

BRIEF HISTORY OF SSAJUG

INTRODUCTION

In the year two thousand and eighteen (2018) in the year of our Lord, some senior members of staff in Accra and Kumasi came together to form this noble association by name The Senior Staff Association of the Judicial Service of the Ghana (SSAJUG). These senior members of staff, otherwise known as the Promoters of this association, after mooting the idea proceeded to register the association with the Registrar General as the law demands. On the 16th of August 2018, the certificates for incorporation and to commence business were issued after which the promoters proceeded to the Chief Labour Officer to obtain the trade's union registration certificate on 27th December 2018, making this body a fully flesh Union.

Below are the names of the promoters:

1. Francis Arthur
2. James Mensah
3. Kobina Ewusi
4. Hamza Ustarz
5. Thomas Agombire (late)
6. Simon Quainoo
7. Atsu Kornyoh
8. David Nartey
9. Bismark Ansah
10. Francis Gbeddy
11. George Taylor

MISSION

The mission of this union is basically to represent the senior members of staff as a body and among other things execute the following aims and objectives on behalf of members:

- To promote the development of Senior Staff of the Judicial Service of Ghana.
- To promote and protect the economic and social rights of the Senior Staff.
- To hold congress, meetings, lectures and workshops for the discussion of affairs of the Senior Staff members.
- To provide and maintain such other services for the benefit and welfare of members as the Association may from time to time determine.

- To promote cordial and good working relationships among the members of the Association.
- To act as mouthpiece for the Senior Staff members of the Judicial Service.

VISION

The Senior Staff Association has a bigger vision and it's our prayer and focus to achieve the following for and on behalf of all members with their support and cooperation:

- To promote the vision of this association on the principles of equity, equality, probity and accountability.
- To promote good relationship, respect for one another and the wellbeing of members in and after end of service.
- To fight for a good course in the areas of compensations, allowances and exit benefit (pension).
- To establish physical structures or assets like, offices, hotels, quarters, conference halls, welfare buses, etc.
- To establish a credit union scheme to aid members in securing soft loans for projects and others.

REGIONAL TOUR

Sometime in November/December 2019, the President and I undertook a regional tour to sensitize the senior staff of the service about this association. The tour took us to Tema, Ho, Koforidua, Kumasi, Sunyani, Takoradi and Cape Coast. We had a very fruitful discussion with staff in all these places we visited and they also very much embraced this association with some even filling membership forms there and then. But let me be quick to say that these meetings wouldn't have been successful without the solid organization of our regional representatives then, now the regional chairmen. But the then central regional representative disappointed us by not getting the staff in cape coast and around organized so with the help of the RAO, the senior staff in the cape coast complex were quickly organized and we had the meeting with them.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the union is open to all senior members of staff within the Judicial Service, i.e., the High Court Registrar up to the Chief Registrar and the analogous positions. The constitution of the union has also made provision for directors and their deputies in Judicial Service. A senior member of staff can become a member of SSAJUG after voluntary filling a form. At the moment

SSAJUG can boast of membership strength of about 1100 across all the 16 regions.

INAUGURATION

On the 3rd of August 2020, the union was inaugurated by His Lordship, the Chief Justice, Enin Yeboah, which was a very simple and colorful activity chaired by His Lordship, Justice Marful Siaw. As a union we believe in one thing that is why we have in our constitution as our motto, EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL and our slogan RESPECT, PROBITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. This is something we should not depart from or forget as senior members of staff. As a body, we will do all we can to collaborate with management and JUSAG to put together programs for the senior members of staff to enhance their scope of work and work ethics since our promotions now are measured by appraisals. It will gladden our hearts to see better improvement in attitude of senior members of staff and the entire staff of Judicial Service within the shortest possible time.

