



Minutes of 2007 NASeA-ANMA Joint Convention Planning Meeting

(Respectfully Submitted by Mr. Tek Thapa, G. Secretary of NASeA)

Date & Time: April 07, 2006 @ 3:00 pm CST
Place: 2036 S Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN-37130

ATTENDEES:

Dr. Narayan Rajbhandari, President (NASeA)	Sanjay Shrestha, President (ANMA)
Madan Rajbhandari, Life Member (NASeA & ANMA)	Dr. Dharmarajbhandari, Life Member (NASeA & ANMA)
Raja Ghale, VP (NASeA)	Nirmala Rajbhandari, Life Member (NASeA)
Samir Upadhyay, VP (NASeA)	Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma, Exec Member (NASeA)
Tek Thapa, G. Secretary (NASeA)	Dr. Tilak B. Shrestha, Advisor (NASeA)
Radha Sharma, Life Member (NASeA & ANMA)	Mahim Ojha, Member (NASeA)
Saunak Ranjitkar, Member (NASeA)	Mukesh K. Singh, Member (ANMA)
Shiva Bhurtel, Member (NASeA)	Usha Aryal, Life Member (NASeA)
Dr. Shakti Aryal, Life Member (NASeA)	Dr. Prakash Malla, Former President (NASeA)
Dr. Girija Gautam, Life Member (NASeA)	Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal, Former President (NASeA)
Dr. Samanta Thapa, Former President (NASeA)	
By Teleconference:	
Dr. Gaury Adhikari, Life Member (ANMA)	Dr. Pralad Pant, Life Member (ANMA & NASeA)
Dr. Ambika Adhikari, President (NAC)	Shaubhagya L. Shrestha, Former President (NASeA)
Sagun Shrestha, Exec Member (NASeA)	Sharad Shrestha, Treasurer (ANMA)

WELCOME NOTE:

Joint meeting for 2007 Convention Planning started with welcome note by NASeA President, Dr. Narayan Rajbhandari and with brief introduction of the participants above. Dr. Rajbhandari praised the participants for their enthusiasm and support for successful planning the upcoming joint convention. He thanked Girija Gautam and Kapila Gautam for hosting the joint meeting and providing free accommodation to all participants in his motel. He also thanked Samanta Thapa and Rashmi Thapa for hosting the reception dinner. He then requested G. Secretary of NASeA, Tek Thapa, to lead the meeting.

2006 CONVENTION FINANCIALS:

President of ANMA, Mr. Sanjay Shrestha and Treasurer, Mr. Sharad Shrestha, presented the financial update of 2006 Joint Convention where 98% of the pledges have received to the date of this meeting. The net income is \$5177.10 for now.

NRN UPDATE:

Meeting proceeded with teleconferencing attendees: Dr. Gaury Adhikari updated on NRN's activities & upcoming events. He mentioned that NRN is planning a meeting session at the 2007 ANA Convention. NRN Project Inventory update, Database Repository, NASeA-ANMA Convention in Atlanta, and NRN Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, are to be discussed at the ANA Convention in May 2007. Dr. Adhikari has requested two hours time slot for the NRN main session for planning upcoming NRN conference in Kathmandu in October 2007

Mr. Mukesh Singh provided a brief updated on Digital Library, where he is aiming to raise additional \$6000 for the Digital Library – primarily to be sponsored by NRNs in North America. He has already pledged \$1000 for this cause. He requested NASeA and ANMA to help him to raised remaining \$5000.00 for the NRN mission.

PAC UPDATE:

Dr. Pralad Pant updated on Political Action Committee (PAC). PAC has set June 30th, 2007 deadline for member recruit and election date is set for August-end of 2007, followed by first executive meeting at the NASeA-ANMA Joint Convention. He also requested a time slot for PAC session to setup action plan for the coming years.



NAC UPDATE:

Dr. Ambika Adhikari, President, NAC, also participated via teleconference and updated on Nepal Americas Council (NAC) current activities: By-laws, Focus Category, NAC Foundation, NAC Meeting at NASeA-ANMA Convention, and the newly formed NRN Committee. Dr. Adhikari also requested an hour time slot to conduct a meeting during the joint convention to layout programs for coming years.

CONVENTION PLANNING: COMMITTEE SELECTION & VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT

After the teleconference participants' input, Mr. Tek Thapa presented Convention Planning committee list, Planning Tasks and Lead Volunteers list.

