

November 3, 2013 Sunday

NASeA Monthly Meeting (3rd) Minute

Participants: Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, Bimal Nepal, Shailendra Bajracharya, Bala Ghimire, Dr. Tilak B. Shrestha, Ambika Sharma, Bidya Gurung, Choodamani Khanal, Dr. Dilip Panthee, Janak Baral, Krishna Shrestha, Dr. Nita Thapa, Pravin Paudel, Dr. Samar Paija Magar, Dr. Shankar Prasad Parajuli, Udhav Karki, Raja Ghale, Gobinda Shrestha, Bishnu Sapkota, Ram Dongol

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

Minute taker: Dr. Tilak Shrestha, General Secretary

Third Executive Committee monthly meeting agenda:

- a. Websites inclusion policy
- b. Finance report and handover
- c. Committee formation

Dr. Ram Baral opened the meeting and welcomed all. Thanks to all, especially Bala Ghimire Jee for flying all the way from Chicago. Today is the Lakshmi Puja and we are short of time. So let us move as quickly as possible.

Tilak Shrestha: Happy Tihar Today we have above mentioned 3 agendas.

A. Websites inclusion policy:

Dr. Tilak Shrestha: In general we support websites with similar goal as ours. NASeA is a cultural, non-profit, non-political, organization to promote our culture, heritage, Dharma and values. 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 religious organizations. We reserve our right to accept or deny any organization(s).

The 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.

There was a misunderstanding regarding the Padmadal website in our NASeA website. Basically, it is our internal 'IT' house keeping issue. The issue will be decided as per the formulated policies and under the supervision of the Executive committee.

Dr. Ram Baral: "As I started new leadership, I started to get lot of complains about the website links. Right on the NASeA homepage, there are some links included by our NASeA website. There is nothing to do anything personally and I won't. Thus, I talked to our VP Shailendra Jee about such links. He told me that he just needs the link to be sent by an email. However, within some minutes, Shailendra Jee sent an email not only to our Executive Committee but also to all others. If something was perceived otherwise, I wish Shailendra Jee called me immediately like we were talking on the phone just some minutes ago. Or, Shailendra Jee might have emailed me back with his comment. Moreover, it was to be a much better idea if it was brought to our attention of Executive Committee."

Shailendra Bajracharya: Dr. Ram Baral Jee asked me to remove Padmadal website from NASEA because there were many complaints about it. I thought the issue needs more deliberations among us before making a decision, and hence the e-mails for the information.

Dr. Ram Baral: The issue was our internal and would have been more appropriate if it were discussed only among the Executive committee, without divulging the discussions to others which led to more misunderstandings and confusions. We also could have put the issue to be discussed in the monthly meeting. Instead we had many e-mails, some critical also. Let us be cognizant that such inappropriate criticisms do reflect negatively on our organization.

Dr. Tilak Shrestha: Since we do not have a clear policy so far, perhaps we should form policy first and then decide accordingly. There is no point in deliberating on criticisms etc. for now.

Bimal Nepal: Thanks for the suggestion. Let us put these kinds of issues in the meeting. In my opinion it is good to have organizations like 'Padmadal' or 'Maiti Nepal' associated with us. They are sister organizations to ours.

Bala Ghimire: Thanks to all. We must honor our President. We should make policy on it as soon as possible. Non-decision also looks bad. Perhaps we should not write too many e-mails. It is not clear which ones are official and which are not. Members may write to President.

Krishna Shrestha: Thanks to all and support all the earlier statements. We should put these kinds of issues in the board meeting with its all positive and negative aspects for better policy decisions.

Udhav Karki: Member should and have right to put their views in the meeting. Of course, democracy means majority ruling with minority view respected. I am not sure which e-mails are in and which are out.

Dr. Nita Thapa: Let me summarize.

1. Let us be cautious. We are not blaming any body here. We are all volunteers.
2. Let us make website policies.
3. Too many e-mails make it difficult to separate authentic from others to read.

Ambika Sharma: Namaskar to all. Happy Tihar. Instead of long thread, the issue should have been brought in the meeting. We should not divulge our discussions outside. It makes NASEA and committee looks derogated.

Dr. Dilip Panthee: Looks like there was communication gap. We need more interactions for better understanding.

Dr. Samar Paiza: Thanks to all. Happy Dipavali. Mistakes can happen. Let us take it as learning process. We have by-laws to guide us from making mistakes. If not clear, we may ask President, if not in committee meeting. It is not to blame any body.

Janak Baral: Happy Deepavali. Mangalomaya Shuva Kamana. President is authorized in many issues. Certainly, disputed ideas reflect derogations on the honor and integrity of NASEA. We as committee members must recognize fault and learn from it. The executive committee must be efficient and work for our community. It is not good to have too many e-mails from all. We must be attentive to service and forgiving. Let us apologize with our President and Executive Committee for such divulging of email to outside folks. May Maata Lakshmi bless us all.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let me propose a motion – ‘Let Dr. Tilak Shrestha form a ‘Standard Policy Committee’ and work on it.’

Bimal Nepal: I second the motion.

Several others also supported this motion and there was no any objection on this motion by anybody. Then, Dr. Tilak Shrestha said: “Yes, I agree and thanks for the opportunity.”

B. Finance report and handover:

Dr. Ram Baral: We have Bala Ghimire, our new treasurer all the way from Chicago, Gobinda Shrestha, our ex-treasurer and Ram Dongol, our ex-treasurer and Finance committee chief here to brief us and hand over the accounts. Let us give them a hand.

Bala Ghimire: Dear President and friends, thanks to all. Today is Lakshmi Puja a Shuva din. Shuva din for our finance issue also. I am taking on the responsibility from today onward.

Currently the account is run with the signature of either Ram Dongol or Gobinda Shrestha. Let me suggest to change it to President and Treasurer.

Let me also suggest to form a Finance committee with following members:

1. President,
2. Treasurer,
3. General Secretary,
4. Gobinda Shrestha, Ex-treasurer
- and 5. Ram Dongol, Ex-treasurer.

Gobinda Shrestha: Welcome Bala Jee, our new treasurer. According to our by-laws our Finance committee is made of:

1. President,
2. Treasurer,
3. Ram Dongol,
4. Tek Thapa,
- and 5. Madhav Dhakal.

Ram Dongol is the Finance Chair. Madhav Dhakal moved out of Atlanta and no longer active. The Finance committee is an elected body and the current committee expires only on December 31, 2014. You may notice the Finance committee and Executive committee are one year apart. It is deliberately done so that Finance issues remain separate. As per the by-law the signature of Ram Dongol, Finance Chair, remains valid till the end of 2014. However, we can always add or subtract members. Officially, let me handover the accounts to Bala Jee. We will be working out the detail later.

Pledges: We have not raised all the pledge. Thanks to all who has pledged and have given the money. We must help new treasurer to collect. Let me suggest Gobinda Shrestha,

Ambika Sharma, Tek Thapa and Sanjeeb Sapkota for more actions on collection. We should be able to get \$ 7,000 within next month. We can request through e-mails. I have worked as the treasurer for last 6 years. I must apologize if I have done mistakes or displeased any members. As an accountant I have no choice but to be mean to collect fund some times. I hope you would see from my point of view.

Dr. Ram Baral: Let us work to collect the pledges within this year 2013 and close the account. I have pledged and paid \$500 last year. Even in this years also, I have pledged and paid \$500. Me and my families pledged and paid in the past years past years as well. Sometimes we might have exceeded much higher.

Krishna Shrestha: Let me suggest as per check signing, let 3 people - President, Treasurer and Finance Chair be authorized.

Udhav Karki: Please see the by-laws. It is not mentioned who runs the account. What about Madhav Dhakal?

Gobinda Shrestha: Finance committee is formed so that President is not in pressure to check the accounts. It is in the by-laws. Of all the projects NASEA has helped the best is the 'Wireless project' of Mahabir Pun.

Bimal Nepal: Thanks Gobinda Jee and Bala Jee. Let us follow the by-law for now and authorized signatures be of: President, Treasurer, Tek Thapa and Ram Dongol authorized.

Ambika Sharma: In the Finance committee besides President, Treasurer and Finance Chair, let ex-Treasurer also be the member.

Ram Dongol: The signature issue is covered in by-laws. Treasurer signs or assigns others. The 'IT' team can request pledge through e-mails and collect using credit card or PayPal. I can also help.

Gobinda Shrestha: Though two signatures are authorized, only one is needed. Treasurer does all the signing. Finance Chair does only when Treasurer is not available.

Nar Kaji Gurung: Happy Tihar. Need to look at by-laws. Who is authorized to disperse funds?

Shailendra Bajracharya: Let us follow by-laws for now. We may change it later, when new by-laws is enacted. Credit card and Pay Pal is good. They keep record up to 7 years. I am ready help Treasurer with technical issues like 'Pass Word' etc.

Janak Baral: Today is the Lakshmi Puja, good for our finance. I am no good in 'hishab' or accounts.

Bala Ghimire: I must study by-laws. Usually, President, Secretary and Treasurer are authorized. Finance is usually supervised by Finance committee or Executive committee.

Udhav Karki: Who writes check? As per by-laws, President may spend up to \$500. Otherwise, Executive committee does the financial decision. President and Treasurer may work together. Finance committee is there to help Executive committee, President and Treasurer to run the account. Main authority and responsibility of spending fund goes to Executive committee.

Dr. Ram Baral: Of course, President is entitled to sign the check as we remain under the U.S. Federal, State, Local, and NAsEA by-laws. Regarding the President's prerogative and privilege to take \$500 out of NAsEA account, I will never take any penny from the NAsEA account. I rather paid my pledge of \$500 to Gobinda Jee in this meeting already.

Bala Ghimire: Let me study the by-laws and come with clarification.

Ram Dongol: The by-law is clear that the authorized signatures are of President, Treasurer and Finance Chair.

Raja Ghale: Happy Tihar. I am only an observer here. However, let me comment that Finance committee is only for check and balance. It cannot overwrite Executive committee. Treasurer has full power to run the account. President can spend up to \$500 as per emergency needs. Treasurer carries responsibility and authority of running day to day account.

It is always good to keep Ex-Presidents in the loop for any kind of issues or problems. Usually they know, have experience and will come with some good advice. If there is anything said by any of the former Presidents and/or current President, there must be a good reason for the best of our institution, NAsEA, because they only have the tendency of thinking for the best of NAsEA alone.

In our NAsEA 'Face Book' we may try to accommodate all as best as we can. We may accommodate Bhutanese \ Nepalese also. Thanks to all.

Dr. Ram Baral: Originally the meeting was planned for only one hour, but we have already crossed two hours. Let us stop now and take on remaining agenda in our next meeting. Let me adjourn the meeting. Thanks to all.