

SCHNELLER ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (SAFA)

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH IS REQUIRED

6/28/2011

6/25/2011 get-together minutes

1. Aziz Shalaby welcomed all the attendees. He thanked Rafik Elfar, Rita and John Dahdaly for their hard work in arranging the meeting place, and the delicious food and the music for the Dabke. Aziz relayed greetings from all who wished to be with us and wished us a happy get-together: Basil and Eva Rischmaui, Martin Schneller, Hartmut Brenner, Nimer & Lamia Haddad , George Haddad, Yeghia Yeghiayan, and Ghassan Shehadeh to name a few.
2. Nicolas Neaimi led us in singing the Schneller Hymn and Joe Habr read the invocation on behalf of Nimer Haddad. We took a moment of silence and prayer for those who departed this world: Lydia Mourad, Ursula Schneller, Adelbert Scheider, George Sim'an, and Hanna Khasho.
3. Aziz Shalaby made the following **announcements**:
 - A. **Friends**: We introduced our new friends
 - B. **Rabita**: A group of Alumni founded in Lebanon the **Rabita**. The Rabita bylaws and the July 17th meetings were announced and shared with the attendees. The decision was made that the Rabita is a chapter of SAFA which will be getting our total support for the benefit of the children and the management of the school. SAFA started an official membership with \$50 annual dues. See attached for detail.
 - C. **Schneller Foundation**: Martin Schneller encouraged us to support the Foundation and its mission. We resolved to raise 3,000 Euros for the Foundation. Initial pledges of \$1,500.00 came from John Naim and Aziz Shalaby.
 - D. **LBMS**: New LBMS officers are: President, Carl Shankweiler, Treasurer, Aziz Shalaby and Nimer Haddad as a new Board Member. Welcome Nimer.
 - E. **Izdihar's Wish: Shoes, Clothing & Other Personal Needs**: Shoe fundraising program came about from Izdihar Kassis' wish for badly needed shoes. Milhem Neaimi supplied the shoes to the children by matching a donation from Aziz Shalaby. Joe Habr proposed the expansion of the shoes fund raising project to include other needs. The proposal was received with great enthusiasm. The attached indicates funds raised for the program. To encourage donors, Joe has offered to match donations up to \$1000. (See attached for detail).
4. **Treasurer's Report**: Aziz Shalaby thanked the alumni for their generosity in contributing over \$30,000 to the school since the inception of SAFA, 11 years ago.
5. **Volunteerism**: Elias Abd-Elmassih led the discussion by presenting a passionate and detailed report on Mehgan's (his daughter) experience as an 8 months volunteer at the school. A written report from Mehgan with dates, names and detailed description of the problems which need to be presented in order to give the issues credibility. Based on the discussions and information from different sources we resolved to offer some recommendations about how we can further support the program.
 - A. A minimum age, education and experience need to be established.
 - B. Volunteerism needs to be discussed thoroughly with the volunteers and the staff and students at the school. What is and is not volunteerism need to be explained: it is not a vacation, it is not a social experience, it is hard work, and it is a total commitment to the children and the school. School employees and students need to know that: it is a gift and sacrifice by the volunteers. Volunteers need to be recognized by the students and the school for their dedication and exemplary work.

C. Cultural differences need to be explained: lifestyles, traditions, sexual behaviors. Volunteers need to know what to expect in living conditions and how to behave.

6. **Committees: Events and Membership Committee:** Nick Neaimi, Ramzi Otaki, Rafik Elfar and John Dahdaly are the committee for deciding the place and the date of events and ways to improve membership and attendance.
Nominating committee: A new committee was formed whose mission is to determine continuation of the Association by appointing members to important functions when needed. This committee is composed of Joe Habr, John Naim, Basil Rischmaui and John Dahdaly.
7. **Keynote speaker:** John Naim reiterated our commitment to the mission of the school accepting all religious denominations, our support to the management of the school and the Board in Beirut. He cited some examples (land exchange) of the soundness of their decisions and living up to their policies.
8. **Remembering Schneller :** Nicolas Neaimi, as is the habit, dazzled us with his beautiful 'Ataba', Dabke, anecdotes, stories about the school. He spoke of the Erpfingen celebrations for remembering and honoring Aboona Hermann Schneller.
9. **Group Participation:** everyone in the group expressed their concern.
10. **Adjournmet:** meeting was adjourned

Money Received in Niagara Falls
25-06-11

Donor	Amount	Membership	Izdihar		US\$	C\$	Cash Total
Abadie, Pierre	150	50	100		\$	\$	
Abd- Elmassih, Elias	100	50	50	1*100	100.00	4*100	400.00
Abou Eid, Elias	100	50	50	2*50	100.00	4*50	200.00
Al-Far, Rafik	150	50	100	10*20	200.00	27*20	540.00
Alfar, Samir	150	50	100	2*5	10.00	3*10	30.00
Boulos, Ibrahim	100	50	50		410.00	1,170.00	1,580.00
Dahdaly, John	150	50	100		\$		
Habr, Joe	1060	50	10	Pledge	1,000.00		
Issa, John	150	50	100				
Mseis, Elias	70	50	20				
Naim, John	100	50	50				
Nieimi, Nicolas	50	50					
Otaki, Ramzi	150	50	100				
Rahal, Kameel	50	50					
Shalaby, Aziz	50	50					
	<u>2580</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>830</u>				