

**Birzeit Society, USA**  
**National Board Meeting**  
**Anaheim, California**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Birzeit Society National Board held its annual meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Anaheim, California. The meeting was attended by representatives from the New York, Texas, Ohio, Northern California, and Southern California Chapters and by members from Arizona, Southern California, and Texas. The meeting was concise and was opened by the President, Samer Saleh Rabie, with a summary of accomplishments and challenges of the Society over the last few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Birzeit Society adapted and overcame all of the difficulties due to the dedication and perseverance of all volunteers and the patience and endurance of its members. This year's meeting ushered the return of semi-normalcy in interactions among the Board Members and with the Society members at-large. The meeting came after a period with no in-person meetings due to the pandemic.

Much discussion during the meeting was devoted to internal issues aimed at strengthening Birzeit Society's outreach and expanding its services to the Birzeiti communities around the world. The Board Members also affirmed their commitment to continue providing support to our people in Birzeit, especially to the scholarship program and to support families with medical and financial needs. All Chapters acknowledged the lack of attendance at local events— mostly due to the negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic - and reaffirmed their commitment to keep reaching out to all members. The Chapter presidents are hoping that the reopening of in-person gatherings will bring our members back to fully participate in events.

The Board Members expressed their deep appreciation to the members of the Advisory Committee in Birzeit and to their valued contributions in facilitating Birzeit Society's support to Birzeit and its institutions. Members of the Advisory Committee in Birzeit attended the meeting virtually via Zoom, including Salam Shaheen, Hala Kaileh, and Thaer AbedMusallam, and affirmed their commitment to continue to facilitate Birzeit Society's activities and future programs in Birzeit. They also reaffirmed the Society's goals and wishes to keep Birzeit environmentally safe, attracting only the development of flight industries and worthy educational and technological institutions compatible with a University City.

Special discussions and great attention was also devoted to the young generation, stressing the Board of Directors' full financial and moral support for the programs sponsored by the New Generation Committee. The Board valued the participation of the New Generation Committee members and considered their participation as an absolute necessity in order to maintain the continuity of the Society and a way to prepare the younger generation to lead the Society in the future.

The Board of Directors expressed their deep appreciation for all the previous members of Birzeit Society who were instrumental in the establishment and sustainment of the Society, and who due to health conditions could not continue their effective participation. The Society deeply appreciates their contributions and will maintain contact with previous Board Members..

A new Executive Committee was elected, headed by Mona Saadeh-Totah, President; Joey Iskandar Abeid, First Vice-President; Samar Kaileh Wahbe, Second-Vice President; Dena Khalil Asfour, Secretary; Suhail Yacoub Kassis, Chief Finance Officer; and Faris Suhail Kassis, Historian. A great deal of appreciation was expressed for the outgoing Executive Committee, headed by Samer Saleh Rabie, which kept the Society active in the aftermath of the pandemic, and helped oversee the management of Birzeit Society's successful Fifteenth National Convention in Houston, Texas.

The Board Members in attendance approved the proposal for the Northern California Chapter to host Birzeit Society's Sixteenth National Convention, which is to take place in San Francisco, CA, from July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

As the meeting was coming to an end, the attendees heard the bad news of the attacks of the Zionist occupation army and its herds of settlers on our people in Nablus and Hawara. They instantly condemned the attacks and affirmed their solidarity with our people in Palestine.

Birzeit Society is committed to its mission and will double its efforts for outreach to all Birzeiti communities and their friends. The National Board and the local Chapters are fully confident and hopeful that all Birzeitis will go back to participating in the local events like it used to be and continue to generously support the Society.

Birzeit Society National Board of Directors

National Board Meeting, February 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023