

Beit Sahour USA First Convention Report

December 15, 2020



Overview

Beit Sahour USA conducted its first convention on Saturday November 14, 2020. Due to covid-19 pandemic, the entire program was conducted virtually using WebEx technology with live streaming on the organization Facebook page. Some of our active Michigan members attended the convention from our main headquarter office.

The convention was divided into two parts: a public celebration part and a formal internal affairs part. The public part of the convention features many honorable guest speakers:

- Archbishop Atallah Hanna, the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem.
- Dr. Riyad Mansour, a Palestinian-American that serve as Palestine Ambassador at the UN
- Mr. Jehad Khair, Mayor of Beit Sahour, Palestine
- Mr. George Rishmawi, President of the Union of Palestinian Communities in Europe

In addition to our guest speakers, the public portion include live entertainment featuring:

- Super Start Haitham Shomali
- Poet Khaled Shomali
- Cellist Naseem Altrash

Followed the public celebration section, the organization internal affairs part. This was an interactive session with well-defined agenda and motions. Before starting the formal session, we confirm the present of a quorum. This section was also conducted through multiple mediums: First we had around 50 active members present in the organization headquarter in Michigan. Second, we had around 100 active participants on WebEx. This session was also streamed to the organization Facebook where we had over 3,000 active viewers. The rest of this report will focus on the internal affair part.

BSUSA Internal Affairs

1. Steering Committee Report

The steering committee was formed on November 16, 2019 with two main objectives: build a Beit Sahour organization in the United States and plan a convention before the end of the year 2020. Membership in the steering committee was fluid with core team of 15-20 members that attended almost all its monthly meetings. During its work, the Steering Committee accomplished:

- Develop the organization mission and its bylaws.
- Lead marketing campaign to increase awareness of the organization.
- Create a membership structure and increase organization participation.

The Steering committee formed five working committees:

- Strategic committee: drafted the Bylaws and made it ready for the Steering Committee to approve
- Membership: collected 235 of registered unpaid members
- Public relations: kept the public informed on all events.
- Planning and social committee: Conducted 6 events
- Election committee: Led and executed the election of the current board members on September 30, 2020

2. Michigan Chapter Report

Some activists from Michigan started working as early as September 2019 to establish an organization in Michigan. In January 2020, the Michigan team joined the steering committee to help establish the national organization under the name Beit Sahour USA. With such merger, the MI organization became our first state chapter. During the year 2020, the Michigan chapter conducted many activities and formed many committees. Detail report activity was presented by MI chapter as part of our convention.

3. Beit Sahour USA Bylaws

Two weeks before the convention, the draft organization Bylaws was published on the organization web site at the following link: <https://www.beitsahourusa.org/bylaws/> Such link was provided by e-mail to all the 235 registered members. During the convention, all Bylaws articles were presented and discussed in detail. At the end, the following three-part motion was presented and adopted by the general assembly

- 1. The motion is to approve the draft Organization Bylaws as presented by the Steering Committee and published on our website under <https://www.beitsahourusa.org/bylaws/>**
- 2. The motion requires the establishment of a special committee by the current Board of Directors to review the approved Bylaws, take into consideration any comment provided today, solicit public comment from our members, and finally present a proposed modification/amendment to the approved Bylaws.**
- 3. The motion also gives the current Board of Directors' one-time authority to approve/modify the proposed Bylaws modifications and/or amendments with 2/3 of the Board of Directors vote without the need to seek a general assembly vote**

Members

Beit Sahour USA members must live in the United States, derive their origin from Beit Sahour by birth or marriage, and pay their annual membership fee which is \$60 for individual and \$120 for a family.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article III of the Bylaws requires the formation of an organization board of directors which has the highest authority in the organization after the general assembly. The bylaws allow for a fluid number of directors between 15-25 directors. The board of directors is elected every two years during the annual convention.

In preparation for this first convention, the election committee open the door for board members nomination during September 2020. Since we did not have nominee over the required upper limit for the board of directors, the election committee approved the board of director on September 30, 2020. This approval was approved during our first convention and thus the following are the formal board of directors for the years 2021 and 2022.

