

Subud Zone 7 Council Meeting July 6-8, 2013 Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Participants: Those Council members shown in red were unable to attend the in-person meeting.

	National Chair	Committee Councilor	Kejiwaan - Female	Kejiwaan - Male
<i>Canada</i>	Renata Dunn	Alejandra Martinez	Istafiah De Souza	Mahmud Nestman
<i>Cuba</i>	Aziz Borges Riego	Victor Hernamdez	Munirah Sardinas	Sjariffudin Basterrechea
<i>Mexico</i>	Fernando Nieva	Arif Rivero Rojas	Karimah Towle	Luthfi Becker
<i>Suriname</i>	Patrick Karijodirono	Karmila Martotaroeno	Lucie Kertodikromo	Arvin Misran
<i>U.S.A.</i>	Shoshanah Margolin	Lucian Parshall	Laurie Lathrop	Hoan Toan Phan

Zone 7: Dave Hitchcock-Zone Rep; Lucian Parshall-Secretary; Hardwin Blanchard-Treasurer

Area III IHS: Grace Hodgson and Elaina Dodson

and several observers throughout the course of the meeting.

Saturday, July 6

Zonal Latihan

Dave called the Council meeting to order at 2:40pm Mountain Time.

The meeting began with a quiet time.

Welcome by Dave Hitchcock, Zone 7 Rep.

Introductions

Each Council member, and the observers, introduced themselves.

Approval of agenda and needs assessment to express expected outcomes and hopes for the meeting

Council members shared their expected outcomes and hopes for the Council meeting. These were as follows:

- ensure that individual Council members' needs are met
- receive a complete report about the recent World Subud Council meeting
- leave feeling unified with love for world membership
- solutions to physical/logistical issues for World Congress
- create a clear selection procedure for the new Zone 7 Rep
- discuss how to make Zone 7 (Council) more relevant/significant for our members (zone activities?)
- have a joyful meeting, agree and have a good time
- work together as one family/how to take care of our members?
- meet according to God's will
- create a different type of report from this meeting, with photos and stories from each country
- receive an update about Subud Cuba and plan future actions/strategy
- have a feeling of integration (committee, helpers, wings)
- management of Subud endowment funds

Based on this sharing, Dave agreed to adapt the previously circulated agenda to incorporate these needs, hopes and expected outcomes. He would present a revised version to the Council on the following morning.

Brief verbal reports from each country

Canada: Renata showed the new Subud Canada website and walked us through each group in Canada. Mahmud read the KC report for Canada (attached.)

Cuba: Alejandra will report on what has been happening in Cuba later in the agenda.

Mexico: Arif provided a PowerPoint presentation of recent activities (attached) and Karimah read the KC report (attached.)

Suriname: Patrick and Lucie provided a PowerPoint update of their country activities (attached.)

USA: Shoshanah gave a PowerPoint update and Lucian provided a review of their reorganized website. Laurie gave their KC report (both attached.)

Caribbean: Dave read a recent email he had received from Marcus Richmond in Bermuda (attached.)

International Helpers Report

Elaina provided an update on the IHs travel activities, including the most recent trip to Mexico in January. Next year the Area III International Helpers are planning to visit: Suriname, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela.

She provided an overview of some of the topics that were discussed at the World Subud Council meeting in Spain. The World Congress will have the kejiwaan more integrated into all other Congress activities, including groups to discuss how to put the latihan into practice. It is hoped that all the testing for positions will be done in the first week of the World Congress.

Grace reported how she has observed a maturing of the World Subud Council and Zone Reps over the past 3 years.

As a relatively new member, who never met Bapak, Alejandra commented on how meaningful and beneficial it was for her to hear personal stories if when people met Bapak. Maybe this could be a session at the World Congress.

The Zone Council meeting adjourned for the day with a quiet time.

Sunday, July 7

General latihan with attendees at USA Congress.

Dave thanked the countries for yesterday's interesting and varied presentations.

