



NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEAST AMERICA



NASEA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting 1

Date: May 2nd, 2010

Venue: New Haveli Restaurant
8465 Holcomb Bridge Road,
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Submitted By: Saunak Ranjitkar

Attendance



NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEAST AMERICA



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Vice-President

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Former Presidents

Bishwa Acharya (GA)
Dharmendra Dhakal (TN)
Samanta Thapa (TN)
Hari Dhungana (GA)
Ramesh N. Amatya (TN)
Shaubhagya Shrestha (GA)
Prakash B. Malla (GA)
Narayan Rajbhandari (NC)
Tek Thapa (GA)

Mission Statement of NASEA, a non-profit organization

To promote Nepalese culture and values; to advocate for human rights, freedom and peace; and to serve fellow human beings.

<http://www.naseaonline.org>

NASEA Executive Committee Meeting - Attendance

May 2, 2010

- Raja Ghale _____
- Sanjeeb Sapkota _____
- Saunak Ranjitkar _____
- Srijana Sharma _____
- Ram S. Dongol _____
- Shyam Aryal _____
- Mohan Bista _____
- Madhav Dhakal _____
- Lila Karki _____
- Dipendra Lamichhane _____
- Tara Punmagar _____
- Lekh Sharma _____
- Govinda Shrestha _____
- Sagun Shrestha _____
- Dhana Timilsina _____

Sangita Dongol _____
 TEK THAPA _____
 KUMAR Bhandari _____
 HARI BHANDARI _____

Date: 05/02/2010 Record Keeper: Saunak Ranjitkar

Opening / Votes of Thanks

Mr. Raja Ghale announced the start of the meeting and proposed a vote of thanks to the past NAsEA Ad-Hoc Committee members, Mr. Shailendra Bajracharya and other volunteers for making election a great success. This motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting Process

Mr. Saunak Ranjitkar detailed the code and conduct of the meeting to the attendees.

Financial Report

1. Mr. Ram Dongol presented the financial report of the organization. Details available in appendix section.
2. Mr. Ram Dongol detailed on recent fund raising activities of NAsEA including “Shanti Sherchan Medical Fund” and “Ilam Fire Victim Fund”. He encouraged increasing email circulation on these sectors.
3. Financial Report on last year’s convention was presented.
4. Mr. Ram Dongol mentioned that he is in contact with treasurer from ANMA (Mr. Khatiwada) to close out the 2009 Convention Finance.
5. Everyone requested Mr. Ram Dongol to forward pledge list so that all can help to collect pledged amounts.

Transition / Highlights of NAsEA projects

1. Mr. Tek Thapa (immediate past president of NAsEA) committed full support for moving forward.
2. Mr. Tek Thapa gave brief overview of past and ongoing NAsEA projects including :
 - a. Restroom construction project
 - b. Mahabir Pun \$1 campaign
 - c. Helping Hand Hospital
 - d. Kanku High School Project
 - e. Sponsoring Teacher’s salary
 - f. Transfer of Technology
3. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota proposed keeping details of these project in NAsEA’s website, and Mr. Ram Dongol volunteered to write something up about these projects.
4. Mr. Lila Karki volunteered to be a point of contact for NAsEA projects dealing with locations in Nepal
5. Mr. Raja Ghale thanked Mr. Tek Thapa for smooth transition to new executive body.
6. Mr. Raja Ghale informed the committee NAsEA google group distribution list access has been transferred. Mr. Tek Thapa emphasized the significance of this distribution list and encouraged new body to use it solely for organization related information and communication.

Proposal for New members in Advisory board

1. Everyone agreed that all past presidents are members of Advisory Board.
 - a. Mr. Raja Ghale proposed to add the following to the members to the advisory board:
 - i. Dr. Prahlad Pant, Suman Silwal, Tilak Shrestha, Ram Chandra Baral, and Bob Gergeoff
2. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota proposed Samir Upadhyay .
3. Mr. Lekh Sharma requested that each of the proposed individual's contribution to the Nepalese community should be highlighted. Mr. Gobinda Shrestha added that the credibility of each of them should be highlighted.
4. Mr. Dipendra Lamichhane suggested that it is not good idea to decide now and should talk about pros and cons among all of us. Srijana Sharma second that motion.
5. Everyone agreed on following resolutions :
 - a. President will communicate with current and proposed advisors about new advisory board,
 - b. Executive members will gather information on the proposed advisors:
 - c. Decision will be made in the next meeting.

