

AGAZI ALUMNI NEWS

Vol. 13 No. 2. Official Newsletter of Agazi School Alumni Association - North America April 2009

Agazi is a high school located in Adigrat, Tigray, Ethiopia.

TEXAS STYLE

The 14th annual meeting and fundraising night of ASAA – N.A. will be held in Texas July 4, 2009. Our Dallas hosts have been planning every aspect to make sure our stay is enjoyable. Although cancelled for programming and convenience purposes, a few hours drive from Dallas is Houston if you want to visit historic places and be near the water. For entertainment, we are expecting Tadesse Abraha (wedi kokeb) to join Selomon Haile, Tadesse G. and Yayne. We will have three singers for the first time.

Dallas has arranged a group discount rate at **Quality Inn** for lodging. This is also where the party and meeting will be held. You must reserve by June 12 to qualify for the discount. The address is

7815 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway
Dallas, TX 75251
The phone number: (972) 934-8668

DENVER 2008 Fundraising night held on January 18, 2009

The 2008 fundraising of Denver was held in January but the attendance much better than the summer of previous years partly thanks to Tadesse Abraha (wediKokeb). His presence we believe attracted more attendance and he did not disappoint. One thing that was not mentioned in the previous issue about Tadesse was he was supposed to play in the first scheduled program in September 2008. He arrived in Denver the same day we had the sad news of Solomon's accidental death. Even though they were not able to play as the event was cancelled, we asked them what we could do regarding their payment. Of course we had paid their expenses. Wedi kokeb refused to take any payment at all for something he did not work for. The other person insisted to be paid at least some. Even though we ended up paying half of our regular payment, Tadeses's response was very much appreciated. We are as usual grateful to Tom Lofland of Coors who made the event possible. Because of his dedication to

help our brothers and sisters back home, Coors Distributing covered all the expenses for the event besides donating beer for the evening. Thanks also to our Denver members who pitched in to send a congratulations gift for Tom's family welcoming their new addition.

Update on Current Projects

The fundraisings since 2007 have been for the construction of Teachers' Lounges in several high schools in Agame. So far, we received request and estimates from Bizet, Fatsi, and Dawhan high schools. Based on their proposals, we are happy to announce we have approved and are in the process of transferring the approved money to the schools. A total of US \$91,000 has been allocated for Bizet, Dawhan, Fatsi and Edaga Hamus. Yalem Birhan and Hawzein high schools have yet to send their proposals. We have sent a reminder letter.

Edaga Hamus high school requested the funding for the teachers' lounge be changed for another project because fire destroyed some of their properties. They were able to raise funds at the local and national level in Ethiopia and have now rebuilt most of what was lost. They are now asking us to assist them in building a lecture hall. They are planning to raise half of the money locally and are challenging us to raise the remaining half and the hall will be dedicated in the name of Agazi School Alumni Association N.A.

Financial report for January 18, 2009 Denver (Not audited)

| Source | Pledged | collected |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Donation | \$1,050 | \$3,870 |
| Donation from Coors to cover expenses | | \$3,000 |
| Tihlo auction | | \$619 |
| Coors item auction | | \$105 |
| Sale of drink at the event | | \$1,010 |
| Tickets sold pre-&at event | | \$4,660 |
| Total Pledge/collected | \$1,050 | \$13,264 |

| Expenses | |
|--|-------------------|
| Supplies | \$128.61 |
| Entertainment (includes rental & entertainers' fees) | \$2,078.77 |
| Expenses for cancelled Sept. event for entertainers etc. | \$768.82 |
| Total expense | \$2,976.20 |
| Net revenue collected | \$10,288 |

Update to paid pledge of July 2008

This list is for those who paid after the last newsletter. For those who paid at the event or later by November 2008, see Agazi Alumni News V13N1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Aregash Abrha | 200 |
| Abezu Abadi | 100 |
| Berhan Hailu & Kassa Hailemariam | 200 |
| Genet Tsehaye | 200 |
| Hailu Girmai | 200 |
| Sebhatu Mehari Gebre & Almaz | 200 |
| Teame Embaye (Dr.) | 500 |
| Zelalem Tsefay (Dr.) | 2000 |
| Mouz Atsbaha | 100 |
| Berhane Hagos | 300 |
| Queen of Sheba Restaurant | 300 |
| Hailemariam Assefa | 300 |
| Tesfai G.egziabher & Letebrhan Tesfai | 200 |

The following have pledged July 2008 (but not paid at the time of this publication).

