

The joint anniversary of 137th Karenni National Day Celebration Report

Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A

Date of Celebration: June 23-24, 2012

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1) Introduction

The Karenni community leaders in the Midwest region had a meeting on March 3rd 2012 for 137th anniversary of this joint Karenni National Day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

The Karenni communities in the Midwest region are generally count on Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

The meeting in February 2012 came up with an important decision to have a joint Karenni National Day Celebration annually in different states around the Midwest region with the purpose of maintaining ethnic origin historical identity and celebrating diversity in the new communities. Furthermore, having this type collective identity celebration will give the Karenni people a unique opportunity to meet annually and share our success and failure for our life style improvement toward the future journey collectively as Karenni.

The meeting formed an action committee to carry out this 137th anniversary of the Karenni National Day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on post June 23-24, 2012.

This joint Karenni National Day in the Midwest region was also encouraged by Karenni communities in different part of the United States, such New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Taxes and Arizona with their physical active involvement and financial contribution to make this joint event took place successfully.

On behalf of the Karenni communities in the Midwest region, the joint Karenni National Day Planning Committee would sincerely like to express our warm gratitude and thankfulness toward the state of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Taxes and Arizona for their generous supports.

Sincerely,

Karenni National Day Planning Committee

2) Report summary

The Karenni communities in the Midwest region celebrated a joint Karenni National Day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 23-24, 2012.

17 committee members from various states in the Midwest carried out the event planning together for the National Day celebration in the year of 2012. The Karenni families in Wisconsin hosted the event and took great hospitality for overnight staying and food accommodations successfully.

The 17 members of the Karenni National Day event planning arrived early in Milwaukee on June 21-22, 2012 and did the event's preparation, such as soccer field line marking, ceremony agendas and decoration etc...

Between 700-800 people turned up to the national day sport event and opening ceremony on June 23-24, 2012 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The event participants were not only from the Midwest region but also from other part of the United States, such as New York, New Jersey, Virginian, Kentucky, Texas and Arizona.

The joint Karenni National Day received total amount of **\$8,685.00** contribution from Karenni families in the Midwest region. Some of the donation also came from Buffalo, New York, Bowlinggreen, Kentucky and the Karenni Community of Texas (KnTC). Please find detail financial contribution report on context **number-7**.

The two-day event activities were male soccer, female volleyball and male cane ball on June 23, 2012. The championship of those sports/games for 137th Karenni National Day was the state of Minnesota. Iowa took second rank for male soccer and cane ball. Nebraska took second rank for the female volleyball. Sport activities rounded up on June 23, 2012 afternoon.

On June 23, 2012 evening, there was an entertainment concert for Karenni youth from different states to perform traditional dancing and singing. Many youth from different states still maintain the Karenni traditional performances both in dancing and singing.

On June 24, 2012 the Karenni National Day ceremony resumed at 12:00 PM. The Karenni National Day board members, organizing committee, Karenni youth academic people and Karenni special guests, John Bryant and his wife were also present and delivered great speeches about the Karenni National and motivational speeches for Karenni families at the ceremony event.

The ceremony concluded by the Karenni traditional foods and Karenni families left the event by 3:00 PM to our residential states.

Due to the time limitation, the Karenni Day Planning Committee members were not be able to hold a meeting and decide for the next year joint Karenni national day celebration should take place, however future meeting will be held again early next year, either by phone or sky conference and decide, which states will be ready to take term.

3) Positive outcomes/measurement

- Many youth from different states were actively participated in the Karenni National Day sport activities. Those sport activities were the most enjoyable one to have more youth participation at the Karenni National Day event with their fresh energy and excitement.
- Youth were also actively involved in traditional dancing and singing performances. Musical instrument was also perfectly prepared by the Wisconsin's youth.
- Trinity Church in Milwaukee provided the ceremony venue, sport activities venue and other miscellaneous items for the two-day event sufficiently.
- Karenni families contributed sufficient funds to carry out the joint national day celebration event on the post June 23-24, 2012.
- Karenni families in Wisconsin were able to host the event without a bad reputation and major problems.
- The sport field is exclusively out of the city or town areas for the Karenni youth to enjoy those sport games without any complain from city residents.
- Many Karenni were able to have a great reunion and shared the joys and jokes with friends.
- Community leaders from various states were present at the two-day national event with their active participation in speeches delivery and other necessary activities.
- 50% of the Karenni National day participant dressed up Karenni traditional attires or clothes to the Karenni National Day ceremony.

