

subject: **ANMA Meeting Notes and Action Items**

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from: **Robert J. Schmidt**
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1. Attendees

Attendees (ANMA Executive Committee & others)–

R. Schmidt
Dr. Rupa Hamal
Dr. Prahlad Pant
Anand Tiwari
Narayan Neupane
Mukesh Singh
Sohan Khatiwada
Madan Rajbhandari
Dr. Gaury Adhikary
Ram Bashyal
Rashmi Kansakar
D. Adhikary
Dustin Brubaker
Rajendra Khatiwada
Nita Khatiwada
Bindu Pant
Anita Adhikary
Raj Joshi

2. Agenda and Notes:

ANMA = Association of Nepalese in Midwest America.

Meeting held in Cincinnati; home of Dr. Pant (thanks for hosting).

AI = action items

2.1 ANMA-NASeA Joint Meeting April 2005:

1. Meeting will be April 30 2005, Nashville TN. Anand, Mukesh, and Sharda will attend. If others wish to attend, please let one of these attendees know.

2.2 ANMA-NASeA Convention (Atlanta – Labor Day weekend 2005):

1. Need to decide fund raising, given that this is a joint conference.
 - a. Proposal A: NASeA proposes handling all expenses and all fund raising. ANMA attends as guest only.
 - b. Proposal B: split fund raising between ANMA and NASeA
 - i. Donors choose - This approach was done in Minnesota – Empower Nepal or ANMA. Attendees could choose which organization to pay. Must specify on check.
 - c. Proposal C: Could split fund raising by days: ANMA can raise funds Saturday. NASeA could take Sunday.
 - d. Proposal D: No fund raising at convention (for either organization)
 - e. Proposal E: completely separate fund raising for ANMA (not at convention)
 - i. ANMA could have fund raising dinner around Memorial Day Weekend.
 1. However only core ANMA people might attend this, not wider membership. Might not be effective.

- f. Proposal F: combined fundraising, split according to negotiated percentage (60/40 for example)
- 2. **AI: Anand** will contact NAsEa and suggest Proposal B, C, or D, which do they prefer? As host they may have the final say.
- 3. Suggestion of raising funds during cultural show (donors more likely to be favorably motivated).
- 4. 2006 Convention will be Memorial day 2006:
 - a. This is proposed to be another joint convention ANMA-NAsEa
 - b. Place will be chosen by ANMA this time

2.3 ANMA Viewpoints (Dikshya):

- 1. First issue was in October – is on Web Site
 - a. **AI (All)**: Please provide comments to Dikshya about October 2004 Viewpoints issue: michigannepali@yahoo.com
 - b. **AI (All)**: Call for articles for next issue: want to get them by April 10 2005
 - i. Pictures of major events (Pasni, graduation, Permanent Residency, etc.)
 - ii. Articles
 - iii. News
- 2. Need to provide list of key ANMA achievements for last 10 years, to be included in next Viewpoints.
 - a. Prahlad: has collection of ANMA Viewpoints from 1987.
 - b. **AI (Prahlad)**: scan these and put on www.anmausa.org web site (scan 1 or 2 copies every month). Also send .pdf file to Dikshya.
 - c. **AI (Sharada)**: summarize key ANMA achievements over past 10 years & send to Dikshya.
- 3. Note: Viewpoints cannot publish political articles, in order to preserve ANMA non-profit status. Example of article sent regarding King's Step.
 - a. Suggest referring these articles to other media.

2.4 Whistle-Blower Policy:

- 1. Sarbannes Oxley requires whistleblower policy in bylaws by April.
- 2. Handout was given via email and hardcopy during the meeting.
- 3. **AI (all)**: Please review the document
 - a. If comments on the document: please send email either to anand or anmausa.org
- 4. If no comments received by Mar 19 2005, this doc will be added to web site: www.anmausa.org
 - a. **AI (Anand)** will post the final policy doc on the web.

