

# Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington

*P.O. Box 65063 Washington DC 20035-5063*

**April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Dear Member:

You are cordially invited to attend the next Annual Meeting of Members (Meeting) of the Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington. The Meeting will be held on Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Community Center (BCC) located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Your participation at this Meeting is important for the success of your Association. We urge you to attend and participate in shaping up the future of the Association. In preparation of this meeting, we are enclosing the following documents:

1. Proposed Agenda
2. 2009-2010 Board of Directors' Annual Report
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Report of Members held on April 26 2009.
4. Proxy Form
5. Spring Picnic Flyer

Please take the time to read these documents. If you cannot attend the Meeting, please complete and sign the enclosed proxy form and give it to a member you choose to represent you at the Meeting.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or any Board of Directors at [www.aaaagw.org/aaagw/contact.htm](http://www.aaaagw.org/aaagw/contact.htm)

Sincerely Yours,

Nacer Megherbi  
President

**Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington**

*P.O. Box 65063 Washington DC 20035-5063*

# **Annual Report**

**2009-2010**

## **Board of Directors**

Nacer Megherbi (President)  
Yassine Belkhodja (Vice President)  
Abdel-Allah Stambouli (Treasurer)  
Naim Bentahar (Secretary)  
Azzedine Stambouli (Director)

**April 2010**

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## Message of President

It's time once again for AAAGW's annual retrospective in order to assess AAAGW's achievements during the past year. This report contains brief information of the activities of the Board of Directors and an internal evaluation of AAAGW performance during that period.

I would like to thank the dedicated team of our Board of Directors whose enthusiasm, energy and great commitment have been their sole instruments for meeting up this challenging task. But, nothing would have been possible without the ever growing number of members who have shown a great willingness to support this association and have, without hesitation, helped promote our activities, thus giving it the opportunity to grow, improve, and flourish.

Although the approach taken by the Board of Directors in fulfilling its mission is irreproachable, it is important however to recognize that some shortcomings need to be stated and addressed by the next Board. It seems more appropriate to let you, dear member, convey them and express your opinions on the methods and approaches that should be taken by the next Board. Your suggestions and comments are necessary to improve every aspect of your association and we count on your participation during our next Annual Meeting of Members.

In the next few pages, a brief account of the activities of the board will be presented by our Secretary, Naim Bentahar. Adel-Illah Stambouli, our Treasurer, will be providing you with a detailed audited financial report. Also, the auditing team composed of Abdennour Azeddine and Thamnu Sihsobhon have reviewed and provided their findings on the financial accounts of our association.

Finally, please remember that AAAGW is your association. We are more and more optimistic and ambitious for its future. We count very much on your participation to the next Annual Meeting of Members. This report is your guide to prepare yourself. Please read it carefully and do not hesitate to ask questions about its content during the meeting. Your critical scrutiny and questioning are essential for a successful and productive meeting

Best Regards.

Nacer Megherbi,  
President

## **Introduction**

Shortly after the current Board of Directors was elected on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2009, it established the goals and objectives it wanted to accomplish during its first year. One of the most important goals was to assemble and mobilize the Algerian-American community to strengthen its ties through the development and implementation of a basic set of activities. This report first describes the outcome of the previous Annual Meeting of the Members held on April 2009 and then provides an outline of the activities performed during the 2009-2010 calendar year. Finally, the report will provide a conclusion with some thoughts on our shortcomings and the future actions and directions that should be taken by the future Board of Directors. This report covers the period from April 2009 to March 2010.

## **Brief Account of the Previous Annual Meeting of Members**

The previous Annual Meeting of Members was held on Sunday April 26 2009. During the meeting a review of the year's achievements was presented to the members along with a list of areas of improvement needed. Further details are presented in the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Members (a copy of the minutes is included at the end of this report).

## **Amendments to the By-Laws**

There were no amendments made to the By-Laws of the Association during 2009-2010.

## **Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The 2009-2010 Board of Directors decided to meet at least once a month and routinely met the first Friday of each month and/or as needed. Minutes of these meetings are included in the Association's archives. For your information, the Board of Directors' regular meetings are open to members of this association. If you would like to participate, please send an email to any member of the Board and you will be notified when the next meeting will take place.

