



Uttaranchal Association of North America (UANA)

ESTABLISHED 1998

Executive Committee
(ExCom)

PRESIDENT

Dr. Jagdish Bhandari
(717) 271-8783
bhandarij90@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Sunil Kala
(202) 345-2147
sunilkala@comcast.net

TREASURER

Mr. Vinod Jakhmola
(703) 598-5889
jakhmola@cox.net

SECRETARY

Ms. Runjhun Saklani
(917) 478-5958
runjhun@hotmail.com

**BOARD of DIRECTORS
(BOD)**

Dr. Roop Singh Bhakuni
(Chairman)
(330) 666-5532
roopb@aol.com

Mr. Mohan Barthwal
(732) 470-8255
mohanbarthwal@optonline.net

Mr. Naresh Bhatt
(703) 241-1667
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Dr. Harish Pant
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Dr. Sanjana Raturi
(609) 799-7577
raturis@gmail.com

Mr. Ajay Rawat
(703) 722-2839
ajay.rawat@fcps.edu

UANA Membership Update from June 28 UANA BoD and General Body Meeting (GBM)

Friday, July 04, 2008

UANA BOD Chairman Message:

Dear UANA and Uttarakhand Community members, and friends:

The term of the UANA officials was expired as of December 2007. UANA had thus transparently announced the election with more than a month of advance notice. We have now completed the nomination and election process for Seven Board of Directors (BoD) and four Executive Committee members (ExCom; The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) in the General Body meeting held on June 28, 2008, Centerville, VA. As noted earlier, nominations were sought for all positions in this fresh election. An UANA member nominated a candidate and another (one or more) UANA member seconded the nomination. Since there were a total of 11 positions, and since only 11 nominations were received by the deadline of the nominations (June 19, 2008), all 11 nominees were declared elected in the General Body meeting by a substantial majority of verified UANA members on the record (by physical presence and written proxy vote by those who could not attend the general body meeting for genuine reasons).

The newly elected President Dr. Jagdish C. Bhandari introduced the following newly elected UANA officials to the general body.

ExCom: Mr. Sunil Kala (Vice President), Ms. Runjhun Saklani (Secretary), and Mr. Vinod Jakhmola (Treasurer)

BoD: Dr. Roop S. Bhakuni, Mr. Mohan Barthwal, Mr. Naresh Bhatt, Dr. Gopal Krishna Dhariyal, Dr. Harish Pant, Dr. Sanjana Raturi, and Mr. Ajay Rawat

Thanks to all the members for volunteering for these offices above and beyond their demanding jobs, family and other responsibilities, and priorities. Our congratulations go to them for being elected to selflessly serve the interest of UANA and its members. From the Q&A session, it is apparent that all elected officers must strive to 'live' to the expectation of members through their demonstrated actions rather than words.

As previously stressed time and again, on behalf of Board of Directors, I want to yet again assure all members that our goal is to earn your trust. We will do this by striving to work in ethical & legal manner and by adopting unity, inclusiveness, civility and mutual respect, democracy, diversity, and transparency as our guiding principles.

Thank you

Roop S Bhakuni

Chairman of the Board, UANA

www.uttaranchal.org



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Friday, July 04, 2008

UANA President Message:

Dear UANA and Uttarakhand Community members, and friends:

Thank you all for a very successful and productive GBM. We have received a whole hearted and unprecedented support of our GBM with a substantial majority vote and a challenge with a clear mandate to grow this organization to its full potential including a united community.

I would like to thank all BoD and ExCom Members for their support and trust in me to lead the Organization to fulfill its goal and objectives. I feel honored to be associated with such a talented and respected group including the general body members (GBM), and members of our Uttarakhand community. I believe I can speak for all members of the ExCom that we will execute the policies and guidance provided by the BoD and the Association's Articles and the Bylaws.

