

ALGERIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Board Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: January 25, 2009

In attendance: Bessaha, Abdelrani
Smail, Farid
Stambouli, Abdel-Illah
Bessaha, Dalila
Bounoua, Lahouari

Absents (excused) Boumaza, Karim
Aissi, Youcef

Agenda:

1. Assessment of the Aid-El-Adha Event
2. Calendar of Events
3. Meeting between His Excellency the Ambassador of Algeria to the U.S and the Algerian-American Community
4. International Women's Day
5. Ordinary General Assembly of Members
6. Financial Situation and Membership
7. Miscellaneous

I. ASSESSMENT OF AID-EL-FITR ADHA EVENT

1. In discussing the December 14th Aid-El-Adha Event, while Board members considered the latter to be well organized, they had the following comments and observations in a spirit of improving future events:

- The time allocated to the event was short.
- The tasks associated with the closing of the event were not clearly defined.
- The lack of sound system was felt and could have enhanced the quality of the music and the announcements.
- The location of the event in Maryland may have hindered people from Virginia and Baltimore area to attend. Alternative location in those two large areas could be considered for future events.

- The delivery of the food was delayed.
- More volunteers could have been recruited, especially to help clear the room at the end of the event. The participants should be asked to be more involved and help clean at the end of the event.

II. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2. The Board intends to organize over the next three months through April the following events:

- The meeting between the Algerian Community and the Ambassador of Algeria to the U.S to discuss various issues of interest to the Algerian-American Community living in the Greater Washington area (February 2009).
- The International Women's Day (March 2009).
- The Ordinary General Assembly of Members (OGAM). (March or April 2009).

III. MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE ALGERIAN COMMUNITY

3. Ambassador Bali has asked the AAAGW to organize a meeting with the community at large to discuss various issues of interest to the Algerian-American Community living in the Greater Washington area.

4. AAAGW secured a room free of charge from ADC for the meeting which is scheduled to take place on February 8, 2009 from 1: 00 am to 2:00 pm at the ADC Meeting Room (website adc.org) located at 1732 Wisconsin Ave, Washington DC.

5. Refreshments and cookies will be provided by AAAGW. Smail and Rani will be in charge.

6. A first general e-mail informing the community of this meeting was sent to the community on January 22, 2009. To ensure a good preparation of the meeting, AAAGW has asked individuals to confirm their participation by sending an e-mail to president@aaagw.org or vice-president@aaagw.org and/or AAAGWBOARD2008. Further, the community was invited to share with the Board any issue they have with a view to prepare a summary note that could help focus the debate.

7. A draft summary note will be prepared by Smail and Lahouari and sent to the Board by February 4 for review and finalization. The final note will be forwarded to the embassy by close of business Friday February 6, 2009.

8. In order to facilitate the exchanges between the community and the ambassador, the Board floated the idea of a moderator chosen among the participants. This idea will be submitted to the Ambassador by Rani.

IV. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

9. The Board intends to organize this event on March 8. The form of the event is still under discussion. Subject to availability, the event could benefit from the participation of some performers from the Maghreb who will be performing at the Kennedy Center during February-March 2009. Alternatively, the event would include the showing of a movie followed by a dinner. Smail will check the availability of the performers and get back to the Board.

V. ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS

10. **The Board discussed the next ordinary general assembly of members. The key points are as follows:**

- Timing: March 29 or any week-end starting with the April 12. Depending upon availability, the meeting could take place either during 10 am-1 pm or 1 -3 pm. Smail will look for a room to house that assembly. Once the room is secured, the information on the general Assembly will be posted on the website.
- Annual report: The President will produce a draft and send to the Board for comments by the last week of February.
- Financial report: for the 2008 fiscal exercise will be prepared by the Treasurer, along with the regular audit conducted by 2 volunteers.
- The whole package will be sent to AAAGW paying members at the latest March 20, if the meeting will take place March 29.
- An active information campaign should be conducted to attract as many people as possible to attend and volunteer to actively serve in the next board.
- During the assembly, coffee, refreshments and doughnuts will be served.

