



anmausa.org
Association of Nepalese
in Midwest America

Minutes of 2005 ANMA/NASeA Joint Convention Planning Meeting

Date and Time: April 30, 2005 @ 3:00pm
Place: Nashville, TN
Attendees: Girija Gautam, Sharda Thapa, Dharmendra Dhakal, Ram S. Dongol, Bishwa Acharya, Ram Bashyal, Bala Pant, Tek Thapa, Hari Dhugana, Binod Rayamajhi, Shiva Bhurtel, Prakash Malla, Samanta Thapa, Rajendra K. Khatiwada, Suman Silwal, Yogesh Malla, and Sanjay Shrestha

1. Welcoming Remarks, Introduction of Attendees and Review of Agenda

Mr. Prakash Malla, President of NASeA, welcomed everybody to the joint meeting of ANMA/NASeA. Mr. Malla first called for a 30 second silence as a peace prayer for Nepal. He initiated a self-introduction and everybody gave a brief intro. Mr. Sharda Thapa gave a brief on ANMA, Chicagoland Nepali Pariwar (CNP), its affiliate, and a little background on this first scheduled joint convention proposal among US Nepali organizations.

2. Convention Theme

Mr. Malla requested the attendees to spend a few minutes in brainstorming to identify an appropriate theme. He also mentioned that the theme for the last year's NASeA convention was Unity for Peace and Prosperity.

Mr. Thapa's proposal: "Nepali Diaspora Coming Together", "Uniting to help Nepal". Other suggestions: "New Beginning", "Helping ourselves to help Nepal." Consensus was for "Coming Together."

Action: Theme will be circulated by the Presidents of ANMA and NASeA, looking for a better one and/or a Nepali phrase to be also used with this selection.

3. Convention Hotel/Venue

Venue (Holiday Inn) was approved as being adequate but precludes inviting other Associations to be co-sponsors. Rate quotes provided by Mr. Malla:
Double room - \$59, two bed suite - \$89, 10 double rooms already reserved for Fri night.
Stays expected over 3 nights. Rates will apply for Monday night also. Hotel will hold rooms and guarantee rates for reservations made by August 13th and an extension of this date will be requested.

Proposal was made to ask local residents to stay at Hotel for maximum participation. There is a minimum hotel booking requirements (132 room nights). Proposal was made that certain numbers of guaranteed participants/hotel guest for the convention be provided by ANMA and NASeA.

Action: Publicize this information and recommend early reservations and Presidents to e-mail each Association with the information ASAP.

4. Program/Schedule (how long? Saturday evening and Sunday versus Saturday and Sunday whole days)

Discussion included items #11 and 13.
Proposed and approved: Start time 2:00pm on Saturday. Half Day – Saturday, Full Day – Sunday in two sessions. We should ask participants to arrive either Friday night or by Saturday morning.

Both ANMA & NASEA will have some of their own program agendas to be blended.
Proposal: Lower participation events: Reunions and any specialized focus groups/meeting, NAC program and Women's will be scheduled for Saturday afternoon/evening.



Regional groups and organizations including NAC, should have executive meetings on either Sat or Mon. NASEA Election is suggested for Saturday. We may not have as much NRN participation as last year, due to NRN meeting on October 2005 in Nepal.

Sunday morning – welcome/Opening program. Proposal for Program Committee – 2 members of ANMA & NASEA each. Mr. Malla will nominate members of NASEA. ANMA will be represented by Mr. Rajendra Khatiwada, with one more to be nominated by Mr. Anand Tiwari.

5. Estimation of attendees

There was proposal to invite other organizations to attend as in the past but not to be a sponsor or participant in the joint meeting. ANMA will possibly bring about 150 participants. NASEA will have around 300. Expected attendance is 450 with 10% +/- . Main hall has limitations for 500 seating. Joint dbase will be created.

Action: Prior convention attendance records to be used to estimate attendance from each group and to plan the Convention. Presidents will delegate responsibility.

6. Registration Fee, Finances, & Fund Raising

REGISTRATION FEE: Last year NASEA categories - \$45 pre-registration, \$50 on site, and \$40 life-members, \$35 students, & under 6 was free. This year proposal from NASEA – add \$5 inflation fee to last year's fees. Average fee raised last year was \$40 per person. Accepted.