As we discussed during the GBM that we all Uttarakhandis are very fortunate to belong to the rich heritage of DEVBHOOMI. We all are also very well blessed with best of the riches of having the resources and the respectable professional positions or business opportunities We all owe to our motherland Uttarakhand to replenish its exhausted vital resources specifically water, education and the industry to support the livelihood of its residents. As a united group we can almost reach the stars. As we discussed the theme for this year would be "INVOLVEMENT". We the ExCoM and the BoD members pledge to you that our top priority will be to successfully execute various projects to benefit the community here and back home. We also pledge that we will seek your involvement and participation in various projects. In coming issue of Patrika, we have a very enthusiastic and talented team of volunteers ready to work with you through various committees and first of all through your involvement and support to our 10th Annual Convention on July 26th 2008 in Poughkeepsie, NY in any form or shape possible, including the sponsorship and kind donations.

Patrika is the voice of our Association and the official communication. I would like to request each and every member to get "INVOLVED" in any way possible that pleases you. Please contribute your thoughts and ideas through your articles, comments, and feedback.

As we stated earlier in our letters to members, our goal is to earn your trust. We plan to do that by adopting unity, inclusiveness, civility and mutual respect, democracy, diversity, and transparency as our guiding principles.

We greatly value your participation and thank you for your support.

Jagdish Bhandari

President, UANA

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UANA General Body Meeting (GBM; Member Update)

Saturday, June 28, 2008, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Compton Village Homeowners Association

14401 Compton Village Drive, Centreville, VA 20121

The GBM was called to order by Dr. Harish Pant. He paid a tribute to his guru, and teacher, Professor D.D. Pant, the founder of Uttarakhand Kranti Dal and the first vice chancellor of Kumaon University, who had passed away on June 10, 2008. Dr. Harish Pant described the invaluable and selfless contributions of Professor D. D. Pant. All UANA officials and general body members observed a one-minute of silence in memory of late Dr. D. D. Pant.

Mrs. Bhagwati Bohra (an UANA member and mother of UANA life member Mr. Bhupender Bohra) started the meeting with an invocation and shlokas in praise of River Ganga and our Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.

Roop S. Bhakuni described the democratic nomination and election process. He then declared that quorum was met with substantial majority of the membership on the record, including the physical attendance of 41 members and the written proxies submitted by 38 members. Out of 38 written proxies received, 3 written proxies were directed to establish the quorum, and the remaining 35 written proxies were general proxies directing those present at the GBM to cast proxy vote on any issues to be voted on by the membership including those in favor of the slate of the candidates shown below. The past president, Mr. Ajay Rawat, read all the names of UANA members who took the time to participate in the election process by submitting written proxies. The total current UANA membership on the record was 124. The total number of verified UANA members (physically present and proxy) in this GBM was 79. The total number of attendees physically present including their family was 90. The slate of candidates was then presented to the general body as follows:

Executive committee (ExCom): Dr. Jagdish C.. Bhandari (President), Mr. Sunil Kala (Vice President), Ms. Runjhun Saklani (Secretary), Mr. Vinod Jakhmola (Treasurer)

Board of Directors (BoD) : Dr. Roop S. Bhakuni, Mr. Mohan Barthwal, Mr. Naresh Bhatt, Dr. Gopal Krishna Dhariyal, Dr. Harish Pant, Dr. Sanjana Raturi, and Mr. Ajay Rawat

After the question and answer period, the slate of all the candidates was unanimously voted by the GBM by a voice vote and a show of hands.

Dr. Bhakuni then declared all candidates elected and turned the meeting over to the newly elected President, Dr. Jagdish C. Bhandari.

Dr. Bhandari addressed the general body with a pledge that this was an honor and privilege for him and the whole team of the Ex. Com. and the BoD to have this opportunity to serve UANA. He emphasized on the 'democratic principles' and full compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and the policies established by the BOARD. He urged all members to get involved in any way, shape, or form of their choosing as long as it was consistent with the objectives of the Association. He then read the five objectives of the Association from the Bylaws and proposed the one word theme "**INVOLVEMENT**" for the year to meet these objectives.

