

NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEAST AMERICA



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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

11th Executive Meeting

Date & Time: June 11, 2012

Location: Pan Asian Community Services, Atlanta

Participants:

Sanjeeb Sapkota, Ram Dongol, Dhana Timilsina, Dipendra Thapa, Bimal Nepal*, Gobinda Shrestha, Tilak Shrestha*, Sagun Shrestha, Lila Karki* and Madhay Mainali*.

Observers:

Dr. Prahlad Pant*, Angira Kharel, Roshan Shrestha (*joined via phone)

President Sanjeeb Sapkota opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Secretary General Sagun Shrestha mentioned the housekeeping. Vice President Dhana Timilsina took minutes.

Agenda 1. ANMA NASeA Convention 2012.

Executive vice President Ram Dongol explained about the finance situation and urged everyone to register and make their hotel reservation.

Dhana – Urged everyone to book hotel rooms and make registration and have mutual understanding with ANMA.

Sagun - Asked about the financial situation related to the convention dating back from 2009. Ram explained the numbers and the finance conduct with ANMA. All the financial data has been discussed with ANMA and sort out has not been done. Hope to solve and close the past financial amount in the next coming meeting.

Sanjeeb - Considering the balances and deficits of all the past conventions since 2009, it is looking likely that NASeA would keep the surplus it generated for the 2011 convention. Treasurer Gobinda Shrestha - We should close all the financial situation before the next convention.

Joint Secretary Bimal Nepal – We should also keep on mind about the 2013 convention and need to work together to bring surplus for it as well.

Dipendra Thapa - Count down has not begun for the upcoming convention as it did for the last one. Need to energize the committee members and step up marketing to make this a grand convention.

Sanjeeb – The planning meeting for 2012 convention has been tentatively scheduled for July 21, Saturday. The co-chairs and president among others should attend the planning meeting.

Agenda 2. Planning for 2013 Convention.

Following up from the discussions of last meetings, Sanjeeb made a proposal that NASeA executive board will call for application from the interested Nepali organizations in different states and cities of the southeast America. The applying organization would be given 45 minutes to make their presentation via webinar. The selection of the host organization will be made by executive committee in its July executive board meeting.

Everyone endorsed the proposal.

Agenda 3. NRN, AFNO (American Federation of Nepalese Organizations, a proposal of a new organization), NASeA travel expenses.

Dhana Timilsina has been renewed to continue to be the liaison for NRN National center & International center.

NASeA Role on AFNO - Since NASeA has a good relationship with NRN we need to first find out in detail the goal of AFNO and whether they are duplicative in action.

Bimal – AFNO should support and merge with NRN. It would be beneficial for everyone if friends working on AFNO work to strengthen the mission of NRN. We should not engage in activities that would create divisions like we are seeing in some areas in Nepal.

Dipendra - Agree with Bimal Nepal.

Dr. Prahlad Pant supported the view made by all regarding AFNO. We need to stick with one National Level Organization. Having too many organizations will bring confusion.

Everyone decided that the first step will be to explore the objectives and goals of AFNO, whether it is duplicative with that of NRN and decide on next steps in next executive meeting.

Agenda 4. Nepali Consulate in Georgia and recommendations for Honorary Consular General

Gobinda described the value of having a Nepali consulate in Georgia to represent the Nepalese in the southeast region of America. Such consulate would highly help Nepali community and would bring it is even closer with the international community. Nepali community is growing and so are their needs. Having a consulate would provide big support. For the honorary consulate general, he said that the former NASeA president Raja Ghale would highly fit in the role with his years of experience and contributions in Nepali community. NASeA role would be instrumental in recommending the consulate and the consular general.

Bimal - Consulate Office is needed for our region and this is a great idea and that welcomed the proposal of Raja Ghale as the candidate.

Tilak Shrestha - Agree on the decision to have Raja Ghale as the candidate for this position. Sagun - Need to collect the information and go over it in the next meeting.

Dipendra - Since this might be political we need to see how NASeA needs to go about handling this.

Ram Dongol - As an organization, NASeA should open this to larger community to discuss the needs of the consulate and allow community members to recommend for the capable candidate. Madhav Mainali - Who will bear the cost of the operation?

Prahlad Pant supported the need of having a Nepali consulate. He clarified that there would be no financial or logistic support from anyone but by the consular general himself. He supported the name Raja Ghale as the potential candidate for this position with his ability to network and work for the larger benefit of Nepali community.

Ram Baral - Good concept, Raja Ghale would be a good candidate.

Dhana - So far NASeA has became one of the most popular and reputed non profit organization serving Nepali community in America staying away from politics so we need to keep our popularity and reputation as intact as possible. We need to be very careful on making our decisions. One important point is that the consulate and the honorary consular general is a political position and they changes as the government changes in Nepal. Different political parties nominate different candidates as per their party capacity. So an important question for us here is, Can NASeA, a nonprofit and nonpolitical organization, can play any role in this case? If we think we can, we should consult with advisors, past presidents and life members. NASeA should make the right decision so that there would not be any regrets later.

Sanjeeb welcomed the idea and discussions on Nepali consulate and proposed to explore more on various aspect of this including political, financial, legal, social and gather enough information so that we could make the informed decision.

Group endorsed that a further exploration should be done to determine whether legal, financial and other obligations are there for NASeA and follow up and decide on this in next meeting.

Agenda 5. Nepalese Cultural Center (NCC) in Georgia.

Sanjeeb recaptured the meeting of the Nepalese Cultural Center Committee held on May 06, 2012 where officials from NASeA and NAG had an extensive discussions about the next steps on NCC. Accordingly, NASeA would fully support and implement the fundraising for NCC via donation mechanism. Since revenue generated from donations would not be enough, other supplementary funding source would be needed. For this a separate entity under Limited Liability Company (LLC) would be sought to established that would seek funding from investment mechanisms. Dipendra Thapa will continue to serve as the co-chair of the NCC representing NASeA. Everyone endorsed NASeA going for fully donation route to generate funds.

Dr. Pant welcomes NASeA's decision to support and implement donation effort to generate funds. He laid the next steps as NAG's decision and once that would be explained then NASeA and NAG would proceed in rapid speed to seek funds to generate revenue for NCC. In the meantime the LLC would be pursued as a separate entity that would seek funds via investment mechanism. The NNC would then be a joint venture of NASeA, NAG and the NCC.

Bimal - Thanks to Prahlad Pant and Dipendra for carrying on this project.

Sanjeeb Sapkota thanked everyone for their time and effort for NASeA and closed the meeting.