

Nepalese Association in Southeast America

2nd Executive / Board Meeting

Shree Mandir, Mableton, Georgia

September 18, 2011

Participants (current and outgoing officers)

Sanjeeb Sapkota, Ram Dongol, Sagun Shrestha, Dhana Timilsina, Hari Bhandari, Janak Baral, Dipendra Thapa, Shailendra Bajracharya, Lekh Sharma, Kumar Bhandari, Gobinda Shrestha, Raja Ghale, Kumar KC

Participants via Phone

Saunak Ranjitkar, Bimal Nepal, Choodamani Khanal, Madhav Mainali, Ram Chandra Baral, Lila Bahadur Karki

Observers/ guests

Shailendra Bajracharya, Kumar Bhandari, Pashupati Neupane, Som Thapa,

Sanjeeb opened the meeting and welcome participants; Sagun facilitated the meeting. Janak started out with the prayer for the auspicious beginning of new executive/ board of directors or officers of NAsEA.

Follow up of the NAsEA ANMA Convention

Sanjeeb updated that the moderators of each session and the chair of each committee are compiling a summary of the event. This will culminate into a proceedings/ report of the convention and going to be valuable document for NAsEA in not only planning future events promoting the organization. Ram updated that a surplus of \$4,000 has been gathered from the convention and another \$7,700 have been pledged during the cultural program that is being collected. Once all will be collected, we will have a total of \$11,700 as the amount received in surplus from the convention deducting all the expenses. Sanjeeb said that this is the first time such a large surplus has been collected as most of the previous conventions have either been a break-even or gone in deficit, and the credit goes to a detail planning, saving costs, increasing revenue through advertisement and pledging during cultural program.

Separately, \$300 have been collected from the sale of the ticket for movie *Challenge* that was shown at the

convention. Madhav Dhakal will suggest the board how this would be split between NAsEA and the producers of the movie. The producers have supported the convention with an advertisement of \$600 for the *Yeti View Points*. Bimal commended the transparency of the financial management in NAsEA and thanked Ram and other and he wished this be the norm of the organization moving ahead.

General Assembly meeting notes were taken by Saunak and handed it over to Sanjeeb and he will share the notes to the committee.

Farewell to outgoing team

Sanjeeb thanked the outgoing president Raja Ghale, executive members Tara, Lekh and Srijana Sharma and honored them with *Khata*. He reminded that during the tenure of President Ghale NAsEA organized or supported a total of 33 different events/ activities, at least two in each month. Lekh Sharma worked tirelessly for the success of the convention and so did Tara Pun. Raja congratulated the newly elected board of director/ officer of NAsEA and mentioned that even though his term has ended he is always available for NAsEA and that he could be counted on for the any help, support and contribution for the success of the organization. Dhana arranged the *Khata*s for the outgoing team.

Calendar of events

Sanjeeb mentioned that a 'NAsEA Calendar of Events' will be developed that will list the activities/events/ program of Nepali organization in each of the southeast state or the universities. Not all events can be planned in advance so this calendar will be updated periodically to include new activities. Such calendar will help NAsEA and state organizations come together and learn and share and add strength in the regionalization. The board welcomed this new approach on regionalization. Dashain & Deusi Bhailo in the southeast region should be mentioned in the calendar so should be Nepal festival that is being planned in the spring of 2012.

Committee and subcommittees

The current board soon needs to form committees and subcommittees to begin functioning in different areas. Last years the committees have been Public Relations, Bhutanese Collaboration, Sports, Fund raising, cultural, Information Technology, entrepreneurs.

The board brainstormed adding following committee youth, sports, literature promotion, children. It suggested expanding public relations to include immigration and legal support, conflict resolution, tax services, membership committee (to increase life and general members). It was suggested that we could seek from Department of Homeland Security to run citizenship classes.

Sanjeeb emphasized that the life members of the organization has to be increased by at least double by the end of the board's term and so has the funding need to double. He suggested adding 'Bylaws alert Committee and Financial Oversight Committee. The former will advise the president and the committee if all the decisions and activities are in accordance of the bylaws of NASEA and the latter has been mandated by the bylaws.

A suggestion was made that a 'life member appreciation dinner' be held where life members could be appreciated with a certificate. All the current executive/ board members are encouraged to be the life members. Pashupati suggested that one way to attract life membership is through projects and events.

Network of State/metro/ universities based organizations in NASEA region

Sanjeeb mentioned that a network of Nepali state/metro based organization in NASEA region has been established during the convention at the session 'Interaction among state/metro based organizations'. Monthly conference calls have been planned of this network and the first one will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 09.00 PM Central Time. The agenda of the first conference call include southeast youth soccer tournament, southeast youth talent show, southeast literature promotion, Nepal festival, southeast Dashain/ Deusi event, symposium of the southeast presidents, Nepali summer camp. Let's increase the email list to create a complete list of Nepali people living here.

