



WALN NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter Editor: Bernard R. Bendok MD.

<http://www.waln.org>

Contents

- ? Message from the PresidentP1
- ? Message from Secretary..... P2 P3
- ? Message from Treasurer.....P3
- ? Message from Newsletter Editor.P3
- ? Immigration Message.....P4 P5
- ? Upcoming Elections and WALN Meeting.....P5
- ? Spiritual Sayings.....P5

Board of Officers:

President

Fady Charbel, MD.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Neurosurgery
912 Southwood Street
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone:312-996-4842
fcharbel@uic.edu

Secretary

Ghassan K. Bejjani, MD.
Tristate Neurological Associates
UPMC
200 Lothrop Street, Suite 5C
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: (412) 647-3604
Fax: (412) 647-3605
bejjanigk@msx.upmc.edu

Treasurer

Ali F Krisht, M.D.
Department of Neurosurgery
University Of Arkansas for Medical
Sciences
4301 West Markham Street Slot#
507 Little Rock AR 72205
Phone:(501) 686-5270
KrishtAli@uams.edu

Newsletter Editor

Bernard R. Bendok, MD.
Department of Neurosurgery
Northwestern University
233 East Erie Street Suite #614
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312)695-0494
Fax: (312) 695-0225
bbendok@nmff.org

Message from the President of WALN: Fady Charbel, MD.

Dear Friends,

As I reflect over the last 3 years I realize that it is obviously clear that our Lebanese heritage and legacy are alive and well through our organization. This is certainly evidenced by the remarkable achievements of the senior membership, but perhaps more importantly, by the wonderful new wave of the next generation that is ever more promising.

The first and most important task that I had assigned myself as I started my term was to secure for WALN the status of a not for profit organization. This was a critical endeavor as without it we would have great difficulty in securing philanthropic donations or even collect dues of membership. This turned out to be a major and almost daunting task in the aftermath of September 11th where international not for profit organizations with ties to the middle east were the object of significant scrutiny. However, and thanks

to the outstanding legal support of Ross & Hardies of Chicago, we prevailed and it is my great joy to announce this significant achievement. As a result I urge all of you to take care of membership dues and to activate your contacts for donations for the purposes of fellowships and other important causes.

During the upcoming AANS reunion in San Diego, a new slate of officers will be elected and I urge all of you to participate.

On a personal note, and having been fortunate enough to reach various positions of leadership in my life. I would like to state that perhaps one of the most important duties other than providing a vision and direction is to take the opportunity and provide support and help when needed. Doing the right thing no matter how hard or against the grain it might be remains one of



the greatest sources of satisfaction in a person's life.

Finally, and as the condition of my term as your president draws near, I take the opportunity to thank all of those who have supported me in furthering the cause of WALN. Also, I would like to thank Bernard Bendok in particular, who's enthusiasm, drive, and pride in our heritage go beyond words.

I am looking forward to seeing you in April at the AANS and hopefully in July in Lebanon.

Long live WALN and the ideals for which it remains.

Regional Representatives**North America**

Patrick W. Hitchon, MD
Department of Neurosurgery
University of Iowa Hospital
Iowa City, IA 52242-0002
Phone: (319) 356-2775
Fax: (319) 353-6605
patrick-hitchon@uiowa.edu

South America

Niton Latuf, MD.
Rua Sao Paulo #424
Campos Eliseos, PO. Box 644
Ribeirao Preto, SP, 14085 010
Brazil
Phone:(55) 16-625-5555
Fax: (55) 16-636-5565

Europe

Marwan Hariz, MD.
Department of Clinical Neurosciences
University Hospital
S-901 85 Umeå
Sweden
e-mail: marwan.hariz@neuro.umu.se

Middle East**Lebanon**

Nabil Okais, MD
Hotel Dieu De France
Beirut- Lebanon
Phone: (961) 1 323-771
Fax: (961) 1 386794
Hôpital Hôtel Dieu, Service de
Neurochirurgie
Tel : 961 1 615100
Fax: 961 1 613400
E-mail: neurochddf@intracom.net.lb

Past Presidents

Mokbel Chedid, MD.

