

**ALGERIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON
P.O.Box 65063, Washington, DC**

**Minutes of Board Meeting
Sunday June 22, 2008**

In attendance:

Abdelrani Bessaha
Smail Farid
Abdel-Allah Stambouli
Youcef Aissi
Dalila Bessaha
Karim Boumaza

Absent

Lahouari Bounoua (excused)

Agenda

- Adoption of Agenda
- The Status of Preparation for the June 29 Picnic
- Mounib Fund
- Project for Joint US/Algerian Medical Cooperation on Spina Bifida
- List of Upcoming Events
- Financial Situation of AAAGW
- Membership Status
- Miscellaneous

Adoption of agenda

1. The Board adopted the agenda outlined above. The meeting was declared open at 11 a.m.

The June 29 Picnic

2. The June 29 picnic will coincide with the final soccer game of the Euro Tournament. This event was planned a few months ago, at a time where the Board was not aware of this critical game. While recognizing that AAAGW will not be able to compete against such a

popular event, the Board decided to maintain the event, as the cost of cancelling it at such a late stage would outweigh the cost of keeping it on the schedule.

3. Accordingly, the Board agreed on the following distribution of tasks:

- **Information:** Rani will send an e-mail during the week of June 23-27 as a reminder to the community. Youcef indicated that so far he received confirmation from 22 attendants.
- **Drinks, paper:** Lahouari will bring drinks, papers, and other stuff needed to lay the tables.
- **Bread and cake:** will be brought by Dahmane (who confirmed he will deliver them himself)
- **Merguez and charcoal:** Ismael is in charge.
- **Salad:** will be bought from Costco with dressing by Youcef
- Board members should be there at the picnic site starting at noon.
- Youcef will be manning the table on the membership drive and the Visa Petition.
- Djamel Benelmoufok: has several items that belong to AAAGW. Youcef will pick those items from Djamel.
- Decision was also taken to bring the meat in 2-pounds packages. This will facilitate the sale of the remaining packages to the attendants in case we are left with part of the meat.

The Mounib Fund

4. The balance on the Mounib Fund amounts to \$-----. Mounib is expected to leave the Mayo Clinic by August 2008. Until then, the account will be used to settle expenses that may arise and are fully documented.

5. Looking forward, the future of the resources in this account remains an issue. Should AAAGW continue to be in charge of these resources and disburse them as part of a fiduciary fund, or transfer them to the mother, or to a trust fund ? The Board engaged a short exploratory discussion on the best way to handle and address this issue. The various options were discussed, including the caveats for each one of them. The Board decided to give itself more time to mature this issue and ensure that the transfer of resources or the movement of these resources are done properly in line with the legal and fiscal framework for such a case.

The Project for Joint US/Algerian Medical Cooperation on Spina Bifida

6. The Board received a briefing on the Meeting held on June 12 by AAAGW with former Minister of Health and Population Amar Tou. Smail, Abdou, Dr. Azzedine, and Rani met on June 12 at 1 pm with Algerian Minister of Health Amar Tou who was visiting Washington for a day to discuss the prospects of sending US and Algerian expatriate doctors to Algeria to conduct surgery on kids affected by the Spina Bifida disease. After a

presentation of AAAGW 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 AAAGW 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.

7. The next step is to implement this project. A detailed action plan will be prepared by Smail.
8. This action plan will comprise two components:
 - **The first component on the very short term is the Ayoub case.** Ayoub is a 5-month kid who suffers from this disease. Ayoub could be transferred to the Toledo University Hospital to be under the care of Dr. Medkhour, chief surgeon. Ayoub does not require a specially medicated plane for his transfer. He can travel on a regular commercial flight. The issue will be the cost. Acting on information from some of officials of Nedjma, an Algerian cellular phone company, the Board will contact its management to explore the possibility of financial support to cover the transfer.
 - **The second component will be to organize the travel of teams of Algerian/American doctors to Algeria to work with local doctors and operate kids in need of surgery.** For this component, a significant interaction is needed between AAAGW and the Ministry of Health's Chief of Staff. The latter should identify the local medical staff that will team up with the visiting doctors, and the medical facilities where the surgeries should take place. AAAGW will, for its part, identify the doctors who will be willing to travel, their availability, the framework for such cooperation, and the logistical questions.

List of Events

9. The list of events should be updated and finalized before end-week and transmitted to Board members for comments. Once confirmed, each Board member will be in charge of one event. For some events, the Board will make room reservations ahead of time.

Financial Situation of AAAGW

10. The financial situation of AAAGW is as follows: we have US ---- at the bank as of --- ---.

Membership

11. Youcef indicated that from January through mid-June 2008, only 22 members have renewed their membership, including 16 families. This low level of renewal calls for concerted and string efforts to boost membership.

Miscellaneous

12. Karim indicated that the Yanayer event back in the early months of 2008 drew people, some of which are/were AAAGW long time members. He wondered why we did not organize nor advertise this event. This is the result of an understanding reached a few years ago between AKA and AAAGW. AKA traditionally takes the lead for this event, and send us their fliers that we post on our website. Both organizations coordinate also on the timing of their own events to avoid duplication which will be counterproductive. AKA has not sent us any information on their schedule of events. We will again contact AKA and renew this understanding or discuss ways to amend it.

With the agenda fully covered, the meeting was adjourned at noon.