INVESTMENT

By January 2020, the association had completed and executed all documentary agreements with the investment house (PETRA TRUST) to kick start the investment for members. A 5-member board of trustees was inaugurated to supervise this investment between the individual members, represented by the association and the investment house (PETRA TRUST). Unfortunately, 9 months down the line, the chairman and the secretary to the board resigned leaving the remaining 3 members handicapped. This led to its dissolution by the National Executive Board. The National Treasurer and I then took over the supervision with specific schedules. So I was to validate members using the (report 20) and the National treasurer goes through the mandatory checks/requirement by the investment house (PRTRA TRUST) to complete a form known as FORM 13 then finally transfer of money is made to them.

When I took over the validation of members in October 2020, our total membership was 286 with almost 100 members whose deductions have not been sent to the investment house due to insufficient information and the rest of the 186 also with anomalies. Presently, we are still facing similar challenges and I will spell them out subsequently in this report.

TRAININGS

The association in 2020 and 2021 organized trainings for superior court registrars, members of the interim national executive council and the other regional executives of this association. The superior court registrars were trained on the new election manual, which came out in 2020; while members of the interim national executive council and the other regional executives were trained on trade union practices.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL EXECUTIVES

The union at the moment has an interim body and at the regional and national levels. The following are the executives who form the national executive board:

1. Marilyn E.M. Suttah (Mrs) – National President
2. Emmanuel Darkwah – National Vice President
3. George Daddy-Hauffner Taylor – Secretary General
4. Emmanuel Agyeman Bannor – National Treasurer

The union has regional officers, which is also the regional executive boards in 8 of the old ten (10) regions. The other 2 regions, which are Upper West and the Northern regions have representatives. Below are the 8 regional boards:

Greater Accra Region:

1. Gideon Amedzenu – chairman
2. Angela Amissah-Mensah – vice chairman
3. Pascal Kwame Tuo – regional secretary
4. Charity Banini – regional deputy secretary
5. Mirinda Ayaaba – regional treasurer

Volta/Oti Regions:

1. Michael Klugah – chairman
2. Edwin Abaidoo – vice chairman
3. Charles Wilson – regional secretary
4. Franklina Sefakor Deh – regional deputy secretary
5. Terry Worlanyo Tayviah -regional treasurer

Central Region:

1. Aziz Mohammed – chairman
2. Abigail Nanaa Quaye – vice chairperson
3. Paul Ochere-Koffie – regional secretary
4. Josephat Kwabena Onomah – regional treasurer

Western/Western North Regions:

1. Charles Acheampong – chairman
2. Philip Glover – regional secretary
3. David Isaac Koffie – regional treasurer

Ashanti Region:

1. Reginald Gogo – chairman
2. Helen Azure – vice chairperson
3. Samuel Boachie Addai – regional secretary
4. Alhassan Sani – regional deputy secretary
5. Maxwell Quarshie (late) – regional treasurer

Bono/Bono East/Ahafo Regions:

1. Patrick Manu – chairman
2. Gordon Ofori – vice chairman
3. Bernard Owusu Assiamah – regional secretary
4. Martha Wiafe – regional treasurer

Eastern Region:

1. Eric Asamoah Ayisi – chairman
2. Belinda Amoah – vice chairperson
3. Juliana Elorm Gadewor – regional secretary
4. Elizabeth Kornyah – regional deputy secretary

Upper East Region:

1. Ben Abu Adam – chairman
2. Hamdat El-Alawa – vice chairperson
3. Raymond Atanga Aweh – regional secretary
4. Fatahia Tilado Hamidu – regional deputy secretary
5. Esther Dambayi – regional treasurer

The representatives of the northern and the upper west regions are, **Gloria Abena Dari** and **Brains Dwumah Antwi** respectively.

Currently, the union is preparing to hold its first regional and national delegates conference at Kumasi, the Ashanti region in first week of October 2022. The electoral committee is done with the bye laws governing the elections and hopefully election notices plus the bye laws would be issued to the attention of all members by 4th of July 2022. All other information relating to the conference can be found in the constitution.