Dave started the day by reading out a recent letter (April 9, 2013) from Ibu Rahayu in response to an invitation to attend the Zone 3 Gathering in Poio, Spain. Ibu Rahayu explained that, although her physical condition had improved, she wasn't able to attend the Zone 3 Gathering. She is taking good care of her health and physical self and preparing herself to attend the World Congress in Puebla, if it is God's will. She went on to say that she felt that members need something to stimulate the awakening of the soul at this time. Nevertheless, she has faith that the power of God always accompanies Subud Gatherings, when we hold them for the worship of God and when people get along with each other.

Amended Agenda

Dave provided a suggested revised agenda that incorporated the input from the previous day. This agenda continued to evolve during the remainder of the Council meeting.

World Subud Council Meeting

Dave reported on some of the highlights from the recent World Subud Council meeting in Poio, Spain, including:

- The **Zone Reps met** together on the first day to share what was going on in the countries within each zone. They used a world map to help identify the countries that they talked about.
- A significant part of the meeting dealt with topics involving the **Muhammad Subuh Foundation**, including selecting a replacement trustee. Five members, who were qualified for the position, were tested by the International Helpers. Michael Heathcote from England was selected.

The next issue was the March 2013 letter from Ibu to the MSF and WSA. It clarified the respective roles of the MSF and WSA. Ibu Rahayu advised that MSF should focus on maintaining our Subud assets that are owned by the WSA, provide support for Subud houses, assist International Helper travel and the Wings. MSF should not be involved in fund raising, particularly for the archives. WSA will pay back the \$172,000 that MSF has already contributed towards the Legacy Project. There were good, frank discussions that resulted in a better understanding between the MSF Trustees and WSA Directors.

- Approximately 85-90% of **Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's talks** have been digitized. Approximately \$68,000 is needed in 2013 to finish this part of the project. Hardwin suggested that if 100 relatively wealthy Subud members each contributed \$1,000 per year for 12 years WSA could raise \$1.2m – the cost of the project. What is the long-term strategy for the international archives now that MSF is no longer fund-raising?

Action: Dave to follow up on current long-term international archives strategy and report back to the Council.

The Council was updated on the status of the **resolutions passed at the 2010 World Congress** in Christchurch. These included a review of, and proposed improvements to, the international Subud organization. Three Advisory Groups have recently been established. Each will start the review by considering two topics: decision-making in Subud (including consensus), and membership in the WSA.

Action: Dave to send information on consensus and membership of the WSA to Zone 7 Council members for their comments.

Finally, Dave explained that DVDs of Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's **talks with sub titles** (in English, Spanish, French and Dutch) were now being produced. He distributed copies that were received from Elisa Sanchez at the WSC meeting.

Action: Dave to find out if the subtitled DVDs could be copied, confirm that they do not play on regular DVD players in North America, the cost of buying additional copies from SPI etc.

WSA Fundraising

The Z7 Council then had a lengthy discussion about the recent fundraising letter (last fall) that WSA sent directly to national committees (Canada & USA), asking them to forward it to the members in their country soliciting funds. Does WSA have a policy on soliciting international funds directly from members? What is the policy?

Motion:

Zone 7 requests that if the WSA Executive has need for additional funds for operations or special projects, that it work with the Zone Reps and the national committees to address that need rather than soliciting funds directly from the entire membership.

Moved by Shoshanah

Seconded by Arif

Straw vote by all Council members was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by the four countries represented at the Council meeting (one vote per country)

Action: Dave to forward the approved motion regarding future fundraising to the WSA Executive.

