

March 30, 2014 Sunday

NASeA Meeting (8th)

Minute

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, President; Bimal Nepal, Executive Vice President; Shailendra Bajracharya, Vice President; Bala Ghimire, Treasurer; Dr. Tilak B. Shrestha, General Secretary; Ambika Lohani Sharma, Joint Secretary;

EC Members: Dr. Dilip Panthee, Krishna Shrestha, Dr. Nita Thapa, Dr. Shankar Parajuli, Bidya Gurung, Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung, Dr. Shankar Parajul, Sujata Dhungel, Pravin Paudel, Udhav Karki, Krishna Shrestha

Non-members: Gobinda Shrestha, Raja Ghale, Sushil Adhikari, Sanjeev Sapkota, Dr. Ramjee Sharma,

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

Minute taker: Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary

Dr. Ram Baral, President – NASeA, opened the meeting and welcomed all. He thanked Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung and Draupadi bhauju for hosting the event.

Ram Baral: We have many recent activities to report. 1. Kite festival, 2. Nepali literature program by Khagendra Jee, 3. Nepal library program by Naresh Koirala in Atlanta and South Carolina, 4. Talk program with Honorable Ambassador Dr. Shankar Sharma by Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung. 5. Happy to report the ‘working committees’ are functional, 6. The Atlanta Nepali school is working with the leadership of Ambika Jee and Shailendra Jee, and help of Dr. Pralhad Pant and Bindu Bhauju, 7. Obama Health care public information program was initiated by Sanjeeb Sapkota Jee and continued by Shailendra Jee and Ambika Jee, 8. Literature program under the leadership of Krishna Shrestha Jee and Basanta Chaudhary Jee of NAG, 9. Welcoming politician Ms. Amrita Regmi Jee of Nepali origin by Raja Ghale Jee.

Tilak Shrestha: Greetings to all. As the secretary let me respond to the complaint that some time our members did not get enough time to speak. Let me assure that everybody will have ample opportunity to present their views. However, please be mindful of - 1. Time constraint, and 2. Etiquette of meeting, I have e-mailed earlier. Ours is a volunteer based cultural organization, and there is always possibility of omissions and commissions. However, it never is intention and we do apologize if any. We also are giving more emphasis on coming together for meeting for better personal rapport.

Tilak Shrestha: Back again with another issue. APAC requested us to forward a student candidate from Nepalese community for an essay competition and \$ 1,000 reward. Shailendra Jee has been very active on this issue. We, Tilak, Shailendra, Bimal, Dr. Sushma Pradhan, Choodamani Khanal became a team to invite essays and evaluate it.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Our ‘Essay committee’ evaluated the essays submitted and chose Rojesh Shakya as the winner of the competition and forwarded his name to APAC. However, the criteria of candidacy was not made earlier and his candidacy was not accepted by APAC. They considered only 12 th grade or recent graduated students only. However, the date for submission was almost over, so I had to make on the spot judgment to forward the name of other close contestant Monica Acharya. I explained it to all our

committee members including Chairman Tilak Shrestha. Our committee endorsed my decision to do so. I will let you all know the result of the competition as soon as I can.

Ram Baral: Nepali school issue is being handled by Shailendra Jee and Ambika Jee. Earlier Choodamani jee was to handle it, but he lives in Florida and is already working for Nepali school there.

Ambika Sharma: We are making a committee to address issue including Bidya Jee, Sangita Dongol Jee, and Sushma Jee. We are inviting Shailendra jee also.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Let us appreciate Dr. Prahlad Pant and Bindu bhauju for their help. Vietnamese organization may also help us. We will work on the issue and report new progress.

Choodamani Khanal: I have responsibility of 5 schools in Florida. I will contribute as best I can.

Bimal Nepal: New Year's Mangalmaya Shuvakamana. Let Ambika Jee lead.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Our ladies have been very active in the school program Let Ambika Jee lead this time.

Ambika Sharma: I have worked with Sangita Jee and Sushma Jee before. Let me take care of it with every body's cooperation.

Ram Baral: Ambika Jee, thanks and congratulation.

Bimal Nepal: Congratulation.

Nar Gurung: Our 'Public relations committee' is happy to bring Ambassador Dr. Shankar Sharma to our session. We are trying to get Shesha Ghale and Dr. Prakash, USAID advisor. We will let you know our progress.

Ramjee Sharma: Our 'Academic and Professional committee' formed and had first held first meeting on February 28th. We are developing system to do Academic advice through telephone – subjects, university etc. We also do request NASEA to get the OBINAR facility. In our opinion it is worth paying for it, because we can use it many different ways.

Krishna Shrestha: Our 'Literature committee' have a number of progress to report. 1. Literature program with active support of Ram Baral and Raja Ghale, 2. INLS meeting, 3. Honoring Dr. Sharma, 4. Library – Atlanta and South Carolina, 5. Literature meeting in Florida, 6. Publication of 'Pathshala.'

Dilip Panthee: Our 'Publication committee' is trying to publish the first issue of our Quarterly publication on Nepalese New Year Baishakh 1st, 2071 (April 15th). We are catering to different topics like literature \ sport \ Dharma etc. Please send your articles \ poems etc.

