr. Nicholas Fosu, Dr. Thelma Asare and Dr. William Oduro. Others included Dr. Emil Tano, Dr. Kwadwo Addae and Dr. Frank Gyamfi.



Mrs. Anita Yeboah

To all these gallant individuals, the people of Duayaw Nkwanta and the leadership and the general membership of COBAANA will forever remember your good deed and this gesture of yours will forever be ingrained in the minds not only of those who received your free services but even posterity yet unborn. Once again, accept our thanks and appreciation.



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