

October 6, 2013 Sunday

NASeA Monthly Meeting (2nd) Minute

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, Bimal Nepal, Shailendra Bajracharya, Bala Ghimire, Dr. Tilak B. Shrestha, Ambika Sharma, Bidya Gurung, Bikash Devkota, Choodamani Khanal, Dilip Panthee, Dipendra N. Lamichhane, Janak Baral, Krishna Shrestha, Dr. Nar Kaji Gurung, Dr. Nita Thapa, Pravin Paudel, Dr. Samar Paija Magar, Dr. Shankar Prasad Parajuli, Sujata Dhungel, Udhav Karki, Raja Ghale, Gobinda Shrestha, Saunak Ranjitkar, Dr. Lila Karki, Dr. Dilip Panthee,

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

Minute taker: Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary

First regular monthly meeting agenda:

- a. Sub-committees
- b. Finance report
- c. Kite festival

Dr. Ram Baral opened the meeting and welcomed all. This is actually second meeting of our Executive Committee (EC). We already had first meeting on the last month officially and judicially.

Tilak Shrestha: Agendas for today are sub-committees, finance report and kite festival.

A. Sub-committees

Dr. Ram Baral: We need to form different working sub-committees as per our bye-laws.

Nar Gurung: How many sub-committees we have?

Ram Baral: It actually goes by work and interests. However, for now we have ten: 1. medical \ Health, 2. Women \ Children, 3. Culture, 4. Literature, 5. Festival, 6. Students, 7. Sports, 8. Immigration, 9. IT, and 10. Entrepreneur \ Business.

As per the first Medical sub-committee I am happy to note we have 3 medical doctors with us today: Dr. Nita Thapa, Dr. Samar Paija Magar and Dr. Shankar Prasad Parajuli for the medical \ health sub-committee.

Bimal Nepal: I wonder if today we only explore the ideas of sub-committees, how to form and invite interested members.

Tilak Shrestha: I also do opine that perhaps we should inform general members and invite if any individuals are interested in any of the sub-committees.

Dr. Ram Baral: This year we are trying to form sub-committees with new members. To shorten the process and since we already have members ready for the medical sub-committee, let me invite all the three doctors to be the members and request Dr. Nita Thapa to chair it.

Dr. Nita Thapa: I accept the chairperson position.

Dr. Ram Baral: Is there any objection to the nomination?

Dr. Tilak Shrestha: Dr. Nita Thapa is most welcome as the chair. In my opinion, it should not matter if one has already served. We need to send a general invitation, to include all interested.

Bimal Nepal: I wonder if we can form sub-committees only today and have members later.

Ambika Sharma: Happy Vijaya Dashami to all. Perhaps we should form sub-committees today and have members in the next meeting.

Ram Baral: It is not necessary to form all the committees and chair today. However, we need to move on with our program.

Choodamani Khanal: Perhaps, we need to do home work first. We also need a sub-committee for higher education issue.

Bala Ghimire: My apology for not able to fly in to Atlanta. We may make as many sub-committees today as possible and post pone the formation of sub-committees needing home work for later. Congratulation to Bikash Devkota for being President of FNA and FAN.

Bikash Devkota: I am happy to be elected President unopposed in FNA \ FAN. Thanks for all the help. My apology for not spending enough time and efforts in the NASEA program.

Dr. Ram Baral: For Women and Children sub-committee we have four very active ladies – Dr. Nita Thapa, Sujata Dhungel, Ambika Sharma and Bidya Gurung. Let me invite Sujata Thapa to chair the sub-committee.

Sujata Dhungel: I have 7 to 8 years of work experience in these kinds of program. I am sure I can do good job.

Ambika Sharma: I agree with Sujata and will cooperate.

Nita Thapa: Congratulation to Sujata and we will cooperate with her.

Bidya Gurung: Namaste to all. Shuvakamana of Dasain. Congratulation to Sujata and we will cooperate with her. We need to work more on Children school.