## **Organizational Framework**

Due to the small size of the Board (5 members) and the lack of active volunteers, the Board of Directors decided to keep the general structure established by the previous Board of Directors and not create additional specialized committees (i.e. Membership, Social and Cultural, etc.). Instead, the Board decided to adopt a flat organizational framework and centralize all its activities around members of the Board with the help of volunteers when they are available.

## Membership

As of March 31, 2010, the association has grown to 25 individual and 65 family type memberships. This indicates an average increase in the membership by about 24% over the previous 2008-2009 period. The following table shows the change in membership for the last couple of years:

| Period | Family | Individual | Student | Total |
|--------|--------|------------|---------|-------|
| 2008   | 48     | 25         | 0       | 73    |
| 2009   | 65     | 25         | 0       | 90    |

Membership fees for 2009-2010 were set according to the decision of the previous Annual Meeting of Members and remained unchanged since the establishment of this association 18 years ago. They are as follows:

- Family: **\$40**
- Individual: **\$25**
- Student and Student Family: **\$15**

## Social and Cultural Activities

The Board of Directors was highly active in the programming and implementation of several activities that were performed during the year. The Board published early on the Calendar of Events on AAAGW website.

### *5/31/2009 - Spring Picnic at Cabin John Park, Potomac Maryland*

The association marked the beginning of the summer with a full-filled picnic at the splendid Cabin John Park with a superb weather. More than 110 people gathered to enjoy the many activities prepared by the BOD. The main attraction, beyond the getting together and chatting, was the barbecued chicken and lamb merguez not to forget the numerous salads, side-dishes, and desserts brought by members. The ice cream treat was particularly enjoyed by kids and adults alike.

### *9/12/2009 - Ramadan Sahra at Charles Houston RC, Alexandria VA*

This year's Ramadan Sahra was organized at the beautiful Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria, VA. The event attracted more than 60 members of the community who enjoyed the music of a live band and the numerous delicious varieties of traditional Algerian pastries. In

addition, the BOD organized a contest for kids related to the significance of the month of Ramadan and other type of relevant activities and gifts were given to winners.

### ***9/27/2009 – Aid-El-Fitr at Potomac Community Center, Potomac MD***

The Eid-El-Fitr party was held at the Potomac Community Center, in Potomac MD. A large crowd of all ages gathered on this holiday. Special games were prepared for the children and they especially enjoyed the MoonBounce, the clown show, and the face painting, while the adults enjoyed the numerous Algerian pastries brought by members of the community. Approximately 70 adults and more than 50 kids showed up to the event.

### ***11/29/2009 – Aid-El-Adha at Potomac Community Center, Potomac MD***

The Aid-El-Ad ha celebration was also held at the Potomac Community Center, in Potomac MD and attracted a large number of the Algerian-American community. A splendid Couscous buffet was provided by the Association along with generous donations while members of the community brought many sweets and pastries to share. Everybody enjoyed the music and the raffle event at the end. The Board estimated that the event was attended by more than 130 members of the community and was very successful.

### ***01/23/2010 – Yennayer 2010/2960 Celebration at Charles Houston Community Center, Alexandria, VA***

Approximately 70 members of the community and their families gathered in Alexandria to celebrate the Yennayer 2010/2960 event. A couscous dinner buffet was provided by the AAAGW with Live Algerian Music performed by talented members. The ambiance was memorable with singing and dancing. The Board recommends that this event becomes part of the traditional events that AAAGW sponsors.

### ***Movie Outing***

AAAGW organized 2 movie outing events to watch Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince at the Rockville Regal movie theater (Jul 2009) and the Journey to Mecca in IMAX at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington DC (Jan 2010). The first event attracted more than 15 members while 25 members of the community showed up at the 2<sup>nd</sup> event.



## *Soccer*

For the soccer fans, the association has also sponsored and organized several gatherings at Babylon Futbol Café in Falls Church to watch and cheer the Algerian soccer team qualify to participate for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

## *Helping Kids Suffering from Spina Bifida*

As previously done with Mounib, Dr. Azzedine Stambouli in collaboration with his network of medical experts in the USA was able to bring 3 more kids (Ayoub, Khadidja, and Abderrahmane) who suffered from Spina Bifida. This humanitarian program, sponsored by AAAGW, is meant to provide hope to many kids in Algeria who endure every day from this disease without any hope or prospect of a better life. Dr. Azzedine Stambouli, who is member of the Board of Directors, was instrumental in finding hospitals and doctors in the US who would be willing to treat these kids for free. For all of these kids and parents, Dr. Azzedine is a hero and our community is very proud of his accomplishments.

