

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
8:00 pm Meeting (7 pm quiet, 7:15 latihan, call in)

Minutes approved at Regional Council Meeting on August 4, 2022 at UC Santa Barbara

Attendees were on Zoom by 8:08, Luqman Katz, Chair, began the meeting.

I - QUIET – Helper Prayer to Start Meeting – Harlan asked for blessings for our meeting, for Subud throughout the world and here, receive guidance on behalf of all the members we serve.

II - CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Voting members present: Christian Stepien, Vice Chair, Dennis Oliver, Palo Alto; Halimah Collingwood, Arcata; Hamilton Chaffee, Sacramento; Hannah Kusterer, Walnut Creek; Hasan MacNeil, Treasurer; Haryanti Jones, Chair of Los Angeles, as Councilor; Jane Katz, Secretary; Luqman Katz, Chair; Meldan Heaslip, Marin; Michael Meyers, Sonoma; Rohana LoSchiavo, Regional Members Councilor; Ralph Davila, Santa Cruz; Simon Andrews, San Diego; Sjahari Pullom, San Joaquin Valley

Non-voting members present: Henrietta Haines, Executive Director; Elizabeth Trudell, Community Resources Committee; Rifka Several, Congress Chair; Henry Couden, Community Resource Committee.

Regional Helpers: Helen Mertens, Leanna Harrison, Hani'a Abram, Harlan Gleeson,
Observers: Helanna Andres, New Chair of Sacramento; Vivianna Lee Stomel, new PMC member
Absent – no absences

III - Welcome to guests and to Hamilton Chaffee, New Councilor for Sacramento

IV - REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – Motion to approve March 16, 2022, second, unanimously approved.

V - ACTION ITEMS -- Confirmation of PMC members, see VI, C

VI - COMMITTEE REPORTS

A - CONGRESS REPORT and COMMUNITY RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Rifka, Elizabeth and Team

1. Rifka, regrouping meeting on June 2. Looking forward to meeting with Regional Helpers

2. Congress Team is still requiring vaccination

- UCSanta Barbara requires repeated testing for unvaccinated
- We are not equipped to handle their testing regimen
- Masks required for latihan and inside meetings
- Halimah: concerned that there might be people not vaccinated from other groups
- Elizabeth: only dining hall would be an issue; it's a large space, where we can congregate together
- Hamilton, Policy should be clear before registration
- Yes, communications have been consistent, policy stated on website and registration materials

3. Registration

- 25 in person registrations; 3 virtual registrations
- Elizabeth will be working on increasing registration numbers

4. Still need volunteers

- for Coffee Bar and other jobs
- Have team organizing gift shop and gallery
- Helpers need someone manning the conference call hot line during testing
- Cancellation policy: will accept up until 2 weeks before the event
- Cancellation date, will be made clear in registration

B – FINANCE and CHICO

1. Hasan noted that Financial Report was previously sent
 - The number for Insurance represents what was billed, hope to soon have what was spent
 - Number does not change total deficit
 - At 2pm today, \$62,137 general funds, \$9700 accounts payable, better than a few months ago
 - Last numbered item, part 2 of the report, Hasan's discovery that Subud USA, quickly has access to numbers monthly, due to using Quick Books Online
 - Subud CA also uses Quick Books, but not online
 - USA will interface with us to clarify how to move to Quick Books online
 - Hasan spends a lot of time calculating, checking balances, even using manual calculator. Hopes to see improvements with move to online
 - Dennis, congratulations on close of Chico.
 - Hasan: Arthur Barrett set up loan, did not have confidence that the deal would close, but it has. Closing adds \$41,000 and change into Property Fund
 - Meldan, thanks Hasan for his hard work
 - Sjahari, so glad that order seems to be coming out of chaos, so important, thanks Hasan for heroic effort
2. Hamilton appreciates improvements in financial reporting. Need policy about:
 - Deficiency in our accountability structure
 - Reports by centers
 - Subud CA has no endowment fund
 - Hasan: reestablished PMC will be looking at groups that need help and how to proceed

C - PMC (Property Management Committee) – Christian

1 – Introduction of New PMC Members

- Vivianna and Lauren Stomel owned buildings, commercial and apartments
- Vivianna purchased, renovated and maintained rentals; happy to be helpful if she can be
- Lauren has a long career in marketing
- Simon Andrews is a businessman in San Diego
- Meldan: suggests testing with Regional Helpers and wonders about the length of terms
- Christian will be leaving the PMC at the Congress
- Hasan: PMC Charter does not require testing, can be amended if desired, suggests testing as the PMC group could be valuable
- Ralph: previous interface with PMC, a lot of responsibility and little authority, if planning to reset, should look at this
- Hasan: Council has authority and can grant authority on case by case basis
- Rohana, will there be something in the minutes tonight that outlines what this committee does and is responsible for?
- Christian: simple and straightforward, one page Charter
- Elizabeth: will send links to website where Charters are
- Haryanti: thanks PMC members for willingness to do this, Lauren and Vivianna are also Helpers in LA
- Simon, did not volunteer for PMC with responsibility