Dr. Bhandari then followed the GBM agenda as follows:



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A. Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Bhandari introduced Mr. Vinod Jakhmola, the treasurer to present the Treasurer's report. A copy of the balance sheet was presented to all members. After Q&A the report was approved by the general body.

Vinod noted that as of the date, he has not received the detailed accounting of 9th annual UANA convention (held in NJ in July 2007) from the past President and the Organizing committee.

B. Amendments of Bylaws:

Dr. Bhandari informed the GBM that since the current Bylaws needs revision with evolving requirements, the previous Board on 7/29/2007 meeting had approved a 12-page draft. This draft, however, required some more improvement. Once the revised draft was ready, it would be sent to all members for review and the final vote by the general body during the Annual Convention on July 26, 2008. He however, suggested that some items as discussed below needed to be approved at least as an interim decision.

Following selected by-laws amendments were voted upon and approved in the interim by the general body:

(i) Name Change:

The UANA board in a previous UANA board meeting (Sep 8, 2007) had approved the name change of the organization from Uttaranchal Association of North America (UANA) to Uttarakhand Association of North America (UANA), pending successful completion of all applicable regulatory requirements. This was presented to the general body and the general body voted in favor of this name change, pending successful completion of all applicable regulatory requirements.

(ii) Board of Directors (BOD)/Executive Committee (EXCOM):

Board chairperson: Learning from our past mistakes and to further implement checks and balances, Dr. Bhandari proposed a motion and nominated Dr. Bhakuni to serve as the Chairman of the UANA board. Dr. Pant seconded this motion. Dr. Bhakuni accepted this on an interim basis. Dr. Bhandari noted that the BoD and ExCom can call its own separate meeting as needed. The general body voted in favor of Dr. Bhakuni serving as the chairman of the board and the following resolution:

“The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors through an Executive Committee (The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer)”

(iii) Local Chapter:

Dr. Jagdish Bhandari presented a board-approved concept of forming local chapters under the UANA umbrella. The general body voted in favor of this concept.

(iv) Committees:

Dr. Jagdish Bhandari presented following committees. The general body voted in favor of these committees. Election/Nomination; Communication; Membership; Public Relations; Fund Raising; Program; Patrika; Education; Youth (under 12; over 12); Audit

Dr. Bhandari noted that members are encouraged to get involved and should feel free to suggest any other activity of their interest or committees.

Dr. Bhandari then invited Dr. Gopal K. Dhariyal to present some of the initiatives that Dr. Dhariyal had the privilege of working in collaboration with the UANA board and members.



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C. Code of Ethics and Dispute Resolution:

Dr. Dhariyal briefly talked about recently created UANA code of ethics and UANA conflict resolution documents that are on the UANA web site. He thanked Mr. Deep Thapliyal and Mr. Ajay Rawat who had contributed to creation of one or both of these documents. The general body voted in favor of following resolution:

“All UANA officials and members shall abide by and adhere to newly created code of ethics/conduct and conflict resolution documents (these policies specifically prohibit any communication with intentional personal attack using unprofessional, derogatory, profane language, and false rumors. Any members found to violate these stated policies will be considered members ‘not in good standing’ and furthermore they may not be considered for future membership).”

D. Indemnification:

Dr. Dhariyal presented following board approved resolution to the general body. The general body voted in favor of this resolution.

“Each member of the BoD is specifically held harmless and shall be indemnified by the UANA for actions taken in good faith on behalf of UANA and liability incurred as a result of their positions in the UANA.”

E. UANA Emergency Fund:

Dr. Dhariyal presented a board approved proposal to create an “UANA emergency fund” to collect and distribute money for UANA board approved projects that require our immediate attention for efforts such as helping unprivileged and needy. The general body voted in favor of creating the “UANA emergency fund”.

F. UANA Programs:

Dr. Dhariyal thanked all contributors and UANA officials who initiated and/or were involved with ongoing UANA project such as ‘Academic Excellence’ and ‘Sweet Village’ programs. He presented UANA board approved UANA service award and UANA mentoring program to the general body. The general body voted in favor of implementing these projects. First UANA service award is now planned to be presented at 2009 annual UANA convention. The new deadline to submit nomination will be announced soon.

