

Minutes of Zone 7 Council Meeting

(by telephone conference call)

Sunday April 25, 2010

Start time 5.00 pm - Pacific Standard Time.

PREAMBLE:

Here are the minutes from our telephone meeting. They are quite formal, but record some of the highlights, and actions that were agreed. We covered a lot of topics during the 90 minutes and I apologize if I cut anyone off or was too forceful in moving to the next agenda item. I really appreciated the effort by those for whom English is not their first language. Thank you everyone for your participation and for being so understanding.

The minutes certainly do not reflect the incredible love and harmony that I felt during this call. I realize that there will be some new faces/voices on subsequent calls, but I am really looking forward to our next four years together - I think we have a great team!!

Participants:

USA

Rosetta Narvaez - Committee Councillor
Laurie Lathrop - Kejiwaan Councillor
Hoan Toan Phan - Kejiwaan Councillor

Mexico

Fernando Fatah Nieva Martinez - Chair
Arif (formerly Hector) Rojas Rivero - Committee Councillor
Luthfi Becker - Kejiwaan Councillor

Suriname

Karmila Abas-Martotaroeno - Chair
Arvin Misran - Kejiwaan Councillor

Canada

Matthew Baerveldt - Committee Councillor
Istafiah de Souza - Kejiwaan Councillor
Mahmud Nestman - Kejiwaan Councillor

Hardwin Blanshard - Zone 7 Treasurer
Luke Pensney - WSA Chair (for first part of meeting)
Dave Hitchcock - Subud Canada Chair and Zone 7 Rep

Regrets:

Joanna Brown sent her love from Jamaica.

Welcomes, Hellos & Roll Call

Quiet Time

1. Approval of the Agenda.

The following topics were added:

- Cuba
- Website

With these additions, the previously distributed agenda was approved.

2. Brief reports from each country - highlights

USA: (partly from a subsequently emailed report by their Kejiwaan Councillors)

- National Chair Reynold Bean is on a leave of absence until end of his term at the US Congress in July. Vice Chair, Hamilton Brannan has taken over his responsibilities. Directors meetings and "business as usual" are continuing.
- Regional meetings will be taking place to prepare proposals for the US Congress.

- The Endowment Fund is working well.
- Ongoing struggle to engage Subud youth (late teens/early 20's) in taking on organizational roles and responsibilities.
- Total (active) membership is 1,773 in 7 Regions. Total of 689 Helpers, including 6 National Helpers, 34 Regional and 390 Active Local Helpers.
- National Helpers group is harmonious and working well together. Communication by daily emails and frequent simultaneous latihan and conference calls. Selected National Helpers act as liaisons for each Region, National Committee Wings and the Zone
- National Helpers and National Committee latihan before conference call meetings. National Helpers and National Committee work closely together to plan the National Congress.
- Generally, the Regions are doing well, but more committee members and helpers needed in some.
- Wings generally have monthly conference calls, preceded by latihan.
- Traditions of kejiwaan gathering at Menucha and Pittsburgh.

SURINAME:

- Karmila was tested in as the first female National Chair of Subud Suriname in March. (loud cheering!) Former Chair Patrick is Committee Councillor, with Arvin and Lucie as Kejiwaan Councillors.
- Remodeling of Subud House in Acaribo, (thanks to generosity of MSF and volunteer work by members) is 90% complete. Latihan are already taking place there.
- Starting this year, the national team is encouraging the different groups in Paramaribo, Acaribo and Lelydorp to organize many of their own activities, rather than rely totally on Paramaribo.
- 4 new Helpers in Paramaribo, 2 in Acaribo and 1 in Lelydorp. Each provided with a copy of the Helpers handbook.
- 1st Saturday of each month - gatherings for all Helpers.
- 2nd Saturday of each month - meetings with Wings & Committee

CANADA:

- Currently there are approximately 400 members in Canada, located in 7 groups and 2 regions. 4 groups own their own Subud houses.
- Over 60 members from Canada went to the World Congress in Christchurch.
- We are strongly represented internationally, with Canadians in the positions of WSA Chair, SDIA Chair, MSF CEO, MSF Trustee, Zone Rep., and that Grace Hodgson and Hamilton Schragen (former members of this Council) are International Helpers.
- We are delighted that Mexico was selected as the location for the 2104 Congress and look forward to providing Subud Mexico with any help and support that they need.
- We have Regional Gatherings coming up on May 14 - 16 in the West (near Vancouver) and May 21 - 23 in the East (near Toronto)
- Our AGM will be on May 19 & 20 at the Subud Toronto hall. Our Congress will take place during the Western Region Gathering, during which a new National Chair will be selected.
- Main focus for the new National Helpers has been to plan for the upcoming AGM & Congress and to visit as many groups as possible in the East.
- Shared concern of how to persuade more younger members to participate in the organization.
- Objective is to create a strong and harmonious team of National Helpers.

