

**Sunday July 27, 2014**

**NASeA Meeting (12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Minutes**

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

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, President; Bala Ghimire, Treasurer; Ambika Sharma, Joint Secretary. Members: Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung, Bidya Gurung, Bishu Sapkota, Dr. Dilip Panthee, Janak Baral, Choodamani Khanal, Pravin Paudel, Dr. Shankar Parajuli, Dr. Nita Thapa, Dr. Samar Magar Paija, and Sujata Dhungel

Guests: Dr. Ramjee Sharma, Academic and Professional Committee Chair; and Gobinda Shrestha, former Treasurer

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

Minute taker: Ambika Lohani, Joint Secretary

Ambika Lohani: Namaskar! Our General Secretary Dr. Tilak Shrestha as per the earlier scheduled Meditation retreat could not join in today. Dr. Ram C. Baral, please describe the ground rules for today's meeting.

President: Welcome to everybody. Thank you for coming to the meeting by sacrificing your valuable time. I talked with Shailendra jee and Bimal jee about today's meeting earlier. We have taken their suggestions seriously. Bimal jee is in the election event in DC as the election chair. We tried to find the best time for everybody. Krishna Shrestha jee is not able to come to the meeting due to family matter. One of our EC members Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung had to go through a serious accident and was not able to attend the last meeting. We would like to wish him all the best, good health and fastest recovery. NASeA has given me a responsibility of a pilot. I would like to thank everybody for helping to move forward in our mission. I have been serving NASeA for a long time. Let's take the advices in our team spirit. Please do not take any audio recordings without EC's permission. We requested same thing in the past. To record the proceedings of the meeting without EC's permission is against the privacy of the organization. I would like to inform everyone that we will consider any recordings as the breach of trust. Let's vote on the agendas if needed. Dr. Tilak Shrestha delegated our joint-secretary Ambika jee to conduct our meeting. I now hand over the floor to Ambika jee.

Ambika Lohani: Thank you Mr. President. I will try my best to fulfil my duty. I request everyone not to audio record today's meeting as our President requested. Any such audio recording will be illegal. We will discuss on six agendas today.

**Agenda No. 1: Validation of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting decisions:**

Ambika Lohani: First I would like to start with our first agenda, which is about validation of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting decisions. I have also talked with Dr. Tilak Shrestha about it. In the meantime Shailendra jee and Bimal jee have given us some agendas. As per our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meetings, 14 EC members already voted on the agendas through E-mails. Now I would like to ask President Dr. Baral to clarify the first agenda.

Dr. Ram C. Baral: There was a question if the quorum was complete in those meetings in taking decisions. Just to make sure of the appropriateness Tilak jee requested all the EC members to re-vote on the issues. To avoid unnecessary delay the voting was done through E-mails. As it stands 14 votes were cast. The agendas were passed by large majority of votes. To further validate the E-mail voting and address Shailendra jee's concern; we are going to vote again today. Below are Shailendra jee's agendas.

1. Reopen: selecting "Bylaws Committee Chair"
2. Reopen: Selection of Advisors
3. Violation of Bylaws
4. Validity of email voting
5. Transparency and Morality

If agenda #1 is validated, we do not need to go back. We want to formalize the voting on the agenda # 1. Ambika jee, go ahead.

Ambika Lohani: As per our General Secretary's E-mail, 14 EC members voted 'for' the agenda and one vote was disqualified. As the president mentioned earlier, the first agenda covers all the five agendas proposed by Shailendra Bajracharya jee and Bimal Nepal jee. To further clarify this,

1. Reopen: selecting the "Bylaws Committee Chair"-This will be covered by decisions # 1 and 2 of 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. Reopen: Selection of Advisors – This will be covered by decision # 3 of 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. Violation of Bylaws; 4. Validity of email voting; 5. Transparency and Morality  
– These will be covered by today's voting by EC majority

Now I want to open agenda # 1 to the floor. There are two parts in it. The first part is "Do we want to reopen 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> EC meeting agendas and discussions?" And the second part is "Do you ratify your earlier E-mail voting on the selection of 9 advisors and ratification of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting's decisions today?"

