

## **ZONE 7 REPORT FOR WSC MEETING – JUNE 2013**

### **ZONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **How has your zone been functioning as a Zone?**

- Generally well, given the busy lives and different time zones of the Council members.
- Support for Subud Cuba and preparations for the World Congress have provided two areas of common focus during the past year.
- Good participation by member countries with a productive, constructive and harmonious attitude
- Could the Zone do more and function better? Probably!

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **What activities have been especially important in your Zone?**

- Zone 7 conference calls take place every 3 months.
- Annual in-person Council meetings, the last one in Vancouver in 2012 and the next in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA in July this year.
- Much improved communication in Spanish (largely thanks to Alejandra Martinez - Subud Canada Committee Councillor) with, and support for, Subud Cuba. Zonal Committee Councillors and Zone Treasurer formed a Cuba Support Group. Support has included:
  - providing funds to help the national helpers and committee travel within Cuba.
  - financial assistance for zonal delegates to obtain passports and visas to attend the World Congress in Mexico. Additional funds have been set aside to help with air fares and other costs to attend the Congress.
  - arranging for medical and other supplies to be delivered to Cuba.
  - money to help with the printing costs for Subud Cuba's national publication: "Alborada".
  - sending memory sticks, containing Bapak and Ibu Rahayu talks in Spanish, to Subud Cuba.
- Active participation in, and support for, the 2014 World Congress Organizing Team. Members from Zone 7 on the WCOT include: Fernando Nieva (Congress Chair) and other members from Mexico, Marston Gregory (Congress Treasurer) from the US, Mary Wold (Family Program) from the US, Maemunah Coleman and Lucida Garneau (Registrations) from Canada. Many attended the planning meeting in Puebla in January 2013.
- Hosting the 2012 WSC meeting in Vancouver.
- Americas Gathering in Vancouver, Canada in 2012. This event was primarily organized by Subud Canada but with help from others within Zone 7. It was attended by almost 400 people from Zone 7, the rest of the Americas and the World.

### **COUNTRIES**

#### **Are there any developments that have occurred in your countries to report?**

- After many years, Subud Cuba is now legally recognized by the government of Cuba.
- Subud USA has moved its national office to Washington DC
- Subud Canada has developed a new more interesting, informative and user-friendly website.
- Subud Suriname celebrated its 45th anniversary and Susila Dharma Suriname its 25th anniversary in November 2012
- Subud Mexico is working hard with preparations for the 2014 World Congress.

## **ZONE STRENGTHS / WEAKNESSES**

### **What are the strengths and weaknesses in your zone?**

#### **Strengths**

- See **ACTIVITIES** above.
- Like other zones, Zone 7 benefits from the cultural diversity that exists from one country to the next.
- Continuing (and increased) financial support from the countries within Zone 7 - both for the Zone and WSA – thank you!

#### **Weaknesses/Challenges**

- Continuing “separation” of some members in Manzanillo with Subud Cuba.
- How to include Subud Cuba in zonal conference calls?
- Difficulty (time required) in obtaining visas made it impossible for Cubans to attend the zonal meeting in the US. This has led to an increased effort to get Cubans to the World Congress.
- How to ensure that members in the Caribbean feel included in the Zone?

#### **ANYTHING ELSE?**

- Many other individual members from Zone 7 are actively involved and participate internationally. These include: Luke Pensoney (WSA Chair), Grace Hodgson, Elaina Dodson & Hamilton Schragen (International Helpers), Kumari Beck (SDIA Chair), Latifah Taormina and Felix Juan Prieto (SICA Chair and Vice Chair), Rayner Sutherland (MSF Executive Director), Alex Woodward (SYAI Rep), Virginia/Hamidah Thomas & Rosanna Hille (SDIA Executive Directors), and Fernando Nieva and other members of the World Congress Organizing Team, to name just a few! Apologies to those I know I have missed!!

#### **WSC MEETING**

##### **What would you like to see addressed at the 2013 WSC meeting?**

- To develop an effective strategy for balancing 2013 and future 2014 WSA budgets.
- Progress to date on resolutions from the 2010 Christchurch World Congress.
- Making the international organization more relevant to the average Subud member.
- Continuity in handing over to the new WSC in 2014.

Submitted by Dave Hitchcock

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