

State of the Family 2015

Hello Huguely Family,

Since I live in very close proximity to our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., I thought it would apropos for me, almost one full year into my presidency, to deliver a "State Of The Family" address, if you will, on the current status of the new initiatives/special projects that I introduced in my 'inaugural' greeting e-mail to you last August following last year's reunion, and well as plans and challenges looking forward. (Or maybe, just maybe, I have too much time on my hands...)

However, before I get started, I just want to reiterate how gracious, humbled, and honored that I continue to be to hold such an office, President of the Huguely Reunion! My Executive Committee team of Brandon Durham, Vicki Mitchell, Angelina Huguely, Jasmine Clark, and Lauren Mitchell is wonderful to work with and very supportive, while my Advisory Team, aka my 'Very Wise Team,' of Lucian Huguely, Jr. ('Shorty'), Toni Miles, Felecia Shearer, Michael Runyon, and Troy Huguely, continues to provide excellent guidance and timely encouragement.

We've successfully conducted fall (September) and spring (March) Executive Committee (EC) business meetings and are currently tracking related action items.

I will now provide a brief status, as of July 27th, 2015, of each of the aforementioned seven special projects (e.g., completed, significant progress, some progress, struggling, "What was I thinking?"):

- Update/distribute Huguely Family (Address) Directory (*Some Progress*) – Our initial intent was to procure an electronic copy of the latest (published book) version and to update it, then make it available to all Huguely family members. To date, we have not yet been able to procure such a copy. However, an Excel spreadsheet form of the address directory was located and then used to mail out 175 2015 Huguely reunion registration/activities packets back in mid-April. Albeit, with approximately 25 packets returned due to old address, this exercise turned out not to be a total waste. We still have a ways to go to shore up the Huguely Address Directory. For this exercise, we certainly need your help.
- Develop/distribute Huguely E-Mail/Telephone Contact List (*Significant Progress*) – Our current e-mail distribution list includes ~125 names and is growing, however, everyone does not check their e-mail on a frequent basis. For this reason, we make sure that all informational e-mail messages are posted on our Facebook site. Hopefully, we can be Facebook friends... Again, with your help, we want to expand and update our e-mail distribution list as well as keep current our telephone contact list.
- Support Establishment of Mentor Program (*Significant Progress*) – At last year's reunion in Cincinnati, Charley Gillispie first proposed that the Huguely Family have a Mentor Program comprising of family members willing to serve as mentors for high school and college students to provide guidance and direction in their respective career field. After

Charley spoke, several family members signed up immediately (name/profession). Since that time, Charley has further refined the purpose, structure, and duties of a mentor, as well as the responsibilities of a mentee. An outstanding effort thus far, indeed!

- Update Huguely Family Tree (*Completed*) – In January, I purchased ‘Family Tree’ software on-line and soon after typed in over 1,400 Huguely names, generated updated family trees (branches), and had them uploaded to the updated Huguely website. Since then, I’ve continued to update the family tree as I receive update sheets from family members. As an aside, I just learned that a recently deceased Huguely family member had 6 children, 23 grandchildren, and ‘numerous’ great-grandchildren, none of whom is included in the current family tree! Of course, I’m in process of contacting the five surviving children in order to populate the family tree.
- Develop Huguely Documents Repository (e.g., photos, videos, audios, papers, letters, etc.) (*Completed*) – With the completion of the updated Huguely Reunion website on or about April 23, 2015, many Huguely historical documents now have a new home where they could be viewed by anyone, inside or outside the family. To this end, I would highly encourage you to take a gander at: www.huguelyfamilyreunion.com. I think you’ll truly enjoy the many features, highlights, photos, history, and exciting information on this site! And please be sure to visit this site on a frequent basis as new items are posted as we are made aware.

Speaking of the updated Huguely website, special kudos to my nephew, Randall Cobb, for his extraordinary effort and dedication in the design and maintenance of the website. Also, many thanks and appreciation to my aunt, Alice Cornelison, for perusing her ‘archives’ and providing historical and invaluable Huguely family videos, photos, newsletters, banquet programs, cookbook, newspaper articles, and other documents to scan and have uploaded to the website.

- Increase Youth Participation and Attendance (*Slow Progress*) – Youth participation is difficult to measure and perhaps better indicated by youth turnout at our annual reunion. Unlike back in the old days when we were dragged, kicking and screaming, to this annual gathering, and when larger families were more prevalent, youth (we) were exposed to a lasting legacy, whether they realized or not. In hindsight, what a blessing!!! For me, at least, the Huguely Reunion has become more important as I’ve grown older! Those middle-aged folks who we saw when we were children ... well, we are them! Speaking of youth, I’d like to make special mention of Jasmine Clark, who took over and led this year’s effort at producing the 2015 Huguely Newsletter, which I know you’ll enjoy. She makes us proud!
- Improve Communication (*Significant Progress*) – With our year-long efforts to create/update a Huguely e-mail list, address list, telephone list, along with the development of the updated Huguely Reunion website (with link to the Huguely Facebook page), I believe that we’ve made great strides in this area, although an ongoing effort. And, by the way, communication is a two-way street. We certainly value and cherish your feedback.

So, I guess I can live with an overall ‘B’ average, but always striving for improvement! I look forward to presenting new initiatives and special projects at the reunion business meeting.

I’d be remiss, however, if I didn’t make mention of the continuing ‘challenges’ of collecting annual Huguely family dues. For those not aware, annual dues, which have been \$20.00 for all

adult 18 and older since 2000, go 50/50 toward Huguely Business Office operating expenses (e.g., postage, printing, envelopes, matching host city seed money, fees, etc.) and Huguely Scholarships. When annual dues are not paid by EVERYONE, immediate impacts to how we operate as a family organization are realized. This is why it is vitally important that annual Huguely dues be paid in a timely fashion each and every year. For the first time, annual dues may now be paid via the updated Huguely website using PayPal.

In other family news, Mrs. Madge Reed Huguely, turned 98 years young on June 28th, while Mrs. Elizabeth Chenault Huguely will turn 100 years young on August 31st. Wow!!! They represent the two oldest living Huguely family members. May they both continue to be graced with good health and God's blessings.

I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate the 2015 Huguely Scholarship Awardees:

- Aliyah Bibb (*Lucian Huguely Branch*)
- Summer Gilliam (*Lucian Huguely Branch*)
- Aida Samb (*Lucian Huguely Branch*)
- Raven Shearer (*John A. Huguely Branch*)

These students each exemplified academic excellence. They make us proud!!! Keep up the good work!

Finally, let us remember those beloved Huguely members (*branch*) who have passed on since last August and cherish their memories:

- Louis Eugene Hughley, Sr.: January 9, 1931 – August 24, 2014 (*Jacob Huguely*)
- Sammie Carol Huguely Kennedy: February 2, 1944 – December 4, 2014 (*Lucian Huguely*)
- Juan El Douglas: November 25, 1955 – February 18, 2015 (*Lucian Huguely*)
- Veeda Dehavillon Harris Durham: July 2, 1943 – May 9, 2015 (*John A. Huguely*)
- Jean Leeanna Huguely Farr: March 24, 1929 – May 30, 2015 (*Lucian Huguely*)

The Huguely family keeps them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing many of you Huguely family members in Lexington, Kentucky, next weekend. Let's show our appreciation to the Lex-Kin folks for their dedication and hard work in planning a wonderful 61st Huguely Reunion. Safe travels! Remember, Detroit in 2016 and Washington, D.C. in 2017...

God bless the Huguely Family!!! Take care!

Kenneth A. Cobb, President
Everee Huguely & Green Gentry Branch (5th Generation)