



*“Provided By the AACC Public Relations & Media Committee”*

## **Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)**

**Press Release - March 6, 2009**

### **AACC Announces the 2009 Board of Directors and Officers**

The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly on Saturday, February 21, 2009. The event highlighted AACC’s achievements in 2008 and its goals and objectives for 2009. In addition, it provided an opportunity for members to present themselves to serve on the Board of Directors and to network with existing and prospective new members. There was a significant turnout of existing and new members who participated in the election to join the Board of Directors as well as the twelve (12) members who ran in the election for seven (7) open seats on the Board of Directors.

In a competitive election compliant with good governance practices, the newly elected Board of Director members include John A. Gastright, Jr. of DynCorp International, formerly Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central and South Asia; Estela McClean of Symbion Power Services US, Inc.; Francis J. Skrobiszewski – advisor to emerging market investment funds; Yama Yousefzai, President of Noor TV; R. Michael Smith, Esq., of Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander LLC.; Ajmal Ghani A. and Assad Mattin of MG Consultants were re-elected to the Board.

On Thursday February 26, 2009, the new 2009 AACC Board of Directors held its first meeting, at which the annual election of officers and committee chairpersons took place. Ajmal Ghani A. was re-elected Chairman of the Board. Former President Atiq Panjshiri announced that he would not seek re-election, and Board Executive Committee member, Hon. Don Ritter was elected as AACC’s new President. John A. Gastright, Jr. was elected as the new Vice-President replacing long-time member Virginia Sheffield who chose not to seek re-election. Estela McClean was elected as the new Secretary of the Board, Yama Azami was re-elected as the Treasurer, William C. Joern and Hassina Ansary were elected Executive Committee Members At-Large.

In addition to the officers, Core Committees and Working Groups were officially established by the Board. John Gastright, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Government Relations Committee. Hassina G. Ansary was elected Chairperson of the Programs and Events Committee. Sulaiman Lutfi of TriVision Studios and a Board member was elected Chairman of the Public Relations and Media Committee

Working Groups and their newly elected Chairmen are, respectively, *Access to and Availability of Capital* – Francis J. Skrobiszewski; *Role of the Private Sector in Stabilization* – Dr. Elie Krakowski; *Governance and the Private Sector* – R. Michael Smith, Esq.

AACC enters 2009 with a rich Agenda of business promotion highlighted by its signature Business Matchmaking efforts, private sector policy forums and events connecting U.S. businesses with important business and economy-related officials in both the U.S. and Afghan governments.

For further information, please contact AACC at 703-442-5005.