

DAWC Meeting Minutes  
Mandatory Executive Board Meeting  
August 25, 2006  
American Club Bougainvillea Room

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Attendees: Laura Bonapace, Ratna Cary, Elizabeth Corbin, Star Faruque, Lori Imdad, Maria Islam, Juditha Ohlmacher, and Melanie Rubenstein.

- Ø The meeting called to order and the minutes of the last meeting (June 16) were read.
- Ø Election of Officers: as per last year's amendment to the constitution, only three Officers of the Board (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) were elected. Lori Walsh, Ratna Cary, & Juditha Ohlmacher came forward respectively for the three positions, and were not contested. Each was elected by unanimous vote of all present.
  - President      Lori Walsh
  - Treasurer     Ratna Cary
  - Secretary     Juditha Ohlmacher
- Ø Activities Committees:
  - Dasher:      Laura offered to continue publishing the Dasher, although in an electronic format.
  - Charities:    Star and Elizabeth volunteered to form the Charities committee.
  - Cookbook:    Melanie volunteered to head a Cookbook committee.
- Ø Activities Planning: The date of October 28 for the Children's Halloween Party was decided upon. By holding it from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm it would dovetail with the CLO's annual Trick or Treating. CLO and the ARA would need to be contacted. Decorations were inquired after. Ratna said she did not have many. Melanie offered to explore via Embassy channels.
- Ø Fall Tea Invitations: Invitations have been finalized. Maria was given the go-ahead to print 200 invitations. Blank invitations must be given to the CLO to distribute. Elizabeth also asked for some to distribute among her sources. Ratna said she had extra envelopes.
- Ø Fall Tea Food: Last year's budget was Tk. 25,000, with little food left over. As this year's food will be all vegetarian, it was anticipated that even with higher prices at the ARA, DAWC would still be under-budget. Laura suggested using another caterer but Elizabeth pointed out that they tend to be higher priced as well. Maria volunteered to drive the food arrangements.
- Ø Fall Tea Entertainment: The trio who played at the Spring Tea were universally praised. Star suggested that they be called again as they were very good as well as appropriate to the type of party. Juditha volunteered to make the arrangements.
- Ø Newcomer's Coffee @ the American School: Being held on Sunday, Aug 27. Ratna researched the issue and said that we could have a table where we could say a little about ourselves, sign up members, and sell Yellow Pages. Starts at 10am. Ratna will confirm. Ratna, Maria, Elizabeth, Lori and Juditha volunteered to go.
- Ø Leftover receipt books, forms, and Yellow Pages: since no new receipt books or membership forms have been printed yet, it was agreed to use last year's books and forms for the Sunday Newcomer's Coffee. Maria said that originally 10 receipt books had been published, but currently only 4 could be accounted for. Maria said she had contacted Teri Selmser about any leftover Yellow Pages from Laura Sinkler's office. However, there no one knew about them. They asked for time to look through the office. Lori said she would contact Laura Sinkler via email.
- Ø Annual Fee: It was suggested that the annual fees be raised, as the devaluation of the Taka has made many things such as ARA food more expensive. Raising the fees would help to offset this loss. An increase to Tk. 1,000 was thought to be appropriate and in some ways more convenient for many. A vote was taken to raise the annual fees to TK. 1,000 was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- Ø Treasurer's Report: Maria reported that the DAWC currently has Tk. 1,49,000 in its Standard Chartered account, which coincides with the separate records kept by her throughout last year. However, this amount is down almost half from last year, which was also down half from the year before. Maria pointed out that last year many activities which traditionally brought in money, such as the Luau, either brought in less or only broke even.
- Ø NGO Issue: Maria reported that the bank is no longer actively asking us to be registered as an NGO, but it was felt that doing so would be beneficial to DAWC and give us protection if the bank again brings up the issue. Ratna as the new Treasurer will pursue this issue.
- Ø Standard Chartered Authorization: The bank would need to be officially informed of the new Board Officers, Lori and Ratna. A cover letter on DAWC letterhead with their signatures will need to be composed and attached with the minutes of the meeting showing their election. Ratna and Maria will pursue this issue at their earliest convenience.
- Ø Activities: Laura mentioned that historically the DAWC was a sister organization with the ARA and American School, but pointed out that somehow those relationships have become strained and many women feel that DAWC is just a burden. Laura asked, "What's in it for them?" All agreed and felt that there should be better communication with the ARA, American School and Embassy. Also, more light, social activities should be held for nominal or no fee to help appeal to a more diverse group of women. Suggestions were made for a Chocolate & Champagne party, Dinner Cruise, and Fashion Shows. It was agreed to bring it up at the Fall Tea and sign up women then for activities. Juditha volunteered to make a big board where people could sign up.
- Ø Christmas Bazaar: Due to perceived bad blood with the BWA, it was decided to do the Christmas Bazaar solo. Lori agreed to find out when the BWA was holding their bazaar so there would be no scheduling conflict. Lori will also speak to the ARA regarding their willingness to hold it on their grounds.
- Ø Christmas Bazaar Location: Laura said in the past when it was held at the ARA instead of the massive ISD field it was more pleasant. However one problem was that raffle tickets were at one point considered gambling and thus not allowed on US government property. A solution was suggested whereby the ticket price would be slightly higher but include a raffle ticket. Also it was pointed out that the Hawaiian Luau sold raffle tickets and was held on the ARA premises, so perhaps it was no longer a problem. Ratna suggested the American School grounds as an alternative and would pursue.
- Ø Christmas Bazaar Vendors: Laura and others expressed a desire to see more dynamic and higher quality booths this year, including places like Aranya or Jatra. All liked the idea.
- Ø Cookbook: Melanie expressed the desire to resurrect the long-neglected Cookbook. She felt that it should be like the *Bideshi Baburchi*, which is both in English and Bangla. It was felt that this could not be completed by Christmas, but perhaps by Easter. All agreed to request original submissions at the Fall Tea, as well as via other organizations, such as the Lions Club, Asean, or Hispanic Women's Club.
- Ø Fall/Winter Activities Dates: It was agreed to hold the Caroling at the Ambassador's on December 7, and Rickshaw Caroling on December 14. However, no Children's party would be held due to the overwhelming obligations on parents just before winter break. The Embassy must be contacted regarding these dates. It was decided to hold the Chocolate & Champagne Party on October 13, to kick off the new social activities for the year. Melanie agreed to look into obtaining Champagne.
- Ø Membership Forms: The new membership form was approved. Juditha will have them printed in time for the Fall Tea.

- Ø Honorary Members: It was agreed to ask the Holy Sisters, CLO's Maria Manzie, and the American School PTA Chairwoman to be honorary members, and to ask the Ambassador to be the Honorary President.
- Ø Expenses at the ARA: No expenses should be incurred by individual DAWC members. Any expenses will be invoiced to the "DAWC Treasurer" and paid directly by her.
- Ø Next Meeting: Saturday morning 10:00am, September 9, ARA Rooftop. The next meeting will be to re-visit the above issues, address any missed items, and finalize for the Fall Tea. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juditha Ohlmacher  
Secretary