Issam Awad, MD.

Honorary Presidents

Fuad S. Haddad, MD.

Gedeon Mohasseb, MD.

Charles Fager, MD.

Joseph C. Maroon, MD.

Falah B. Maroon, MD.

Founding Member

Issam Awad, MD.

**Secretary's Message:
Ghassan Bejjani, MD.**

Dear Colleagues

This message is the last message that I write during my current term as Secretary of WALN. As has been the case over the past seven years, it has always been a great privilege and honor to serve WALN and its members. Although WALN has had its own cycle with ups and downs, like with any other organization, WALN is strong. WALN is here to stay, because it has a purpose and because its members believe in it and its mission and are committed to its success, as we have seen over the past decade.

After multiple attempts, and thanks to the efforts of the Board and Fady Charbel, WALN has acquired a Not for Profit status. A law firm from Chicago, the same that handles matters for other neurosurgical organization, was instrumental in securing this status. This required minor modifications of the By-laws to conform to the I.R. S. rules and regulations. These modifications were approved by the Board of officers, as was agreed upon during the Philadelphia meeting. However, it is money well spent. This will allow us to raise dues and donations, acquire a better structure and better

resources, to perform some of the major projects that WALN has been planning for quite some time. This indeed is a major accomplishment. For the past three years we had stopped collecting dues until this issue gets resolved. The budget of WALN was entirely subsidized by the Officers: this includes the cost of maintaining the website, publishing the newsletter and legal expenses, among others. We have a significant negative balance in our budget, but we are confident that the commitment that we have witnessed all along from WALN members will help us balance our budget again. We will be collecting dues again, starting with this issue. The yearly dues are \$ 50 for regular membership, \$100 for platinum donors, and \$200 for Cedar donors, but any donations are welcome.

Another event is the upcoming elections of WALN. The term of the present Board of officers expires this coming April. A new slate of officers will be elected: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Regional Representatives for North America, South Amer-



ica, Europe, and Lebanon. The elections will take place during the WALN meeting in San Diego, on Monday April 28th. Nominations and proxy votes have been sought. Members have already proposed some nominations. The proxy votes traditionally are sent to the Secretary, however they can be sent to any officer this year, since fellow WALN members nominated me as a Candidate for the Office of President of WALN. It gives me great pride to serve WALN in any capacity whether elected to an office or not. If elected, it will be a great honor for me to serve WALN in this capacity, after having served as Newsletter Editor and Secretary for the past seven years. I strongly believe in the mission and purpose of WALN. Office is not a prestige, it is hard work, commitment and willingness to devote time, energy and resources to further enhance WALN and achieve its mission. We still have quite a few goals to achieve, mainly establish a WALN fel-

fellowship, print a new directory, enhance and update the website, establish regular local courses in Lebanon, enlarge the

membership and strengthen the financial status of the Association, among others. Now that the not-for-profit status

is established, and that we can assume a healthier financial situation, we can make from the projects a reality. See you in San Diego

“After multiple attempts, and thanks to the efforts of the Board and Fady Charbel, WALN has acquired a Not for Profit status”

Treasurer’s Message: Ali Krisht, MD.

WALN Colleagues and Friends:

It is has been a privilege serving all of you over the past three years. Our recent acquisition of a not

for profit status opens up many wonderful possibilities for our society. The future of WALN is bright but is dependent on your participation .

I invite all of you to participate in WALN’s noble mission.



Newsletter Editor’s Message: Bernard R. Bendok, MD.

“Time for Renewal!”

Despite tremendous obstacles WALN has continued to grow and prosper over the past several years. We have now reached an exciting moment in our organization’s history when the loyalty that has grown amongst us calls on us to secure WALN’s future through membership renewal and participation in the

important election process.

Serving WALN has been extremely rewarding to many of us. I urge all of you to seriously consider running for office and to invest in WALN’s future with your ideas and participation. The future is a blank canvas waiting to be painted with your marvelous achievements.

