

Attendees: Evren Eryurek, Serpil Metin, Deniz Kalayci, Ilgin Sezer, Engin Kalayci, Erkan Tuzel, Lisa Vervena, Esra Riggs, Trent Riggs, Sefik Alkan, Mualla Alkan

Duration: 10AM – 2:30PM

Festival of Nations Recap

On the financial end of the FON, TAAM made about \$7000 dollars of revenue, however profit is yet unknown because Caspian has not yet billed us. We are expecting to find out that cost perhaps this week. The likely amount of profit is expected to be within \$3000-4000 range. TAAM booth also won one of the four exhibit awards.

Over 75 volunteers, dancers both on and off site have helped make this event possible for TAAM. The telephone communication has helped TAAM recruit more volunteers this year. “Thank you” cards were sent by Melissa and Serpil to volunteers. Survey responses have been positive and there has been very good recommendations. One of the biggest of such recommendations was the need for more and better traditional outfits. Many indicated further interest in participating in the TAAM events. Pictures from the event will soon be on the TAAM website soon with the help from Trent.

The booth looked very professional. One issue that was brought up is the fact that we paid \$25 for the sneeze guards (per guard for the whole event). We are planning to investigate other possibilities for the future events that will save us the money spent for renting.

ACTION-1: Serpil and Ilgin will find out more about the sneeze guard and see if we can locate someone that can make it for us to be owned by TAAM.

The folklore dance was very well received. Erkan commented that some TASA members would like to participate in the folklore dancing. We need better and early communication on the folklore dancing and chorus for higher participation, this can be an activity TAAM can utilize throughout the year not just at the FON. This will be coordinated with Nergis; Evren will meet with Nergis and work with her. Especially since some students want to participate in the dancing, at least one student should be included in the dancing committee. The children’s dance group also needs more participation. We need to find free places for practice. Melissa found a place that can be reserved for practices. Need to follow-up with her since she couldn’t attend the meeting. It is suggested that the place for dance practices should be in the city, as it may ease the attendance of some students. It has been mentioned that some people danced Zeybek in the past, and maybe 2 different styles of dances can also be performed.

ACTION-2: Erkan will inquire about spaces available for dancing practices throughout the year at the U.

Going forward with FON, we need better documentation how things were organized and coordinated, especially since the FON event went extremely well this year, we should pattern after this success and make the improvements accordingly and document them clearly. By doing so, other boards can follow a good track in the future. Melissa is working on the exhibit documentation and she is close to completion. Lisa suggested that Melissa should document the parts that are available for display (inventory).

ACTION-3a: Serpil will document the menu organization and cooking procedures used for FON. Goal is to create a booklet to have for future reference. Deadline is set for the next TAAM board meeting.

ACTION-3b: Nergis will document and lay out a plan for organizing the dancers and practices through out the year. Our music needs to be in CD format and better quality. Nergis will retain a TASA member in her team to coordinate the students' participation in folk dance.

One of the issues raised from the FON feedback is that we need better and more outfits. Serpil is looking for a store rack so that it can be used as a portable wardrobe instead of having volunteers dig through the clothes for suitable sizes from the storage chest. Ilgin will try to find something like that at a relatively low cost. Esra is volunteering to make more outfits. Serpil has suggested asking the consulates for outfits.

ACTION-4: Evren suggested that we should ask the consulate in Chicago for outfit supply. Maybe a set of samples can be asked, that represents the local folklore from different parts of the country.

Change in Bylaws

ACTION-5: Lisa will convert the Bylaws and the Articles to Word format.

Effort has to be made on renewal of membership, to those who did not renew as the vote is granted with up-to-date membership. Targeted mailing to these people is suggested.

Here is part of the discussion around the change in bylaws: Minimum duration needs to be 2 years to implement long term board policies successfully. Roles and responsibilities needs to be clarified and better defined. Webmaster needs to be an integral part of the board. Non-profit organization board members signs time and duty commitment letters this will ensure participation and dependency on a process rather than individual heroism. Limiting the # of proxy one person can have, giving a defined proxy to limit violations. If a member does not show up at the election and does not give a proxy, member's vote goes along with the board's recommendation. This ensures results after one meeting for elections and voting.

ACTION-6: A task force needs to be established to study the possible changes to TAAM bylaws. Evren is leading the effort and will form a task force; suggested names for the team are Hicri, Zekeriya, Muzaffer. The first meeting is expected to be held in May in

order to get ready since the general assembly has to be informed 1 month prior to elections in order to change the bylaws.

Upcoming Events

- FON Volunteer Appreciation Event

This will be held in June 26, 2005. There can be another event in January, where TAAM will appreciate the volunteers that have helped throughout the year not specific to any single event. This will also help recruit volunteers for the upcoming events. 4 PM is suggested by Serpil. Istanbul Bistro will be the location. Kids will be free of charge; Serpil is working on it with Istanbul Bistro. Serpil will find out approximate number of kids. Buffet style with soft drinks and ayrans. Evren is working on the musicians, Erkan is providing input. Erkan will make a copy of their Turkish CDs. Volunteer's guest should come and pay for the guests. This does not apply for a spouse relationship as both spouses in turn volunteer even if only one is physically present for the event. We should profit from the guests, i.e. \$2-3 dollars of profit per guest. We should start planning and promoting this event. Deniz, Ilgin and Esra volunteered to help for the planning and promoting of the event.

