Annual Dinner Gala: Building Bridges to a Brighter Future

“It was a night to remember”. A statement that was heard from so many of our guests regarding our First and Second Annual Gala Dinners held in October of every year. The Gala was a great success that gathered members, guests, professionals and industry leaders. Among the notable speakers at the First Gala were honorable Ray Lahood, US Secretary of Transportation; honorable Beverly Swaim-Staley, Maryland secretary of Transportation; and many others. The Second Gala key note speakers were Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and Maryland Secretary of Environment Robert Summers.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why do we need an ethnic professional organization while there are other professional organizations available?

• Having our own professional organization evokes a sense of pride.
• Needs of our membership are different from others.
• Our members are at a disadvantage since other organizations do not address our specific needs.

Why Non-political Non-religious?

• There are other organizations serving those two purposes.
• AAAEA has a fundamental intention of serving its members in their professional undertaking.

What's in it for me?

• Free or reduced rate Seminars and Technical conferences
• Drastically reduced EIT review fees ($100 vs. $800 elsewhere)
• Job announcements, Referral, Career advice
• Website
• Social events such as picnics
• Activities at substantially low costs
• Scholarship program for students
• Opportunities to get an intern summer job

What is AAAEA current membership count?

• Over 800 paid members in fourteen States
• Over 2000 members in our mailing list

Does AAAEA have full or part-time employees?

• AAAEA is purely based on volunteer work by its members.

How is AAAEA funded?

• Membership fees ($50 Members, $10 Students)
• Corporate Sponsorship
• Donations
• Events

History

In the fall of 1996, a group of engineers gathered to discuss the need for an organization to serve the interests of Arab American Engineers and Architects in the Chicago area. After over a year of planning, they convened more than fifty (50) engineers and architects to elect the first board of directors for the newly founded Arab-American Association of Engineers and Architects (AAAEA).

Today, the organization has eleven sister associations. AAAEA is a non-political, non-religious, and not-for-profit (501(C) (6) Federal tax exemption) association.

Goals

• To further the public welfare whenever engineering knowledge is involved.
• Promote cooperation among its members.
• Establish scholarship programs.
• Cooperate with other professional organizations.
• Establish a presence in the Capital area.
• Serve the professional interest of the members.
• Provide Networking opportunities

To achieve these goals, AAAEA, on a regular basis, conducts seminars, training classes, and social activities.
Membership
Among our members are Educators, Engineers, Architects, Computer Scientists, Engineering Company Owners, Partners, and Students. AAAEA has among its membership classes the following:

• **Full Members** are Engineers, Architects, & Computer Science Professionals who are Arabs and/or of Arab ancestry residing in the United States of America.

• **Associate Members** are those who do not meet the requirements of Full members and who have expressed and demonstrated interests in the Association.

• **Student Members** are those who are studying Engineering, Architecture or Computer Science.

Structure
**Executive Committee**
- President-Vice President
- Treasurer-Secretary-IT Officer

**Board of Trustees**
Fifteen members maximum
Currently Nine members

**Standing Committees**
- Activities
- Education & Career Enhancement
- Membership & Outreach
- Financial
- IT & Communication
- Policies & Procedures

**Ad-Hoc Committees**
- Election
- Outreach Committee
- Annual Dinner Gala

Programs & Activities
**Business Opportunities**
Numerous business opportunities have been created through coordination among business owners/executives.

**Scholarship Awards**
AAAEA-Capital Area established its scholarship program in 2011 and awarded its first scholarship for an amount of $1000 to an arab american student at MIT. AAAEA plans to award more scholarships in 2012.

**Educational Seminars**
Seminar topics included:
- LEED
- Access Management
- Building towards financial success.
- Communications for Managers.
- Emotional Intelligence in Business
- Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements
- How to start a Small Business.

**Family Picnics**
AAAEA-Capital Area organized several family picnics since its inception in 2008 that attracted more than 120 people each. Picnics include various activities for adults and children. In 2012 a minimum of two picnics are scheduled.

**National AAAEA**
In 2011, all current eleven associations and newly created ones merged into one National Association to provide its members with National Strength, National Network, National Annual Gathering and National Recognition. AAAAAA-DC was among the founding chapters and currently holds the Vice President position at the National Executive Committee.