Cuba Report & Support

Alejandra provided a fantastic, thorough report on Cuban activities – the material was emailed to all members on Zone 7 Council. This generated a good discussion on how Zone 7 can further support Subud Cuba. Suggestions included:

- Send VHS tapes that members no longer need in other Zone 7 countries
- Send the new DVDs with Spanish subtitles
- Take laptops, cameras, USB drives or other digital equipment to World Congress for Cubans to take back to Cuba
- Financial support for the Cuban World Congress delegates (emphasizing that they need to attend all delegate assemblies and working parties.)
- Connect Subud Youth with other youth reps in the Zone
- Annual visits from Z7 persons
- Future Zone meeting in Cuba – Visas still a problem for US members?
- Spanish versions of talks at World Congress.
- Need to provide more Bapak and Ibu talks in Spanish (Books) Spanish translations direct from Paloma – if saved as .pdf can be sent to Cuba as email attachment.
- Send organization forms on a USB stick (new helper, new member, opening statement). Need help from Paloma. Download from Web.
- Continue financial support from Zone in the future? Discuss with Cuban delegation at World Congress.
- Support the Zone sending Alejandra with the International Helpers on their next visit to Cuba.
- Encourage Cuban members to test the meaning of belonging to Zone 7

Action: The above suggestions will be considered by the, previously established, Zone 7 Cuban Support Team (CCs & Hardwin), and provide recommended actions to the Council.

Motion:

Zone 7 Council to make an effort to financially support Alejandra so that she can accompany the International Helpers during their next visit to Cuba (subject to testing.)

Moved by Shoshanah

Seconded by Renata

Straw vote by all Council members was unanimously in favour of the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by the four countries represented at the Council meeting (one vote per country)

What is the significance/relevance of Zone 7/Zone 7 Council (particularly for our Caribbean members)?

The following ideas resulted from brainstorming by Council members:

- Improve Wing support throughout the Zone – collaboration between counterparts in the other Zone 7 countries, although it may not be practical to have Wing representatives participate in Zone Council meetings.
- Regular (monthly?) PR blurb to members from Zone Rep. Explain what the Zone Council and WSC does, report on Zone 7/WSC activities, share “good news” stories, such as support for Subud Cuba. Keep it short!
- Future Zone Council/Congress meeting in the Caribbean or Cuba.
- Invite Caribbean member (eg Joanna Brown or Marcus Richmond) to attend future Zone Council meetings. More contact from Council members eg Zone Rep.
- Need a Kejiwaan Councillor to communicate with all the members in the Caribbean and then report/represent them on the Council
- East Coast Region of Subud USA has taken responsibility for group (over the phone) latihans with Caribbean members. Marcus Richmond (contact)
- Committee Councillors to share what is going on in the Zone with its members,
- KCs to explore how we might improve the kedjiwaan connection throughout the Zone? Skype latihans with isolated members, including Caribbean?
- Could we have common Zonal Projects/Activities in the future? eg “reforestation day” when all countries in Zone 7 focus on tree planting and share the results with each other.
- What are the specific needs/expectations of our members in the Zone?
- Needs: latihan, news and talks
- Invite Caribbean members to join in Zone 7 latihans (last Sunday of each month)

Action: Dave to review these suggestions regarding making the Zone more relevant and involve other Council members in implementing some of them.

Staggered Terms

Dave opened the discussion by sharing a previous resolution to the 2010 World Congress from Canada (supported by Zone 7) about better continuity on the World Subud Council. This resolution was subsequently withdrawn with the understanding that the topic could be discussed as part of the organizational review resolution. This hadn't happened yet and, therefore, Dave was asking the Council to consider this again. The pros and cons of staggered terms were discussed in great detail. Other Subud bodies, such as SDIA and MSF, use staggered terms. The discussion evolved to staggering terms of both our Committee Councillors on the Zone 7 Council, as well as staggered terms of the Zone Reps on the WSC. It probably didn't make sense for Zone 7 to stagger the term of its Zone Rep unless the other Zone Reps agreed to do the same.

6:00pm - Zone Council Meeting adjourned for dinner.

7:00pm - Zone Council Meeting discussion continued.

Motion:

As Zone 7 Rep, Dave will approach the other Zone Reps for their views on staggered (4 year) terms for Zone Reps.

Moved by Renata

Seconded by Shoshanah

Straw vote by all Council members was 11 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

Those opposed and abstaining were asked to voice their reasons.

