

ALGERIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON
P.O. Box 65063, Washington DC 20035-5063

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS MINUTES

September 23rd, 2012
BCC Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Board of Directors Present: Samia Benidir (President), Sofiane Belmihoub (Vice-President), Nadira Boumechal (Secretary), Djaoued Bedjaoui (Director), Ahmed Malti (Director), Hassina Amrane (Director), Smail Farid (Director), Azzedine Stambouli (Director),

Minutes: The meeting started at 11:10 am and ended at 1:30 pm.

Agenda: The proposed agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

1. Approval of the Proposed Agenda
2. Review and Approval of Annual Report
3. Membership Status and Financial Reports
4. Election of Additional Board of Directors
5. Other Business:
 - a. Reinstatement of AAAGW's non-profit status by IRS. What needs to be done?
 - b. Awards and recognitions
 - c. Cultural and Educational Partnerships with the Algerian Embassy, with GWU, and with Silk Road Dance Company , and other organizations
 - d. Networking with the community
 - e. AAAGW and Media

1. Introduction

The meeting was opened at 11:10 am by Samia Benidir, President of AAAGW, who confirmed that the quorum was met and declared the Annual Meeting of the Members to be officially open for business. The quorum was verified with 19 members present with a total of 90 memberships. She further appointed Nadira Boumechal, AAAGW Secretary to take the minutes of the Members' meeting.

2. Review and Adoption of the Annual Report

After a brief introduction, the President gave a retrospective of the year's events and presented the content of the Annual Report and continued to provide an overview of the financial report in the absence of Sarah Mazouz, the Treasurer. As of September 15th, 2012 the balance of AAAGW's account was estimated at **\$5,900.00 (lack of 2012 balance in Treasurer's Report)**. Membership was at 90 members.

Subsequently, the Board opened the floor to discuss the report. Few questions and comments were made by the audience regarding the issue of AAAGW's loss of tax exempt status, the issue of the participation of the Algerian Embassy to AAAGW's activities, and the issue of the awards.

Finally, the Assembly requested the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Members held on June 5th, 2012 to be published on the website, and voted to approve the Annual Report without any amendment.

3. Election of Additional Board Members for 2012/2013

The assembly adopted unanimously a motion to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and invited members to join the Board of Directors. Only three members from the previous Board accepted to run for another year, these members are Sofiane Belmihoub, Smail Farid, Nadira Boumechal and Djaoued Bedjaoui. The assembly finally accepted and voted for adding 2 new Members to the Board. The new Board Members are:

1. **Fadhma Izri**
2. **Himed Kherbache**

4. Other Business

- Reinstatement of AAAGW's tax-exempt status.

In the absence of the treasurer, a motion was passed to create a task force to work on a solution to reinstate the tax exempt status by the end of 2012: the following members volunteered to be in the task force:, Messieurs Aissi, Belkhodja, Bentahar, Bessaha, and Stambouli; The Assembly recommended that for as long as AAAGW did not have a tax-exempt status, that the IRS issue was not solved, the Board should refrain from any commercial activities.

- Awards and recognition.

Questions about the awards were raised and members asked that in the future awards and recognition should be made in a transparent way, therefore Board members tried to explain that after AAAGW 20 years of existence there was a need to award volunteers and people who made a difference in the life of Algerian-Americans in the Greater Washington. It was also emphasized that the Board Members did indeed contribute to the cost of the very elegant awards.

A motion was proposed by Naim Bentahar and seconded by Nacer that “Board Members should not pay for any expenses during the conduct of their business, and that any contribution made from any Board Member should be considered and entered in the Treasurer data as Donation to AAAGW”.

It was passed by 10 yes and 2 no.

Another motion to complete the previous one was proposed by Abdelaziz Rebatchi that “Board Members are sovereign and must act on the spot”.

- Cultural and Educational Partnerships with the Algerian Embassy, with GWU, and with Silk Road Dance Company.

Only Partnership with the Algerian Embassy was discussed by the Assembly. It was suggested that the Embassy had a budget for organizing events for the community and should have organized a reception on July 5th in commemoration of the Independence Day and should have invited the whole community.

Few members explained why this year, the Board decided to have a joint event with the Embassy, after giving some background history about the current Ambassador, they emphasized the fact that the cultural partnership with the Algerian Embassy for Algeria Day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence and the 20th anniversary of AAAGW allowed us to offer this annual hafla free of charge to all the community, members and non-members.

The Members Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.