

**UTTARANCHAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (UANA)**  
**Annual Convention**  
**Board Meeting Minutes: July 29, 2006**  
**Centreville Public Library, Centerville, VA**

**10:00 AM – 11:25 AM BOD meeting**

Present:

Dr. Roop S. Bhakuni, Dr. Basant K. Tariyal, Dr. Harish Pant, Dr. Ajay Adhikari, Dr. Girish Pathak, Dr. Jagdish Bhandari, Dr. Gopal Krishna Dhariyal, Mr. Vijay Sharma, Mr. Deepak Nautiyal, Ms. Pushp Kumar, Dr. Sanjana Raturi, and Mr. Vinod Jakhmola

Apology: Mr. Ajay Rawat

Quorum present: Yes

Mr. Deepak Nautiyal called the meeting to order at 10 am. This was followed by a self-introduction by all board members.

**UANA Award for Academic Excellence:** The project discussion was led by Mr. Deepak Nautiyal.

- The Board agreed that in principle it is a good idea for UANA to recognize academic excellence in children by giving UANA award for Academic Excellence for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students back home in Uttaranchal and recognize kids of paid UANA members in the U.S. This proposal was aimed at enhancing the visibility of the UANA.
- There were concerns about the amount (Dr. Adhikari), criteria of selection (Dr. Bhakuni and Dr. Dhariyal), and how to balance and motivate those who are already motivated as demonstrated by their academic excellence versus truly needy children who need the help and motivation the most (Dr. Dhariyal and Dr. Raturi). Therefore it was decided that Dr. Ajay Adhikari would take a lead on the project and further refine this proposal with assistance from Mr. Vijay Sharma and Dr. Harish Pant.
- The tentative timeline for presenting first draft of this proposal to BODs is 2 weeks from this meeting.

**Sweet Village Project:** Dr. R. S. Bhakuni led the project discussion.

The project was initiated by Mr. Ajay Rawat (past president).

- The Board agreed for UANA's participation in this project. There has been a great public interest in this project.

- Dr. Bhakuni presented various options such as one time donation, adopting a family, marriage or opening the shop for the women in the village.

The Board agreed that UANA should form a trust under the UANA umbrella. Dr. Bhakuni will lead the project and Mr. Ajay Rawat and Dr. Tariyal will assist him in this matter. Dr. Bhakuni will be visiting the village again and Dr. Tariyal also volunteered to visit the village. Dr. Bhandari asked about developing guidelines to select projects in the future that the UANA will support thus that the selection process of the project supported by the UANA is clear and transparent.

**Bylaws and Constitution Changes:** Dr. Tariyal led the discussion. He suggested that

- The Bylaws changes be effective after the next election
- Do not change anything in the Article of incorporation
- Separate EXCOM and Board of Director
- Term: The BOD term be 3 years and Excom 2 years
- 3 members retire every 1 or (2?) years – if not clear, let's delete as details will be worked out in the draft
- Term of the chairman of the Board be 1 year.
- Both BOD and EXCOM be selected by GBM and via email
- The Board agreed that committees will be formed to get active participation of members

Dr. Adhikari, Dr. Pathak, and Dr. Raturi emphasized on the formation of committees. The Board agreed that committees would be formed and preferably drawn from the general body membership. Standing committees will be formed as follows:

- Election committees
- Membership committees
- Annual Convention committees
- Technology (Website committees)
- Patrika committees
- Other committees

Board Meeting: The emphasis was put that the Board without the EXCOM should meet at least 2 times a year (Dr. Pathak and Dr. Dhariyal).

Regional Chapters: The bylaws will encourage the formation of regional chapter under the UANA umbrella. The guideline and supports needs more work.

The term of the current EXCOM expires in Dec. 2007. The Board also agreed that BOD should have 11 members.

There were concerns raised by Mr. Deepak Nautiyal, and Ms. Pushp Kumar about the drastic changes in the bylaws and the need of separating the Board and the EXCOM. Dr. Raturi suggested the language in the bylaws to be gender neutral. Mr. Vijay Sharma also emphasized on the timeline of various projects.

Dr. Tariyal will modify the bylaws based on the feedback from BODs. A teleconference will be scheduled to discuss the matter and then voting will be done on this matter electronically.

**The following was voted and approved by the Board:**

- **The Election of BOD and EXCOM will be done in the GBM. Election Process at GBM requires 30% quorum. In the absence of 30% quorum, the voting will be conducted electronically or via mail.**

- **Audit will be considered done by presenting financial report at the GBM.**
- **Membership period will be Jan. to Dec. (Calendar year).**

### **11:30 to 1:30 – General Body Meeting (GBM):**

Mr. Deepak Nautiyal gave a welcome address and introduced the new Team to all meeting participants.

Mr. Vinod Jakhmola gave financial report. Ending balance of \$24,765.31. **The Board and members unanimously approved the budget.**

UANA Website launch: Mr. Vijay Sharma thanked Mr. Jakhmola for this contributions to the UANA web site and presented the new UANA website, which went live on July 29, 2006.

A message from Hon. Chief Minister of Uttaranchal to UANA was broadcasted. A member Anand Singh Bisht from New York was congratulated to make it possible.

#### **GBM Question:**

- Overall objective of UANA– Mr. Prakash Khanduri (NJ) raised a question about our objectives that were presented in 2000 annual convention.
- An audience member (Sanjay Kandwal) asked about UANA’s message. Dr. Bhakuni responded – Consider becoming a life member. Together we can work and do something for our community and do something back home. Dr. Pant emphasized that it is a platform to provide cultural identity for and create awareness about our culture in the children.
- Code of Ethics: Nitin Bhatt and Bhupindra Bohra (both NJ) requested the Board to include Code of Ethics in the bylaws. Mr. Bohra also said to the BODs that if Code of Ethics is included in the UANA by laws, he will become a life-term UANA member. The Board agreed to include Code of Ethics as a part of SOP. Dr. Dhariyal asked if the UANA has a SOP. Dr. Tariyal responded – no. Mr. Deep Thapliyal (NJ) volunteered to put together a draft on code of ethics and provide it to Dr. Tariyal for further consideration and feedback by the BODs.
- Bhupindra Bohra (NJ) highlighted problem with Tri-State Yahoo community email group that resulted in him unsubscribing from the community email group about 8 months back. The Board made it clear to the NJ members that Tri-State yahoo community email group is not an official part of the UANA and any conflict related to yahoo group should be resolved amicably by a civil discussion by all the parties involved.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Dr. Sanjana Raturi