

Sunday June 22, 2014

NASeA Meeting (11th)

Minute

Online Conference: Telephone number: [1-712-432-0385](tel:1-712-432-0385); **Code: 139004#**

Attendance: Dr. Ram Baral, Dr. Tilak Shrestha, Ambika Sharma, Bala Ghimire, Bidya Gurung, Bishu Sapkota, Dr. Dilip Panthee, Janak Baral, Pravin Paudel, Dr. Shankar Parajuli.
Academic and Professional Committee Chair: Dr. Ramji Sharma
Guests: Former President Dr. Sanjeeb Sapkota, Dr. Prakash Gupta
A few non-participating attendants were also noted.

Chairman of the meeting: Dr. Ram C. Baral, President
Minute taker: Ambika Sharma, Joint Secretary and Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary
Time keeper: Ambika Sharma

President Dr. Ram Baral started the meeting: Namaste and thanks to all EC members, Former Presidents Sanjeeb Sapkota and Dr. Prakash Gupta.
All suggestions are welcome and we will take them positively.
No audio recording without EC's permission. Please follow the meeting ground rules as forwarded by Dr. Tilak before.
Let us conduct meeting in disciplined way and keep EC's 'Maryada.' If anybody like to leave please do inform.
We will try 'unanimity', but if not possible will do vote.
We have been discussing about 'bylaws' for several months. I am taking responsibility, not by choice, but by necessity.
Let me invite Secretary Dr. Tilak Shrestha to proceed with the agenda.

Agenda and proceedings for the meeting:

1. Udhav Karki's remarks which was missed on the 8th meeting. He was expected to speak on the 9th and 10th meetings, but missed this meeting as well.

2. Good news about an academic scholarship:

Ram Baral: Dr. Pralhad Pant told me he and his wife have established Pralhad & Bindu Pant Scholarship Award. The scholarship was \$1500 last year and this year they increased the amount to \$2000. Dr. Pant gave responsibility to our EC to select a student based upon his/her financial need. Since our Academic and Professional committee is the nearest committee to handle this project, I would like to suggest giving the responsibility to the Committee Chair Dr. Ramjee Sharma.

Tilak Shrestha: Does anybody want to second this motion?

Pravin Poudel: I second this motion.

Dr. Ramjee Sharma: I would like to thank the EC for giving me this responsibility. My committee will try to find the best candidate for the scholarship.

Tilak Shrestha: This motion is passed. Dr. Ramjee, your contribution is appreciated.

3. Committee Reports and Updates from all the committee chairs:

A. Nepali School Atlanta Committee:

Ambika Lohani Sharma: Namaskar President, General Secretary, and all EC members! Regarding Atlanta Nepali School update, we had our first general meeting on June 15 among parents, former school management committee, and NAsEA former presidents. We discussed on four agendas. In the past we had only one option for the location, but now we have three options for the school location. We are planning to finalize the best location in July and to start the school in September according to parents' suggestion. We will be working on the logistics of the school in the mean-time. More details can be found in the minutes that I sent out earlier.

B. - Publication Committee:

Dr. Dilip Panthee: We are collecting Articles for the second publication of Shangri-La. Please help us by sending committee reports and articles. We are hoping to finish compiling the articles by the end of June.

C. Religion and Festivals Committee:

Janak Baral: Sadar Pranam to all! We had a meeting among Atlanta's brothers and sisters about establishing a Nepali Temple on June 8. The meeting decided to give Dr. Pralhad Pant all the responsibility to open the Temple on a rental property. Let me take this opportunity to Congratulate Raja Ghale for being elected in NRN. Let me also express my admiration of Dr. Sanjeeb Sapkota and Bala Ghimire who lost the election by only a few votes. I am sure they will win and represent us in the next election.

I would also like to propose EC to congratulate our former President Raja Ghale for being elected as an NRN-ICC member.

Tilak Shrestha: I would like request President Dr Baral to Congratulation to our former president Raja Ghale jee.

Ram Baral: We certainly would like to congratulate our former president Raja Ghale for his victory and also would like to congratulate Former President Sanjeeb Sapkota and our Treasurer Bala Ghimire for getting near to victory in the election. I wish you all the best in your future endeavor.

Tilak Shrestha: Please second the motion.

Several members seconded the motion. The motion is duly passed.

D. Membership Drive Committee:

Bidya Gurung: Namaskar to all! I am trying to make as many life members as possible. Please welcome our newest life members and thanks to Dr. Dilip Panthee, Sarita Panthee, Dr. Shankar Parajuli, and Pravin Poudel. I request all other EC members to be life members, if you already not so. Another good news is that Mrs. Bindu Pant has joined the team. I would like to welcome her. She has already recruited two members. We have one member from New York and another is on the way to become life member. We need 16 more members to make NAsEA life members - 200.