Those who do not want to reopen 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meetings' decisions, please say "No"; and those who oppose this, please say "Yes".

1. Janak Baral: No. We have already discussed about those agendas and voted for them.
2. Dr. Nita Thapa: No. I accept my earlier decision.
3. Bidya Gurung: No. I already voted for these agenda and I accept them.
4. Dr. Samar Paija: No. Let's not repeat those agendas.
5. Sujata Dhungel: No. We have already decided on these issues. Let's not take them back.
6. Dr. Nar Gurung: No. We have already discussed it. Let's move forward.
7. Dr. Shankar Parajuli: No. I agree with my previous decision. We do not need to go back. Let's move forward.
8. Bala Ghimire: No. Previous decisions were not violation of any bylaws which (as followed by email ratifications). We do not need to go back. Let's move forward.
9. Bishu Sapkota: No. I agree with Bala Ghimire. I support our previous decision, so let's move forward.
10. Dr. Dilip Panthee: No. I agree with the previous decision.

11. Pravin Poudel: No. We have already decided this.
12. Ambika Lohani: No. I also ratify the previous decision.
13. Chudamani Khanal: Yes. EVP emailed about the modified agendas. I was expecting to postpone. I would like to reopen these agendas.

Ambika Lohani: 12 out of 13 people said “No, let us not open the agendas”. Dr. Baral, please give your conclusion on this.

Dr. Ram C. Baral: I am also an EC member, but let me abstain from voting. Since more than 11 members have ratified this agenda. We are morally bound to follow the majority decision. We have also exercised this in the past. The majority already ratified and gave us a mandate to move forward. I formally announce that the agenda # 1 is now is passed.

Ambika Lohani: The first part of agenda # 1, which we just passed, was only for opening or not opening the previous agendas. I now want to open the floor the second part of agenda # 1 - “Do you ratify your earlier email voting on the selection of 9 advisors and ratification of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting’s decisions by oral voting today?”

Those who want to ratify formally and assuredly in this formal EC meeting, please say “Yes”; and those who do not ratify, please say “No”.

1. Dr. Nita Thapa: Yes, I ratify.
2. Janak Baral. Yes, I ratify.
3. Dr. Samar Pajja: Yes, I validate my email vote.
4. Praveen Poudel: Yes, I ratify my email vote.
5. Bidya Gurung: Yes. I agree on what I emailed.
6. Dr. Shankar Parajuli: Yes. I validate my email vote.
7. Dr. Nar Gurung: Yes. I ratify my email vote.
8. Chudamani Khanal. No. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was at an odd time, so I could not be present in the meeting. I respect the advisors. They are all qualified. Even though I agree with most of the decisions, I have reservation on some of the decisions. Therefore, I say “No”.
9. Dr. Dilip Panthee: Yes. I vote for yes.
10. Sujata Dhungel: Yes. I electronically voted and I say yes to my votes again. I could not participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meetings.
11. Bala Ghimire: Yes. It is sad to see EVP and VP are absent. I completely agree on what I emailed previously.
12. Bishu Sapkota: Yes. I agree with all of my previous decision by email voting.
13. Ambika: Yes. I also ratify my email vote.

Ambika Lohani: Thank you for voting as yes/no. 13 EC members have voted today. Of them, 12 voted for “yes” and 1 voted for “No”. Dr. Baral, I would like you to give your conclusion on this.

Dr. Ram C. Baral: In the second voting also there are 12 “Yes” and 1 “No”. Let me abstain and stay neutral. The majority of EC members ratified the earlier decisions. This would addresses Shailendra jee’s concerns and agendas. I thank you all for helping us to move on to the next agenda.

Ambika Lohani: We fully validated the issues in agenda #1. We would like to request President Dr. Baral to send welcome letters to the following newly elected advisors.

Chatura K. Parajuli, Dr. Alka Gurung, Gyanendra Gadai, Dr. Rudra Aryal, Devi Acharya, Dr. Khushi Ram Tiwari, Binod Rokka, Bishnu Maya Pariyar and Sundar Joshi

## **Agenda No. 2: Committee Reports and Updates by their committee Chair**

Ambika Lohani: Next, the committee chairs will present their committee reports.

