



CMEAA
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2021 | Noon EST
Meeting held online via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Manal Saab- Chair
Michael Romaya- Vice Chair
John Daoud- 2nd Vice Chair
Lina Hourani-Harajli- Treasurer
Suzanne Sukkar- Secretary
Dr. Nabeel Obeid- Trustee
Dave Abdallah
Amal Berry

Adel Mozip
Fay Beydoun
Susan Dabaja
Nabeleh Ghareeb
Jaleelah Ahmed
Nadine Kalasho
Martin Manna

Officials and Staff: Assistant AGs Tonya Jeter and David Cannon (Civil Rights Office) and Alexander Sahouri (CMEAA Administrator).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Saab at noon eastern declaring 100% attendance by the commissioners. Chair Saab welcomes two new appointed commissioners to CMEAA:

1. Commissioner Jaleelah Ahmed, appointed for a term commencing May 26, 2021, and expiring April 19, 2025.
2. Commissioner Amal M. Berry, appointed for a term commencing May 26, 2021, and expiring April 19, 2025

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion made by Commissioner Abdallah and seconded by Commissioner Mozip, the Commission approved the meeting agenda of June 2nd as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On Motion made by Secretary Sukkar and seconded by Commissioner Daoud, the Commission approved the meeting minutes of March 2nd as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lina Hourani-Harajli presented the FY21 April Budget to Actual. She informed the Commission that the increase in LEO cost allocation's is due to the Administrator's increased communication and work with LEO Comms and Finance departments. Also, that the proposed spending motions ahead in the meeting would be in line with our budget, and that the Commission is in good standing in terms of spending our budget.

On Motion made by Commissioner Mozip and Seconded by Commissioner Dabaja, the Commission approved the Treasurer's report as presented for FY21 April Budget to Actual. Motion carries unanimously.

V. STATE UPDATE

No report.

VI. LEO/OGM UPDATE

No report.

VII. AALF INTERNSHIP FUNDING PROPOSAL

The commission was joined by Rima Meroueh on behalf of the Arab American Leadership Fund to discuss a funding proposal that would provide stipends to MEA Michiganders placed by the AALF internship program in State and Federal Government.

Commissioner Ghareeb asked if AALF is a new non-profit or if it was running out of an existing agency; Rima responded clarifying that AALF is not a non-profit and that it is a fund through the center for Arab American Philanthropy. Commissioner Ghareeb expressed appreciation of the initiative and that sentiment was echoed by Commissioner Kalasho.

Chair Saab relinquished the Chair to Vice Chair Romaya for the duration of the meeting.

Commissioner Abdallah asked if AALF would primarily place interns in Michigan or DC; Rima responded that most of their interns are federal because of the pandemic but the plan is to place more Michigan interns as the State opens back up.

Secretary Sukkar also expressed appreciation for the initiative and asked if the priority is placing Michigan students in the internships; Rima responded that no, that they have advertised with all organizations in their national network willing to help, but that the funds they are requesting today would only go towards placing Michigan students in internships. Secretary Sukkar ended by saying that she would like to see the criteria to evaluate what students are placed in the internships.

On Motion made by Secretary Sukkar and Seconded by Commissioner Abdallah, the Commission approved a grant of \$30,000 for the AAFL to support its 2021 internship/leadership program in placing Michigan candidates to internships at the state and federal level. *Motion carries unanimously*

VIII. CMEAA ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Attached is the Administrator's Report along with a copy of the bylaws with proposed revisions. The Administrator kindly asks that the Commissioners review the proposed bylaw changes before we vote on them during the September meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. EHRA

Commissioner Mozip briefly reminded the Commission on EHRA and its work in environmental research and advocacy, and especially MEA youth engagement. Commissioner Dabaja echoed the support for EHRA, saying that environmental issues especially effect our communities in Southeast Michigan and that she is proud our for becoming engaged.

On Motion made by Commissioner Daoud and Seconded by Treasurer Harajli, the Commission approved a grant of \$10,000 to EHRA to support its 2021 internship program as presented. And an additional \$10,000 pending in 2022. *Motion carries unanimously*

B. UMS

On Motion made by Commissioner Ghareeb and Seconded by Secretary Sukkar, the Commission approved to grant \$10,000 to UMS in June to support its 2021 MEA programing with an additional \$10,000 to follow in October for MEA Spring 2022 programming. *Motion carries unanimously*

C. AAHC

The Commission was joined by Devin Bathish, Executive Director of the Arab American Heritage Council to report on how CMEAA's funding to AAHC was spent. Review the attached report.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

X *Suzanne Sukkar*

Suzanne Sukkar
Secretary

X *Manal B. Saab*

Manal B. Saab
Chair