



NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEAST AMERICA



NASEA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting 2

Date: May 9th, 2010

Venue: Sapkota Residence
2821 valley spring Dr.,
Lawrenceville, GA

Submitted By: Saunak Ranjitkar

1. Opening\Meeting Process

Mr. Raja Ghale opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Saunak mentioned the meeting process and housekeeping.

2. Next Convention

- a. Mr. Raja Ghale welcomed Mr. Mukesh Singh (President of ANMA) and Mr. Rajendra Khatiwada (Treasurer of ANMA and Chair of the convention) who had joined over the conference call and requested them to provide update on the convention, its background and answer any questions that NAsEA executive members might have.
 - i. Mr. Mukesh Singh briefed the history of Joint convention and its success in the past. He further explained that following the convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, the planning on the NAsEA ANMA convention was suspended until the NAsEA elects new executive committee. He proposed new executive to join the convention. He explained convention planning details. He said Joint Convention is not a new collaboration between NAsEA and ANMA and we have been having this or the past several years. He assured good experience, and good working relationship moving ahead.
 - ii. Mr. Rajendra Katiwada added that most of planning has been done. Sports venues are being finalized. Committees have been finalized and a chair and members have been assigned and much of the ground work complete.
 - iii. Ram Dangol asked about last year's financial closing and if the share of the cost will be same as it used to be i.e. 50-50 between NAsEA and ANMA. Mr. Khatiwda confirmed this. Gobinda Shrestha asked for clarifications on why ANMA decided not to do the joint convention immediately following the convention. Mukesh Singh replied that there seem to be a misunderstanding as it was never decided not to do the convention in collaboration. What was decided was to suspend and wait until the new NAsEA executive committee is formed. He also informed his effort to communicate with the Ad Hoc committee member Bala Pant and asking for a NAsEA representative in the joint convention. However, the Ad Hoc Committee was unable to comply with this.
 - iv. Gobinda Shrestha and Saunak Ranjitkar asked if the decision for joint convention has already been made by ANMA executive board or is that something has yet to be decided. Mukesh Singh mentioned that he has communicated with most of his fellow executive members who have given their positive feedback for the joint convention but he acknowledged that a formal decision of a full executive board has not taken place. He further said that he has called for urgent conference call of the members tomorrow, May 10, where it will be formally discussed and decided.

- v. Tek Thapa clarified that we were ready to announce Joint Convention during the Raleigh convention but because of the uncertainty it was withheld. He then asked why ANMA chose Labor Day weekend as for its convention time when it used to its previous convention during Memorial Day. Mukesh Singh agreed that Labor Day used to be NAsEA's convention period but ever since the joint convention has begun they have been adopting that time frame.
 - vi. Mukesh Singh on his final notes said that ANMA is ready to embrace NAsEA once again as a partner and a collaborator for the convention to help out Nepalese of the Midwest and Southeast America, but it is totally the decision of NAsEA executive board if they would like to join with ANMA for the convention or not. He further assured that relationship between NAsEA and ANMA will not be compromised despite any decision made by the body.
- b. A detailed discussion followed following the conference call with ANMA executives in which all executive members expressed their opinion as well the attending observers (Pralhad Pant, Bindu Pant, Janak Baral, Kumar Bhandari, Bidhya Gurung) shared their view. Mr. Raja Ghale summarized that NAsEA is willing to convene Joint Convention with ANMA this year.
- c. Following decision was passed by the executive body :
- i. NAsEA will join hands with ANMA for ANMA/NAsEA Joint Convention 2010 to be held at Lexington, KY over Labor Day Weekend (September 4-6, 2010).

Lunch Break

3. Nepal Festival

- a. Sanjeeb Sapkota made a PowerPoint presentation on 'Nepal Festival' to all executive members where he showed the planning and preparations made so far. The potential venues are being explored but the ones that are likely seem to be Centennial Park, Piedmont Park, and open field in Century Center. It was unanimously passed that Nepal festival will be organized with the potential date of around upcoming *Dashain*.

4. Advisory Board Members

- a. Mr. Raja Ghale proposed following new advisors to the advisory board which was unanimously accepted by the committee:
 - i. Dr. Pralhad Pant,
 - ii. Dr. Tilak Shrestha,
 - iii. Suman Silwal,
 - iv. Dr. Ram Chandra Baral,
 - v. Samir Upadhyay,
 - vi. Bala Pant,
 - vii. Bob Gregoff.