### **1. Nepali Schools Committee Florida:**

Chudamani Khanal: In Florida we have five Nepali schools, some working once a week and others once a month. Last week, we had classes in our school in West Palm Beach also. We also incorporate dance practices to promote Nepali culture. INLS Florida is conducting these schools I also advise not to run schools every week. We can give a month long homework to encourage students to work. I am satisfied with the schools.

Ambika: Atlanta Nepali School Committee: We had two general meetings of Atlanta Nepali School. We are working hard to make this program successful. We have already identified the school location in Norcross Community Center. Now we are working on finding school volunteers, teachers and curriculum development. As we all know that Dr. Pant has graciously promised to financially support the project by paying the monthly rent. In our last meeting, our VP Shailendra jee and former school management personnel Sangita Dongol jee mentioned that Atlanta Nepali School never had any financial trouble and we still have some money to run the project, which I was never aware until then. Upon hearing this Dr. Pant told us that he wanted to use that money in some other projects. Therefore, we now have to stand on our own feet. I am requesting our treasurer Bala Ghimire jee to give updates regarding Atlanta Nepali School financial situation. We are planning to begin the school from September 7, 2014. The school will run every Sunday for two hours.

Chudamani Khanal: We have different programs in five locations. Anyone is welcome to come and learn about our Nepali School.

### **2. Women and Children Committee:**

Sujata Dhungel: The committee has been already formed with 5 members including Ambika Sharma, Kusum Baral, Shusma Pradhan and Namrata Guragain. We also have Namrata Gauragain. We are trying to accommodate people from different groups -literature, youth, women, and children. Kusum Baral is helping us to expand the committee. I am also involved in NC's literately committee and Nepali School committee. I would like to give some updates about ANA convention. I was the sole NASEA representative in the convention. I was involved in different activities including literature program.

### **3. Publication Committee:**

Dr. Dilip Panthee: Our second issue of the 'Shangri La' is already out. Thank you for helping us to publish our second issue. I hope to get updates from everybody in the future.

Chudamani Khanal: I request everybody to send materials on time. This will help us publish the magazine in a timely manner. Shangri La is the only place to show our activities to the public.

Dr. Ram Baral: Due to family vacation, I was not able to give my update.

#### 4. Public Relations Committee:

Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung: We have been doing the 'monthly talks.' Khagendra G.C. informed us in the last minute that he would not be able to come to the talk session as scheduled. So after talking with our President, EVP and Ambika jee, I have rescheduled the talk show to next week. Mr. GC has agreed to come next week. If any of you know anybody who wants to give talk, let us know. Thank you very much for sending me well-wishing E-mails refereeing to my car accident. I also congratulate the publication committee for successfully publishing their second volume of 'Sangri La.'

#### 5. Membership Drive Committee:

Bidya Gurung: I have contacted potential life members. I also requested everybody to become a life member if they have not already done so. Mrs. Bindu Pant is also helping me in the drive.

#### 6. Academic and Professional Committee:

Dr. Ramjee Sharma: Our members in Academic and Professional Committee have been providing academic advising to the Nepali students. If you know anyone who is in need of academic advising, please refer them to us. The committee is also actively working on the possibility of inter-disciplinary researches. As the 11<sup>th</sup> EC meeting has given us the responsibility to select the recipient of Prahlad and Bindu Pant Annual Scholarship award, we are now collecting the applications. We have already sent three mass emails through NAsEA google group. Likewise, the information is posted in NAsEA's Facebook, Twitter and NAsEA's own website. So far several people have inquired about the scholarship application process and we have been providing them with the answers through E-mails and phone calls.

#### 7. Dharma Committee:

Janak Baral: We have met twice regarding Nepali temple in Atlanta. We have formed the naming committee and we are meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps.

#### 8. Medical Committee:

Dr. Nita Thapa: Medical committee is looking for a location to conduct its service, either in Atlanta or in North Carolina. Along with Dr. Nar Gurung, we are planning to invite two Nepali doctors to our program.