Online survey for needs assessment

1. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota suggested that, in order for the new executive committee to make its plan of action for its tenure, it should assess the needs of the community they serve. For this an online assessment with questions covering various areas is the best bet. Such assessment could ask community members for their thoughts, ideas and suggestions on variety of topics like different service needs for the community including legal, financial, social etc; promoting culture, heritage and values, collaboration with Bhutanese communities etc. Online survey tools like zoomerang, Survey Gizmo or survey monkey could be used. Prior to the meeting a draft set of ten questions were sent out to the executive members for their review.
2. This proposal was accepted by executive body unanimously.
3. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota will finalize the survey together with Mr. Lila Bdr. Karki and Mr. Tara Punmagar and will disseminate this out.

NASeA Committee Formation

1. Mr. Raja Ghale, Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota and Mr. Saunak Ranjitkar informed the body that they have been working on the formation of various committees for the new executive body to take charge on. Mr. Ranjitkar emphasized that the newly appointed elected has lots of accountability and that they need to deliver what is expected of them. Mr. Sapkota reiterated that the performance of new body relies heavily on the different activities these committees' function.
2. Various opinions were expressed including :

- a. Ms. Srijana Sharma suggested Nepali School to be included in Cultural committee as it is more oriented towards preserving Nepali culture and heritage.
 - b. Mr. Tara Pun suggested Tourism committee.
 - c. Mr. Gobinda Shrestha proposed to add Culture committee.
 - d. Dr. Lila Karki stressed on the need of Public Relations Committee and Publications Committee.
 - e. Mr. Dhana Timilsina vowed to help with Bhutanese committee.
 - f. Mr. Dipendra Lamichanne proposed to limit the number of committees.
 - g. Mr. Tek Thapa suggested that some committees can be consolidated based on similarity in the objectives.
3. Everyone agreed to form a task force who will present details on each committee (including objective of committee, proposed co-ordinator/members, and future plans of the committee). Following task force was formed :
- i. IT Committee : Lekh/Sagun
 - ii. Bylaws Committee : Tek
 - iii. Membership Drive Committee : Sanjeeb/Madhav
 - iv. Bhutanese Collaboration Committee : Dhana/Shyam
 - v. Costitution/Legal Advise Committee: Sanjeeb/Mohan
 - vi. Fund Raise Committee: Ram/Gobinda
 - vii. Publication Committee: Lila/Sanjeeb
 - viii. Tourism and Culture Promotion : Tara/Srijana
 - ix. Public Relations : Sanjeeb/Lila
 - x. Youth Committee: Mohan
4. Each member assigned in section #3 will present details on their respective committee in next executive meeting.
5. Decision on each of the proposed committee will be made in the next meeting.

Regionalization of NAsEA

1. Mr. Saunak Ranjitkar and Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota put forward the point that NAsEA needs to move forward as a strong regional organization with its presence felt in all the states it covers in a balanced manner. Sanjeeb said that Nepalese state-wide organization in each state should be our strong partner and all NAsEA activities in individual states have to be done with the partnership with them. NAsEA point person for the state has to be the president of that particular state. If not the president, then someone the president designates should be requested. A separate NAsEA point person other than from the state based organization would create confusion and possibly conflict. Saunak said, to work in pair with individual state's point person, one NAsEA executive member should be appointed. For example if the president of Florida Nepalese Association (FNA) is the point person for NAsEA then one NAsEA executive member, say Mohan Bista, is the point person for FNA in Florida. Mohan's role would be make effort in strengthen collaboration with FNA through activities, projects etc with FNA's point person.

2. Mr. Lamichhane reminded the team that similar arrangement was discussed in past meetings and asked Mr. Tek Thapa if such was mentioned in the bylaws. Mr. Thapa said it was not pursued further and he supported taking such arrangement to next level.
3. Mr. Sapkota said he had informal discussions with president of NCNC (Nepalese Center of North Carolina) and vice president of FNA (Florida Nepalese Association) and the initial responses have been positive.
4. The executive members accepted and passed this arrangement and supported the rapid action towards this.

Dheusire Picnic

Following items were finalized regarding “Dheusire Picnic” to be organized in Atlanta:

1. Date : 27th June, 2010
2. Organizing team will include representatives from NAG as well
3. Fund will be raised separately for the picnic.
4. Total amount of \$1058 collected from this year’s “Dheusire” program will be handed over to Treasurer for the use of Nepali School on same day.