MEXICO:

- Approximately 100 members in 3 main groups.
- National Committee and the four National Helpers are working well together, meeting every 2 months. Lot of harmony, good feeling and joy!
- Early preparations for the 2014 World Congress have begun. Remember the receiving by the International Helpers in Christchurch that it would be a very peaceful Congress? They are striving for this! First they are focusing on the inner. Have to connect with all members about the Congress.
- Some members are returning to Subud and the groups are growing.

3. "Question & Answer" with WSA Chair - Luke Pensenev

Luke had proposed this as an experiment. If successful, he suggests that other zones may want to include a Q & A session in their meetings.

Topics included:

- **Question:** Is there still a need for Deputy WSA Chair?
Answer: Luke hopes that this may be clarified/resolved at the WSC Meeting in August.
- **Question:** Does the MSF have a way to proactively contact older Subud members and request they leave a bequest to Subud?

Answer: MSF already has an informal contact network. Current systems are being upgraded, work on a Subud census, efforts to more formally connect existing websites together (website shop). Luke suggested that Hardwin contact Lillian Shulman. (MSF Administrator)

- **Question:** What is the focus for the WSC meeting in England?

Answer: Largely for the members of the Council to latihan, test, get to know each other and start building strengths as a team. There are many initiatives underway that build on what has already been achieved.

- **Question:** Does Luke have a report from Marianne Kay about the Christchurch Congress? Is there a manual with advice as to how to organize a World Congress?

Answer: Luke has seen a draft report from the NZ Congress Organizing Committee and understands that the final version will be available within a few weeks.

Note from Dave: As you may know, I am coordinating feedback with the other Zone Reps on "lessons learned" from the NZ Congress. If any Council member would like to send me their input, I will see that it is included.

Action: Luke will ask Maya to reply to Subud Mexico directly about the Congress manual.

Action: Council members are asked to give feedback to Dave as to whether or not this Question & Answer segment was useful and would they recommend it for other zones?

4. Date and location for our next Zone 7 Council Meeting

There was a lively discussion, particularly about the timing for our next "in-person" Zone Council meeting. It was agreed that:

- we must be practical,
- we recognize the financial reality,
- it is important to meet as early as possible in 2011, and
- the location should be accessible to our Cuban brothers and sisters.

Consensus: Interested countries within Zone 7 would be asked to submit proposals in principle to host the next Zone Council Meeting, that would ideally take place in the first part of 2011. These proposals to be evaluated and discussed during our next Zone Council meeting, and a discussion made with the assistance of testing.

5. Zone 7 Latihans

There was consensus that we would like to see the custom of zonal latihan continue.

Action: Luthfi volunteered to contact Muchtar Salzman (and Grace Hodgson?) to find out how they organized these before.

6. Potential Zone 7 Projects

Rosetta commented that during the term of the last Council, we had talked about possible projects that we could work on together. Although we plan help Mexico to host the 2014 World Congress, it would be good to find a suitable project(s) that we can work on together and learn from each other.

Action: Arif will email details about their planned SD/Youth Camp in Mexico to the rest of the Council.

Action: Other Council members to share any potential Zone 7 Projects that they want to suggest with the rest of the Council.

7. Zone 7 2010 Budget

This will depend largely on what we decide to do in 2010. If, as previously agreed, the next "in-person" Council Meeting takes place in 2011, maybe we want to put funds by in 2010 to help Council members attend this meeting. It would be difficult to discuss all of the specific financial components during this conference call.

Action: Dave and Hardwin (Zone Treasurer) will work together in creating proposed 2010 and 2011 Budgets that will be shared with the rest of the Council by email for discussion and comments.

Subud USA brought up their increased level of contribution for 2009. Should this continue for 2010 etc.? Subud Mexico will be increasing their contribution from \$300 to \$350 for 2010.

Action: Each contributing country to the Zone 7 budget to decide how much they want to donate in 2010 and 2011.

8. Next Zone 7 Council Conference Call

- should be in 4 to 6 months time, to check on what has been happening.

- Should be after the WSC meeting (August 2 - 8) so that the Council could hear a report.

Action: Dave to schedule the next Zone 7 Council conference call for the second half of August. Suggested date: Sunday August 22?

9. Other Business:

(i) Zone 7 Council List server moderator

Action: Dave to send out information about this role to Council members.

(ii) Council members' photos

Dave thanked the Council members who had sent in their photos and commented on how it was wonderful to be able to put a face to the voice of those he hadn't yet met.

(iii) Cuba

Action: Hardwin to send an email to Council members about Cuba using the Council List server. Were all Council members on this? It appeared so.

(iv) Website

In the interest of time, this agenda item was postponed.

The conference call concluded with a **Quiet Time** at approximately 6.40 pm (Pacific Standard Time)

Minutes recorded by Dave Hitchcock