Bidya Gurung: Our 'Membership drive committee' is trying to get more life members of NASEA. Our goal is 200. So far we got 3 – Bhairab Gurung, Tara Kunwar and Sundar Joshi. We like to request all EC members to be the life member.

Nita Thapa: Our 'Medical \ Health committee' conducted a meeting to high light the Obama health care to Nepalese community. It was initiated by Sanjeev Sapkota Jee. Bimal Jee, Ambika Jee and Shailendra Jee helped in different ways. We had good participation and discussed the health care issue.

The next issues we are planning to discuss are: 1. Diabetics, 2. Children – parent involved, 3. Women's issue.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Our 'IT committee' has epanded with a number of members – Sanjeeb Sapkota, Ruby Baral, Krishna Jee, Sushma Jee, Ashok Shrestha, Bijaya Thapa, Choodamani Jee, Dipendra Thapa, Saunak Jee, Suman Silwal.

We have taken off the group e-mail of 'old advisor', and changed the 'Past presidents' to 'Former presidents.'

We need to work on effective communication by eliminating unnecessary \ confusing \ controversial issues and statements. We also need to put topic \ agenda \ purpose and participants clearly. We need to improve in:

- a. Collection of agendas, b. priority, c. confirmation of receiving agendas, d. in time agenda e. include former presidents, f. perhaps ex-committee members, g. discussions must have purpose, h. advisors – how many, who, how to chose; also we need a short introduction of proposed members.
- b. We need to follow the meeting etiquette. Some time I feel I am not able to express myself properly.

Tilak Shrestha: We will let all have ample opportunity to put their view. If we cannot accommodate now, we will do in the nest meeting.

Ram Baral: We have given enough opportunity within our time limit. Let us cooperate with each other and be professional in our dealings. As President I have responsibility to run the meeting within the agreed constraints.

Pravin Paudel: Namaste from the 'Student Committee.' We have been trying to get more students in from different campuses. I have been to a number of colleges and talked with students to join NAsEA.

Bimal Nepal: Thanks from 'External committee' to all. We have expanded our committee with Bimal (Chairman), Tilak Shrestha, Padma Bishwakarma, Krishna Shrestha, Choodamani Jee, Pravin Paudel, Bikash Khadka, Thakur Karki, Madhav Mainali, Basanta Shreshta, Naresh Dhakal. We will include President Baral and move to the national and the international levels.

We have been active and working in collaboration in Blood donation, Obama health care, Publication and Student programs.

Bala Ghimire: Namaste and thanks to all. Our 'Finance committee' includes past treasurers Gobinda Shrestha and Ram Dongol, and Presidents Ram Baral and Former Ptesident Tek Thapa, Secreatary Tilak Shrestha, and Bala Ghimire as the chairman.

One issue we need to consider is paying APAC as the advertisement fee of NAsEA

Ram Baral: Let us request Gobinda Shrestha to be an active member.

Gobinda Shrestha: I wanted to retire but Bala Jee is our new chairman and asked me to stay. Let me try to help as best as I can. Thanks. Let us put the issue of \$ 300 for APAC, scholarship to the next meeting.

Ram Baral: For the NAsEA \ ANMA joint convention President and EVP Bimal Nepal should represent.

Bimal Nepal: We have contribution from Florida of \$ 220 for the convention. We like to invite if anybody is interested to help the 'NAsEA \ ANMA convention.' Mean while for the convention we have committee with Co-Chairs, President and EV President, and facilitators including Shailendra Jee and Tilak Jee.

Ram Baral: This is going to be the 10th convention. This kind of joint convention started since the time of Shardul Jee. Now we have Gopendra Bhattarai as the President of ANMA. We need to draw up and pass a 'Memorandum of understanding – MOU.' This time there will be 4 organizations involved in the convention. Thus 'MOU' becomes more important. There are a few suggestions that since our organization has grown large, perhaps we should conduct the convention on our own. We will consider the issue some other time. So far last year's arrangement seems to be good enough.

Ram Baral: Our 5th agenda is the writing new 'bylaws' committee. We need to consider it seriously. In the time of Raja Ghale, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Prakash Malla including Ram Baral as a member. Please consider a few competent members including former Presidents.

Ambika Sharma: Namaste. I agree that former President Raja Ghale would be a good lead.

Nar Gurung: I do agree.

Bimal Nepal: With due respect to Raja Ghale, let me propose Dr. Prakash Malla. Let us also request Raja Ghale to be the member of the team.

Bala Ghimire: Let me propose Raja Ghale.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Dr. Prakash Malla has worked in the 'byelaw' committee before and has good experience.

Ambika Sharma: Yes, Dr. Malla has worked great before. Let some other new person take the lead.

Ram Baral: Since we have two individuals as the candidates, and both happened to be our former Presidents, I do not want to have voting on the issue. Let me talk to both of them and report in our next meeting.

Udhav Karki: Let me give my view on the issue.

Ram Baral: Our time is up, and must stop here. We will give Udhav Jee opportunity to comment in our next meeting.

Let me thank our gracious host, thank all the participants and adjourn the meeting for today.