



**anmausa.org**

Association of Nepalese  
in Midwest America

## **EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA)

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

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*Meeting Date: 11/21/2015*

*Meeting Location: Dublin, OH*

*Recorded by: **Bharat Kandel, General Secretary, ANMA***

*Meeting Conducted by: **President Shushil R Sharma, ANMA***

### **MEETING LOCATION:**

Residence of Mr. Mukesh Singh/Sarala Pandey, Dublin, OH

Attendance:

1. Shushil Raj Sharma
2. Bharat Kandel
3. Balram Panthi
4. Elina Shakya
5. Nita Khatiwada
6. Suraj Adhikary
7. Gopendra Bhattraï
8. Mukesh Singh
9. Salara Pandey
10. Sharda Thapa
11. Vijaya Shrestha
12. Rajendra Khatiwada
13. Karishma Shrestha
14. Urmila Panthi
15. Natasha Wozniak

### **MEETING START**

Meeting Schedule Start: 3:00 PM

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## AGENDA

1. REVIEW OF THE 11TH NASEA/ANMA JOINT CONVENTION
2. ANMA/NASEA JOINT CONVENTION 2016 PREPARATION
3. ANMA FINANCE
4. ANMA PROJECTS: CURRENT & FUTURE
5. RAINASKOT LAMJUNG PROJECT: NATASHA WOZNIAK'S PRESENTATION
6. RESHAPING ANMA
7. DC RALLY AGAINST INDIA'S BLOCKADE
8. NEPAL ISSUES
9. MISCELLANEOUS

### Thanks to the host:

**ANMA executive committee extends special thanks to Mukesh Singh dai and Sarala Pandey bhauju for hosting an executive committee meeting at their residence and providing us warm hospitality and good food.**

General Secretary Mr. Bharat Kandel gave a welcome speech.

President Mr. Sushil Sharma opened the meeting session.

On behalf of executive committee President congratulated ANMA hero of the year Mr. Rajendra Khatiwada for his continues support to ANMA, Immediate past President Gopendra Bhattraai who was honored for his excellent leadership role during his tenure, and VP Kailash Kayestha for officially releasing his debut album “Maile Janina”.

President also thanked Joint Convention co-chairs and executive members for their tremendous work and support. ANMA President extended special thanks to Joint Convention Chair Mr. Madhav Dhakal, TNCC President Mr. Narayan Khadka, NCNC President Mr. Thakur Karkee and the host organization and its executive members along with all the people that made Joint Convention 2016 successful.

### Comments from meeting attendees

#### **Review from 11<sup>th</sup> NASEA/ ANMA convention**

**Sharda Thapa:** Avoid parallel programs; avoid certificate/plaque distribution in opening ceremony.

**Gopendra Bhattraai:** Be mindful in selecting speakers for the opening ceremony.

**Bharat Kandel:** Website needs to be user friendly and interactive

**Karishma Shrestha/Nita Khatiwada:** Food menu needs to add more varieties

**Rajendra Khatiwada:** An Opening a separate account for joint account was a good idea. We must collect certain amount of fund before the joint convention preparation.

**Mukesh Singh:** We should not ask any favor with the convention committee for anything: like bringing artists, bringing multiple forums of same organization or booth etc. Let convention committee work without any pressure.

**Vijaya Shrestha:** Shared her past convention experiences. Everyone should actively work together for success.

**Balaram/Urmila Panthi:** Registration desk worked well but in future it needs to be more organized and more people should be involved.

**Rajendra Khatiwada:** Sports was well organized.

**Elina Shakya:** Cultural program was good.

Joint convention account has a profit deposit of \$2700.00 which will be used to support a project in Nepal with a motto of “Rebuild Nepal”. ANMA and NASEA along with host organization will work together and decide where the money will be spent.

It was agreed that despite few flaws, 11<sup>th</sup> NAsEa/ANMA joint Convention 2015 was a grand success. Former President Gopendra Bhattraï thanked ANMA, NAsEa and TNCC team for organizing a successful joint convention.

### **Preparation of ANMA/NAsEa joint convention 2016**

A letter from Greater St. Louis Nepali Chautari (GSTNLC) has been received stating that Mr. Balaram Panthi, the president of GSTLNC, has been nominated as a Convention Chair. Meeting attendee congratulated Mr. Panthi for taking this huge responsibility and wished him for his success in planning the convention. ANMA extended special thanks to GSTLNC executive members and other community members for their decision to host upcoming convention and nominating GSTLNC president as a 2016 convention chair.