Some have questioned WALN’s purpose. Let there be no mistake; WALN’s purpose is pure: a social, cultural and professional bridge amongst all those who have shared Lebanon’s tremendous gifts. There is no shame in this. There is only meaning, purpose and dignity. Let us all renew WALN together with this simple idea in mind!





Major Academic Initiative at Notre Dame University – “The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC)”

Notre Dame University (NDU), Lebanon

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) is the new academic initiative of Notre Dame University (NDU). The Center's creation is a direct result of a worldwide identity and ancestral awakening and genealogical interest. The Center's objective is to encourage interdisciplinary academic research in the field and related fields of "the Lebanese emigration". The Center's creation will be formally announced at NDU in Zouk Mosbeh, Kesrawan, in November 2003, during a one-day conference on sources of information for research on emigration.

Major Academic Initiative

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of emigration centers across the world. The attention now being given to the question is understandable, because emigration, particularly in the last two centuries, has altered the character of many countries and communities around the world. But important as this subject is to others, it is of particular importance to us, who are Lebanese either by nationality or by descent. Lebanese, like other people from the Mediterranean basin, began their recent migration in the middle of the nineteenth century, heading toward North America, Central and South America, Europe, Africa and Australia.

There were many 'pushing' and 'pulling' factors that propelled the Lebanese emigration movement, a movement that left its tangible marks both on Lebanon and on the host countries.

We believe that the creation of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center is timely, for it can be a platform for research and a catalyst for the study of the Lebanese emigration, a subject that has long been neglected, particularly in the Lebanese academic milieu.

The Center's Objectives

LERC is an integral part of NDU and thus partakes of its tripartite mission: research, teaching, and service. It seeks in every manner possible to promote the multidisciplinary study of emigration history. Its main objective is to promote the study of historical and contemporary migration, to and from Lebanon, within a comparative international framework, using new information and communication technologies.

The creation of this Center will provide an innovative and far-reaching way to address the emigration issue past and present. Research topics include, but are not limited to, human diversity, cultural dialogue, community adaptation, environmental understanding, globalization, human rights, ethnicity and national solidarity.

First Tasks

The Center is undertaking a major project, namely compiling a roster of university professors of Lebanese lineage. The purpose of this compilation is: a) to identify these professors and their fields of study; b) to invite them to participate in related conferences and research projects; c) to invite them to lecture at NDU and share their academic and professional experience with our students and professors; and d) to obtain their relevant research and publication for the NDU library. We encourage all those who feel themselves concerned to send their biographical and

bibliographical data to the addresses herein listed.

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We are planning to publish several volumes of this roster as it become available.

Contact:

Dr. Amin A. Rihani
Vice President
Sponsored Research and Development
Notre Dame University
POBOX 72., Zouk Mosbeh
Kesrawan, Lebanon
Tel and Fax: 961-9-224-803

Guita G. Hourani
Researcher
Lebanese Immigration Research Center (LERC)
Notre Dame University (NDU)
POBOX, 72, Zouk Mousbeh
Kesrawan, Lebanon
Tel and Fax: 961-9-224-803

**UPCOMING WALN BUSINESS
MEETING AND ELECTIONS**

The next WALN business meeting will be held during the AANS meeting in San Diego at 9:30 PM in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel on Monday April 28th. New officers will be elected. Nominations can be forwarded to our secretary Ghassan Bejjani (bejjanigk@msx.upmc.edu).

Please participate in this very important meeting!!!

At ebb tide I wrote
A line upon the sand
And gave it all my heart
And all my soul
At flood tide I returned
To read what I had inscribed
And found my ignorance
upon the shore

Gibran Khalil Gibran

This is already the Orient
Where white peaks have dominion
Where yellow; rose and ochre
Have made their royal residence
Where every tree is itself
And madness isolated,
Where man rethinks
thought

Nadia Tueni
Lebanon Twenty Poems for
One Love
Translated by Samuel Hazo