## *Report of the Treasurer*

The financial situation of the Association is presented in the following 2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenses. These statements were internally audited by qualified members of the community. For the first quarter of 2010, revenues where amounted to **\$1,052.40** and were generated from membership dues and donations. The total expenses amounted to **\$1,524.76** and as of March 31, 2010 the association's total cash balance was **\$5,620.30**. All supporting data and information concerning the Association's finances and accounting are stored in the Association archives and are available to any member who wishes to review them.

**ALGERIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

**2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenses**

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

**I- AAAGW account**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Cash Balance as of 12/31/08  | <b>\$4,710.70</b> |
| <b>Revenues</b>  | <b>\$3,980.87</b> |
| Memberships  | \$2,398.12        |
| Donations <sup>1</sup>   | \$1,232.75        |
| Deposit returns <sup>2</sup> . (PCC: 2x\$100 + Cabin John Park: \$150) | \$350.00          |
| <b>Expenses (See Appendix A)</b>                                       | <b>\$3,543.63</b> |
| Events   | \$2,968.66        |
| Administrative   | \$574.97          |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>   | <b>\$5,147.94</b> |

**II-Mounib<sup>3</sup> sub-account**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Cash Balance as of 12/31/08  | <b>\$31,311.51</b> |
| <b>Revenues</b>  | <b>\$0.0</b>       |
| Donations  | \$0.0              |
| <b>Expenses (See Appendix B)</b>                                   | <b>\$21,890.32</b> |
| Monthly food and miscellaneous expenses for 9 months (\$600/month) | \$5,400.00         |
| Medical expenses   | \$1,090.32         |
| Housing expenses for 6 Months                                      | \$15,400.00        |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>   | <b>\$9,421.19</b>  |

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|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b> | <b>\$14,569.13</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|

Footnote:

<sup>1</sup> Donations by members at the time of the renewal of their memberships and during events, includes a credit of \$200 from last balance sheet 2008 and a 25cents for testing paypal.

<sup>2</sup> Recreational Parks hold a deposit that is returned after completion of the event.

<sup>3</sup> Mounib is an account of funds donated to the association (AAAGW) to pay for living and medical expenses of Mounib Ferchichi and his mother.

**ALGERIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

**Appendix A  
Detailed Table of Expenses**

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>AAAGW Expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 3,543.63</b> |
| <b>Administrative</b>   | <b>\$ 574.97</b>   |
| Website expenses (electronic payment)                                     | \$107.40           |
| BCC - Event 2008 General Assembly - (Chk 1005: A.B)                       | \$45.00            |
| USPS: Stamps - Event General Assembly - (Chk 1006: S. F)                  | \$104.54           |
| USPS: Stamps : Event Spring Picnic 09- (electronic payment)               | \$44.00            |
| USPS: P.O Box rental for one year (electronic payment)                    | \$140.00           |
| USPS: Stamps - Event Eid El Fitr (electronic payment)                     | \$88.00            |
| USPS: Stamps - Event Eid Al Adha - (Chk 1015: Y.B.)                       | \$33.32            |
| Staples: Postcards - Event Eid Al Adha - (Chk 1015: Y.B.)                 | \$12.71            |
| <b>Events</b>   | <b>\$2,968.66</b>  |
| Kabobelicious: Couscous - Eid-el-Adha 2008- (Chk 1002)                    | \$400.00           |
| Cabin John Park: Spring Picnic (incl. \$150 deposit) (electronic payment) | \$275.00           |
| Meat (merguez) -Spring Picnic 09- (electronic payment)                    | \$123.33           |
| Costco: Misc. (salad, plates) -Spring Picnic 09(Chk 1010: A.S.)           | \$89.16            |
| Home Depot: Coolers Spring Picnic 09- (electronic payment)                | \$51.44            |
| Giant: Ice Cream -Spring Picnic 09- (electronic payment)                  | \$7.98             |
| Giant: Bread +Ice -Spring Picnic 09- (electronic payment)                 | \$54.68            |
| Potomac Community Center: rental -Event Eid-El-Fitr (Chk 1008)            | \$400.00           |
| Children Books Event Eid El Fitr - (electronic payment)                   | \$29.35            |
| Children Books Event Eid El Fitr - (electronic payment)                   | \$18.38            |
| Costco: Cups + Coffee Event Eid El Fitr (Cash:A.S)                        | \$24.46            |
| Costco: Lemonade + Tablecloths Event Eid El Fitr (Cash:A.S)               | \$11.70            |
| MoonBounce Day Event Eid El Fitr - (Chk 1011)                             | \$196.00           |
| Mark Hoffman (Clown) -Event Eid El Fitr - (Chk 1012)                      | \$265.00           |
| Nacer: Sodas + Ice Event Eid-El-Fitr) (Cash: N.M.)                        | \$12.07            |
| Potomac Community Center: rental -Event Eid-El-Adha (Chk 1009)            | \$400.00           |
| Couscous Café - Event Eid El Adha -(Chk 1014)                             | \$500.00           |
| Costco: Supplies - Event Eid El Adha - (Chk 1015:Y.B.)                    | \$53.30            |
| Costco: Salad Mix (YB) - Event Eid El Adha (Chk 1015:Y.B.)                | \$16.75            |
| Office Depot - Certificates - Event Eid El Adha -(Chk 1015:Y.B.)          | \$10.06            |
| Jersey Team Algeria - Event Eid El Adha -(Cash: A.S.)                     | \$30.00            |

ALGERIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Appendix B  
Detailed Table of Expenses  
January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Mounib Expenses</b>                                    | <b>\$21,890.32</b> |
| <b>Monthly Food and Miscellaneous Expenses (9 months)</b> | <b>\$5,400.00</b>  |
| Jan-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Feb-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Mar-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Apr-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| May-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Jun-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Jul-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Aug-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Sep-09 (electronic transfer)                              | \$600.00           |
| Returned transfer (10-27-09) for Aug-09                   | -\$600.00          |
| Issue <b>Check# 1013</b> for Aug-09 + Sep 09              | \$1,200.00         |
| Returned transfer (11-25-09) for Sep-09                   | -\$600.00          |
| <b>Housing Expenses for 6 Months</b>                      | <b>\$15,400.00</b> |
| <b>Misc:</b> Pharmacy Expenses & Postage fees             | <b>\$1,090.32</b>  |

**Note:**

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 born defect called Spina Bifida to be transported to the Mayo Clinic for medical care. The Mayo Clinic accepted to treat the kid free of charge on a charity basis. The proceeds of this fundraising effort were deposited in a special sub-account called Mounib Fund. Once the medical transportation from Algeria were paid off, the remaining balance has been used to cover additional expenses for the benefit of Mounib and his legal guardian (mother) who accompanied him to the US, (i) in line with existing US banking and tax laws; (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.

## Shortcomings and Final Notes

While much has been accomplished during the 2009-2010 period, more needs to be done. The major shortcomings of this year are as follows:

1. Lack of diversified activities: Indeed, all organized events were mostly social and cultural in nature and there is a clear lack of educational and outreach activities. It is recommended that the next Board of Directors be more engaged in diversifying the type of activities as to include more educational programs and come up with new ideas that would attract a different audience of our community.
2. Although we were able to increase our membership, it is clear that we need to double our effort and reach even higher numbers. The strength of this association is directly related to the growth of its membership. We need to come up with a structured program meant to encourage present members to renew their membership and give an incentive for no-members to join.
3. Lack of Volunteers: The Board cannot function properly and effectively without a minimum number of volunteers. It is highly recommended that the next Board come up with an overall strategy to recruit and retain more volunteers as to maximize the potential of the Board and allow it to diversify its activities.

## Conclusion

Overall, the 2009-2010 period has been good. From the start, the Board put in place a clear set of achievable goals meant to solidify the basic structure of the association without trying to tackle big or time consuming projects that would have deviate its attention from the main mission. In the following year, the Board will revise its goal and tackle more important and diversified projects.

Our membership has increase and we think that this trend will continue. Our volunteer base has been very low or inexistent and the next Board must establish the right strategy to recruit and retain a sizable list of volunteers.

Finally, we thank you for your trust and we look forward to further achievements during next year.

*P.O. Box 65063, Washington DC 20035-5063*

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

### **AGENDA**

1. Approval of the Proposed Agenda
2. Review and Approval of the Annual Report
3. Membership status and Financial Reports
4. Election of Additional Board of Directors
- 6 Other Business