Mr. Panthi thanked everyone for this opportunity and expressed his confidence to work with ANMA team, GSTLNC and other community members working towards the success of the joint convention.

ANMA co-chairs will be selected after consultation with executive member in upcoming conference call meeting. ANMA will request NAsEa for the similar numbers of co-chairs from their side. It was stated that lesser the number of co-chairs the better it serves.

ANMA and NAsEa will follow the guidelines stated in MOU for taking any important decisions. It was generally discussed that both organizations may need to prepare a mutually agreeable guideline for specific events such as opening ceremony.

Convention chair along with ANMA president, General Secretary and GSTLNC members will finalize convention hotel and sign a contract by the end of January 2016.

The prospect of Convention committee looking into charging registration fee to the organizations that bring programs to the joint convention was discussed in the meeting.

The committee discussed the issue of spending major portion of money in inviting artist for concert and other programs. We need to seriously look into avenue where Joint Convention does not spend money to invite artist, pay for their hotel stay and transportation.

We should be focused more on the programs that can attract younger generation.

### **ANMA finance**

Due to the absence of the ANMA treasurer Bishnu Phuyal detail financial report was not presented.

ANMA President reported that total bank balance as of 11/20/2015 in ANMA account is \$ 500.00

President stated and General Secretary echoed that running an organization without having any balance in its account is very difficult. The meeting decided that a fund raising committee needs to be formed and the committee should be tasked with working on raising fund for ANAM.

While not all names are confirmed, a fundraising committee has been formed. This will be completed by next ANMA conference call meeting after each, proposed individual, members are contacted by the President and endorsed by the Executive body.

### **Proposed names for the Fundraising Committee**

1. **Anita Adhikary** - yet to confirm
2. **Bala Ghimire** - yet to confirm

3. **Rajendra Khatiwada** - confirmed
4. **Mukesh Singh** - confirmed
5. **Bishnu Phuyal** - yet to confirm

**ANMA projects:**

**Current**

- a. Gaurishankar School Dolkha project: Completed
- b. Dhadhing shelter support Project: Completed

**Future:**

Mr. Sharda Thapa introduced Natasha's project in brief.

Natasha Wozniak (Her Nepali name: Laxmi Gurung) is an American volunteer who is currently helping rebuild the village of Rainaskot, a Gurung village just above and east of the Marsyangdi River in Lamjung.

She gave brief introduction to her project through a power point presentation.

ANMA meeting endorsed Natasha's Rainascot Lamjung project. This is yet to discuss in detail and confirm by the executive committee members.

A proposal has been received, please see attached information regarding the project.

We extend our special thanks to Natasha Wozniak for making up to Columbus from New York and introducing us to her project. Her love to Nepal and attachment with Nepali people is not less than any other Nepali citizens. Thank you Natasha for your hard work and commitment to rebuild a Gurung village in Rainaskot..

**Reshaping ANMA: Bylaws and Board of Trustee**

ANMA bylaws will be reviewed, rewrite and proposed for necessary amendment.

**Team to work for bylaws/Board of trustees/Membership drive:**

1. Sharda Thapa
2. Mukesh Singh
3. Gopendra Bhattra
4. Gaury Adhikary - yet to confirm
5. Rajendra Khatiwada
6. Sohan Khatiwada - yet to confirm
7. Nanda Joshi - yet to confirm

This number may vary as we encourage more people to join the team.

**ANMA membership drive:** Memberships are the lifeblood of many associations, and for good reason-they represent ANMA and they drive revenue. ANMA will run a membership drive soon. We need a support of at least 100 dedicated fee paying members each year.

**DC rally against India's blockade:**

ANMA always supports such a noble humanitarian causes. ANMA is one of the organizations who initiated this rally. ANMA president, former president and other members are planning to participate in a rally.

**Nepal Issue:** ANMA requests government of Nepal to solve internal problem through mutual understandings and dialogues.

Due to the absence of many executive members no final decision were made at the meeting. A conference call meeting will soon be called to take team decisions on the various issues that were discussed in the meeting.

**Thank you note from Mukesh Singh/Sarala Pandey:**

Mr. Singh and Ms Pandey thanked ANMA for giving them an opportunity to host an executive meeting and thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

**Closing remarks:** President Sushil Sharma thanked to host and attendees.

**Meeting ended: 6:00PM**

**Next meeting: Telephone conference call. Date (TBD)**