2.5 Membership:

- 1. Need membership list.
 - a. Treasurer used to keep list, not clear where it is now.
 - b. Mahesh or Dhurba?
 - i. **AI: Anand** will contact them to see if they have list.
- 2. Life Members – get list of these.
 - a. Life members should be responsible for recruiting other members.
 - b. Could mine data from Convention registrations from NAOO-ANMA May 2004.
 - c. Assign names to life members.
- 3. Membership Fees:
 - a. Proposal A: Currently \$5 for 1 year.
 - b. Proposal B: increase fee to at least \$15 for 1 year
 - c. Proposal C: increase to \$10 per year per family or \$5 per individual
 - d. Proposal D: if they attend convention they automatically get membership.
 - e. Proposal E: charge membership fee at convention, deduct it only if attendee objects.
 - f. RESOLUTION: proposal C selected:
 - i. Annual membership \$10 per family.
 - ii. Annual membership \$5 for individuals or student.
- 4. Membership: regardless of fee, need to clearly specify advantages of membership
 - a. Several reasons to become members.

- i. Web Site – lots of people find out about us thru this
 - ii. Email list
 - iii. Email copy of ANMA Viewpoint newsletter
 - iv. Uncensored news from Nepal
 - v. Scholarship fund
 - b. Past accomplishments
 - i. Non Resident Nepali legislation
 - 1. Land ownership, etc.
 - 2. Tax treaties
 - ii. Conventions and networking.
 - c. Present activities
 - d. Future planned activities
 - e. **AI (Mukesh)** Draft a list of 10 reasons to become and ANMA member.
 - i. Mukesh will solicit comments
 - ii. Others will distribute and use for membership drives.
- 5. ANMA Web site: can we measure # hits?
 - a. **AI (Anand)**: set up hit counting on www.anma.org web site
 - b. Some people have seen web site and have asked to become member
- 6. Mukesh suggestion: distribute a task list once per year. Possible tasks:
 - a. Form committee
 - b. Post on web site, ask for volunteers
- 7. Focus on ANMA Publicity!!!

2.6 Spinal Injury Center - Gaury

- 1. Houses 15 – 20 people typically
- 2. Treatment for back injuries etc.
- 3. ANMA raised \$1800 for this cause.
- 4. **AI (Gaury)**: submit article summarizing this to various media: Nepal times, nepalisite.com, others?

2.7 Treasurers Report

- 1. Separate handout. Balance \$4361.
- 2. Comment - good job – sent thanks for membership contributions.

2.8 Organization Proposals

- 1. Change ANMA bylaws to organize separate ANMA committees:
 - a. Publicity
 - b. Membership
 - c. Social
 - d. Convention Planning
 - e. Solicit contributions from Nepali businesses in Midwest
 - f. Etc.
- 2. Concern about making simple changes to bylaws, so they are flexible for creating future committees.
- 3. **AI: (Mukesh)** draft modified ANMA bylaws. Will send to Anand to solicit comments from ANMA executive committee.
 - a. ANMA executive committee must approve
 - b. Prior to Labor Day 2005: solicit comments from all members.
 - c. Goal is to have new structure formalized by Labor Day.
- 4. **AI: (Rajendra)** will form separate membership committee (don't need to wait for bylaws to be formally changed)

2.9 Next ANMA Meeting

- 1. Ensuring attendance: Email alone might not be enough.
 - a. Suggest we call people individually to determine if they will attend – may help with attendance.

- b. AI: Anand: call key ANMA members to ask for their attendance (or delegate calling several members each)
 - c. Alternative: multiple emails.
2. Proposed date: June 11, 2005: Hosted by Anita Adhikary in Ann Arbor Michigan.
3. Alternative date: June 30, 2005. Will decide later.
4. **AI: Anita:** Determine final date for next meeting.
5. May need telephone conference prior to June to resolve convention items.

2.10 Other Items:

1. Prahlad: March 11 a group of Nepalis met with staff of various US Senators. Luger, etc. People there were well informed about Nepal situation. Will come out with press release in a few days.
2. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nepali refugees.
3. Resolution:
 - a. ANMA has officially endorsed TPS project
 - b. **AI: Sohan** will be ANMA contact for TPS effort.

3. Action Items

See above text for details

1. Anand: 4 items
2. Mukesh: 2 items
3. Prahlad: 1 item
4. All: 3 items
5. Sohan: 1 item
6. Rajendra: 1 item
7. Anita: 1 item