5. **Nepali Cultural Community Center**

Raja Ghale explained the importance of having Nepali cultural community center to make a historic step. He shared that a number of senior NAsEA members have shown interest in making contributions for this. After further discussions, following items were decided:

- i. Executive body overwhelmingly welcomed this proposal and passed the motion to initiate this task.
- ii. Preferred Venue for Community Center is Atlanta, GA.
- iii. NAsEA will seek help from local organizations in Atlanta metro area for accomplishing this task.
- iv. Separate committee will be formed in the next meeting to oversee the operations of this task.

6. **Committee Formation**

Discussions on the formation of various committees were discussed. Following committees were formed and passed unanimously by executive body.

a. **IT Committee**

- i. Objective: To support NAsEA and its activities through the deployment of technology.
- ii. Members : Lekh Sharma, Sagun Shrestha, Suman Silwal, Shailendra Bajracharya, Saunak Ranjitkar

b. **Bylaws Committee**

- i. Tek Thapa mentioned that Prakash Malla would be taking the lead on Bylaws committee but he will be assisting in the process. The plan is to submit to the next NAsEA general assembly, now that being during the upcoming convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Before that the Bylaws will be revised based on the comments and suggestions received so far and shared again among the members via website and mass email for their additional comments. Once they are incorporated, it will be presented to the general assembly.
- ii. Members: Tek Thapa, Prakash Malla

c. **Publication Committee**

- i. The committee will assess the needs of various NAsEA publications such as booklets, newsletter, brochures etc and begin working on it. The committee is currently working on the NAsEA electronic newsletter, the first of its kind, and will soon bring out the first issue. The committee also plans to increase the frequency of Yeti to at least twice a year and dedicate to issues on children, women, jobs etc.

- ii. Members: Sanjeeb Sapkota, Lila Bdr Karki, Dr. Tilak Shrestha, Suman Silwal, Nagendra Sharma and Bijendra Gurung

d. **Children Program Committee**

- i. The initial effort of this committee is to bring the school in Atlanta back to running soon. Beside this various other activities will be planned and implemented.
- ii. Members: Srijana Sharma

e. **Youth Committee**

- i. Objective: To increase participation of Youth within the organization.
- ii. Members: Mohan Bisht

f. **Constitution Committee**

- i. Sanjeeb Sapkota brought forward the idea of this committee whose role would be remind executive board if its actions and well within the boundary of NASEA constitution and bylaws. This is like a monitoring committee without any regulatory function but just as the alerting and reminding role. The committee liked the idea and wanted to discuss this further in next meeting.
- ii. Members: TBD

g. **Tourism Promotion Committee**

- i. Tara Pun reminded that tourism is the heart of the economic development of Nepal and if there is anything that will help in Nepalese economy then its tourism. He outlined several activities that could be done to promote tourism in Nepal including promoting Visit Nepal 2011.
- ii. Members: Tara Pun

h. **Public Relation Committee**

- i. Sanjeeb Sapkota mentioned that issues like immigration, social, legal, mortuary services will be addressed through various projects and programs through this committee. He conveyed similar view shared by Lila Bdr Karki, the other member of this committee, who could not join the meeting.
- ii. Members: Sanjeeb Sapkota, Lila Bdr Karki

i. **Cultural Promotion**

- i. Srijana Sharma highlighted the significance of cultural promotion particularly among children and youth in the US.
- ii. Members: Srijana Sharma

j. **Bhutanese Collaboration Committee**

- i. Dhana Timilsina shared plans and idea on collaborating for the mutual benefits of Bhutanese and Nepalese community. Sanjeeb Sapkota showed some pictures of picnic organized by Chinmaya mission for the Bhutanese community where NAsEA had provided support. Dhana Timilsina, who coordinated NAsEA volunteering drive, gave a brief report on how NAsEA helped by providing transportation services to Bhutanese attending the picnic organized by Chinmaya Mission. Raja Ghale, Sanjeeb Sapkota, Dhana Timilsina, Agam Magar volunteered driving the Bhutanese to and from the picnic spot. NAsEA also provided translational services from English to Nepali.
- ii. Members: Dhana Timilsina

7. ANA NAsEA Memorandum of Understanding:

Sanjeeb Sapkota shared the draft memorandum of understanding that ANA (Association of Nepalese in Americas) has brought to the attention of NAsEA executive board requesting for joining hands in projects and programs to that support Nepalese in the US and Nepal in overall. The memo is about working together collaboratively and in partnership.

The committee welcomed and thanked for this friendly gesture and postponed the discussion on this matter till the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting:

Next meeting was decided to be on May 16 at Marietta, Georgia.

The executive members thanked vice president Mr. Sapkota and his wife for hosting the meeting.