Motion was unanimously approved by the four countries represented at the Council meeting (one vote per country)

The discussion on staggering the Committee Councillor terms within Zone 7 continued.

Motion:

That each country go back and discuss the need to create greater continuity by staggering CC terms on the Council and report back to Dave (prior to the next conference call) with suggestions on how staggered terms might work.

Moved by Lucian

Seconded by Laurie

Straw vote by all Council members was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved by the four countries represented at the Council meeting (one vote per country)

Selection Procedure for next Zone 7 Rep

- The previous Zone 7 Council had developed a selection procedure at the end of (Mariamah's) last term. This included the ideal qualities and qualifications for a Zone Rep.
- Testing in front of the Council (and other Zone 7 members) will be used, as part of the selection process, when we meet in Puebla for the World Congress. It is preferable (although not absolutely necessary) that all suitable candidates be present in Puebla.
- Dave said that he would be pleased to mentor the new Zone Rep and be available to answer any questions.

Action: Dave will email the proposed Zone Rep selection procedure to the Council for review and comments.

8:35pm - Zone Council Meeting adjourned for the day with a quiet time

Monday, July 8

Zonal Latihan

Zone Council Meeting resumed at 10:05am

Archive Centre Resolution (Subud USA)

Dave informed the Council that the international Archives Team had presented a paper at the recent WSC meeting, titled: "Some Proposals About International Archives Centres". This largely comprised a history of what has happened up to now, and the discussion about international centres in the future is ongoing, in conjunction with Bapak's advice on the subject. Following a general discussion about the proposed archives resolution submitted by USA some months ago, during which some Council members expressed concern about the resulting financial liability for the Zone, it was agreed that it be retitled: "Proposal to Consider the Establishment of a Permanent Structure for WSA Archives", so that the whole issue of protecting our archives could be discussed at the World Congress. All Zone 7 Council members supported the discussion of this resolution at the World Congress in Puebla.

Action: Dave to forward the Archives Centre resolution to the WSA Executive for discussion at the World Congress.

Zone 7 Finances

- Hardwin distributed a spreadsheet and walked the Council through the current 2013 Zone 7 Budget and answered questions. Subud Mexico has increased its 2013 contribution to \$400.
- A large part of the 2014 Zone 7 Budget will be used to help delegates attend the World Congress in Puebla.

- The WSA was offering to help one delegate per country for those countries who needed it. Dave explained that he had received an email recently from the WSA Executive, asking about Zonal support for delegates.
- Marini from Cuba (currently their SD Rep and acting as Committee Councillor), has an unused ticket from a previous time. With help from the WSA and maybe the International Youth Travel Fund for their Youth Rep, maybe the Zone could support 2-3 others from Cuba?
- Suriname has already raised the airfare for one KC to attend the World Congress.
- Although the World Congress is being held in Mexico, some financial assistance to help Karimah and Luthfi travel to Puebla would be appreciated. The national committee will be able to provide some help.
- Renata emphasized the need to also provide some spending money for those coming from Cuba.

Action: The Council agreed that Hardwin would research the costs and coordinate Zone 7 delegate representation at the World Congress. The goal of the Council was to work with WSA and have as many Zone 7 delegates attend the World Congress possible.

Should Z7 have its own bank account? This had been raised by Elwyn Waugh (WSA Accountant). Apparently, Zone 7 is the only Zone without its own bank account. Currently our money is looked after by the WSA. Does the current system work for us? Need to make sure what is legal.

Action: Hardwin will look into the legalities and practicalities of Zone 7 having its own bank account and report back to the Council.

Renata would like future Zone 7 budgets include the **full costs** of each zone activity. Therefore, Zone Council meetings would include the (hidden) costs of delegates attending (currently paid for by the individual countries).

Motion:

That Zone 7 will create an operational budget to include the expenses of all national delegations.

Motion was unanimously approved by the four countries represented at the Council meeting (one vote per country)

Action: Renata will work with Hardwin to see if future Zone budgets can be “operational/project based” and include all costs.

