

ALGERIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 8th, 2015

**44966 Falcon Place, Suite 110
Sterling, VA 20164**

Board Members Present:

Dahmane Benarbane, Djamel Benelmouffok, Naim Bentahar, Abdelrani Bessaha, Dalila Bessaha, Nadira Boumechal, Ghania Chouaf, Abdenour Azeddine.

Invited guests: Youcef Aissi and Laidia

The meeting started at 10:30 am.

Agenda: The proposed agenda was approved as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of minutes of previous meetings
4. Treasurer report
5. Review of Past Events
6. Next events
7. Miscellaneous

Minutes:

1. **Call to order and adoption of the agenda:** The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:31 am. Thanks for Dahmane for offering his venue.

The agenda submitted by the President was approved.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of previous meetings**

There was no Board meeting in January, in anticipation of the January 18 General Assembly of Members.

3. **Treasurer Report**

The account balance as of January 31, 2015 was **\$4,594.59**. The amount was deemed reasonable in view of the wide set of events organized in the past 12 months.

4. Review of Past Events

Yennayer Event: Organized on January 11 under the direction of Youcef Aissi.

Positive points:

- Yennayer is the 9th event of the year, including the General Assembly of the Members. Many thanks for Youcef Aissi for handling this event despite a personal heavy schedule. Also, many thanks for his service as a member of the Board of Directors during 2014. His presence at this Board is testimony of his continued dedication to the community.
- Thanks a lot for Dahmane for his continued invaluable support and contributing once again with a beautiful large cake.
- The food was good and tasty.
- The ambiance was very cordial and relaxed. The music was provided free and the performers did an outstanding job. In recognition of their contribution, the Board is considering a reward, the form of which will be discussed later, including the issuance of a plaque.

The venue was adequate. But the provision of an insurance required for the rental of the venue added another requirement for the organizer.

Weaknesses:

- Low attendance due to competing events on the same day. The BOD did not have information about these competing events.
- Communication related to the event was inadequate and late.
- Preparation of the event could have started earlier.

5. Future Events

The BOD is aware of the need to reach out to a larger audience outside the community if possible and focus on a core number of events, including cultural ones. Based on this key principle, the Board has decided on the following list of future events for 2015:

- Picnic on May 31 at the Cabin John Park, with task managers being Youcef and Rani.
- Ramadhan Sahra on July 4, with tasks managers Ghania and Nadira and Laidia
- Event on Assia Djebbar: September (exact date and location and task manager to be identified)

- Aid-El-Adha on September 27 with tasks managers being Dalila and Abdenour.
- Annual Hafla on November 14 with tasks managers being Naim, Youcef and Dahmane.
- General Assembly of the Members on December 13 with Rani being the task manager and the producer of the first draft of the annual report. Naim will cover the financial report and take charge of seeking volunteers to conduct the audit.
- Yennayer 2016 on January 10-11, 2015 (to be determined) with the task manager being Youcef Aissi.

The BOD has tasked AA to discuss participation to a social event, including Ramadhan Sahra of singer from New York for a fee not exceeding US\$600/700.

Performer recommended by Dahmane is scheduled for the Annual Hafla that could take place on November 15th, 2014. Details to be worked out as the event preparation get underway.

Action: Abdenour to talk to the singer and band and explore any possibility of hiring them for a performance for a fee not exceeding \$600-\$700.

6. Business Model

Djamel has started his discussions with the working group identified at the time of the Annual Meetings of Members. His next meeting is scheduled for February 8 right after the Board meeting.

7. Miscellaneous

Event on Said Mekbel; proposed by Baya Benhassine. The lack of direct interaction with the actual organizer makes it difficult to set up such this event in a timely fashion. The BOD decided to drop this event.

The Secretary's position: will be covered by Nadira when she is around in town or by any Board member when she is absent. This arrangement will help us continue to gain from Nadira vast experience. Draft Minutes will be consolidated by Rani.

The agenda being covered, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM