

2008 ASEI-NCC General Body Meeting Minutes

The meeting was successfully held with the following attendees:

- Mr. Anand Badugu
- Mr. Anurag Shukla
- Mr. Barin Nag
- Mr. Chaturbhuj Gidwani
- Mr. G.S. Sridhar
- Mr. Harbans Dhuria
- Ms. Manasa Anand
- Mr. Ranendra K. Bose
- Mr. Ravi Laljani
- Mr. Sant Gupta
- Mr. Shanmukh Kori
- Mr. Shiva B. Anand
- Mr. Sudhanshu Sinha
- Mr. Sanjeev Khudanpur
- Mr. Shailan Mandyam
- Mr. Surajit Sengupta
- Mr. Ravi Damera
- Mr. Salil Choudhary

The meeting started off with Mr. Barin Nag heading the Registration of 2008 Membership. Twelve people registered and became 2008 members. The total membership dues collected was \$200.

Ms. Manasa Anand welcomed everyone to the meeting and got the meeting started. Everyone helped themselves with light lunch that was arranged for the meeting. During lunch a self introduction of all the members took place. This was followed by briefing of the planned agenda for the meeting.

Mr. G.S. Sridhar, President of the Chapter during 2007, provided an overview of the organization and reviewed the recent history of the organization and the efforts since 2006 to re-vitalize it. He provided a recap of last year's activities, including the National Convention and the completion of the membership database. He described the activities of the ASEI Foundation, which has taken on a project to provide sanitation to a rural community in Maharashtra State in India.

Mr. Ravi Laljani then talked about the challenges facing the organization.

All of us are involved with various groups: professional, cultural, religious, etc. and have a busy social calendar. With all the competition for our team, ASEI must offer something useful to its members. Some stated goals of the organization are networking, career guidance, technology transfer and business guidance. However, turnout and participation have been poor, and perhaps we are not meeting the needs of our members.

We need ideas to change that. Perhaps we need to focus on stimulating talks, or becoming a mini-think tank with groups of ASEI members specializing in certain subject areas. We can try to recruit interesting speakers on topics of current interest, such as

- Global warming and the impact on our lifestyles
- How will globalization affect the engineering profession and potential business opportunities?
- How technology will change our lives in the next 10 years

We can collaborate with other groups, e.g., India Forum, USIBC. We need a membership drive, improve our web site, resume the newsletters, and attract new talent to the board and to ASEI committees. We can also host interesting family-oriented activities such as a picnic

He described the structure of the chapter's management, including the board of directors, the various task-oriented committees, and invited volunteers for the board and committees. The following members volunteered to serve on the board:

Mr. Ravi Damera
Dr. Sanjeev Khudanpur
Ms. Sriranganayaki Mandyam

Therefore the complete 9 member board for the year 2008 is as follows:

- Mr. Ravi Laljani
 - Dr. Ravi Sharma
 - Mr. Anurag Shukla
 - Mr. G.S. Sridhar
 - Ms. Rosemary Fernandes
 - Dr. Sanjeev Khudanpur
 - Ms. Sriranganayaki Mandyam
 - Mr. Ravi Damera
 - Ms. Manasa G. Anand
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The following new members volunteered to serve on the committees:

- Business Liaison Committee – Mr. Surajit Sengupta
- Events/Seminar Committee – Mr. Salil Choudhary

The other committees discussed were:

- Newsletter Committee
- Media Communications Committee – Ms. Rosemary Fernandes
- Advisory Committee – Mr. Bharat Doshi
- Membership Committee – Mr. Barin Nag

During the discussion, members brought up several ideas for revitalizing the organization, including the following:

Selection of high profile speakers (Mr. Sudhanshu Sinha)
Development of a brochure for ASEI-NCC, to be handed out at various venues (Mr. Ravi Damera)
Selecting a meeting venue closer to Northern Virginia (Mr. Sant Gupta)
Contacting various corporations to encourage them to become corporate members (Mr. Barin Nag)
Examples were shared of how some professionals met and networked at the ASE-NCC meetings and how it helped them improve their businesses tremendously. (Mr. Shiva Anand)
Defining the goals of the organization and developing a USP for the group, to distinguish it from various other groups (Mr. Salil Choudhary)
Having meetings on a fixed schedule (Mr. Dhuria)
Reaching out to other organizations, e.g., USINPAC (Mr. Barin Nag)
Expanding the web site to include a portal for services offered by ASEI members and their companies (Mr. Anand Badugu)

The meeting was adjourned with everyone agreeing to the commitment of active participation in the future.

Thanks,
Mr. Ravi Laljani
Ms. Manasa Anand