



MAASBESA

MASSACHUSETTS ALBANIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY - BESA

Massachusetts Albanian American Society/BESA
Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
MAY 20, 2008

In Attendance: Katherine Vlladesi, Paul Pando, Albana Orgocka, Mark Kosmo, Filgen Prifti, Elton Prifti, Anila Radovani, Artan Simeqi, Elaine Ropi, Vera Gjata, Roza Mija, Julian Nenshati

VLORA RESTAURANT
545 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Kosmo, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mark Kosmo and Ms. Albana Orgocka, Co Chairs, introduced everyone to the May 20, 2008 Board Meeting.

III. ALBANIAN SCHOOL

Financial Report

- The School has \$1,700 in the bank. And since January 1, 2008 \$1,000 came in \$1,700 went out. Expenses \$900 a month. There is enough money for one semester with the money collected for tuition and the money that we have for the spring semester.
- If we have to, MAAS can shift the money to the school to help it survive. The net loss was \$700.

Summer Plans

- In the summer we are planning to have a trip at the aquarium to recruit students. So that more can apply.
- Picnic; best time to do the picnic is in September would also be an option to attract students.

Future of the school and plans for its expansion

- Trying to open a school in Roslindale. There is a location for the school. There is a learning center for adults and also ABC head start for younger children.
- There was also discussion for Worcester with Arber Kalaja. In order to promote the school that would open there, we can get into discussion with the TV station to promote.
- Parents are complaining about the BU classes that are smaller. If the student takes the test, based on where the students fit in then they might close the class there if there are not enough students. If the amount of students is larger, then that can be the beginners' class.
- In Roslindale, there might be a problem there because they require rent and insurance. This is a problem because this would make our funds dwindle.
- Trying to resolve this we can get together with another organization to make the funds available.
- Also looking towards the North Shore area. There are a couple of places that might be suitable. Look for areas around there. Julian promised that he would look at some options and would let us know.

V. ASSISTANCE FUND/GASHI KIDS

Financial Report

- \$22,500 in the assistance fund.
- Since January 1, 2008-May 20, 2008- \$5200 spent.
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Update of their status and future visits

- The kids come twice a year and the next visit would be for all five children. Date has not been set, but the fall looks most probable.

VI. GERDEC FUNDRAISER ISSUES FOR SUNDAY MAY 25TH

Update on status of Preparations

- We have made brochures, and letters. This is starting to look good because there are checks coming in.

Issues and promotion

- St. George's Cathedral has donated \$1,000 for Gerdec
- What are we going to do with the money? Maybe it would be better if we bring someone here and show with our actions that we make a difference.
- There is a contact in UNICEF that can identify someone who is in need of our help.

VII. BUSINESS SPONORS

Follow-up phone calls on Gerdec letter;

- Get sponsors from local businesses. And let the business know where their money is going. Make it more attractive to the business to donate. There is a discussion about giving business a call and asking whether they would be willing to donate.

Overseas Networks

- Overseas Networking (Universities) University in New York want to open a school in Korçe, Albania specializes in computers and business. The school wanted to link with us so there can help with their efforts.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Getting New Members

- We can offer something to new members. A discussion was open to all members to provide their opinions. There was discussion about giving members a benefit/perk for being part of the organization (e.g., cheaper tickets to events). There was also discussion to bring in Albanian celebrities to be a part of the organization's events in order to raise awareness for its causes. There was also discussion on having a cocktail party in ALBA restaurant where the fifty-dollar payment at the door would not only serve as the entrance fee but also as the membership fee. This idea was highly debated and no agreement has been reached. Some members also thought that in order to raise awareness for MASS BESA, the members need to post flyers, not only in church, but in places where there is a large Albanian community. Therefore, more people would be aware of the organization.

IX. WEB-SITE ISSUES

- Arber did a great job. The website is great. There should be some visual attributes for the business and make the businesses proud that they have donated.

X. FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- There was a discussion about the issue of having a summer concert.
- We have an idea for a movie festival.
- Soccer tournament
- Welcome back from the summer
- Sail boat – tall ships
- Bring a speaker from Albania -- Aurent Plasare the director of the national library in Albania. There is still interest for the president to come in NY. We are trying to get the President to come to Harvard. Harvard needs a month.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION AND SOCIALIZING

Discussion on whether the school can reduce tuition to make it more attractive to parents.

The name of the school should be changed to "BESA" School or Shkolla "BESA". There was a suggestion of having a name for the school.

On a motion made by Mr. Kosmo the meeting is adjourned