



Gala Prep Conference-Call Minutes

DATE AND TIME: May 8th, 2017

Location: Conference Call, 8:00pm EST. dial info: 641-715-0861 , Access Code: 379849

INVITEES: Executive Board

ATTENDEES:

Mohamad Jamal, President

Abdallah Adas, Vice-President (absent)

Eissa Haj-Hamad, Treasurer

Mohamad Shahine, Secretary (absent)

Mohammad Ayyoubi, PR Virginia

Jamileh Mogin, PR Maryland DC

Rabih Najib, I.T. Committee Chair

Momdouh Elsakka, Education and Scholarship Committee Chair

Jina Al-Assadi, Membership Committee Chair

Asma Soliman, Activities Committee Chair

Items of Discussion:

1. General brainstorming session discussing the upcoming 2017 Gala for our local chapter

Call Started at 7:00pm

Item1:

Mohamad Jamal confirmed that the gala is already scheduled for 10/14/2017 at the Marriott in Greenbelt. He emphasized that this event is a major revenue generating one for the organization. Sponsors will pay based on who the speakers are and how much they can benefit from. It is also a social event.

Item2:

M. Ayyoubi asked to not include 2 comedians like we did in 2016 as that took away the time for the musician that we paid for and ended up not utilizing.

Item3:

Jina asked to not move chairs to create a dancing space as people think that the event is over and they start to leave. She also asked to see if we can politely let the speakers know how much time they each have for their speeches. She also asked if we can get speakers from other disciplines like I.T. or architects.

Item4:

Asma asked if we can have a dabkeh session at the gala similar to what was done in the past, which proved to be successful.

Item5:

Eissa asked to start to think about the awards that we need to present and to whom. He said that the scholarship awards are good and we need not to make any changes. Eissa asked to figure out how we can get more of our members to attend. He also said that we need to utilize the event and the speeches to outline what the association has done and what we are planning on doing next.

Item6:

Mamdouh asked to get the youth involved. We need to come up with ideas to get them involved.

Item7:

Speakers selection:

Jina: Let's look into other disciplines such as IT or Architects.

M. Jamal: Sponsors come because of the type of speakers and we need to be careful on who we select.

Mamdouh: Let's think about the NIH to bring a guest speaker from there.

Jamileh: She can help with a speaker from department of energy, department of defense, or even department of state.

M. Ayyoubi: requested that we ask Ziad to talk to Saba Shami to help finding a speaker from Virginia.

Item8:

Gala Sub-Committee Coordinator: M. Jamal and Jamileh spoke after the teleconference and Jamileh agreed to be the coordinator for the gala for this year. M. Jamal assured Jamileh that everyone on the Executive Board including Ziad Sabra and Saed Rahwanji will help in this effort. M. Jamal shared with Jamileh via email some important files that were used for the gala preparation effort last year.

Next Meeting:

We will expand on the gala discussion on 5/20 during the Learn & Network meeting.

Conference Call Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes prepared by Rabih Najib and Mohamad Jamal