4) Challenges

- Limited space in providing a better accommodation to host everyone in Milwaukee. People were crowded; some of the houses had to host 40 people with limited bedrooms. This might give a negative impression for some people about accommodation in Milwaukee but this was not intentional arrangement, it was beyond the Karenni families' capacity in Milwaukee to provide adequate arrangement, since Karenni families in Milwaukee themselves had their own limited space.
- Not knowing exact numbers of event participants was other challenges to anticipate food accommodation for breakfast, lunch and dinner for everyone.
- Karenni National day event's participants came from different states with different travel timeframe to Milwaukee was a big challenge for the host to have a proper accommodation, since the host were all busy in their assigned responsibilities to host unexpected pop up.
- The planning committee members were not able to carry out all meeting decisions that were decided due to time limitation and limited facility availability to do everything at once.
- Insufficient communication among the planning committee members and some committee members had to take more responsibilities at the event.
- Some committee members were not be able to attend the national day event due to their conflict schedule with work and the National Day event.

5) Recommendations for improvement

- Contributions from the Karenni families need to send to host state on time as an agreement made by the organizing committee in the future.
- Youth need to improve their morality in playing sport in order to minimize mental hatred and physical confrontation during sport activities.
- Committee members need to be more comprehensive on their assigned responsibilities in carrying out the future event preparation.
- Karenni community leaders and youth, who have leadership skills and experiences in event organizing should voluntarily participate in future event celebration.
- More Karenni need to wear our own traditional attire or clothes to attend our national day and traditional event in the future.
- The planning committee members need to have more communication in the future for a better planning and preparation.

- Given general numbers of people, who will attend the future Karenni National Day event to the planning committee ahead for purpose of planning.
- Future planning committee members should ask for vocation at least 1 to 2 days off for the national day event preparation.

6) Thanking for the financial support and hard work

This joint anniversary of 137th Karenni National Day was successfully celebrated with the physical and financial supports from Karenni families in the Midwest region and other parts of the United States.

The greatest appreciation must be given to Karenni families in Wisconsin and Trinity Church in Milwaukee for hosting this first joint Karenni National Day event in the Midwest region.

The joint Karenni National Day event organizing committee members and other Karenni youth, who actively got involved in the event preparation must also took a great credit for the hard works that they had contributed.

The organizing committee would like to express a sincere gratitude to all Karenni community leaders, Karenni friends, youth and families, who were present at the 137th anniversary of the Karenni National Day.

7) Financial Report

The planning committee received total amount of **\$8,685.00** contribution from the Karenni families in the Midwest region and other Karenni Communities in the U.S. The financial contribution that received from the Karenni families spent on foods, event preparation, such transportation, background portraits, sport activities, cooking supports, plates, cups, donation to Trinity Church for ceremony venue, accommodation, sport prize awards and other miscellaneous purchases or expenses.

Out of the total amount of **\$8,685.00** contribution, the Karenni National Day event spent total amount of **\$7,159.59** as mentioned above. Remaining balance is **\$1,525.41**. The planning committee members need to decide on how the remaining balance should be used or kept. The remaining balance should have all committee members' agreement for further spending. All committee members must take responsibility in explaining the Karenni National Day's activity report and financial report to the Karenni families in their own states for the purpose of accountability and transparency in using their contribution

for the Karenni National Day's event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For details see the following financial report chart.

Financial contribution for 137th anniversary of Karenni National Day on 6/23-24/2012 in Milwaukee, WI			
No	Cities & States	Contribution amount	Date Received
1	Milwaukee, WI	\$520	4/28/2012
2	Sioux falls, SD	\$500	5/11/2012
3	Rockford, IL	\$600	5/19/2012
4	Desmines, IA	\$965	5/26/2012
5	Omaha, NE	\$500	5/30/2012
6	Buffalo, NY	\$400	6/14/2012
7	Bowlinggreen, KY	\$100.00	6/18/2012
8	Waterloo, IA	\$600	6/23/2012
9	St. Paul, MN	\$800	6/23/2012
10	Chicago, IL	\$100	6/24/2012
11	Lansing	\$0	No date
12	Karenni Community of Taxes (KnTC)	\$200	6/23/2012
13	Sport Fees	\$3,400	6/23/2012
Total contribution amount		\$8,685	
Financial expenses for the Karenni National Day in Milwaukee, WI			
No	Items	Expenses amount	Comments
1	Karenni Flag	\$200.00	
2	Pork meat	\$1,000.00	
3	Cooking gas, burner and sport flags	\$230.74	
4	Transportation	\$200.00	
5	Soft drink, plates, cups, and other Miscellaneous	\$1,698.85	
6	Cooks & organizing retreat	\$300.00	
7	Donation to Trinity Church	\$500.00	For venue
8	All types of port award prizes total amount	\$3,030.00	
Total expenses amount		\$7,159.59	
Total contribution amount		\$8,685.00	
Total expenses amount		\$7,159.59	
Remaining balance		\$1,525.41	