

ALGERIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Board Meeting Minutes

Date of the Meeting: October 26, 2008

Attendants: Bessaha, Abdelrani
Smail, Farid
Stambouli, Abdel-Illah
Bessaha, Dalila
Aissi, Youcef
Bounoua, Lahouari

Absent (excused) Karim Boumaza

Observer: Dr. Malti Ahmed

Agenda:

1. Assessment of the Aid-El-Fitr Event
2. Aid-El-Adha
3. Mounib Fund
4. Ababsa Show
5. Miscellaneous

I. ASSESSMENT OF AID-EL-FITR EVENT

1. In reviewing the October 4th Aid-El-Fitr Event, Board members expressed the following views:

- The tasks were not assigned evenly among Board members; and the assignments were not fully respected by the assignees in the field.
- The moon bounce was left at times unattended by adult volunteers as planned.
- There was a lack of communication between the Board and the participants during the event.
- The choice of a Saturday to celebrate the AID may have played a role in the attendance level.

- The lack of a sound system was felt. This contributed to the difficulty of communicating with the attendants.
- Most of the attendants came to the event at about 4 pm, 90 minutes after the event started. This is a phenomenon observed quite often.
- Work done by Abdou in preparing the raffle tickets, monitoring the attendants' lists and bringing people to renew the membership was praised.

II. AID EL ADHA

2. **The board has reserved a room for December 14, 2008.** The board has designated Lahouari Bounoua as the task manager of the event. The Board will meet again on November 16 to assess progress made in preparing the event and take measures to ensure its success.

III. MOUNIB FUND

3. **Issue:** AAAGW has been part of a worldwide effort to collect funds to help an Algerian kid called Mounib (2 years and a half) who suffers from a terrible disease called Spina Bifida to be transported to Mayo Clinic for medical care. Mayo Clinic accepted to treat the kid on a charity basis. The proceeds of this fund raising effort were lodged in a special sub-account called Mounib Fund. After paying for the medical evacuation, there is an outstanding amount of US\$32,332.51. Mounib is now an outpatient and is still faced with a lot of care ahead. AAAGW is committed to use these remaining funds to the benefit of any legal guardian of Mounib, the mother who accompanied him to the US, and the kid himself (i) in line with existing US banking and tax laws and regulations; (ii) consistent with the desire of the contributors to ensure the funds are used for the sole care of Mounib; and (iii) preserving the credibility of AAAGW.

4. Patrick Devine, the AAAGW lawyer directed us to tax lawyer (Conrad L.---). In reviewing our file, the specialized counsel indicated that while AAAGW is a tax-exempt charitable organization, AAAGW cannot make donations as it lacks the proper accreditation from the IRS. On this basis, any transfer of funds could be construed as donation. Accordingly, the lawyer's advice was to continue managing the funds which will be used to cover for medical care and living expenses incurred by the mother or Mounib. Payments will be made upon presentation of bills.

5. On this basis, the Board has decided the following:

- Send a letter to Mrs. Ferchichi explaining that the outstanding funds will be used to cover the bills she will present for her expenses and the medical care of Mounib. In some exceptional cases, cash will be sent with the promise of the transmission of bill later. Mrs. Ferchichi will also be informed that AAAGW will cease any further

collection of donations and a message will inform the community that all future donations should be directed to the bank account she opened recently.

- Post a message on the website indicating that AAAGW will cease to collect donations for Mounib and recommend to the community that any further donations should be made directly to the account open by the family.
- Contact the IRS and some other members on how can AAAGW make donations and allow donors to deduct them from their taxes.

IV. ABABSA SHOW

6. Issue: Ababsa is being invited for a performance on the West Coast. Mounir contacted the Board of AAGW to sponsor a possible performance of Ababsa in Washington, DC.

7. The Board was very much interested in casting her show as part of an Annual Hafla-- which takes us usually about 3 to 4 months to prepare. Various financial options to sponsor Ababsa' performance in Washington were explored; to break even, it was estimated that there was a need to sell 150 tickets at a minimum for 35 dollars to cover the costs of the rental of a proper venue for her show, the payment of a minimum fee of about 1000 dollars, the accommodations for her aides, and other various incidental costs. The Board concluded that the event was costly and there was limited time to organize it successfully. Therefore, decision was made to ask the producer Mounir to do it on his own. AAAGW will be ready to help on the information side.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

AMBASSADOR FAREWELL PARTY

8. Ambassador Kherbi is organizing a farewell party on November 1st, 2008. The Board decided to offer a book and a certificate of appreciation for his involvement with the community. These items will be handed to the Ambassador during the farewell reception.

SUPPORT FOR A MEMBER

9. Dr Malti asked the Board for support to secure a letter of non-objection from the Algerian authorities for his spouse. The Board has agreed to help intermediate with the embassy officials.

With the agenda covered, the meeting adjourned at 12 45pm.

Dalila Bessaha

Secretary

