

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

Annual Report of the Board of Directors for 2008

April 26, 2009

Prepared for
The Fifteenth Annual Regular Meeting of the Members

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Composition of the Board for 2008-2009/2010
- III. Review of Activities During 2008
 - A. Activities of the Board
 - B. Activities for the Community
- IV. Mounib Solidarity Drive
- V. Issues and Recommendations
 - A. Facilities to use for AAAGW Events
 - B. Volunteers
 - C. Membership
 - D. Youth involvement

Appendices

- 1. Statement of Revenue and Expenses
- 2. Auditors' Report

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifteenth Annual Regular Meeting of the members of the AAAGW will take place **on April 26, 2009 from 10 am to 1 pm** at the BCC Center in Bethesda, Maryland to assess the work done by the association from January to December 2008. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to take up issues that could help strengthen the association.
2. This year, the program of activities included (i) the celebration and commemoration of traditional, historical, cultural, and social events of importance to the Algerian-American community in the Washington DC area; and (ii) participation to an important fundraising event that helped provide medical care to severely sick kid from Algeria. The Board continued of course to reach out to other organizations and associations in the area with the intent to share activities, foster friendship and understanding between the parties, and maintain AAAGW on the local map.
3. Such a portfolio of activities keeps raising the profile of the Association, which remains a credible partner with its counterparts and within the community. Nevertheless, there is still lot of work to carry out in order to further strengthen AAAGW, expand its membership in view of the growing community, and diversify activities.
4. This report describes the activities that the Board undertook during the review period and makes recommendations to improve and strengthen AAAGW.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD FOR 2008-2009

5. The current Board of Directors comprises
 - Bessaha, Abdelrani, President,
 - Smail, Farid, Vice-President,
 - Stambouli, Abdel-Allah, Treasurer
 - Bessaha, Dalila, Secretary
 - Bounoua, Lahouari, Director
 - Boumaza, Karim, Director
 - Aissi, Youcef, Director
6. Only the mandates of the Treasurer and Director Lahouari Bounoua run for one more year. However, Mr. Lahouari Bounoua and Mr. Abdel-Allah Stambouli have notified the current board of their unavailability to serve for the second year of their mandate. The Board urges members in good standing to be active in the community and join the board.

III. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DURING 2008

A. Activities of the Board

7. Throughout this review period, the Board of Directors (BOD) met on a regular basis to discuss the affairs of the association and run it. All the meetings were held in person, in addition to the work conducted online in order to keep a constant contact among Board members and remain abreast of all developments related to the community. The meetings were well attended and professionally conducted. All the minutes of all the Board meetings are posted on the website of AAAGW, which remains a powerful instrument to contact and inform the community.

8. The Board carried out its obligations steadily and was able to maintain leadership continuity throughout the period of exercise. This is testimony to the caliber and dedication of its Directors and to the efforts they made to insure AAAGW success, its vitality, and its strength. However, the Board would not have been able to conduct its mission without the constant and valuable support from members of the community. This support was tangible all through the various events organized.

B. Activities for the Community

9. **During 2008, the Board of Directors made a strategic decision: focus on a core set of events** so as to ensure to the community a forum while managing efficiently its financial resources. The activities organized by the Board of Directors included the following:

- **April 6, 2008:** **2008 Board Election**
- **May 2008:** **Participation to a major fundraising for a sick child, Mounib, and organization of his medical transfer of from Algeria**
- **June 29,2008:** **Regular Spring/Summer Picnic**
- **October 14, 2008:** **Eid El-Fitr Celebration.**
- **December 14, 2008:** **Eid Al-Adha Celebration**

