

ANMA Executive Committee Meeting - September 25, 2004

Time: 5:30 PM

Date: September 25, 2004

Venue: Residence of Dhruva & Anita Shrestha
3845 Morningside Lane
Saginaw, MI 48603

Present: Sharda Thapa, Wendy Hall Thapa, Anita and Gaury Adhikary, Shambhu and Sabita Pant, Dinesh and Indira Koirala, Pradip and Sashi Dhital, Khagendra and Rajani Thapa, Bindu and Prahlad Pant, Rajendra and Nita Khatiwada, Sharad Shrestha, Dhruva and Anita Shrestha, Anand Tiwari, Mukesh and Sarala Singh, Mahesh and Shanti Rathi, Prajwal Joshi, Mitsu Joshi, Mary K. Rose, Jyoti Shrestha, Pramod Dhital, "Amaa" Dhital, Ashish Joshi, Sailaendra Adhikary, Maya Adhikary, Prakash and Usha Dhital, Dustin Brubaker and Dikshya Adhikari Brubaker [Scribe].

[Others did not introduce themselves but were present in a good number]

Thanks to the host:

Thanks to Dhruva Dai and Anita Didi for hosting the executive committee meeting at their residence. This is the first meeting of current executive committee.

2004 ANMA Convention Report:

Last meeting in Columbus was smashing success in many respect than we can imagine: lodging, food, musical group from Nepal , cultural program by local artist and above all deep and sincere camaraderie among ANMA members throughout the meeting.

Mukesh Singh presented the report with the Statement of Revenue and Expense supported by Schedule B. There is a \$40 discrepancy, he noted because of registration issue (from people who claimed they had already provided registration information). Expense report was presented as line item supported by check numbers. Still to collect \$600 from the advertisement. Total \$375 used from NAOO account. Total expense for the convention was \$19,599.76 and total revenue was \$12,105 (10,250+1855). ANMA invested \$6,250 from the central fund. If any question regarding this, please forward it to Mukesh Singh as he mentioned. It was noted that if the musical team from Nepal was not invited, then the loss would have been about \$1600 only. Total paid participants in the convention were about 220.

Mukesh Singh negotiated very good deal with the Hotel/Vijay Pathak for the facility use. So a plaque in honor of his contributions is due to Mr. Pathak.

Lessons learnt from the convention:

Mukesh: from the management perspective, don't burden the host city with whole task of organization. Tasks like cultural program, sports etc could be divided into other groups, possibly out of host city. Start coordinating cultural programs from right now. Someone

from the executive committee should take care of registration part as the hosts were overwhelmed with the amount of tasks involved. Also, if we can't raise money within the host city from the Nepalis living there, possibly we'll lose money in the convention.

Sharda: Chicago had a lower registration fee but had higher number of participants in 2003 ANMA convention. Raised more money from locals. Deficit would have been covered if the registration fee was higher then.

Khagendra: Big Rapids did not lose any money with about 220 people as well. We should plan on raising more than needed, so we'll break even.

Wendy: Have something unique in the musical group presentation so people have a reason to attend the convention

Dikshya: Bring in groups from Nepal or musical groups within US that will attract more audience, including youths. Repeat performance from the same solo/group might not attract people to different conventions. Suggestion: Take a consensus of youths and different age groups as well.

Anand: We need to give people something special that is not offered to them before or locally.

Mukesh stated he did not like the Sunday cultural program. He gave partial credit to Nischal. Others disagreed and voiced support for the performers and coordinators [Nischal and Dikshya both]. Dikshya mentioned that she co-hosted on last minute request from Nischal, just before the show. So hope that only helped the show. [Editor's note: Performers, please do NOT get discouraged by such comments. You all did a wonderful job! We all got wonderful feedback as well. Remain positive for next year! I could care less for personal credits from certain people, when we have been supported by everyone else. Thanks. DAB.]

2005 ANMA Convention:

Sharda: Preliminary talks with ANA on a joint convention with theirs in 2005 led to no results. Benefits will be meeting more people. Right now, we do have an offer from NASEA to hold a joint convention on Labor Day in Oxford, Mississippi. Details have to be worked out. ANMA should take lead in that direction. [few objected to the location and date while few more agreed].

Prahlad Pant: Resonated Mukesh Singh's point about designating exec committee to handle different tasks for the convention - should meet and pass a resolution on this issue. Separation of tasks is a good idea. About Sharda's point, think about distance that locals have to travel to be in Oxford, Miss. This topic should be brought up in NAC meeting.

Suggestion: Create a convention sub committee including ANMA president and Treasurer to help the host organizer. Duties: Finance should be handled by the treasurer; exec committee decides how to spend capital.

Gaury and Anand: Executive Committee is a group of advisors for ANMA. They are not the host, so they cannot dictate the local host of the convention.

ISSUE: Vote for the location for 2005 ANMA convention

Ideas:

Do a joint fundraiser with Chicago Nepali Pariwar [Sharda]

Write grants [Wendy]

Do we lose our identity if we don't hold the convention on Memorial Day weekend?

Isn't Nebraska still interested in hosting? [Mukesh Singh]

Explore Saginaw as a host city? [Prahla Pant] [they are not ready yet - Saginaw residents]

Purpose is to work with other organizations, so we don't lose any identity but build team work [Shambhu Pant]

We could hold the convention every two years [Mary K. Rose]

RESOLUTION: 2005 ANMA CONVENTION WILL BE IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI [jointly with NASEA] ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND. 2006 convention will be a joint National Convention possibly in Chicago, IL. [as stated by President Anand Tiwari in the meeting]

Membership:

Anyone who attends ANMA convention or donates to the organization is a member.