Bishu Sapkota: I have known two doctors in Indiana who are interested to help NAsEA. I just wanted Dr. Nita Thapa to know about it.

### **Agenda No. 3 Special Finance Report:**

Bala Ghimire: We have not made any transactions since we met last time. Our 2013 financial report has been finalized by Govinda Shrestha jee. Ram Dongol jee is working on the tax detail. We will give the detail report of 2013 in the next meeting. Regarding Atlanta Nepali School, as

per my talk with Govinda jee, the fund was collected from different activities and the finance was handled by NAsEA. We have obtained all the past school related transactions. I will also update the school related finance in the next school meeting.

Please send your pledged check for APAC fund for \$300 if you have not already done so. The check is already given to APAC through Shailendra jee. If you have any questions, please let me know by E-mail or phone.

Ambika Lohani: I would like to clarify the EC members as per Govinda jee and Sangita jee that 'NAsEA is not giving financial aid to Atlanta Nepali School', but the 'school's fund is managed by NAsEA.' The school raises fund through monthly fees and other community activities including Deusi-Bhailo. The fund is managed by NAsEA under the title Atlanta Nepali School.

Bala Ghimire: I will fully support Atlanta Nepali School and its activities. I will be handling the school related transactions through NAsEA's account.

Sujata Dhungel: Thank you for clarifying this matter. In North Carolina we have managed a separate fund. I suggest for a separate school account.

Bala Ghimire: I will consult with Govinda jee and Ram Dongol jee to see the possibility of a separate account for the school.

Govinda Shrestha: Even though everything you said is correct, there are some technical difficulties related to tax filing if we manage a separate account. If we want to separate them, we need to form a school management committee.

Regarding the ANMA/NAsEA upcoming convention, I would like to request EC members to register for the convention if you have not already done so. We have to sell 250 rooms, but we have only sold 25 rooms as of now. So, please register as soon as possible.

Ambika Lohani: Thank you Govinda jee for bringing up a very important issue. President Dr. Baral will be giving the convention report next.

#### **Agenda No. 4 & 5: NAsEA/ANMA Joint Convention and & Preparation of NAsEA Convention for 2015**

Ambika Lohani: Since our EVP Bimal Nepal jee is not in the meeting, President Baral, would you please give your update on this.

Dr. Ram C. Baral: I strongly agree with Govinda jee. My family and I have already registered. Some of my close relatives and friends have also registered. Please remember that this is our convention. EC members, please consider registering for the convention. We also have to think about our next NAsEA/ANMA convention. I have been getting suggestions from several people regarding this. I also talked with several of our friends including VP Shailendra jee about a solo/joint convention. At this time, it is a must for us to go for a solo convention. It is too late to pursue solo convention but few can do solo in the future. Nonetheless, we have to advertise

about hosting agency of the convention. We will send invitation to our local organization including NAG, FNA/FAN, NCNC, SCAN, KNA, ANA, NNA several others to send us their PowerPoint presentation so that we can select the best to be the host organization. We will send advertisement via NAsEA's google groups. We need to organize monthly meeting for August soon to discuss this issue. We want to bring this message to Denver, so we are taking this seriously.

Dr. Nar Gurung: I have talked to some organizing members of ANMA/NAsEA. Local members cannot join because of high price. Their fees are \$20/25 or \$15/20, but ours is more expensive.

#### **Agenda No. 6: Take Initiative to organize local programs in states coordinating with local organizations**

Dr. Ram C. Baral: If the external committee could contact all these local agencies, then that would be very nice. Since our external relation committee chair Bimal jee is not present today, let's discuss this in the next meeting.

#### **No. 7: Miscellaneous**

Ambika Lohani: Thank very much all EC members for your cooperation for today's meeting. We discussed all agendas. Now we are in miscellaneous section, anyone has anything to say? If not, I would like to request President Dr. Ram C. Baral to adjourn this meeting.

#### **No. 8: Meeting adjournment**

Dr. Baral: We have addressed all the issues raised by Shailendra jee. Let's keep our unity in the future. Please ask me by E-mail or phone if you have any question. I appreciate all the work you have done. With this, I would like to adjourn today's meeting. **Thank you.**