

TAAM Board Meeting – July 23rd 2006

Members attending meeting are Serpil Metin, Teslime Davies, Can Okandan and Engin Kalayci. Meeting was completed in 2 hours.

Action Item 1: The following people have paid their membership dues, we need to update the membership database: Aysem Senyurekli (student membership, \$12.50), Karen Kazim Celebli (family membership \$25.00). Engin will email the updated membership database to Serpil.

\$25 also donated during the picnic by Batur Tarhan, \$20 by Tim Grafe. We are grateful for their donations.

Action Item 2: We need to follow-up with the following people for TAAM membership: Esin Audette, Batur Tarhan, Kevin, Arcan, Ali from Red Wing.

Ali has 5-bedroom house and he is willing to host the students (5 of them) visiting from Turkey to study at William Mitchell College of Law. **Action Item 3:** Serpil will email the Dean of the Law School and find out whether they're willing to provide transportation to and from Red Wing, MN. In addition two more families have responded positively. **Action Item 4:** Also, Serpil will follow up with Karen for the \$100 donation promised by the college for the activities performed during the student welcome dinner.

There are 10 more people coming to Minnesota through MIC (Minnesota International Center) from Germany. Serpil and Pinar Tutuncu will join them during a lunch on next Friday.

Action Item 5: Serpil will follow-up with Erkan, to find out about how many board members are needed in TASA, perhaps Can Okandan and/or Teslime Davies could fill in in order to continue the presence of TASA. Both Can and Teslime are (or will become) students at the U of M. The student welcome party, which is typically held in September right around start of the classes may require our help for coordination of the dinner; we need to inquire this with TASA to find out what sort of help they might need. Can will talk to Erkan about this and what sort of help they might need from us.

Action Item 6: Can will coordinate with Esra for the transfer of TAAM account to Can as Can will assume the treasurer position in the board. Can has the money donated that needs to be deposited. Serpil has the state income tax return check and she will give it to Can very soon.

Action Item 7: Apple picking / Grape stumping: Teslime will look into it. Time is not set yet, perhaps end of September or early October. RSVP would help. No cost for TAAM. Can proposed that we do stuff like this more often, i.e. strawberry picking. We could make the invitation more attractive. For the apple picking for of things, Teslime will find out if and when Honeycrisp apples are available. This is the type that was developed by U of M and is perhaps the most popular apple type in the state.

Action Item 8: Republic Day's Dinner, October 29th, 2006: It is a Sunday. Nergis and Serpil are working on this. University Club, which is in St. Paul is available for 27 October Friday, 5 November Sunday (likely will be after the Ramazan bayrami). **Nergis** will talk to the Ud players that played in her sister's wedding. **Serpil** is also waiting to hear from Marquette Hotel as another alternative. She needs to follow that up with Esin Audette. We need a dedicated committee in order to make this event even more successful than last year's. Meral and Pinar Tutuncu will also participate in the committee, along with Serpil, Nergis, Lisa and Teslime. **Lisa** will work on getting a list together (William Mitchell, MIC, FGI, Turkish Consulate, Minnesota US Senators, Congressmen) to invite to the event. Serpil has a list she got from Tusiad at DC. We can invite him through the U of M, perhaps we can have a breakfast with the board and him, and he could participate during the Republic day's dinner. Serpil and Nergis will figure out the location until July 31st. The group has to meet in about 2 weeks to go over the Republic Day's dinner. **Engin** will call Manhattan Marmara to find out whether they could again donate 2-night stay vouchers for their hotel.

Other Issues Discussed:

We need to think about ways to improve our membership, incentives etc. Can suggested that we offer free first-year membership to those who are considering joining TAAM. We need to further discuss this perhaps after the Republic Day dinner preparations are well underway.

Erkan is graduting from U of M. We should check with Erkan whether he would like to participate in TAAM. Can and Serpil will talk to Erkan about this.