

Minutes of California Maher Community (CAMC) Meeting

Date: Saturday 3/15/03

Location: Marco Polo Motel, Visalia

23 Attendees:

Kailesh Karavadra & Hena Karavadra
Kana Khunti & Jayu Khunti
Muru Khunti, Manju Khunti, Sanjay Khunti & Amit Odedra
Prafula Khunti
Arshi Malde & Indu Malde
Ashok Odedra, & Priti Odedra
Harish Odedra & Shilpa Odedra
Thebaji Odedra, Hansa Odedra & Santok Odedra
Uday Sisodia & Sangeeta Sisodia
Naresh Sisodiya, Shantu Sisodiya & Vikram Sisodiya

Items Discussed

Date for Samelan:

The date discussed & agreed by all California members in the meeting for the 2003 Samelan was the Thanksgiving weekend 2003. The actual dates are 11/27/2003 to 11/30/2003.

California Samelan Executive Committee:

A group of seven members was assigned to the executive committee to coordinate the Samelan.

The Executive Committee members are:

- Vikram Sisodiya
- Sanjay Khunti
- Prafula Khunti
- Kana Khunti
- Ashok Odedra
- Uday Sisodia

In addition to the above, the following were appointed:

- Kailesh Karavadra – Samelan treasurer
- Amit Odedra – Coordinator/General Secretary

ALL correspondence regarding the Samelan MUST be addressed to the seven people listed above.

These committee members have agreed to meet via phone at least once every two weeks to coordinate the activities leading up to the Samelan and discuss progress of actions assigned.

The CA members also selected Kana Khunti to communicate progress to Kanabhai Modhwadia & the NAMC committee. Kana will contact NAMC on Monday 3/17/03 to provide information about the Samelan dates & find out if that is agreeable to NAMC.

The executive committee is in place to coordinate & oversee the Maher Samelan held by California Members.

California Sub-Committee:

All other California members were recognized as being part of the California sub-committee. They will provide full support and participation in every aspect of the Samelan organization but the main decisions will be made & communicated by the Executive Committee.

They will provide suggestions, pricing information and consultation to the Executive Committee so that the Executive Committee can take into consideration all the suggestions and select the best options.

During the actual Samelan, the Executive Committee & the sub-committee will be responsible for managing the day-to-day activities and organizing the volunteers.

Proposed program for Samelan.

Wednesday, November 26-

Organizers arrive in Las Vegas.

Thursday November 27-

Afternoon/Evening - registration, welcome meeting, information pack distributed (containing details of programs, Las Vegas, optional excursions, etc).

Friday, November 28-

Breakfast 8:00am-10:00am

Lunch/Program 12:00pm-4:00pm (Traditional Raas Garba performances, followed by everyone joining in),

4:00pm- ? Scavenger Hunt for the youth. Free evening for others.

Saturday, November 29-

Breakfast and Quiz, 8:00am-10:00am

Optional excursions 10:30am – 3:00pm (e.g. Sports Day/Picnic/Trip to Hoover Dam),

Dinner/Program 4:00pm-11:00pm (Film song performances, Awards, DJ dance, photo sessions).

Sunday, November 30-

Breakfast, Goodbyes 8:00am-12:00pm

Hotels

As discussed in the meeting a list of different options are being looked at for a hotel to hold the event.

The front runner at the moment is the **Stratosphere Hotel**. This option is being looked into by Arshibhai Malde

All sub-committee members were encouraged to inquire about possible locations for the Samelan & let the executive committee know as soon as possible.

Here are requirements needed for the location:

- 75 Rooms
- Option for outside catering (Indian Veg/Non Veg)
- Meeting Hall to accommodate 200+ members
- Location close to Las Vegas Strip

- Other things to look into:
 - Shuttle service to and from hotel
 - Shuttle service to Strip if hotel is away from strip

RSVP Date for Samelan

An RSVP date of **June 30th 2003** has been set. All Maher pariwar members who wish to attend the Samelan must reply their confirmation to the committee by this time. Appropriate invitations & forms will be sent out to the Maher community in the near future for the RSVP.

Food:

The firm commitment from the CAMC is to provide the following:

- Lunch on Friday 11/28/03
- Dinner on Saturday 11/29/03.

Further information & discussion required regarding the following:

- Breakfasts on Friday, Saturday & Sunday – cost still being investigated before definite agreement
- Suggestion that both American and Indian Snacks be offered throughout the event was also made but this needs further pricing.

Samelan Brochure:

It was discussed & agreed that a brochure be put together to give out to members who attend the Samelan.

The brochure would include historical articles, photos, facts about Maher culture, poems, articles, artwork, Maher achievements and awards along with various items from Maher youths.

Advertising in the Brochure

It was suggested & agreed that advertising space be made available to businesses to help pay for some of the expenses (brochures printing, prizes, Samlean memorabilia, etc).

The agreed cost for the advertising is as follows:

Back outside cover \$500
Front and back inside cover \$400
Full page \$250
Half page \$150
Quarter page \$75

It was also agreed that we should not limit the advertising sponsors to just Maher Community.

Donation & Pledges

In order to raise funds for NAMC and for Samelan cost, donations and pledges will be accepted from Maher families. With minimum pledge of \$50 per household.

Name Badges:

It was agreed that name badges will be provided for all members attending to help everyone to get to know each other better.

T-Shirts:

It was suggested that T-Shirts be given to all members who attend. The T-Shirt's would be designed by some of our Maher Youths. We encourage Maher Youth's from California to come up with a design we can put on the T-Shirt. Suggestions for the T-Shirt design should be themed around our community and our culture.

Banners and Signs:

Signs and banners would have to be created along with other items to help decorate the hall.

Printing costs still to be obtained. Priti Odedra & Uday Sisodia will investigate further regarding printing of T-shirts, banners, brochure, etc.

Childrens Goody Bags:

Suggestion that goody-bags containing various toys, coloring books, crayons etc., would be handed out to the children that attend the Samelan.

Video/Photo:

Suggestions to hire a Video/Photographer was mentioned. Prafula Khunti is looking into this.

Fund raised from California Maher attendees:

It was agreed that all California Members in attendance at the meeting would donate \$100 per family to help with initial incidental expenses that will occur in setting up the Samelan.

A total of 14 families reside in California. 10 of the families were able to attend the first meeting and a total of \$1000.00 was collected from the following families:

Arshi Malde & Family - \$100.00
Kana Khunti & Family - \$100.00
Thebaji Odedra & Family - \$100.00
Naresh Sisodiya & Family - \$100.00
Kailesh Karavadra & Family - \$100.00
Harish Odedra & Family - \$100.00
Muru Khunti & Family - \$100.00
Prafula Khunti - \$100.00
Uday Sisodia & Family - \$100.00
Ashok Odedra & Family - \$100.00

Total Collected: \$1000.00

Note from the Executive Committee regarding the meeting held on 3/15/03:

The meeting was very positive and it was obvious to the Executive Committee that the CAMC was fully supportive of the Samelan and there is a lot of good energy & teamwork already.

We would all like to say ‘Thank You’ to the Visalia/Dinuba families (Arshibhai Malde, Induben Malde, Murubhai Khunti, Manjuben Khunti, Thebajibhai Odedra, Hansaben Odedra & families) for hosting the meeting this weekend and for providing the hospitality to the other CA members who traveled from San Diego, Los Angeles & the Bay Area.

However a special ‘Thank You’ goes to Arshibhai & Induben Modhwadia for arranging for the location & food for the meeting on Saturday (and for providing lodgings in their motel for some of the families).

California Maher Community Contact Information:

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