The question of having a **4-year zonal budget** was raised, so that it would be possible to plan financial support for delegates to attend the World Congress. It was pointed out that we currently set aside \$1,000 each year for the World Congress.

Is it right/fair/appropriate that some countries (e.g., Canada & USA) always have full delegations to Zone Council meetings and others don't? Should there be an equal number of delegates from each country? It was explained that in years gone by Canada had not always managed to finance full delegations. Should it be a priority for all countries in Zone 7 to be able to bring a full delegation to future Council Meetings and the World Congress? Zone 7 would do what it can to help, but this must be the decision of individual countries. Should in-person Zone Council meetings be held every other year to save cost? A good discussion followed on the benefits of in-person meetings. A suggestion was to hold future Zone Council meetings in countries where they could not afford to finance their delegate travel.

Do we need a Zone 7 Fundraiser? This was tabled until Hardwin determined the cost of providing zonal delegate support to attend the World Congress. Maybe special fundraising will be needed at that time?

The meeting took a break for a **group photo** of the Zone Council.

Subud Websites

General discussion, including;

- Subud USA and Subud Canada had recently (ongoing) revamped their websites
- Subud Mexico's website was not complete, with currently just a home page. It could be good if their site is up and running for enquiries during and following the World Congress.
- Subud Suriname did not have a website.

- Should we re-instate the Zone 7 website, with links to the different country websites in the Zone and/or specific articles from different countries?
- In the US and Canada, their website re-designs had cost \$3 - 4,000.

Action: Subud Mexico to look for someone who might be able to create a Zone 7 website at nominal or no cost and report back to the Council.

Finding good Subud information on the web can be difficult. A Canadian member has written to the WSA about this and Hassan Czwiertnia is looking into it. There could be a cost involved.

Wing Support & Collaboration within the Zone

- Can Wings work together more within Zone 7, e.g., Subud Youth and SICA?
- Do we need Zonal Wing representatives? Probably not necessary to create another level of bureaucracy!
- Likely not practical to include all Wing representatives on conference calls. Maybe some could be invited, as has happened in the past?
- Council to help connection between Youth Reps within the Zone
- Describe national Youth Camps as Zonal Camps and invite other countries.
- Improved connections between national SD organizations in each country.
- Suggestion of a Zone 7 cookbook, not taken up.
- Responsibility of Committee Councillors to bring the Wings together.
- Could be helped by a Zone 7 website.
- Need "Zonal Awareness".

World Congress Update

The WCOT had made a comprehensive presentation to the US Congress earlier in the week. Many Zone 7 Council members had been present. Was there anything that the WCOT members wanted to add?

- Register, Register, Register!
- Take advantage of the payment plan.
- Non-Subud spouses do not pay a registration fee.
- Suggestion for brief newsflashes to be sent out periodically, with latest information.

Action: Marston Gregory (WCOT Treasurer, who was observing) agreed to take this suggestion back to the WCOT.

- There will be several elections, changing the national officers for the country delegations between now and the World Congress. Should members wait before registering? Marston advised: "Yes".
- Fernando recommended that the Zone 7 Council meeting in Puebla take place after the Plenary Sessions.
- Please continue to pray for the WCOT

Solutions to physical/logistical issues for World Congress

This topic was not discussed during the Council meeting. Some valuable lessons had been learned at the recent US Congress.

Action: Dave to send out an email to Council members asking for any concerns and suggested solutions regarding physical/logistical issues that might be helpful to the WCOT for Puebla.

Different type of report from Zone 7 Council

Istafiah volunteered to coordinate articles from various Council members that would help to make the Zone more interesting to our members. This could include impressions of the Council meeting, stories, photos etc. As Istafiah said in a subsequent email:

Yes, I am still willing to co-ordinate and implement my suggestion that we put together a different sort of report - other than committee reporting - about Zone 7, PROVIDED of course that the delegates feel the same way and have the time and means of providing me with photos and words. Without this, it won't happen.