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Asfaw Hadish | 300 |
| Azmera Hailu | 200 |
| Bruck Girmay | 500 |
| Ebeza Mezgebu | 100 |
| Elizabeth Mezgebu | 100 |
| Elsa Negusse | 100 |
| F. Haile Fessuh | 200 |
| Gabriel (G. Hiwot) Halefom | 200 |
| Gebretsadik Niree | 100 |
| Gebrewahid Woldu (Dr.) | 100 |
| Hagos Gebre | 150 |
| Hailemelkot Hagos | 100 |
| Rezene & Rigbe Berhe | 200 |
| Selamawit G. Selassie | 60 |
| Solomon Hagos | 200 |
| Teka Kelele Sahlu & Zebyideru | 100 |
| Tesfahun Kahsay Kidanu | 200 |
| Tesfaye Ambaye | 100 |
| Tilahun Beyene (Dr.) | 200 |
| Tsega Haile | 100 |
| Wihib Ambaye (Dr.) | 150 |
| Yohannes Woldegabriel | 300 |

Denver fundraising 2008 held in January 2009 (paid)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Abey Minase | 200 |
| Abraha Naizghi | 100 |
| Abraha W.Gebrial | 40 |
| Africana Restaurant | 100 |
| Alem Desta and Tsega T.Haimanot | 200 |
| Azeb Geday and Yohannes Berhe | 100 |
| Belay Berhe | 30 |
| Berhane Tesfai | 300 |
| Berzaf Ambaye (Awetash W. Gebregziabher) | 50 |
| Danayit Haile | 100 |
| Dr. Yemane W.Yohannes | 100 |
| Enderta Regional Development Association | 500 |
| Fitsum Gebru and helen Abebe | 100 |
| Giday Adumer and and Roman Hawku | 200 |
| Haile Abagobez and Yodit Desta | 200 |
| Haile G.Tsadikan and Roza | 100 |
| Hirut Gigar and Semere | 100 |
| Kidana Abera | 50 |
| Mebrahtu T.Haimanot and Yeshe G.Meskel | 250 |
| Medhin Abraha and Asmeret Kahsay | 100 |
| Negusse Hailu and Abnet Assefa | 200 |
| Okbamariam W.Gerima and Etenesh W.Gerima | 100 |
| Tom and Meaza Alemayo | 200 |
| Tsegay K.Mariam and Meaza Meles | 100 |
| Tsehaye Hailu | 50 |
| Tsighe Berhe | 100 |
| Tsegay W.Georgis and Azeb Gesesse | 200 |
| Yihdego Teklu and Tsega G.Egziabher | 50 |

From Denver event pledges (not paid)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Mulugeta Berhe and Rahel | 200 |
| Amanuel G. Gebre | 100 |
| Dawit Weldeselassie and Zufan | 100 |
| Hilina and Mulubrhan | 100 |
| Laake Gebre and Abrehet Gebregziabher | 100 |
| Mulu Alemayo and Negussie G.Tsadik | 100 |
| Tsegay Halefom | 100 |
| Genet Tesfay | 50 |

Amendments to the bylaws:

For the past 9 or so months, the Board has been discussing issues by teleconference on a monthly or so basis. One item that took most of our time has been reviewing and amending the bylaws. The following are changes that have been accepted by the board (a couple issues are still to be finalized) and we are asking members to read and come with comments for approval or change the proposed changes at the General Meeting on July 4, 2009.

Besides editorial changes, we made minor to major amendments in the following articles.

Article 4.2

Membership of any member not paying his/her dues by the end of each calendar year may be classified as a non active member and hence his/her voting right shall be revoked. (replaces the original ... may be suspended unless there is convincing explanation for the delay of payment.)

5.2 The Secretary (replaces Chairperson) shall notify all registered members about a forthcoming meeting

5.5 Any attendee of ASAA-NA is entitled to express his/her opinion at the annual meetings. However, only registered paying members shall have the right to vote or be elected and/or participate in the decision-making process of ASAA-NA.