- Hopkins Heritage Day, June 4th

Hakan will provide some food for the event and Evren will do Hacivat and Karagoz show. Erkan suggested that a friend does Ebru art.

ACTION-7: Erkan to follow-up on the friend who creates Ebru art, as an educational show during this heritage day. Erkan and TASA will participate on this, background and music will be provided by Erkan. Evren will communicate this to Melissa.

- 4th of July Picnic

Melissa and her team are leading this event. This can be co-performed with TASA. This has not been discussed in details during the board meeting.

- Student Welcome Picnic

This will be held in September. Esra brought up the mentoring program and this will be mentioned in the upcoming newsletter. If we get commitment, we will disclose it in the student welcome picnic.

- Apple Picking

No advance planning is required.

- Republic Day

Planning is beginning in May, Evren, Melissa and the sub team from social team will lead this event. Last year there were 145 people in attendance. Silent auction can be done to raise money.

Obtaining Outside Grants and Funds

There is work needed to get outside funds however the possibility is there. We need to establish a sub team for this task.

Here are few of the preliminary specific reasons for fund raising:

- New and traditional outfits are needed. Especially the FON feedback recommendations indicated this. October 29th, republic day is a good opportunity to make this happen.
- Using the Bazaar at the FON for income for TAAM. We need seed money to purchase items. Esra wants to chair this effort. We need a change in the bylaws to accommodate this need. Sahin very likely won't be doing this next year.
- Bringing Sultans of the Dance – may be a stretch goal.

Sefik provided his insight from his past experience in Switzerland and California. Here is some parts from his talk.

Money management is critical for the survival of an organization. Why do we need to raise money and where it will be spent, we need to clarify this properly. Sefik's past experience the purpose was to educate poor kids in Turkey. Gaining people's trust on the purpose is important. Everyone has access to the budget allocated for this purpose, transparency is a must. Maintaining the trust is the key. Told them precisely of what percentage of money went where. Organizations are looking for places to spent money, lot of opportunities.

Income possibilities:

- Special Membership (big amount) may need changing the bylaws. Formulate it such a way that the money will go to a big cause. Sefik's emphasis is in the education. Sefik's collaboration was with Turk Egitim Dernegi (TED).
- Big events
- Small events
- Other stuff: spreading culture, organizations that spread things in that line.

Following people expressed interest in the Fundraising Committee: Under Mualla's leadership, Melissa, Serpil, Evren, Erkan, Ismail, Evren Guler, Esra, Engin, Deniz, and Sefik.

There should be further sub groups under this overall fundraising group.

There should be a FUNDRAISER CHAIR in the board as a permanent position, which would require a change in the by-laws. Another action of interest is to have the clause to have the possibility to add up to 10 members to the board.

TAAM Logo

Establishing an identity through a logo is the goal. Currently, there is no TAAM logo. A designer is helping on this task free of charge. Sefik's recommendation is to have two-holding hands in the design to represent the education. Serpil suggests not dividing the state with two flags but somehow blending the two flags together. Evren will communicate these suggestions to the designer. Erkan presented the TASA logo that he and a fellow student designed together recently. It was very well received during the board meeting.

Consensus is to have TAAM members vote on several choices through email or on the website. Evren and Trent will coordinate this after the designer comes up with several alternatives.

Web Ads for Businesses

ACTION-8: Serpil will send a thank you note to Istanbul Bistro and Mapps Café. Trent will work on the design of the advertisement/pricing section.

Newsletter Items

Newsletter should be done before the 2nd week of June. Along with listing of the names of volunteers, calculate the dollar amount of work spent by the volunteers in order to show appreciation of the effort.

ACTION-9: Esra will try to employ the help of Pinar Akal, for the translation of newsletter into Turkish.

Here are few other topics that need to be added to the newsletter:

- Distinguished leadership award was presented to Mesut Senol at U, we should talk about it in the newsletter.
- Mentoring issue by Esra will be displayed in the newsletter.
- Put a space that says please renew your membership as of...
- Mention about the tax deductibility of the membership dues and voluntary expenses in the newsletter.

TAAM Board - Meeting Minutes – May 14th 2005

- Serpil suggested that we should post the board meeting minutes on the website. Mention that board meetings took place, and details can be found on the such and such section of the website.
- High school visits Edina and one other was visited during the week of FON.
- Esra proposed that we should increase the awareness of the need for temporary accommodations to the new students coming from Turkey. Temporary accommodation arrangement for new coming students will require some funds, and we can add this to the TAAM event for the October 29th as one of the other purposes of fundraising. Sefik proposes an adapt-a-TASA-member for the dinner ticket.
- All other items listed on the last slide of Evren's presentation.

ACTION-10: Specific targeted membership drive for the people who did not renew.

ACTION-11: Ilgin will call Ankara businesses for dresses (Cakikcilar Yokusu).

Wrap-Up

- **Next board meeting is set for JULY 9th Saturday, same location, 10 AM to 1 PM**
- Fundraising Committee Team, first meeting will be held on JUNE 18th, Saturday, 2 PM, meeting at Mualla Alkan's house: 10482 Golden Eagle Trail, Woodbury, MN 55129

Mualla Home: 651-340-7576

Mualla Cell: 908-727-3195