E. Special Finance Meeting report:

Bala Ghimire, Treasurer: Namaskar to all! I have heard a rumor that some of our friends have kept the audio recordings of all of our past meetings. I request all the EC members including general secretary and joint secretary not to make any audio recording without everybody's consent. If you have already recorded the audio, please destroy the recording after you write the minutes. Please take it very seriously because it is related to the violation of privacy law. We have to release the income/expenditure of 2013 joint convention. I am in contact with Ram Dongol and will contact the former treasurer, president and convention chair if necessary in order to prepare the report. ANMA is also asking to publish the report since that was a joint convention. Please let me know your suggestion in this matter. I will be producing the report soon.

Thank you Dr. Dilip Panthee, Pravin jee, Dr. Samar Paija jee and all other newest life members for paying your life membership fees.

Regarding APAC's advertisement payments, we have already paid \$300. Govinda Shrestha jee has paid \$25.00. Checks of 30 dollars from myself (Bala Ghimire), and Ambika jee have been already received. Dr. Tilak Shrestha's \$30.00 check is on the mail. Dr. Baral and Krishna Shrestha have said they are going to send payment soon. I have transferred \$193 transferred from PayPal. Please make your payments as soon as possible if you have not made the payments yet.

Lastly, regarding financial information, as of today we have 12,999.24 in our checking account. Including today's transfer of \$193 and few other checks of 30\$, we have around \$13, 000 in the checking account.

Ram Dongol jee has provided me a statement of \$42,214.37 in our saving account. There have been no transactions since last year. Let me know if you have any questions by email or phone.

F. NAsEA/ANMA Joint Convention – 2014, Progress Report:

Dr. Ram Baral: The biggest improvement so far is that the registration is open through the website. If you cannot register, please call/text me and I will send you the link. We, as the front liner, need to go ahead and register as soon as possible. Some of us have already registered and we need to increase registration from NAsEA region. Let's also be involved in the meetings. If you have any questions/suggestions, please contact our EVP Bimal Nepal jee or myself.

4. Preparation of NAsEA Convention for 2015:

Ram Baral: We need to decide if we want to have Joint or Solo Convention in 2015. There are opinions in favor of both sides, but majority seems to be favoring Joint convention. It also involves costs and more work. If we decide the Joint convention then we need to have a legally binding of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

We also need to search a host for NAsEA Convention – 2015. We must develop a search criterion and advertise it to all the possible hosts for a fair competition. Last year we had two organizations interested and they did present their scope. Let us request PowerPoint presentations by the candidate hosts.

Let me propose advertising to possible hosts and ask for their presentation.

Ambika Sharma: Let me second the motion.

Tilak Shrestha: If there are no further comments, this motion is passed.

5. Website Policy:

Dr. Ram Baral: Dr. Tilak Shrestha has given the draft tentative website policy earlier. Please give your comments and suggestions. If not, let me propose the Website policy to the floor.

“NASeA is a cultural, non-profit, non-political organization to promote our culture, heritage, Dharma and values. In general we support websites with similar goal as ours. Thus, any organizations which are to help Nepal and Nepalese, within and abroad, in these issues are candidates. On the other hand, we will not accept political or semi-political or hidden-agenda organizations. We reserve our right to accept or deny any organization.

The draft policy will be put to the Executive Committee for deliberation and decision. If necessary we also will put it in the general meeting. We also need to draw a team to work on it as well as to work on the fund and the technical ‘IT’ part. Tentatively, NASeA website will have a portal for websites of our sister organizations. Within the portal, there will be the different websites organized by its interests: E.g. literature, sport, Dharma, social help, health, legal advice, entrepreneur\business, science, agriculture, appropriate technology, hydrology, etc.”

Prabin Paudel and Ambika Sharma seconded the motion.

Tilak Shrestha: Does anyone have any comment on the Website policy that I sent to you all? If not, the motion is passed.

6. NASeA’s Representation to APAC.

Dr. Ram Baral: As of now we have not selected anybody as an official NASeA representative to APAC. We have not received any official representative request from APAC either. We, therefore, have not sent anybody as our official representative to APAC. Shailendra Bajracharya and others are actively involved with APAC. We do encourage them.

Tilak Shrestha: If anybody is, informally and personally, working with APAC, we do encourage them. If APAC asks for representative then let our EC decide.

Ambika Sharma: I agree with Dr. Shrestha. If someone wants to go to APAC representing NASeA, that has to be discussed and passed by our EC.

Janak Baral: I have not understood why anybody from NASeA is going to APAC. We do not belong to the Asia Pacific region.

Bala Ghimire: We also have a similar organization here in Chicago. If APAC has included regional organization as NASeA in their bylaws, then it is good to represent there from NASeA. Otherwise, anyone can go there individually, but not as an organizational representative.

Bidya: NASeA is a member of APAC and we have been paying their dues.

Tilak Shrestha: We need to encourage our involvement in APAC. We do not have a formal NASeA representative to APAC. If we want to become a representative, that has to be passed by EC. Does anyone have any question? None, good.