Such network links presidents or representations of Nepali organization in different states/ metro/ universities of the southeast region and promotes the sharing of knowledge and best practices and helps.

Consolidated Projects in Nepal

Sanjeeb mentioned that though NASEA supports several projects in Nepal by promoting it and helping in its fundraising, but a single impactful NASEA project should be organized in Nepal that benefits a large population of brother and sisters in back in Nepal. Dr. Karki said he will compile and update the list of

project NAsEA sponsors to create a consolidated project in Nepal and would also think along the lines of such impactful single NAsEA project.

Website and Information Technology

A major overhaul of the NAsEA website was discussed that will provide a short term and a long term solution to make it one-stop-shop of information for the Nepalese including the features:

Shailendra will assist to include the following features -- calendar of events, news from the southeast states, advertisements to generate funds, NAsEA online stores (via 3rd party system), 'Nepali Craigslist', information such as 'Are you new to the United States?', 'Are you going to/ coming from Nepal ?', international festivals.

Sanjeeb, Dhana and Sagun will create a template that will meet the temporarily need and will forward to Shailendra. Official documents sent to Shailendra will be updated and uploaded.

Miscellaneous topics

Social Media including Facebook, Twitter will be used to promote NAsEA with a focus on Facebook.

Wikipedia article of NAsEA will be developed and YouTube video on NAsEA and its history would be developed.

8th ANMA NAsEA Convention, Indianapolis - 2012 convention

The chairperson of the convention has been selected as Gopendra Bhattarai. NAsEA we will have to provide co-chairs for the convention. The co-chair would effectively represent NAsEA in the convention committee. Such person should have time to commit, experience and should have promotion of NAsEA on his/ her mind. Following names have been proposed for the co-chair -- Ram Dongol, Lila Karki, Gobinda Shrestha, Saunak Ranjitkar, Ram Chandra Baral, Tilak Shrestha, Dibya Pradhan, Srijana Sharma and Dhana Timilsina. It will be further discussed and decided on the next executive meeting.

Host organization/ city of 2013 Convention

Nepali organizations in Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, North Carolina have shown interest in hosting the 2013 NAsEA ANMA Convention. A selection committee modeled after the Olympic host city selection committee will be formed that will take different criteria into considerations for making the

selection and would allow the interested organizations present their case.

The selection committee will send out a circulation soliciting 'applications'.

Nepal Wireless Project

Tara Pun updated that former president and the coordinator of the Nepal Wireless Project Tek Thapa has provided a total of \$600 in cash with another \$600+ is being collected and would be coming later.

Nepali School in Atlanta

Sagun updated that the school would begin following Dashain. Part of the funds collected from Deusi this year will be used for running the Atlanta based Nepali Language and Dance School.

Board of advisors -

A new cohort of advisors needs to be selected for the new term 2011-2013. Sanjeeb solicited suggestion and the following are the names were brought forward -- Suman Silwal, Ajay Satyal, Kumar Bhandari, Tara Pun, Saunak Ranjitkar, Raju Thapa, Dr. Sushma Pradhan, Srijana Sharma, Bhaskar Raj Dawadi, Bala Pant, Bob Gerzoff, Shakti Aryal, Durga Poudel, Khushi Ram Tiwari, Archana Kattel, Pashupati Neupane. The advisors will be decided in the next meeting.

The Next meeting will be held in South Carolina in October 2nd and the hosts are Dr. Ram Chandra Baral and Kusum Baral.

Co-chair for Nepalese Cultural Center of Atlanta: Dipendra Thapa has been selected to be the co-chair of the Nepalese Cultural Center to represent NAsEA.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic:

Dhana updated that picnic will be held in Lake Lanier on September 25, Sunday. Hari will be coordinating food, drinks and other stuff. Raja Ghale will be bringing the sound system that he donated to NAsEA. Saunak, Avi and team are preparing the nice little 'concert'.

Dashain celebration:

Sanjeeb said that NAsEA executive members should participate in *Dashain* celebration of different state

based Nepali organization. This will help strengthen NASEA's relationship with the organization. Many state organizations have invited NASEA president and executives in their celebration. Dipendra updated that NAG is planning *Dashain* Party and is expecting about 250 people.

Nepalese Cultural Center

Minutes from the the Nepal Cultural Center discussions will be prepared separately and distributed via the googlegroup.

Adjourn

President Sanjeeb Sapkota adjourned the meeting.