IV. MOUNIB SOLIDARITY DRIVE

10. In 2008, the Board of Directors carried out a formidable solidarity task by joining and later leading a worldwide effort to collect funds to help an Algerian child named Mounib (2 years and a half) who suffers from Spina Bifida to be evacuated in a special medical jet to Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN for medical care. Mayo Clinic accepted to treat Mounib on a charity basis following a request from AAAGW. Some of the proceeds from this fund raising effort were hosted in a special sub-account, The Mounib Fund, linked to the AAAGW

bank account. After paying for the medical evacuation of Mounib, an outstanding balance of US\$32,332.51 remained in the sub-account. Mounib is now an outpatient and is still faced with a lot of care ahead. AAAGW committed to use the remaining funds to the benefit of Mounib and his mother, who accompanied him to the US, acting as a legal guardian (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. Based on these key directions, the AAAGW board agreed unanimously to send a monthly subsistence allowance to Mounib and his mother in addition to covering all justified medical or otherwise living expenses until complete depletion of the funds. Details of the Mounib sub-account are attached to AAAGW statement of revenues. Details of the use of the Mounib funds outstanding are outlined in a December 3 letter sent to the mother. This letter is posted on the website of AAAGW.

11. In another line of action, AAAGW explored a prospect whereby American and Algerian expatriate doctors travel to Algeria, on a voluntary basis, to conduct surgeries on kids affected by the spina bifida disease. In this context, AAAGW discussed the prospective project with the Algerian Health Minister, in visit to Washington, who gave his agreement to go forward. This project needs to be revitalized.

12. The Mounib case helped clarify a key issue about how we conduct fundraising drives and the way resources collected must be used. Below are some the main findings.

- Funds collected by AAAGW in the context of a fund-raising event cannot be on-lent to the beneficiary. These funds must be used to pay bills related to the cause that led to the fundraising drive. This is guided by the fact that, according to the IRS, AAAGW is a 501 (C) (3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code which requires that it complies with federal tax law to maintain tax-exempt status and avoid severe penalties.
- As part of this compliance, AAAGW is prohibited from allowing an insubstantial accrual of private benefit to any individual or organization. This is more so for a charity whose gross receipts are limited to less than \$25,000. In other words, no individual fund transfer is allowed, but the resources may be used to pay for expenses related to the object of the resources.
- Proper documentation needs to be provided upon expenditures. Any violation of this rule will cause the immediate removal of the association's federal tax-exempt status, penalties for the association and the leadership, and payment of any applicable employment taxes, excise taxes, and certain state and local taxes.
- The charity must also record all expenditures and revenue. Special revenue should be kept in separate sub-account. Absence of records could also bring the termination of

the tax-exempt status and penalties. All records can be requested by the IRS for inspection.

13. The Board continued its policy of making the website available to all useful information, including advertising offered to our business community and as a favor to our members who would be seeking some services.

14. The Board tried to increase its membership by conducting frequent updates of the membership list and reminding colleagues and compatriots at various events to renew their membership or join AAAGW.

V. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Association has become the key forum for the community on all occasions. It is continuing to earn the confidence of its members and is becoming increasingly credible to its members and partner institutions in and out of the country. It is important to continue this work and ensure continuity and credibility. Below are some issues that we continued to face and the suggestions we want to put forth.

A. Facilities to use for events

16. For the social events organized in 2008, the Board has used some facilities and would like to include them in a roster of facilities for use by future Boards. While it is clear that each newly elected board may elect to select other venues for its activities, this Board recommends the use of the following for AAAGW events:

- **Potomac Community Center**

11315 Falls Rd
Potomac, MD 20854
(240) 777-6960

- **Durant Memorial Center**

1605 Cameron St.
Alexandria, VA

(703) 519.3494

- **Alexandria Beatley Central Library**

5005 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703)519-5900

B. Volunteers

17. It is the belief of this BOD that the officers of the association must devise a plan to attract volunteers. The BOD recommends that a list of volunteers and their contact

information be established. If needed to help for a particular event, board members may contact volunteers from the list.

C. Membership

18. Although membership stands at 86 paying members during 2008, the BOD still believes that more progress can be made in this area¹. Clearly, the more funds and support the association receives, the more it can do for its community. In order to increase membership, the BOD policy was to set up a membership table at every event and encourage people to renew their membership or sign up for the first time if they were not members. This solution has worked and it is recommended that it be continued in the future.

D. Youth Involvement

19. A more concerted effort needs to be made to entice Algerian American youth to more actively participate in AAAGW events. It is suggested to appoint a youth to serve on the BOD and/or appoint a task force to explore ideas that would attract more youth to be active members in the AAAGW.

¹ Most of the membership covers families.