Hotel Info & Registration:

Mr. Samir Upadhyay gave a brief update on the Hotel contract, location, room rates and options.

Convention Venue:

Crown Plaza Hotel
ATLANTA-AIRPORT
1325 VIRGINIA AVE
ATLANTA, GA 30344

**The Hotel is conveniently located 2.0 miles away from the airport, and the shuttle service is available 24 x 7.

Hotel Room Rates:

Room Type	Rate per Accommodation
Single	\$79.00
Double	\$79.00
Executive Level:	Add \$20.00 per upgrade

**Hotel reservation deadline is August 11, 2007 (cut-off date). The reservations fax number is (404) 762-9675. The group reservations phone number is (866) 750-3365.

Convention Registration Fee structure:

Mr. Samir Upadhyay presented the budget analysis with several scenarios in consideration. Based on the budgeting spread sheet, our total costs per person is \$60. There was a unanimous agreement on the pricing suggested below by Mr. Upadhyay and Mr. Thapa:

	Life Members	Members	Students
Online	\$60	\$65	\$50
Onsite	\$65	\$70	\$55
Kids	Age 7 - 12	\$25	
Kids	Under 6	Free	

Mr. Sanjay Shrestha proposed a Sunday Eve Package (includes Banquet Dinner & Culture Program), which will be target to locals at a reasonable price of \$35.00 (same pricing as in Chicago Convention). Mr. Shrestha expressed that this category is a no-brainer as it an excellent way to bring in local who work during weekends, who would've otherwise missed the convention. Mr. Shrestha further added that this category would reap the highest margins (\$11 per person). Majority of the participants expressed a keen interest to the proposal.

Online Registration:

Mr. Saunak Ranjitkar gave a brief presentation on the online registration features, which will go live by third week of the April, 2007. Various suggestions and comments from participants were noted. Meeting touched briefly on Convention Promotion and Public Relations, Concert & Culture Program, Sports, Food & Logistics, Registration, Publication, Children Program, Election, Homeless Feeding, Blood Donation, and Fund Raise.



Participants were concerned on Quality control in Culture program and registration short-fall of last convention. Suggestions and comments were well taken, and committee will work to correct the issues for smooth registration process as well as selection of culture program items.

Raja Ghale has agreed to lead the Blood Drive, which was currently unassigned. Blood donation information will provided at the registration desk and full time volunteers will be assigned. The following have pledged to donate blood during the Joint Convention:

1. Dr. Shakti & Usha Aryal
2. Mr. Girija Gautam
3. Dr. Narayan & Nirmala Rajbhandari

There are plans to circulate an email to increase the donors list – with a target of 25 plus donors.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Participating Organizations and Sister Organizations list has grown and here they are: PAC, NAC, NCNC, FNA, ANTA, CNP, NAM, NAOO & ANYF. These organizations will be participating as co-sponsors in 2007 Joint Convention. Meeting participants agreed that this coalition brings an opportunity to better serve our Nepalese communities and work together for a benevolent purpose.

CONVENTION THEME:

Following list of Theme proposals were received. After three rounds of voting, majority of the participants selected “**Bringing Nepali Diaspora Closer**” as the THEME for the 2007 NASeA-ANMA Joint Convention. We would like to thank to all who submitted the Theme proposal.

1. Role of Nepali Community in North America
2. Panorama of Nepali Diaspora in North America
3. Enhancing the role of Nepali Diaspora in North America
4. Uniting Nepali Diaspora in North America
5. **Bringing Nepali Diaspora Closer**
6. Nepalis Working Together For Peace & Prosperity
7. MiliJuli
8. The role of the Nepali immigrant - in North America and in Nepal
9. Unity, Collaboration & Cooperation
10. Unity, Cooperation & Peace
11. Together We Succeed
12. Unity & Strength for a Better Future

PROPOSED CONVENTION SESSIONS / FORUMS:

After the Theme selection process, Dr. Narayan Rajbhandari presented the proposed Convention Sessions. The participants conveyed their input & suggestions for each proposed session. Dr. Rajbhandari and his team expressed their intention in working hard to host sessions that have significance importance and value, without overlapping each other.