Nepal Festival and Convention Planning / Brainstorming

1. Various opinions were expressed on the topic of “where to held this year’s convention”
 - a. Mr. Lekh Sharma proposed Atlanta as a better option with ‘Nepal Festival’ on first day. He mentioned that not many participants from NAsEA region would participate if convention is held joint with ANMA.
 - b. Ms. Srijana Sharma opined that Joint Convention would be a better option as we can bring reputed guests and speakers to the convention.
 - c. Mr. Tara Pun opined that due to time limitation, it’d be better to hold convention together with ANMA this year. And, Nepal festival should be counted as separate event.
 - d. Mr. Sagun Shrestha suggested having Joint Convention with ANMA only in every five years, and regional convention should be held inside NAsEA region.
2. Mr. Tek Thapa gave a brief background on Convention planning, and mentioned that ANMA had decided not to do Joint Convention this year. He opined that Atlanta would be a better option for this year in order to energize member base of our region.
3. Mr. Raja Ghale updated members on proposal from ANMA. He mentioned that ANMA has requested to do convention jointly with NAsEA this year.
4. Mr. Saunak Ranjitkar asked the level of preparation ANMA has made in terms of Convention Planning and suggested that we need to gather information and put all the options on table for the convention. He also mentioned that if ANMA is behind the convention planning then we need to re-think about the planning process.
5. Mr. Raja Ghale informed that he will bring that information to the body by next meeting.
6. Everyone agreed to do more homework on this and decide in the next meeting.

Newsletter

1. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota proposed to commence an electronic newsletter that would contain news, events and announcements related to NAsEA and Nepali community. He added that most of the organizations have newsletters that highlight their activities. This is great tool to communicate with members and get their opinion. He updated that a draft framework has been put together and has been send out to executive members.
2. Mr. Lila Karki opined that this could be integrated under publication committee.
3. Executive committee unanimously passed this proposal.

Services to community: Legal, security, NAsEA policy\ position

1. Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota emphasized that Nepalese in the United States are in need of various services including but not limited to legal, immigration, security etc. Occasionally we need mortuary service. Some may need attorney services for, some financial support, some might be pursuing justice, and some might want help to cremate the human remains of their loved ones. The community has seen incidences like deportation, unfortunate homicide of Nepalese working in gas stations, road side crashes when an innocent pedestrian is hit by a fast moving automobile. NAsEA has helped out many in number of such circumstances. Mr. Sapkota, however, there has to be NAsEA-policy that addresses each of these different circumstances. The policy should delineate what NAsEA should do and could do and the levels of contribution it can make and number of volunteers it can mobilize.
2. Mr. Tek Thapa supported this idea, and mentioned that he, in his tenure, has assisted Nepalese facing deportation by talking to the attorney.
3. Everyone agreed that this is something that needs to be initiated quickly and assigned Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota to work with other interested people in taking the NAsEA policy further.

Next Meeting

1. Due to time sensitive agendas like Convention planning, everyone decided to have next meeting in the following week. Next meeting will be held on May 9th, 2010 at 11:00AM at Mr. Sanjeeb Sapkota's residence. Beside the executive members past presidents, advisors and general members who wish to join as observers will be invited to this meeting a.

Adjourn

Mr. Raja Ghale thanked everyone for playing constructive role and adjourned the meeting.

Action Items

	Tasks	Owner (s)
	Follow up of those who pledged the amount and if necessary ask for assistance	Ram
	Contact ANMA treasurer to sort our finances related to past joint convention	Ram
	Write up a brief summary of each project NAsEA is supporting for the website	Ram
	Contact each of the proposed advisors and get their confirmation	Raja
	Put together a parameter that could be considered while identifying an advisor	Sanjeeb, Kumar
	Work on Picnic to acknowledge participants of <i>Dheusi-Bhailo</i>	Saunak, Sanjeeb, Mohan
	Finalize the online survey and disseminate it out	Sanjeeb, Lila Bdr. Tara Pun
	Send out tax return documents for the members to review	Ram
	Work on NAsEA electronic Newsletter	Sanjeeb, Lila Bdr.
	Work towards regionalization of NAsEA as mentioned above	Sanjeeb, Saunak
	IT Committee	Lekh\ Sagun
	Bylaws Committee	Tek
	Membership Drive Committee	Madhav\ Sanjeeb
	Bhutanese Collaboration Committee	Dhana\ Shyam
	Constitution\ Legal Committee	Mohan\ Raja
	Publication Committee	Sanjeeb\ Lila Bdr
	Tourism and Culture Committee	Tara\ Srijana
	Public Relations	Lila Bdr.\Sanjeeb
	Youth Committee	Mohan
	Fund Raising Committee	Ram\ Gobinda

APPENDIX

A. NAsEA Financial Report as of April 2010

NAsEA Financial Report as of April 2010

Beginning Balance on Jan 1, 2010:		\$27,298.11
Revenue:		
Regular Membership (During the Election)	\$1,520.00	
Life Membership	\$200.00	
Shanti Sherchan Medical Fund	\$710.65	
Ilam Fire Victim Fund	\$302.42	\$2,733.07
Expenses:		
Contribution to Rabindra Sharma Emergency Fund	\$426.00	
2009 Convention Expenses	\$878.85	
State of Georgia Annual Registration	\$30.00	\$1,334.85
Total Surplus (Deficit) for Year 2010:		\$1,398.22
Ending Balance on April 30, 2010:		<u>\$28,696.33</u>