



MAASBESA

MASSACHUSETTS ALBANIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY - BESA

**Massachusetts Albanian American Society/BESA
Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2008**

*“To be good you have to have many friends,
to be great you need a few enemies” -- George Allen*

In Attendance: Katherine Vladesi, Paul Pando, Aldi Plluska, Mikel Plluska, Albana Orgocka, Oltiana Mara, Orgeta Qirici, Mark Kosmo, Filgen Prifti, Elton Prifti, Juliana Basko, Arber Muhameti, Armando Nushi

160 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA

Agenda Overview

1. Flag Day Preparations
2. Albanian School
3. Assistance Fund-Gashi, Children, Gerdec
4. Other Events-BU Albanian Night, New Years?? Spring Concert?? Other Ideas
5. Attracting New Members
6. Web-Site Issues

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Kosmo, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mark Kosmo and Ms. Albana Orgocka, Co Chairs, introduced everyone to the November 11, 2008, Board Meeting.

III. Flag Day

- The Flag Day committee was introduced to the board and present members. Katherine Vladesi, chair of the Flag Day Committee, gave a quick introduction and update to Flag Day progress.
- November 25, 2008 will be the day for the Flag Raising Ceremony and the progress of that was discussed. Bashkimi group is going to be invited to do the flag raising this year and we will ask them to come to the Flag Day dinner.

- Arber needs to send out the Newsletter for Flag Raising and Mass Albanian. Once this week and one next week and the day before the events
- Flyers -- Kosovar Society of Boston having a meeting on Sunday November 23rd and want us to go so that we can spread the word for Flag Day.
- BU meeting/event on the 22nd -- need to go and pass out flyers and get the word out.

IV. Albanian School

Financial Report

- Started October 18, 2008. Started with four classes -- 2 at BU and 2 at St. George's. The class for the children at BU closed and the two students left were transferred to St. Georges.
- Myzi Ormenaj is the new school coordinator.
- At BU it is a good adult class with all Americans (6).
- We thought that if we raise enough funds at Flag Day Dinner then we can offer the school for free next semester, in the hopes that more people would be encouraged to enroll their children
- Current balance in School account: \$300
- The school needs to be subsidized by MAAS/BESA to have funds.

V. ASSISTANCE FUND/GASHI KIDS/GERDEC

Gerdec

- Three thousand dollars given to open a computer lab. The lab is up and running. There is a tentative date set for the opening and inauguration of the school at the end of November.
- Toni is going to Albania and might be able to be there for the inauguration.
- There were five computers placed for the school in Gerdec, proposed date is November 28, 2008.

Gashi Kids

- They will have a third surgery. We have about \$22K left for future expenses.
- Shriners contacted us for another Albanian young boy who had come to Boston for surgery four years ago with somebody's sponsorship. Shriners can not locate the sponsor and they have asked if we can sponsor him. He need major skin grafts and probably will be here for four months. It's a question of whether we can use the money raised for the Gashis for other cases.
- Technically we agreed that this is for the Gashi and we can propose this to the board if we can use this money elsewhere.
- Option is to ask someone if they would take the person in and see if they would be able to sponsor him.

VI. Other Events-BU Albanian Night, New Years?? Spring Concert?? Other Ideas

BU Albanian Night, New Years, Spring Concert:

- Is a week from Saturday November 22, 2008
- New Years Eve: Aldo planning something for Vlora. Price is not set with DJ and meal. It would not be official, but a private party.
- Spring Concert: Organize something with the Bashkimi Group. Or use what Mirela Athanas suggested after the classical concert at BU. There needs to be people to do all the organizing.

VI. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Attracting New Members

- New Members. We attracted 40 people to be paying members of the organization in 2007, but fewer people paid in 2008 – partly because we did not aggressively seek new members.
- Always talking about giving new member discounts at events – must get new members and try to collect more membership dues.
- Membership lapel type pin if join is one Idea
- Modify the website announcement for Flag Day to have discount for new members and things like BU and New Years and recruit new members
- Possibly lower the membership dues to \$25-\$30 to attract more paying/voting members.

VIII. WEB-SITE ISSUES

- Arber did a great job. The website is wonderful. Everything is working properly and positive feedback from people. Advertising the website. And work out something to get advertising on the website to pay and get funds from people visiting the sites.

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