



American Lebanese Engineering Society

www.ales-usa.com

ALES Members and Friends Meeting

When: Monday, June 12, 2006, at 7:00 PM

Where: Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church, Jamaica Plain, MA

Note: Refreshments will be provided

Attendees:	David Abichaker	Hani Al-Dayaa
	Salim Ayas	Charles Sacre
	Nabil Hourani	Tonu Sourafim
	Jean Farah	Marc Abou Joudi
	Tony Abi David	Elie Baghdadi
	Michel Hajjar	

***NOTE:** These meeting minutes are prepared by ALES secretary Salim Ayas and reviewed by ALES president Hani Al-Dayaa.*

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and Introduction

Hani A. started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. 2005-2006 ALES Boston-Chapter Summary of Accomplishments

Hani A. thanked all the members and friends of the society for their hard work and effort as the 2005-2006 period turned out to be a successful year for ALES by energizing the society and re-establishing the link with the ALES community. The following highlights were presented:

- Built an active website for the whole organization: ales-usa.com.
- Re-organize the chapter memberships.
- Built connections with student bodies in major MA universities, especially the student club at MIT and students at BU, UMASS, NEU, and Harvard University.
- Initiated connections with universities in Lebanon, such as the University of Balamand (UOB). Actions will be taken in the future to try to establish a student chapter at UOB and expand connections to include other universities in Lebanon.

- Re-established support for cultural and social events, such as Gibran a Child of life and the pre-TECHLEB|06 social event.
- Emphasis on the scholarship program: ALES established a stable scholarship program over the past year. We thank the sponsors and hope to build on this momentum and add to the program.
 - 1) Charles Zraket Scholarship - \$1,000 yearly pledge for five years commitment.
 - 2) Ackel Jreige Scholarship - \$500 yearly pledge for five years commitment.
 - 3) ALES Scholarship – Through ALES membership and events proceeds.
- Revived the tradition of honoring outstanding engineers...This year, we honored Mr. Nassib Chamoun, president and CEO of Aspect Medical Systems. We hope to continue with this tradition as it brings lots of pride to all the Lebanese community by hearing about these successful stories and presenting these outstanding engineers as role models for the American Lebanese community.
- Organized a successful annual dinner...We had over 85 attendees in this year's annual dinner. A sense of community was re-established with members and friends, and it was a great event.
- Emphasis on the role at TECHLEB06:
 - 1) Sponsor and Advisory Partner: ALES was one of the sponsors of TECHLEB|06.
 - 2) Poster and Brochures: ALES had a poster and brochures station at the main lobby of the conference, and lots of people were eager to learn about ALES, and some have joined the society.
 - 3) ALES strong participation in the TECHLEB06 conference was visible and led to a number of good contributions to the conference.
 - 4) The minister of culture, the only minister who represented the Lebanese government at the conference, was invited through ALES.
- Emphasis on the affiliation with INLET: Hani A. summarized the talks that have been taking place between ALES and INLET in term of creating an INLET affiliation program, something that ALES will be part of, and both ALES and INLET will benefit from it. David A., a co-founder of INLET, gave a little introduction about INLET, talked about the purpose and long-term goals.

3. ALES National

a. Current status of ALES National and the Orlando and Philadelphia chapters

It appears that the Orlando and Philadelphia chapters have been inactive for quite sometime, and the ALES national board is unable to perform its role due to the busy schedules of its members.

b. How to convey the Boston-chapter success at the national level – Your Proposals

Dr. Elie Baghdadi thanked Hani for his hard work and perseverance in keeping all members and friends informed and involved with ALES. Dr. Bagdadi suggested the addition of another dimension to ALES by doing organizing seminars and inviting distinguished speakers preferably Lebanese leaders or of Lebanese origin. Dr. Baghdadi participated in couple of events where he had series about technology and would like to see a series of seminars along those lines....

Michel H. applauded Hani again for his leadership and asked him to continue with the momentum by going national under the Boston chapter directions.

Charles S. suggested the invitation of the chairmen of companies for giving entrepreneurial seminars on how to start a business that will attract lots of interest from ALES members and friends...

This year we had TECHLEB|06, and we supported Bernard Khoury's, a famous architect, lecture at MIT.

Charles S. suggested that because of the Boston significant strategic location, we should capitalize on the presence of technological universities in the Boston area....

Amin Harb Florida chapter still taking care of the national taxes etc...and we should give him a role.

Tony Abi David asked whether there was any relationship with AIA and BSA. Hani asked him to provide more information about the organizations and bridge us with them since Tony A. already has connections with them.

Nabil H. suggested that the National board structure shall include other members and contact can via email, video conferencing and/or tele-conferencing. Structure of the national chapter should be representative of all the chapters.

David A. suggested even if they are not active they should be included. This encourages those who are on the fence to make a move...

Hani agreed that we should include everyone, but we need to start somewhere first, and the only active chapter currently is the Boston one. We need to start somewhere: from the Boston chapter to the national chapter....

Charles emphasized that the previous national board failed.... We need to know why they failed so that we can learn from their mistakes.

Charles suggested that the National board come from Boston and sends an invitation to the people from Florida, Philadelphia, etc.

Michel H. summarized two ideas:

- 1) Boston chapter will act as a National Board. Do you absorb the national role and be the chapter playing dual role?
- 2) Have two boards: one local and one national.

Show them the model how to create a chapter. National board will direct them and guide them.

Hani supported the idea of having the Boston chapter board act as the national board to a period of time until other chapters are active. Then, the national board will change to include representatives from all active chapters....

Hani suggested that he will start contacting these folks at the national level by inviting them and based on his experience of last year Hani can give them some hints on how to get started by establishing a chapter and how to get things moving in already-established chapters..

Michel H. put a motion for voting: The Boston chapter will act as the national chapter for year, during which it will work to have the current chapters active and establish new ones. After the year period, all active chapters will participate in selecting a national president who will appoint the national board based on ALES constitution. Hani seconded the motion. Everyone then voted in agreement with it.

4. Open....

5. *Have a great and safe summer!*

ACTION ITEMS:

1. After this meeting, Hani A. will draft the plan in an email and send it to the members and friends, so those who didn't attend the meeting are given the chance to comment on it, oppose it, etc.