The idea came to me on the spot that day in Albuquerque and so I hadn't yet worked out details. Basically, what I would like to do is put a 'human face' on Zone 7 - our hopes and dreams as individual countries coming together

and at the same time not losing sight of the fact that we are a part of the larger international Subud family. Photographs of children (the future of zone 7) would be delightful - youth activities in our individual countries especially Surinam, Mexico and possibly Cuba. A few lines on the impact of having the World Congress in one of our Z7 countries. A couple of lines from Council members about how they personally experience serving on the Council - perhaps somebody could write something brilliant about the Council's 'raison-d'etre' - Dave? For example, Dave, how would your job have been if there were no Zone Councils - much easier perhaps? I remember Varindra Vittachi saying that he had nothing against committees, he just favored committees of one.

TIME LINES: The next issue of SCAN comes out in September, and I believe SUBUD USA's newsletter will be out in August. I doubt we will make the latter. However, I am not hung-up on timelines - I would rather focus on the quality of the finished product.

Looking forward to your feedback.

Action: Council members to send suitable material to Istafiah for a different type of Zone 7 Report.

Management of Subud Endowment Funds

Renata did not feel that it was necessary to include this in the Council meeting agenda, as she had had very beneficial communication with a number of people during the US Congress.

Date of next Zone Council conference call

Action: Dave to advise Council members by email of the date of the next conference call.

Wrap Up:

- Dave ran through the list of expected outcomes and hopes that had been expressed at the beginning of the meeting by each Council member. Most had been met!
- Each member commented on the Council meeting from their personal standpoint, as to what had been accomplished and what they would take away from the meeting. A success??

The Zone 7 Council meeting was adjourned with a quiet time at 3:01pm.

To do list:

Dave	To follow up on the current long-term international archives strategy and report back to the Council.
Dave	To send information on consensus and membership of the WSA to Zone 7 Council members for their comments.
Dave	To find out if the subtitled DVDs could be copied, confirm that they do not play on regular DVD players in North America, the cost of buying additional copies from SPI etc.
Dave	To forward the approved motion regarding future fundraising to the WSA Executive.
Cuban Support Team (CCs & Hardwin)	Will consider the suggestions from the Council for further supporting Subud Cuba and provide recommended actions to the Council.
All Council members	Will make an effort to financially support Alejandra so that she can accompany the International Helpers during their next visit to Cuba (subject to testing.)
Dave	To review these suggestions regarding making the Zone more relevant and involve other Council members in implementing some of them.
All Council members	To go back and discuss the need to create greater continuity by staggering CC terms on the Council and report back to Dave (prior to the next conference call) with suggestions on how staggered terms might work.
Dave	Email the proposed Zone Rep selection procedure to the Council for review and comments.
Dave	Will approach the other Zone Reps for their views on staggered (4 year) terms for Zone Reps.
Dave	To forward the Archives Centre resolution to the WSA Executive for discussion at the World Congress.
Hardwin	To research the costs and coordinate Zone 7 delegate representation at the World Congress. The goal of the Council was to work with WSA and have as many Zone 7 delegates attend

	the World Congress possible.
Hardwin	Will look into the legalities and practicalities of Zone 7 having its own bank account and report back to the Council.
Hardwin & Renata	Will work together to see if future Zone budgets can be “operational/project based” and include all costs.
Subud Mexico	To look for someone who might be able to create a Zone 7 website at nominal or no cost and report back to the Council.
Marston Gregory	Agreed to take this suggestion regarding Congress newsflashes back to the WCOT.
Dave	To send out an email to Council members asking for any concerns and suggested solutions regarding physical/logistical issues that might be helpful to the WCOT for Puebla.
All Council members	To send suitable material to Istafiah for a different type of Zone 7 Report.
Dave	To advise Council members by email of the date of the next conference call.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucian Parshall

Attachments

KC report to Zone 7 from Subud Canada

MEMBERSHIP

Subud Canada's membership is mainly concentrated in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario in Eastern Canada, and British Columbia and Alberta in Western Canada. The Eastern Region has three main groups – Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto as well as a few satellite groups and regional members in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. The Western Region's largest group is Vancouver, with smaller groups in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island as well as regional members in Edmonton, some of the more remote parts of the mainland and the Gulf Islands.

