



“What’s next for Zone 7?” - a brief update from your Zone Representative

It’s been a while since I reported on what I have been up to as your Zone 7 Rep - the last time being after the World Subud Council (WSC) meeting at Rungan Sari in Indonesia in June/July. One of the most exciting decisions for me at that meeting was agreement that an **Americas Gathering** would take place at the beautiful University of British Columbia campus on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, in Vancouver, Canada in June 2012.



The University of British Columbia

This gathering will focus on attracting members from throughout the Americas (Zones 7, 8 & 9) as well as from other parts of the world. Therefore, Subud Canada hopes to work with the other countries in Zone 7 (as well as the other two Zones) in creating this gathering.

I am a member of a very enthusiastic organizing team for the Americas Gathering, set up by Subud Canada, with particular responsibility for “international liaison”. This means that I can (and will!) do my best to keep you in touch with what is happening as the planning progresses. Please send me your ideas, questions and input over the coming months. So far, Subud USA (SUSA) has provided financial assistance with the deposit needed to acquire the accommodation and I understand that a number of US Subud members have volunteered to be on the organizing team. So, thanks to SUSA for your support right from the beginning! Please let me know if others are interested in helping from your respective countries.

We sought input from throughout the Americas, in order to determine the length of the gathering and the numbers who might attend. As you can imagine, feedback was varied, but the general feeling seemed to be that the preferred length was about a week and that we could expect between 300 and 400. So the Americas Gathering will take place from **June 26 to July 3**. This will allow those attendees who want to, to travel to nearby northern Washington to participate in the Subud USA Congress that starts on July 5. The Subud Canada AGM/Congress

will precede the Americas Gathering and will be held at the Subud Vancouver hall. It is expected that there will be an opportunity during the Americas Gathering for presentations by the Subud Wings, affiliated Subud bodies like the Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF), the 2014 World Congress Organizing Team and others. In addition, as was agreed by the Council, the 2012 Zone 7 Council meeting will also be taking place then. The exact date has yet to be decided.

There is another aspect on which the organizing team would appreciate your input. We are agreed that every effort will be taken to make the Americas Gathering as affordable as possible for Subud members. Recognizing that Canada is not "cheap", particularly for visitors from many other parts of the Americas, we are looking at ways to effectively provide some financial assistance to members who need it. How is it best to do this? Your ideas are welcomed!

We are also looking at ways in which our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters from Mexico, Cuba, and South America can be made to feel "at home" and to effectively understand and communicate during the Americas Gathering. Again, please let me know of any suggestions that you have about this.

Our quarterly Zone Council conference calls continue, with the last one at the beginning of August. During that meeting, (in which 12 of us participated), we shared highlights of what has been happening in the countries of the Zone since we were together in Puebla, were updated by Subud Mexico on preparations for the 2014 World Congress, received a Treasurer's report and discussed the upcoming Americas Gathering. Please remember that our next Zone 7 Council conference call is scheduled for **Sunday November 6**. Please send me any agenda items and you will receive the dial-in instructions in due course.



*WSA Chair Luke Penseny with Fernando Fatah Nieva,
Chair of the 2014 World Congress Organizing Team - in Puebla*

The work of the Zone Reps continues. We are slowly helping to implement the various resolutions passed at last year's World Congress. There have been World Subud Association (WSA) Board of Directors' conference calls and we are assisting WSA Fundraising Coordinator, Stuart Cook to develop a fundraising strategy that should benefit all areas of the Subud organization. Stay tuned for news soon!

Dave Hitchcock
Zone 7 Representative
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