



MAASBESA

MASSACHUSETTS ALBANIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY - BESA

Massachusetts Albanian American Society/BESA

Annual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2009

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA

In attendance:

Mark Kosmo, Albana Orgocka, Katherine Vlladesi, Filgen Prifti, Eva Millona, Enkeledja Kapia, Agron Alibali, Fatmir Beja, Agim Sejdiu, Afrim Hoxha, Alban Kalaja, Dhimiter Dishnica, Shyqyri Bytyqi, Bajram Spahiu, Naxhef Spahiu, Arber Muhameti, Bashkim Braho, Myzafere Ormenaj, Rezarta Reso, Marjola Roshi, Paul Pando, Artan Simeqi.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Kosmo, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. Approximately 20 people attended

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mark Kosmo and Ms. Albana Orgocka, Co Chairs, introduced everyone to the February 1, 2009 Board Meeting.

III. NOMINATIONS

- Nominations of the board members - 12 people were voted to the Board of Directors by the members in good standing in attendance (see list at end of minutes for new Board of Directors).

IV. FINANCES

- MAAS BESA has \$2,564.32 in its operational account. Most of the money came from the lifetime membership and dues.
- Balance Sheet: Albanian School there was \$4,981.30 at the end of the year. Enough to get through the next semester.
- Finances of the Assistance Fund: \$23,431.01. There is \$4,000 less than last year because there was money used when the children came this year. Gerdec money of about \$3,000 was spent to provide a computer lab for students affected by the accident.
- Projected Budget is about \$25,000-\$30,000 per year based on last two year's experience.

V. FLAG Day

- Everyone enjoyed the event and it was well organized. It also brought in over \$5,000 to keep the school going for another semester. People brought up the idea of doing more to advertise so that we attract more people.

VI. Membership Dues

- Membership dues should be \$25? Mark believes that the membership dues should be \$25 because we will attract more people. Always a problem with having membership dues. There is a discussion on whether there should be lowering of the \$25. Arber believes that since there are a constant numbers of people joining (about 40 people per year) then there should be \$50. Also to stimulate membership growth MAASBESA we should give back. We should give a reference when people come to the US for information that is needed. If you are a member then you should get more information.
- There was a vote regarding the amount and six people voted for membership fees of \$50.

VII. WEBSITE

- Arber discussed that the website is updated constantly. There is information and news added to the website on a regular basis.

VIII. Worcester Albanians

- How to attract people from Worcester. The people in Worcester feel as if they are too far and they cannot communicate as well. It is difficult to make communications and connect. A representative from Kombi believes that we could work together as time goes on because they are still growing, and as we grow then should consider getting together in the future.

IX. Albanian School

- Analyzing the school. The main goal for the school is increasing the number of students, attendance and doing their homework. The children class at BU was closed because there were not enough students. If in the next semester there will be more children interested at BU we can re-open the class again. The adult class continues to hold classes at BU. There are now 25 students.
- There needs to be more students. We need to get the word out about the Albanian School.
- The students are given homework and required to finish the homework and be prepared in class.
- Upcoming Plans: Party for March 7&8 for the students and parents and to encourage more membership. In addition, there is going to be an end of the year party for the students.
- There should be a theatrical play with the students all in Albanian. This should be something to raise funds.
- Idea for there to be a small Library with books in Albanian for the students to use and have at the school.

X. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Discussions regarding the spring event in cooperation with “Bashkimi” Dance group. Singers should come from different parts of Albania. There might be some difficulties with the singers and how much they want and visas and travel arrangements. There should be something put together for May or September.

XI. KOSOVA INDEPENDENCE

- February 21, 2009 is Kosovo Independence Day. Agim Sejdiu discussed about the facilities, the band and singers for the event. He invited the Bashkimi group to perform at their Flag Day.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION AND SOCIALIZATING

- Albanian Magazine which is in the Harvard Library should be scanned and put on the internet so all people can access it. Agron Alibali, Fatmir Beja and Lejda Kapia will look more into it.

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

Board of Directors

Mark Kosmo, *Co-Chair*
Albana Orgocka, *Co-Chair*
Filgen Prifti, *Treasurer*
Katherine Vlladesi, *Secretary*
Agron Alibali
Fatmir Beja
Vera Gjata
Alban Kalaja
Enkelejda Kapia
Arber Muhameti
Rezarta Reso
Orgeta Qirici