All of the main groups enjoy a membership that reflects Canada's multi-cultural population and an age demographic that ranges from late teens to the nineties. In recent years, several of our "pioneers" have passed away, leaving many of us not only sad but prompting us to look to the future and the changes that will inevitably follow as we need to fill these very large shoes to keep our organization functioning.

OUR CHALLENGES

A common concern shared by most of our groups, and what we believe is also a worldwide concern, is that it is still very much the older members who continue to have the willingness and the ability to volunteer for both committee and helper jobs. There are, of course, some notable exceptions but as helpers we are very aware of the ongoing need to encourage and help our newer and younger members to understand the importance of regular attendance at latihan and participation in group activities. Older members can share from their own experience the benefits than can be experienced when we are engaging in roles that serve the needs of our Subud organization. Although it is best to serve without expecting anything in return, at times we are given to in ways far beyond what we have contributed.

We are aware that there are members, including helpers, who get discouraged and feel pessimistic about the present and future state of Subud. They experience a difficulty in experiencing freshness in their latihan and lack a sense of connection to their Subud brothers and sisters.

We have found that there are some things that help to remedy these difficulties for individuals. One is to have a close ongoing relationship with an experienced member, someone who is genuinely interested in them and their Subud journey. Often, helpers are in the best position to cultivate such relationships.

Something else that is helpful is having group, regional and national get-togethers and gatherings. It seems that being involved in either planning or attending such events stimulates the spark of inner connection and a sense of communal feeling. At times, we are unaware of what we have to offer to our Subud life either as an individual or as part of a team until we work together on a Subud project, either big or small. An example was the recent America's Gathering in Vancouver. 30-35 individuals met one day a week for

(2)

a year to plan and prepare for the Gathering. Many were surprised by the wealth of resources that this group had to contribute. The group worked together with respect and caring for one another and out of that harmony the project came to a successful outcome.

Another example of the positive power of Subud gatherings occurred in the Spring of 2013 when a Helpers weekend was held in the Western Region. 30 helpers were in attendance. Many questions and concerns were brought forth during our time together. Some helpers were troubled by such things as: new members being opened and leaving shortly after their opening; difficulty in performing their role as helpers; and, helpers questioning the value of remaining as a helper. Encompassing these concerns was an atmosphere of openness, acceptance and connection to our inner feelings. Through latihan, sharing, a lot of quiet listening and testing, the helpers left the weekend feeling satisfied, connected to their inner selves with a sense of closeness to their Subud brothers and sisters.

Another source of support and help for the members is to avail themselves of Bapak's talks. In listening to Bapak's talks we are given explanations about the latihan and our own human make-up. And, accompanying

these explanations, we have the opportunity to receive something that can touch our inner feeling, bringing proof of the power of this inner gift we have received through the latihan.

OUR BLESSINGS

While recognizing our challenges we are also grateful for the fruits and blessings of the latihan that are apparent in many of our personal lives and more widely in the fact that all of our large groups not only own their properties but are running successful rental enterprises that have helped pay off their mortgages and also to support Subud Canada/International expenses and contribute to Susila Dharma. Activities such as art galleries that display members' works are a much appreciated development in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. Our helpers groups continue to perform their duties with sincerity and dedication and visits from the International, National and Regional helpers are generally well attended and appreciated. Most importantly we wish to celebrate our indomitable spirit that enables us to continue in our roles with love and gratitude for the latihan and for each other.

Submitted by Mahmud Nestman and Istafia de Souza

KC report to Zone 7 from Mexico.

Our national congress was held in March and about 40 members attended from the three formal groups, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Mexico City and isolated members from Veracruz and Cuernavaca. there was a very full programme:

- testing for the new national chair;
- presentations of the wings and the subud structure;
- workshops and a kejiwaan session with testing related to our commitment as helpers, to our disposition and diligence in the performance of our duties.