Raise membership amount from \$5 to? [come up with a right amount]?

There should be some perceived value of the membership

ANMA is a volunteer org. supporting Nepali cause. So there is no need of direct benefits like that of AAA.

Ask people to be members in the ANMA newsletter [The ViewPoint]

Give members discounts in the convention price

Keep the roster of members

Keep membership for continuous participation for a period of two years.

Examine both ANA and NASEA models of charging for the convention

Anand Tiwari to appoint members and coordinate next year's convention with NASEA

Merge member list from past two years' Chicago and Columbus conventions.

Either come to the convention or buy the membership before the ANMA election.

Fundraising:

Anita Adhikary reported pledges in amount of \$7000 and actual contributions in the amount of \$4800 to date. Those who are attending, please send a check to Mrs. Anita Adhikary, 3077 N. Foxridge Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 - payable to ANMA.

New ANMA website:

Anand maintained until July 2004, handed over to Sunu KC in DC and his Company based in Nepal now. Trying to correct DNS problems currently, should be functional by this week. If anyone missing to be included in the email groups, please contact Anand (anand@naoo.org).

- We should create a large ANMA membership list.
- anmausa@yahoo.com is the email list for Exec Committee members and advisors.
- Past issues of The Viewpoint will be scanned and posted in the website for interested readers (historical perspective of ANMA)
- Dikshya Adhikari is the newly elected Editor for The Viewpoint this year.
- The ViewPoint is published 3 issues a year, 4 months apart, around Dashain/Festival, New Years and Winter issues. Contributions welcome from everyone. Please encourage your kids or family members to write and submit to michigannepali@yahoo.com or atiwari@hotmail.com

Viewpoints

Dixya is the new editor in chief: please support by sending articles, poems short stories to her. News could be on new arrival from Nepal, new born, Pasni, wedding, Graduation, migration to states or cities, starting new business, etc. Idea is to let people know that you are sharing your happiness with others and sorrows as well if the news is such. I feel this will keep us connected better.

We need volunteer from each and every cities and towns of Midwest.

Dikshya will give the deadline and we will have to comply. Cities would be: Chicago, Moline, Louisville, Omaha, Minneapolis, Madison, Lexington, Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron, Ann Arbor, Canton, Kalamazoo, Cold Waters, Lansing, greater Detroit area, Saginaw etc.

To cover all of these areas we need to have yahoogroups e-mail addresses expanded. From Michigan Dr Pradeep Dhital has promised to send out e-mail add of Michigander. Similarly other cities have to send the e-mail add to Anand Tiwari, our new President, at <anand@naoo.org> Anand will update all the e-mail addresses.

This will make ANMA truly a transparent organization with lot more members than we ever had. We are in it together and lets pitch in! [Gaury Adhikary]

Treasurer's Report:

[New treasurer: Sharad Shrestha]. \$1700 is in the bank. ANMA pledged \$500 to Diyo which should be sent to Diyo.

Implementing Sarbane & Oxley [Mukesh Singh]:

Need to consider "Record Retention Policy". Singh recommends 5 years. That has to be incorporated with whistle blower policy and have to be drafted in the by-laws by November 30. Singh could modify and send by-laws for review to Anand Tiwari.

Limits of Authority [Sharda Thapa]:

Assign certain authorities to certain group within ANMA regarding limits of authority in financial matters, so disputes [like what took place with Mukesh] would not happen. He sent a detailed email to the executive committee group on 9/28/04 about this. Refer to that.

Anand: When does the outgoing president hand over to the next president? June 1-30 as a lame duck period was suggested.

NAC [Gaury Adhikary]:

NAC is a coordinating body with 20 organizations. It's a national forum where people can voice their opinion. Every org. sends three delegates and NAC is expecting 60-70 total from North America and Canada. Treasurer will be paid through \$100 contribution from each org. By the end of October, there will be a new house of delegates. They will dictate what the exec. Committee does. So NAC will be more transparent. NAC invited Sur Sudha to US. ANMA is a big sponsoring org of NAC from the very beginning and NAC is doing well. NRN activities are going to be coordinated by NAC. So ANMA will send 3 delegates including the president as well. More info on the web: www.nepalcouncil.org

PAC [Prahlad Pant]:

PAC stands for Nepalese American Political Action Committee. It is an org. with a political purpose. Membership is at 40 now. Official name is Nepalese American PAC. Have a treasurer and in the process of preparing by-laws to govern PAC and register as a corporation. Main area of focus is US-Nepal relations, Immigration Trade and Tax Treaties, Business Opportunities in Nepal, Internships. It's a federally registered organization. Main goal is to financially support those candidates running for senate or congress. It is a 501c org, but money you contribute is not tax deductible. Open discussion: How PAC is going to evolve as a legal entity? May be with some kind of relationship with NAC. [NRNs can be given political voice through PAC.] Ask Mr. Pant for more info on PAC.

OTHER MATTERS:

NEXT ANMA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 5th

VENUE: DR. AND MRS. PRAHLAD PANT RESIDENCE IN CINCINNATI, OHIO

NEW YEAR'S PARTY GATHERING

DATE: APRIL [AROUND 12TH]. Check anmausa.org later for the exact date and details.

VENUE: CHICAGO, IL

ANMA FUNDRAISING DINNER

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, DATE: TBA. POSSIBLY IN CHICAGO, IL. Check anmausa.org for the exact date and details.