G. 10th Annual UANA Convention (July 26th 2008 in Poughkeepsie, NY):

Mr. Pritam Dimri and Ms. Runjhun Saklani, UANA members from New York (NY), provided an update cordially inviting all UANA members and requesting their help, support, and generous donations. The board members pledged their full and unequivocal support for 10th annual UANA convention on July 26th 2008 in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Highlights of questions and comments from the floor (UANA post-meeting position):

- UANA board has finally taken the bull by horn.
- UANA board is responsible for inaction and a loss of trust by its members. *(UANA position – We have realized our role. We have learned from our mistakes and we will strive to use our diverse strength to promptly address any weakness. Our goal as we clearly stated time and again in the past is to earn the trust of our members).*
- Why there are two similar events, one on July 19th 2008 in Boston with the same format as the official 10th annual UANA convention on July 26th in NY? Why it was not known to the UANA that on behalf of UANA honorable chief minister is invited to Boston function on July 19, 2008? *(UANA position . The fact is that the only UANA approved UANA event is the 10th Annual Convention in New York on July 26, 2008 and not the one in Boston on July 19, 2008. Please read our previous UANA communications on our web site related to the official 10th UANA convention.*



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While UANA is elated to learn that honorable chief minister of Uttarakhand is coming to Boston on July 19, 2008 to attend a function organized by Uttarakhand community, we are deeply shocked that such an important and critical piece of information was neither discussed with the UANA board nor known to the UANA board until an unauthorized and unapproved announcement made in the media on behalf of UANA was forwarded to UANA board members by the Uttarakhandi community member. In fact, the UANA board had no knowledge of any invitation sent by any UANA officials to honorable CM for a function in Boston on July 19, 2008. UANA board over a span of ten months has called four official UANA meetings with a desire to bring all the parties to the table for an amicable discussion such that we can all move forward together in a democratic and united manner. Additionally, in yet another attempt, UANA board in June 28 morning board meeting proposed to Dr. Ramesh C. Pandey that UANA will approach New York (NY) UANA convention organizer to explore if they can change the date of the annual UANA convention to July 19 in New York, such that Uttarakhandis from Boston area who already made plan for July 19 event in Boston could join NY annual convention on July 19 in NY and our shared dream of moving forward together could be realized. In the general body meeting in the evening, our NY UANA convention organizer agreed to look into this option provided Dr. Pandey ji can talk to organizer of the function in Boston and let UANA convention organizer from NY know within a day or so (i.e., by June 29, 08). Although Dr. Pandey ji had indicated a very low likelihood for the acceptability this option, the UANA convention organizer from NY are still hopeful and waiting for a response from Dr. Pandey ji (no later than midnight July 6, 08) looking for an united front to make their first ever convention in NY successful)

- What are key guiding principles? (UANA position – Guiding principles are unity, inclusiveness, mutual respect and civility, democracy, diversity, and transparency.)
- We should encourage women's participation in the BoD (UANA position - UANA greatly values diversity. We welcome Ms Runjhun Saklani and Dr Ms Sanjana Raturi to the UANA board and hope that they will inspire increasing participation from women. We will request Mr. Mayank Raturi to serve in a search committee to work with the UANA board in identifying more candidates to bring even a greater diversity.)
- Can the available draft of bylaws amendments be sent to general body for their comments immediately? (UANA position - the draft is available for comments on the UANA web site; the comment period for members ends one week from now, i.e., July 10, 08.)

To conclude the meeting, all UANA officials briefly addressed the members. The general body meeting was adjourned by a vote of thanks from UANA Vice President, Mr. Sunil Kala, which was followed by a dinner.

UANA GBM member update respectfully Submitted by Ms Runjhun Saklani, Secretary, UANA, with help and comments from UANA ExCom and BoD