VI. FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MEMBERSHIP

11. The treasurer circulated information about AAAGW financial situation at end-December 2008.

- As of Dec 31, 2008 AAAGW's current balance stands at \$4,910.70. The Mounib account amounts to \$31,311.51, and the bank statement shows a cumulative outstanding amount of \$36,022.21.

- The breakdown is as follows:

Memberships:	\$2,715.00
Donations:	\$967.00
Cost of 2008 Events:	\$2,595.26
Memberships+Donation –Costs of Events = \$1,086.74 (surplus)	

- As of Now February 1, 2009 AAAGW Current Balance \$4,849.30. The Mounib account stands at \$30,111.51, and the cumulative amount in the account is \$34,435.81.

- The breakdown is as follows:

Memberships	\$3,020.00
Donation	\$1,108.00

12. 36 members have renewed or taken new membership so far. This compares with the 84 members reached in 2008. The Board has again renewed its commitment to reach the 100 mark as far as membership is concerned. Regularly, e-mails will be sent to the community, and membership tables will be open at each event organized by AAAGW.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Mounib Case

13. In line with the letter sent to Mounib's mother in response to her own mail dated October 24, 2008, the Treasurer made some payments to the Mounib account to cover food needs. Two payments of \$600 each were made in December 2008 and January 2009. Automatic payments (transfer to Mounib's account) were set up to kick in for the next 10 months. The family has not yet provided ex post documentation in support of these expenses. Smail has been asked to contact the family to remind them of the need to document a posteriori these expenses. For other non foods expenses, Smail will remind the family once again that AAAGW will strictly adhere to the principle outlined in the letter, including the provision of documents prior to payments or direct payments to providers of services.

14. Lastly, AAAGW reiterated that it will no longer collect funds on behalf of Mounib and any subsequent donation for Mounib made to AAAGW will be redirected to Mounib's mother. A posting will be made on the website.

B. Cost of Meal Offered to Minister of Health

15. Minister of Health Tou visited Washington on June 12, 2008. Smail, Abdel-Illah, Dr. Azzedine, and Rani met with Algerian Minister of Health Amar Tou to discuss the prospects

of sending US and Algerian expatriate doctors to Algeria to conduct surgery on kids affected by the spina bifida disease.¹ A meal was offered to the Minister and his aide. The Board has decided to reverse the previous decision (see November 26 meeting minutes) and instead the full cost of the meal has been borne in equal part by the 5 present Board members, notably including A. Bessaha, D. Bessaha, A. Stambouli, Smail Farid, and Lahouari Bounoua.

C. Survey of Assets

16. The Board is committed to establish a comprehensive list of the assets that the association has purchased or received as gifts over the years. The value of these assets has never exceeded \$400 at the time of their purchase. Most of them have been largely amortized. The Board has decided the following:

- Establish a list of all assets that were purchased or received over the years. In this context, Dalila will review and complete the preliminary list prepared by the Treasurer.
- Launch a drive to locate as many as possible some of these assets. In this connection, the President will send an e-mail to former Board members to ask for their help.
- Retrieve those assets that have been located.
- Finalize this list and attach it to the financial audit.

With the agenda fully covered, the meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Dalila Bessaha

Secretary

¹After a presentation of our association and the purposes of our initiative, AAAGW handed to Minister Tou a file containing a cover note outlining the broad lines of our project, a letter of intention by the US and Algerian doctors who are willing to visit Algeria, their resume, a the list of equipments needed to ensure the success of the operation, the list of 10 urgent cases of kids who need without delay surgery, and other supporting material. From the outset, Minister Tou gave his agreement to go forward with this project; then we proceeded to have a large overview discussion on the health and population issues in Algeria and the ways the Algerian community in Washington could help and be involved in some of the challenges facing our country. To implement this project, Dr Azzedine and Smail were designated task managers. On the Ministry of Health's side, the interlocutor will be the Minister's Chief of Staff.