The following forums/sessions were proposed:

Opening Session
NAC/NRN Forum
Women Forum
Youth Forum
PAC Forum
Transfer of Technology
Culture and Religious development
Immigration and Entrepreneurship
Contemporary Nepali Issues
Poetry and Literature
NASeA General Election
Cultural Program
Closing Session

Prepared by Mr. Tek Thapa, General Secretary, NASeA



Mr. Girija Gautam suggested conducting the session, “Contemporary Nepali Issues” with ANTA. He requested the convention organizers to provide additional half hour time slot to run joint session with ANTA

PUBLICATION:

Tek Thapa announced Dr. Tilak Shrestha’s willingness to serve as an Editor of the Convention Souvenir, “YETI VIEW-POINTS.” The participants welcomed him for leading the publication.

Dr. Narayan Rajbhandari proposed an Essay Competition, targeting High-school students, and the winning essay to be published in the Convention Souvenir, “YETI VIEWPOINTS.” He introduced following four personnel who are designated to evaluate submitted essays:

- Dr. Sushama Pradhan, NC. - Chair
- Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma, NC – Co-Chair
- Mr. Bala Pant, GA - Member
- Dr. Jyoti Rayamajhi, IN - Member
- Dr. Suraj Shrestha, AL – Member

VOLUNTEER ROOM PLEDGE:

Following Meeting participants have been very generous and sponsored rooms for Student volunteers which will definitely help to increase students participation. This has been our tradition to provide some sort of incentive for Students. We will be asking our members to help to increase this list, and our goal is to raise at least 30 room nights for student volunteers this year.

Sponsors as of today:

- Dr. Samantha Thapa (1 Room Night)
- Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal (1 Room Night)
- Dr. Narayan & Nirmala Rajbhandari (2 Room Night)
- Dr. Bal Krishna & Radha Sharma (1 Room Night)
- Mr. Madhan & Dr. Dharma Rhajbhandari (2 Room Night)
- Dr. Shakti & Usha Aryal (1 Room Night)
- Dr. Prakash Malla (2 Room Night)
- Mr. Samir Upadhyay (1 Room Night)
- Mr. Tek Thapa (1 Room Night)
- Mr. Sanjay Shrestha (1 Room Night)
- Mr. Raja Ghale (1 Room Night)

CLOSING REMARKS:

ANMA President, Mr. Sanjay Shrestha & Mr. Tek Thapa, G. Secretary (NASEA) expressed big thanks on behalf of NASEA-ANMA to participants and Girija & Kapila Gautam for providing this opportunity and their love & support for these organizations. Tek Thapa also appreciated meeting participants for their enthusiasm and active participation.

2007 CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

	NASEA	ANMA
	Chair: Mr. Tek Thapa Co-Chair: Mr. Samir Upadhyay	Co-Chair:
Sub Committees	Lead Members	
Promotions & Public Relations	Narayan Rajbhandari, Raja Ghale, Srijana Sharma & all Regional Reps	Sanjay Shrestha
Coordination	Tek Thapa, Samir Upadhyay, Narayan Rajbhandari, Raja Ghale & Srijana Sharma	Sanjay Shrestha
Cultural Program	Sailesh Kasaju, Bijendra Gurung, Shaubhagya Lal Shrestha, Suman Silwal & Mahim Ojha	

Prepared by Mr. Tek Thapa, General Secretary, NASEA



Registration	Saunak Ranjitkar, Mahim Ojha & Lekh Nath Sharma	Rajeev Dahal
Web / IT	Samir Upadhyay, Saunak Ranjitkar & Mahim Ojha	Rabin Pradhan
Publications	Tilak Shrestha, Kedar Shrestha, Narayan Rajbhandari & Sagun Shrestha	
Sports	Batsal Devkota & Gopal Shah	
Food & Logistics	Shamir Poudel, CK Parajuli, Tek Thapa, Samir Upadhyay & Ram Dongol	Sanjay Shrestha
Forum	Narayan Rajbhandari, Bal Krishna Sharma & Tilak Shrestha	Sanjay Shrestha
Finance	Ram Dongol	Rajendra Khatiwada
Children's Program	Srijana Sharma, Marlene Silwal & Sushma Pradhan	
Homeless Feeding Blood Donation	Bhaskar Dawadi, Jenika Rajbhandari, Manil Maskey Raja Ghale	