- Board Executives**
 Issam Andoni, chairman
 Walid Hayek, Vice Chair
 Sawsan Abusada, Secretary
- Executive Committee Members**
 Dr. Mazen Badra, President
 George Abuaita, Vice President
 Hadil Bannoura, Secretary
 Saher Helal, Treasurer
 Sally Albedd- Abuaita
 Marina Alatrash
 Sawsan Abusada Banoura
 Saliba M. Kokaly
 Mousa Rishmawi
 Rony Hanooneh
 Munir Bannoura
- Members at Large**
 Mary Abuaita
 Victor Abuaita
 Luei Abuaita
 Raed Ghattas
 Fadi Rishmawi
 Maher Qazaha
 WaLaá AwWad Khoury
 Elias Qumsieh
 Majd Hayek
 Dimertri Awwad
 Dr. Jeries Ghanem



In addition to the above 24 board members, the board added Issa Ishaq and Amjed Hanooneh as honorary board members in recognition of their role in the national steering committee and during the board election.

4. BSUSA 2021 Goals and Objectives

For our organization, the year 2021 is a base year. Our focus in the year 2021 is build the organization, expand its reach, and grow its members. Below are the identified goals and objectives for the year 2021

1- Learn about our potential members

- Conduct a study/survey to identify all Sahouri families that live in the US
- Working on getting a booklet that includes all the Sahouri with different business or professional background and get an agreement with them to provide a discount to BSUSA members.

2- Membership goals

- Have at least 25% of the Sahouri living in the us as paid members
- Working with the youth group to increase their participation in the organization. With a goal to have at least 20% of the organization members' young adult.
- Working with Women group to strengthen their group, goal to have at least 40% women members in the organization

3- Strengthen the relationship between our members across all states

- Have at least one activity per month

4- Explore coordination with other Palestinian and Arab organization

- Become active participant with other Palestinian American organizations

5- Relationship with our hometown

- Establish a permanent team in Beit Sahour that we can work with
- Establish a charitable fund to support Beit Sahour
- All our members to use our charitable account for donation

6- Establish and ensure the following fully functional working committees

- Financial Planning and Growth Committee
- Youth Empowerment Committee
- Women Empowerment Committee
- Collaboration with Beit Sahour Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Social planning & Membership Committee

5. Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget – Expenses:

| Location Expenses | Estimated | Actual |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Headquarter Rent | \$3,000.00 | |
| Equipment- Computer | \$269.00 | |
| Office Desk & Chair | \$125.00 | |
| Tables and chairs | \$150.00 | |
| Total | \$3,544.00 | \$0.00 |

| Operating Expenses | Estimated | Actual |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Utility-Electric | \$960.00 | |
| Utility-Water&Sewer | \$750.00 | |
| Office Supplies | \$250.00 | |
| Phone & Internet | \$180.00 | |
| SECURITY | \$210.00 | |
| Total | \$2,350.00 | \$0.00 |

| Publicity | Estimated | Actual |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Web Site | \$120.00 | |
| Photocopying/Printing | \$150.00 | |
| Postage | \$275.00 | |
| Total | \$545.00 | \$0.00 |

| Refreshments | Estimated | Actual |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Food | \$750.00 | |
| Drinks | \$250.00 | |
| Total | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |

| Committees | Estimated | Actual |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Public Relations | \$2,000.00 | |
| Collaboration W Beit Sahour | \$1,000.00 | |
| Women Empowerment | \$1,000.00 | |
| Youth | \$1,000.00 | |
| Convention | \$1,500.00 | |
| Social Planning | \$1,000.00 | |
| Executive Committee | \$5,000.00 | |
| Total | \$12,500.00 | \$0.00 |

| Prizes | Estimated | Actual |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Ribbons/Plaques/Trophies | \$500.00 | |
| Gifts | \$500.00 | |
| Total | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |

| Total Expenses | Estimated | Actual |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | \$20,939.00 | \$0.00 |

Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget – Income:

| Membership Fee | | | Estimated | Actual | |
|----------------|--------|----------|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Estimated | Actual | | | | |
| 125 | | FAMILY @ | \$120.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| 10 | | ADULT @ | \$60.00 | \$600.00 | \$0.00 |
| 0 | | Other @ | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | \$15,600.00 | \$0.00 | |

| Programs Income | | | Estimated | Actual | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------|
| Estimated | Actual | | | | |
| 25 | | Gifts @ | \$100.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$0.00 |
| 500 | | Raffles @ | \$10.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | \$7,500.00 | \$0.00 | |

| Total | Total Estimated | Total Actual |
|-------|--------------------|---------------|
| | \$23,100.00 | \$0.00 |

Profit/Loss Summary:

| | Estimated | Actual |
|----------------|-------------|--------|
| Total income | \$23,100.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total expenses | \$20,939.00 | \$0.00 |

| Total profit (or loss) | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| \$2,161.00 | \$0.00 |