5.6 A Chairperson of the Annual meeting shall be elected at the beginning of the annual meeting by the assembly; and his/her task will end at the conclusion of the general assembly.(added)

6. Board of Directors.

6.1 c) To gather dues from membership and income from all the Corporation's activities; It shall be the responsibility of local chapters to collect the dues from its members where applicable.(added)

6.2 A Board of Director may also serve as a committee member of his/her local chapter if elected.(replaces the original A Board of Director can also be the representative of a local chapter.)

6.5. COMPENSATION:

The Board shall receive no compensation for their services as Directors of the Board. However, the Board may authorize by resolution the reimbursement of expenses incurred by a Director, or anyone delegated by the board, in the performance of duties for the Corporation. Adequate receipts are required for submission of reimbursement. No loans shall be made by the Corporation to any member of the Corporation.

6.6. Officers:

The Officers of the Corporation shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a

Financial Secretary, Public Relations and Members at Large.

6.6.3 Secretary: Added responsibility: In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson the Secretary shall preside over meetings.

6.6.4. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the Corporation (including ASAA-NA chapters); receive and issue receipts for money due payable to the Corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such money in the name of the corporation and keep a written record of such. The Treasurer shall prepare the proposed annual budget and arrange for an audit in consultation with the board. The treasurer, with the help of Financial Secretary, shall prepare and report financial transactions to the Board on quarterly basis (every three months). The Treasurer shall be a co-signer of the accounts of the Corporation. The treasurer shall not make any disbursement of more than one hundred USA dollars (\$100) or its equivalent without a written consent of the Board, and authorization of the Chairperson. The Treasurer and any co-signer will be held responsible for any withdrawal without the written consent of the Board and authorization of the Chairperson.

An office of Financial Secretary was added to the board composition in this amendment with the following duties.

6.6.5. FINANCIAL SECRETARY (FS). The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for keeping copies of financial records of the association, present a full financial report from all chapters on a quarterly basis to the Board, with the first of such report due at the beginning of the Board term, and shall present such interim reports upon request by the General Assembly, or the Board of Directors. FS shall be a co-signer along with the treasurer on the association's bank accounts. The FS shall be responsible to notify members for membership fees and donors for their pledges. The FS shall be the designated filer of annual reports and tax returns required to maintain nonprofit status for ASAA-NA. In the event the FS needs professional assistance for filing taxes, FS together with the Treasurer shall prepare and provide all that is needed and requested by the professional.

6.6.6. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO).

The Public relations officer shall be responsible for gathering and disseminating information considered beneficial to the growth and development of the

Association; shall develop information and public relation systems that will create desirable and productive links between the association and the rest of the pertinent community in North America and anywhere else; shall design and maintain the association's website and Email list; shall design and organize programs and activities to expose the children to their cultures.

The position of Auditor(s) was removed from the bylaws since the Auditor(s) should be independent of the Board.

6.8.3. Deposits: All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation under conditions and in depositories as the Board may designate. Copies of deposit receipts must be filed.

9.3. Amendments or repeal of these bylaws may be proposed by a member of the Board or by a written request of at least one third of the voting members of the Corporation.

Replaces the original - Amendments or repeal of these bylaws may be proposed by a member of the Board or by a written request of at least five voting members of the Corporation.

Once the amendments of the bylaws are complete, we will start on working rules and regulations.

BIG THANK YOU

The Board would like to thank Brikity (Biki) Hagos for taking the challenge to make a nicer and convenient receipt books for ASAA.

We would like to thank also Tsega Haile for volunteering to sell videos from the 2008 event as she has done every year in the past.

Reminder

We will have a general meeting on Saturday July 4. The meeting will start at 9:00 AM. Since we are staying in the same place, we will start early.

Our Dallas hosts have arranged for a dinner on Friday evening for those who arrive by Friday. This will be a good opportunity to chat and mingle. Of course, there is the Sunday picnic as well for that.

Membership fees and pledges

If you have not paid your membership fees and past pledges, please either pay at your local chapter or at the event in Dallas.

Video of 2008

We still have several copies of the video (DVD) for the 2008 annual meeting and fundraising. For a copy, please contact DC or Denver chapters.

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