Dr. Ram Baral: Is there any objection to the nomination? I am happy to note it is welcomed by all.

Sujata Dhungel: I accept the nomination. Thanks to all.

Dr. Ram Baral: Thanks and congratulation to Sujata for Women and Children's Committee. I also congratulate to Dr. Nita Thapa for accepting the Chairperson position for Medical and Health Service Committee.

Let us form Public Relations Committee. I conducted this committee before. I had the opportunities to invite many stalwart individuals like honorable ambassador and CNN heroes. It is like a talk show, we need members who can do good media presentation and raise the image of NASEA in public.

Bidya Gurung: I propose Dr. Nar kaji Gurung.

Ram Baral: Nar Kaji is a Professor in Tuskegee University and have worked in NASEA for long time. He is a good nomination.

Tilak Shrestha: I do support Dr. Nar Gurung.

Bimal Nepal: Congratulation to Dr. Nar Gurung. However, I must mention that I am also interested in this position and did talk about it with President, Dr. Ram Baral.

Ram Baral: Yes, Bimal told me about his interest. Appreciated your cooperation.

Dr. Nar Gurung: Looks like we have some misunderstanding. I also did express my interests. Let us remember we all are working for the benefit of NASEA, not for ourselves. Let us work together.

Ram Baral: Hearty congratulations to Nar Gurung. I am sure you will leave better legacy.

Now is the turn for Nepalese Festival sub-committee. We have many festivals in Nepal. We also have many festivals specific to our various Jati and regions. Our motto is to weave all our festivals in to the Nepalese garland.

Bidya Gurung: We can have Festival and Culture as a single committee. I support Janak Baral as the chair of the sub-committee.

Krishna Shrestha: Sub-committees depends upon on the specific work need to be done. For example, we have Dasain and Bhailo sub-committees to take care of them.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us form a general sub-committee for Festival and Culture, then under it other sub-committees like Teej, Dasain etc.

Shailendra Bajracharya: Perhaps we should have separate Festival and Culture sub-committees.

Tilak Shrestha: In my opinion, given its nature, we may keep one sub-committee for both.

Ambika Sharma: In my opinion, they should be kept separate.

Janak Baral: Good wishes of Dasain. May Maata Durga bless us all. In our life we must work to enhance both spiritual and physical well beings. I can work and happy to contribute in many fields, except in IT and medical. We must also form a committee to promote Adhyatma \ spirituality. In my opinion, we must keep the issues Culture, Festival, and Adhyatma separate. Thanks for nomination. I am ready to take on the responsibility.

Dr. Ram Baral: Congratulation Janak Baral Guru Jee. Let us call it Festival committee for now. We will discuss about Culture and Adhyatma in the next meeting.

We do not have time today to deal with other sub-committee today, and will discuss in the next meeting. Just to mention, Narayan Khadka contributed well in the Immigration issue.

Bimal Nepal: Yes, also to mention Shailendra Bajracharya did commendable job in IT.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us do some home work and discuss about other scommittees in the next meeting.

Dr. Tilak Shrestha: Let us pause in the formation of committees for now. We still need to cover two more important agendas today: Finance and Kite festival. Our new treasurer Bala Ghimire could not make it today, but we have ex-treasurer Gobinda Shrestha with us. We also have Shalendra Bajracharya and Saunak Ranjitkar to talk about the Kite festival.

B. Finance:

Gobinda Shrestha: I had the honor of working as a Member and Treasurer of NASEA for 6 years under 4 Presidents – Tek Thapa, Raja Ghale, Sanjeeb Sapkota and Dr. Ram Baral. I work under the supervision of and submit accounts to the Finance Committee made of President, Vice President, and three more individuals. We have Ram Dongol, Tek Thapa, Bala Ghimire, Dr. Ram Baral, Sanjeb Sapkota and Deetendra Thapa.