This information will also be circulated ASAP and a web registration process to be publicized. CNP will assist NASEA in enabling PayPal payments for registration. Registration will not be complete without either check receipt or a PayPal payment by a cutoff date approximately one week before the convention. PayPal cancellations will be charged a \$2/head cancellation fee. The cutoff date will also be the forfeit date if no cancellation notice is received by that date.

This year Mr. Malla estimated \$17,000 expense and \$18,000 revenue expected. There was a proposal to create scenario analysis on budgeting using a previously created ANMA convention planning model. It was proposed that the two Treasurers of the organizations work together to refine the estimates and keep track of convention financing. Mr. Gautam suggested that our convention funding target is to break-even – to be self-sufficient and not having subsidy fund-raising as had been the NASEA/ANMA practice. Mr. Thapa also suggested fund-raising thru advertising in a joint Newsletter or program brochure. Each group will list their own life-members who will receive a discounted registration rate.

FINANCE: There was initially an agreement that the hosting group will take full responsibility of the finances & operations – with guest group (ANMA) will be in an advisory capacity although both group will make decisions together on all issues.

FUNDRAISING: There was proposal of joint fundraising, where host gets 60% and visitor 40%. Another by Mr. Dhakal that we keep fundraising separate – each groups having their own. Third proposal was 50/50 fund share. Final proposal: Fund-raise money will first cover losses (if any), if there is surplus it will be added to the fund and total to be split 50/50. This was the consensus as experiment for 2 years.

7. Student Volunteer Housing Scholarship

Suggestion: 8 - 10 privately subsidized rooms for student volunteers (free) proposed at NASEA meeting in 2004. ANMA requested to seek a like number of sponsors. Rules to be set for who qualifies and details to be decided via email between Presidents or their committee nominees.

8. Publicity/Flyers/Program Book

Mailer/flyer with the program details to be sent out. CNP will help with graphic design. Updated program to be printed late and distributed prior to Convention.



9. Convention Issue Yeti Views (Advertisements, Articles, etc)

Joint issue to be called YETI VIEWPOINTS which will reflect ANMA & NASEA coming together will be distributed at the convention. Proposed: Dikshya and Abha from ANMA, nominees from NASEA to be provided

Action: Editors and nominees to be requested to work on the issue.

10. Opening Session: Keynote speaker/invited speakers

Proposal on having NASEA and ANMA Presidents moderate the opening session, take time to recognize their peers attending in the audience and read letters received. NAC president to be given the only other organizational speaking role. Invite high impact/motivational speaker, example: Congressman Jim Walsh. Action items: Presidents to create schedule – time management is important.

11. Sessions (e.g., Current Situation in Nepal; Youth; Eastern Philosophy; Focus groups such as, Women’s Network, SEBS, Xaviers, Career Developments, Interview Skills, Children Program, etc.)
See point 4.

12. Cultural Program (Sunday)

Suggestion by Mr. Thapa that ANMA have 25% of the time slot, and ANMA will have their own coordinator – who will work with local coordinator (NASEA). Local will manage the entire operations. Amateur talent and Nepali themes to be promoted.

Action: Committee to be formed with lead coordinators from both organizations.

13. Saturday Night Entertainment (Nepali artists/band)

On Saturday ballroom is not available until 8:00pm – therefore we will have to schedule dinner in another room or rooms. Alternatives: banquet hall/dining room (80 seating at a time) – dinner in 2 group timings. Third option: Hallway buffet setup.

Proposal: professional artist (US based), or other entertainment – eg: bingo, etc.

14. Food/Catering

Dinner buffets – our catering choice, Mr. Acharya negotiated extremely reasonable per head rates of \$7 Saturday and \$8 for Sunday. Last year food replenishing was inconsistent – will need more staff/volunteers this year to ensure better service. We will ask the hotel to provide the Sunday breakfast (continental). Sunday lunch will probably be pizza (Papa Johns?), apples and cookies as last year.

15. Closing, Acknowledgments, Adjournment

Suggestion: Award/recognition award by and for each group – need time slot. Cultural Program should run no more than 2 hours.

Mr. Malla thanked Mr. Girija Gautam and Mrs. Kopila for hosting the meeting in Nashville and all the participants for attending the meeting.