It was considered that the present roster of national helpers could carry on until the world congress.

The national council decided that the changeover to the new national committee should take place in the council meeting held in Mexico City on 11th May. There the outgoing national committee headed by Mariamah as chair and Manuel as treasurer handed over all pertinent documents to the incoming chairman, Fernando Fatah. aside from this, there was a national helper visit to Puebla to work with the local helpers and the group, but there was a limited attendance of the members. Sadly our sister Miriam Salinas, national helper for Puebla passed away. from Tlaxcala there was a request for a special session with the women of the group to promote their regular attendance to the group latihan.

The new national chairman made a request that the local helpers should, through some tests, help members to receive indications and so they might come forward to take up the auxiliary posts (secretary, treasurer, etc) and thereby complete the committee. The various candidates are to be tested at the national gathering to be held on 25th May in Mexico City. this procedure would be better than choosing them himself.

Luthfi and Karimah.

KC report to Zone 7 from Subud USA

Statistics:

Since the National Committee is in the process of updating the membership database, the information below is based on the 2012 census report.

Active Members: 1,800
National Helpers: 7
Regional Helpers: 36
Active Local Helpers: 375
Honorary Helpers: 37
Candidate Helpers: 16
Openings 2012: 84
Centers in 7 Regions: 59

Subud exists because of the latihan. It's the helpers' job to nurture and maintain our ability to receive this gift that comes for the benefit of all mankind. The National helper dewan support the work of various committees, helpers, and wings.

This year the National Helpers have enjoyed working with representatives of the Wings, Regions, National Committee, and Zone. We have tested a man and a woman liaison to work with each of these parts of the organization. Communication with these various parts is by phone and internet. Some committees and centers use skype while others may use Google+ or phone. We also attend congresses, AGMs, and other meetings as well as visit centers when invited. One national helper visited several centers in her region following a regional gathering. In other cases national helpers have visited various groups because they happened to be in the area. In one region a group was visited by another group to help solve the problem of their lack of funds and a national helper accompanied them. There was a positive solution resulting from the collaboration. In another case a regional chair wanted to visit a group and invited a regional helper and national helper to join her.

The main issues are harmony and manifesting the latihan in the world. We are blessed to have harmony within our own dewan, between both men and women and in our work with the national Committee, the regions, and the wings with whom we have liaisons. We are being challenged to show the results of our latihan in the ways we live and work in the world. For example, the question has arisen in Susila Dharma of whether to support projects that are started by non-Subud people. Some regions have a large number of regional members. This situation continues to be a challenge in terms of staying in touch with these members and being sure they feel connected to other Subud members and to the larger Subud community. There are different ways of trying to stay in touch. One way is having a regional open-phone latihan regularly such as once a week or once a month. It helps to talk to others on the phone before or after the latihan, and helps to feel that others are doing the latihan at the same time. However, there still needs to be more attention paid to these members with phone calls, news updates, and email messages.

Facebook:

An interesting addition to National Helper work this year has involved social networking. Two of us follow Subud discussions on Facebook, and one set up a new page when conversation seemed to be turning negative on one of the established ones. A group of helpers and members was assembled to keep watch on the various facebook pages so that in any case where erroneous or hurtful dialogue occurred we would be aware of it and find a way to contribute in a positive way to the discussion, and in some cases remove hurtful dialogue or a member from posting, but only as a last resort.

The question often comes up, "How can Subud grow?" We perceive that that is not the correct question. The question is, "Are we living Susila Budhi Dharma?" And, "Are we sharing the benefits of the latihan in the world?" With these questions guiding us we hope to bring harmony and direction to all our activities.

So, in general we feel that the sleeping giant is moving, quite awake in some places while still dozing in others. We hope in this year leading up to another International Congress the waking up will continue actively.

Laurie Lathrop and Hoan Toan Phan
KCs of Subud USA