I have already submitted the accounts to the Finance committee. However let me make sure they get the accounts properly. We do not have Finance committee members here, but may invite them in our next meeting. Bala Ghimire our new treasurer could not make it today, but I will cooperate for proper transfer. As per our rule, I am authorized to handle the account only till end of the month of September. However, since we have not transferred the account yet, I will cooperate to continue our work.

So far, NAsEA is the best organized Nepalese association in US with good finance standing around \$ 50,000. Most of these money is from life membership put in savings. So far we have not touched the money and hope the tradition continues. We have done fund raising for disasters in Nepal or for schools or for medical issues. But they are raised case by case basis from individual donors, not from the NAsEA savings.

Our new Executive committee is really good one with seven doctors, a good trend in intellectual status of our association and our community. I am happy to see all these progress. Thanks.

Dr. Ram Baral: The Finance Committee could not make it this time, but will invite them in the next meeting. Bala Ghimire and Gobinda Shrestha will work together for the transfer of accounts. We will be helping as needed.

Detour:

Udhav Karki: Let me slightly change the subject. Sorry about joining late. Please let me suggests –

- a. Conference call and volunteers to facilitate our meetings,
- b. Keep the meeting time not too long,
- c. To consider opinions of state members in formation of committees.

One more issue is the notifications and E-mails coming to us. We do not know which ones are important and which are not.

Dr. Ram Baral: Thanks, we take your suggestions well. We are in the process of getting sub-committees ready. The E-mails coming President and General Secretary are important and to be considered. Please members do not overload with E-mails. Please check with President or General Secretary first.

Bimal Nepal: President, some time we need to send E-mail as notification of activities. With due respect, please be in fore front of our activities.

Dr. Ram Baral: Please let me remind all that we have by-laws on rights and duties of all our members, especially of the Executive Committee members.

C. Kite Festival:

Shailendra Bajracharya: For the Kite festival, we need NAsEA sponsorship and fund.

Saunak Ranjitkar: Congratulation to all new Executive Committee members. We are developing a Kite festival as a part of our Dasain festival, in Nepali style, in the Piedmont Park. We are also getting kites from Nepal. However, there is also World Kite festival there. Thus, we thought about joining in with the World Kite festival. There will be thousand of people participating. We can have Nepal booth there. That way, we can promote our Nepalese culture in the world stage.

We have to decide and pay membership to the organizers by October 15th to participate. We have two membership options: a. Basic for \$ 450, will display our Logo; b. Premium

for \$ 700, we will be partner in the festival. We can collect donation and pay for the membership.

Ram Baral: The kite festival is a great idea. However, let us explore the possibility of paying it with donation, rather than from NAsEA fund.

Gobinda Shrestha: We have always raised donations for these kinds of activities. We always raised more funds and revenue to NAsEA added. Let us help and ask help from all.

Raja Ghale: Namaste to all. It is a good project and we must endorse it. I strongly support it. NAsEA is about promoting our culture, and we must not left behind. Let me suggest 'Premium' membership. I am ready to help with donation.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us make it 'Premium.' Let NAsEA provide \$ 700 to Saunak Ranjitkar or Shailendra Bajracharya now to be reimbursed later.

Bala Ghimire: I am for Premium. Let me donate \$ 50.

Tilak Shrestha: First we must pass a formal resolution.

Dr. Ram Baral: Pass the resolution to participate in the World Kite Festival. Sahilendra Bajracharya and Saunak Ranjitkar will take care of the financial issue.

Ambika Sharma: We must support our culture and promote to others.

Dr. Ram Baral: Thanks to all.

Gobinda Shrestha: Here is the donation at this moment: Gobinda Shrestha - \$ 50, Saunak Ranjitkar - \$ 20, Raja Ghale & Bidya Gurung - \$ 50, Shailendra Bajracharya - \$ 50, Bala Ghimire - \$ 50, Ambika Sharma - \$ 20, Bimal Nepal - \$ 25, Krishna Shrestha - \$ 20, Tilak Shrestha - \$ 20. Total at this time - \$ 275.

Dr. Ram Baral: Thanks to all. The meeting is adjourned.