

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS MINUTES
December 8, 2013

BCC Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Board of Directors Present: Nadira Boumechal, Sofiane Belmihoub

Minutes: The meeting started at 11:00 am and ended at 1:30 pm.

Agenda: The proposed agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

1. Review and Approval of Annual Report
2. Membership Status
3. Financial Report
4. IRS – Progress Report
5. Website – Progress Report
6. Election of New Board

Introduction

The meeting was opened at 11:00 am by Nadira Boumechal, Treasurer of AAAGW, who informed the members that due to inclement weather, the President of AAAGW had sent a note indicating that he was called in by his employer and was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was then chaired by Ms Boumechal who confirmed that the quorum was met and indicated that the meeting could proceed.

Ms Boumechal stated that there were six members who were initially elected as Board Directors. However, for various reasons, three resigned prior to finishing up their term, with only three remaining to conduct the business of the association.

Meeting Minutes from Previous General Assembly

It was agreed that the meeting minutes from the previous General Assembly will be sent to the members via email for review and approval.

1. Review and Adoption of the Annual Report

The Annual report was approved unanimously. A question was raised as to the reasons why AAAGW did not hold the Eid-el-Fitr event this year - an event that in the past attracted many members and their families. The Board explained that due to the fact that they had organized many events, some of the events were too close to each other. Therefore, they decided to forego the Eid-el-Fitr event because it was too close to the Ramadan Sahra which was held when El Gusto was in

town. Members recommended that future Boards should review core events and ensure that events that attract members are held regularly.

2. MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The Board reported that membership was challenging during their term as it dropped from 81 paying members in October 2012 to 65 members in October 2013. The members present at the Assembly discussed this issue at length and offered some ideas. It was then decided to have a focus group to review and analyze the situation and develop a plan to increase membership. A motion was raised and passed to create a Membership Task Force to address this issue.

The Membership Task Force members are:

Youcef Aissi, Abdelrahmi Bessaha, Naim Bentahar, Samia Benidir, Sofiane Belmihoub, Stephen Slimani, Nadira Boumechal and Smail Chikhoune.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was reviewed by the members and it was agreed that the report needs to be revised to reflect the Embassy of Algeria's participation and financial contribution to cultural events held in conjunction with AAAGW. The report will be revised to delineate the financial contribution by the Embassy as payments to events and not as a donation to the Association.

Recommendation:

When AAAGW and other parties are involved in organizing events together and sharing cost, it is advisable whenever possible to have the other party pay their share directly without transferring funds to AAAGW accounts and then making payments.

Members present at the meeting also raised concerns about AAAGW conducting business in a non conventional way and paying for some events in cash transactions. The Assembly strongly recommended that future transactions must be documented via checks, receipts, etc. The new Board will need to develop a set of rules on how to conduct the Association's business and manage its funds. The set of rules or guidelines will be shared with other Boards in the future.

4. IRS – Progress Report

As a reminder, AAAGW lost its tax exempt status a few years ago. The Association received a letter from the Internal Revenue Services in 2011 stating that in order for AAAGW to become a tax-exempt organization again, it must file as a new entity.

A Task Force has been established with key members who were involved in gathering documentation in recent months. The team agreed to submit the application with the IRS by December 31, 2013.

5. WEBSITE – Progress Report

Discussions were held about the website and it was agreed that a Task Force consisting of Yassine Belkhodja, Nadira Boumechal, Nacer Megherbi, Mohamed Chouaf, Samia Benidir and Abdelillah Stambouli will develop a plan for the website. At the request of Mohamed Chouaf, Task Manager for

this new Website Task Force, members from the IRS Task Force will be added to this Website task force, namely: Naim Bentahar, and Youcef Aissi.

6. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The assembly adopted unanimously a motion to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication. The assembly invited then attending members to join the Board of Directors. The following members were unanimously elected to the Board of Directors for the new term.

Abdelrahmi Bessaha
Dalila Bessaha
Djamel Benelmouffok
Naim Bentahar
Nadira Boumechal
Abdenour Azedine
Ghania Chouaf
Youcef Aissi

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.