

August 24, 2014 Sunday

NASeA Meeting (14th)

Minutes

Online Conference: Telephone number: **1-712-432-0385**; **Code: 139004#**

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, President; Bimal Nepal, EVP; Shailendra Bajracharya, VP; Dr. Tilak Shrestha, GS; Ambika Sharma, Joint Secretary, Bala Ghimire, Treasurer.

Members: Choodamani Khanal, Dr. Dilip Panthee, Janak Baral, Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung, Dr. Nita Thapa, Pravin Paudel and Dr. Shankar Parajuli

Adviser: Gyanendra Gadai

Chairman of the meeting: Dr. Ram C. Baral, President

Minute taker: Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary

Dr. Ram Baral, President: Welcome all, especial welcome to Gyanendra Gadai. Gadai is leading promoter of Nepali literature, and our new NASeA Adviser.

Gyanendra Gadai: Thanks for having me as the Adviser. I am connected to NASeA since 2003 convention through INLS. We have been working jointly with NASeA, ANMA and INLS for better Nepali community and language.

Dr. Ram Baral: This is our last meeting in this NASeA year. This is 13th monthly meeting within 12 months our EC taking over. I am happy to note that 'Teej' being celebrated in many cities within NASeA region. Let us focus on the coming Joint Convention in Denver. Dr. Bishwa Acharya Jee has suggested that it may be explored if a bus can be arranged to take a group from Atlanta to Denver and back. It will be cheap and also nice journey.

Bimal Nepal: Yes, let us focus on the coming Denver convention.

Tilak Shrestha: We need to get ready for AGM 'Annual General Meeting – NASeA.' I need to prepare annual report. Let me request all the Committee Chairs to submit a brief annual report to me. We also need to select a Chairman to officiate our AGM.

Dr. Ram Baral: I did check our Bylaws and also our former Presidents and Advisers. Only a few are attending the Convention. However, Gyanendra Gadai is from Denver and will be attending the convention. It will be nice if he would officiate our AGM in Denver.

Bimal Nepal: I second the motion.

Ambika Lohani: I also second the motion.

The resolution to have Gyanendra Gadai, NASeA Adviser, as Chairman of the AGM is Passed.

Bimal Nepal: We should make the 2014 Joint convention our pride. Let us all go to Denver. We also obligation to occupy 250 rooms, otherwise we have to pay fine.

Let us also start a tradition of Joint ANMA and NASeA members meeting. Let ANMA and NASeA have separate AGMs and then together.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us talk in Denver with ANMA and decide. Let Bimal Jee and Bala Jee take lead on the issues.

Ambika Lohani: Let me second the motion.

The motion is passed.

Committee Reports:

- a. Choodamani Khanal: We are having election and this time our literature program is running a little slow.
- b. Ambika Lohani: Nepali School is getting open on September 7th. Anita Adhikari, author of 3 books, will be reading on November 18th.
- c. Dr. Dilip Panthee: Our 2nd issue of 'Shangri_La' is being appreciated very much. Our 3rd issue is coming soon. Let me request for committee reports to include in the publication.
- d. Shailendra Bajracharya: IT section is in order. Publications, Registrations, Advisers list all are taken off. The major task at hand is to registration in the coming Denver convention.

Ambika Lohani: Please let me remind you not to post the audio recordings of the meetings.

Dr. Ram Baral: NASEA EC has already decided not to post recordings. All organizations have public and private issues. We should abide by our own rules.

- e. Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung: The monthly talk program is working good. Khagendra GC program was held in August 3rd, instead of in July month. The talk program proposed by Dr. Nita Thapa is scheduled for November. Program of Dr. Murari Subedi, Rural Agriculture, is scheduled for September. Programs of Dr. Cameron – Nepal Anthropology (Proposed by Bimal Nepal) and of Dr. Parag Pathak, MIT – Economic, is on the line. We also did help work for Nepal flood victims.

Dr. Ram Baral: Flood donation is all through charity. Let us all contribute. Shailendra Jee has already set up 'Pay Pal' system for online payment.

Ambika Lohani: We also will be rising some donation today in the Teej program.

Bimal Nepal: Charity begins at home. Let me contribute today. Let me also pass the information and request along to different individuals and organizations.

- f. Dr. Ramjee Sharma: The Prahlad and Bindu Pant foundation scholarship is handled by the committee of Dr. Sushila Adhikari, Dr. Nutan Paudel and Dr. Ramjee Sharma. The scholarship is awarded to Real KC and Monica Acharya. The awardees must come to the Denver convention, to be awarded by Dr. Ram Baral in the cultural program.

We are doing academic advising. Suggestions are already in the NASEA web site.

- g. Bala Ghimire: I received \$ 100 from Dr. Ram Baral. I have also contributed \$ 50 on my own. Please send the pledge if anybody has not done so already. Thanks to Dr. Nar Kaji for helping in Flood victims program. I have already received Dr. Prahlad and Bindu Panta scholarship check. We may loose some money in the convention and may need to raise some money, especially if we are not able to fill the hotel rooms.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Dr. Prakash Mall contributed \$ 100 and Keshab Pokhrel \$ 50.

Dr. Ram Baral: Dr. Bishwa Acharya has send \$ 200 from last year's pledge.

Ambika Lohani: For Teej we have \$ 100 from Dr. Ram Baral and Bala Ghimire \$ 50. It will be nice if we can use Credit card to donate.

Bala Ghimire: Let me try for credit card. If not, we will use ANMA system in Denver. The 2013 convention was break even, and there was no profit. Let us work on pledges.

Bimal Nepal: Let us make a spread sheet to keep the pledge records up to date and collect pledges.

Convention program:

Bimal Nepal: We all need to attend the Denver convention.

Dr. Ram Baral: It would be nice if a Bus could be arranged from Atlanta. Denver got almost 12 to 20 thousand Nepali people and I hope it will be a success. Last year the town in SC was comparatively small, yet it was a great success. Thanks to Bimal Jee and Shailendra Jee.

Choodamani Khanal: Let me suggest to go to Denver, if not contribute to the convention. We must at least register, even if unable to go. I did in SC. I could not go but still registered.

Coordinating with other organizations:

Bimal Nepal: Let us assign 3 people each in the different states to coordinate the NAsEA programs with the local organizations. We should not bring out our dirty linen. We must relate to local organizations as per the coordinating works of our mutual interests. We must develop NAsEA's regional organizations.

Shailendra Bajracharya: We should make a calendar of our activities. We can update in the web site. Let me suggest to form a task force to do it.

Ambika Lohani: Let us put photos of state and local activities in the website. It will enthuse people. Let us coordinate and with local organizations. Let our EVP and Chairman of External relations committee Bimal Jee handle the issue.

Bimal Nepal: We are already working in this line.

Honoring key person in Denver:

Dr. Ram Baral: We must appreciate people who helped NAsEA. Let me invite suggestions to name individuals whom we should honor. For example, Dr. Prahlad Pant and Bindu Pant for their support to school and scholarships. EC members – spouses. Let us work together to recognize these individuals.

Meeting adjournment:

Dr. Ram Baral: Honorable friends. We are closing 1 year of taking over the responsibility. Let us come together our next year as new and enthused. Let us also do self-evaluation and rise above our own weaknesses. Our goal remains to make NAsEA activities go 'Higher and Wider.' So far we are doing very positive. Many thanks to EVP, VP, GS, JS, and Treasurer. Let us meet in Denver. Let me adjourn the meeting. Thanks.