7. Selection of Advisers

Tilak Shrestha: We have discussed different criteria for NASeA’s advisors based upon regions and the contributions of the individuals. So far we have received 13 names, which I have already sent out to you all. We have to decide the size of the committee and select the members out of these proposed names. I am sending the name list to you all. Please send me your preferences. If the proposed person is not interested, then please let me know. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

Praveen Paudel: I would like to propose Bishnu Maya Pariyar as a member of advisory committee. She works for women and children and she is an academician.

Ambika Lohani: Dr. Shrestha, can you please read out all the names in your file?

Tilak Shrestha: I have already sent you all the names by email.

Ambika: The email is missing some of the names including Krishna jee's proposed name and Gyanendra Gadal.

Dr. Ram Baral: Tara pun jee's name was missing. He was proposed by Krishna Shrestha. He is a Chairman of Bhutanese Nepalese community.

Tilak Shrestha: I have already 13 names. Let's add Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Tara Pun, Sundar Joshi and Lila Karki to the list. Let's discuss on the size of the committee now. Here is the list of 16 candidates:

Chatura K. Parajuli, Dr. Alka Gurung, Gyanendra Gadal, Ajay Satyal, Dr. Rudra Aryal, Dr. Bidya Raj Subedi, Devi Acharya, Gobinda Shrestha, Dr. Khushi Ram Tiwari, Binod Rokka, Saunak Ranjitkar, Madhav Mainali, Dr. Lila Karki, Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Tara Pun, Sundar Joshi

Dr. Ram Baral: I want to propose not to add any more names.

Tilak Shrestha: I second the motion.

Dr. Ram Baral; We have discussed about the number of advisors. We have divided 7 regions and one person from each region past.

Tilak Shrestha: How about 7 plus few others from different specialties?

Ambika Sharma: I like the idea of 7 regions but I suggest adding two more people from NASEA region since we are working in this region and we need more helping hands in our local level. Let's make a 9 - member advisory board. What do you all think?

Tilak Shrestha and Dr. Baral: Does anyone have any questions on 7 regional members and 2 from NASEA region?

Tilak Shrestha; What about making a 12-member committee?

Bishu Sapkota: Namaste to all. I agree with Ambika jee's proposal of 7 regional members and 2 more from NASEA's region. Let's not make more than 9 or at most 10. Let's focus more on the quality than the quantity.

Tilak Shrestha: Thank you. We have the largest number 12 by myself, then 10 by Bishu, 9 by Ambika and 7 by Dr. Baral.

Bidya Gurung: 7 was OK, however, Ambika jee's 9 members idea is also good. How about sticking on 7 people? If not, I would agree on adding 2 more and thus making a 9-member committee. I would like them all to be NASEA's life members.

Janak baral: I agree with the idea of advisors from life members. I agree with Ambika jee and Bishu jee's idea to add more members from NASEA region.

Praveen Poudel: I also agree with Ambika jee's concept of 9 members. We need those advisors who really love NASEA and have understood the organization very well.

Tilak Shrestha; Majority of the members agreed on Ambika jee's 9-member committee proposal.

Dr. Shankar Parajuli: I also agree with Ambika jee's 9-member committee concept.

Tilak Shrestha: Let's propose 9 members for the advisory committee. Does anyone second this motion?

Dr. Shankar Parajuli: I second the motion.

Tilak Shrestha: If there is no objection, this motion is passed. I will send all the names to EC members. Please send your 9 members to me by email.

Dr. Ram Baral: I have a suggestion. Please send personal emails one by one along with the detail of the voting criteria in the email draft. As for example, if someone proposed more than 9 members, that would be invalid. If someone sent the email to others by CC, then that voting would also be invalid.

8. Voice recording:

Dr. Ram Baral: EC never passed to post Voice recording in the website. The recording should not be posted without EC permission. Let me strongly object to such posting.

9. E-mailing to Former Presidents:

Dr. Ram Baral: As we discussed before, only current President and Secretary may write to our Former Presidents, especially on the issue under discussion.

Let me propose to cancel the 'FormerPresident' E-mail address.

Tilak Shrestha: Cancelling e-mail address would not solve the problem. We also need such address to keep our Former Presidents informed when needed. May be we can ask for 'show cause' for misuse of the e-mail address.

Ambika Sharma: We have discussed the issue many times over.

Pravin Paudel: Let us cancel, why wait?

Bala Ghimire: Same opinion here.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us cancel the e-mail address temporarily for now.

Bidya Gurung and Ambika Sharma seconded the motion.

Tilak Shrestha: The motion is passed.

9. Facebook:

Dr. Ram Baral: Earlier Raja Ghale handled the Face Book account. I am taking care of it now. I am getting Raja Ghale's expert help.

10. Miscellaneous:

Dr. Ram Baral: I am happy that today our meeting moved smoothly on time. Thanks to Secretary Tilak for going through the agenda. Thanks to all our members and guests. Let all the minutes be posted in our website. My apology for any omissions and commissions.

11: Adjourn the meeting:

Dr. Ram Baral, President: Thanks to all, let me adjourn the meeting.