- Luqman, when Chair of LA, used and valued the PMC as a resource
- Hamilton was on the PMC at that time, PMC could flag things that need the attention of the Council
- Hamilton, it is important how the Council uses the PMC, it should be reexamined
- Luqman hears all comments, wants to confirm the PMC members and then can further discuss going forward
- PMC is to be an unbiased committee
- Sjahari agrees that that the Council can be appropriate authority, but recognizes that there may need to be some clarification to Charter

ACTION ITEM – Motion to accept these members for the PMC, Luqman; Second, Ralph

- PMC vote, carries unanimously, Confirmation of PMC approved by Council
- Property Survey Report was made in 2018
- Sent to the various houses
- What was determined to be needed 2 years ago
- Physical, not financial
- Vivianna and Lauren have begun to do research about houses

D – FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Rohana

1. Members volunteered at the last meeting: Rohana, Helena, Ralph, Luke
 - Preliminary Report, direction, etc.. Rohana
 - Group started, Added 2 more volunteers: Aryahi Naomi Onaga, Hanafi Fraval
 - 2 tier Fundraising appeal
 - Pledges for Matching fund, \$3500 to date
 - Hanafi and Ralph will go to specific members
 - Hope to have \$10,000 seed money
2. Focus for appeal: money needed for helper travel, Subud in the World, etc.
 - Using email starting in June, around Bapak's birthday
 - Will continue through Congress in August
 - Hope Councilors will act as ambassadors to their groups
3. Little Green Light system
 - costs \$45 per month, cloud based, on going, continue past committee time,
 - designed for nonprofit fundraising, through Tech Soup, interfaces with Quick Books Online and Mail Chimp, Constant Contact
4. If you want to help establish goal for fundraising, please contact Rohana
 - Haryanti: wants to interface with SICA to create events that can also raise funds
 - Helena: will use the CalChat June 5 time to offer Subud Stories, as a fund raising effort, Hani'a will host; Harlan will use a telethon format, plan to try to do 3 times a year
 - Halimah: entertainment night Hootenanny
 - Elizabeth: coordinate off line to keep communication clear and not overwhelming
 - Hasan: thanks all, major steps forward for us

E – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Henrietta

- Insurance, something new and interesting every year. Last year, Church Mutual did not want to cover Santa Cruz. this year, not wanting to cover Marin
- Reached out to Nationwide about Marin, Now working on a second round of requests for information
- Henrietta's family has used another company, she has asked if they would cover Marin, just the building, as well as building and liability for all houses
- Council asks Henrietta every year or two to look at insurance
- Church Mutual has been insuring churches for 125 years, won't be a better company or cheaper from Insurance Agent for other company
- Will check with other companies for coverage

- Luqman and Hasan acknowledge how much time this takes, 600 pages of documents
- Meeting with Church on June 9 for Hasan, Henrietta, Manuel Oliver
- Meldan, can there be coverage for fire except not wildfires
- Henrietta has not asked this, will check and call Meldan about some things specific to Marin.

VII – KEJIWAAN WEEKEND, at Santa Cruz, June 10-12 with Regional Helpers

A – Schedule

- Latihan Friday night about 9 and Saturday 10 am at the Santa Cruz House, can also do more testing on Sunday for anyone still there
- After Saturday latihan, Helpers will offer general testing, testing will continue in the afternoon

B - Logistics

- Good to tell Raina travel schedule
- Henry, will run Zoom component for those unable to attend
- Raina is making dinner for Friday night
- Meldan asks about COVID testing before Thursday, Friday, and Saturday especially for slumber party mates
- Need to be vaccinated and will wear masks

C. Focus

- Strengths and weaknesses for Council position is sometimes useful
- Councilors can offer possible test questions

VIII – Walnut Creek Center Update, Hannah Kusters

Walnut Creek has officially disbanded, stopped renting a room in a church in Walnut Creek when closed for COVID. The group Zoomed for a while, but not lately. Since group has disbanded, she has no reason to be on the Council, even though she has enjoyed it. Hannah has been a candidate helper for about 5 years. She was encouraged to come to Santa Cruz for the day. Luqman thanked Hannah for her service. She will be missed.

IX – MSF

A – Grant applications have been sent to Councilors, MSF seems to have quite a lot of money, may be appropriate to apply for house needs

- Ralph has put his name in to be notified about meetings to help make applications, has not heard back
- Luqman will find out the status and let Ralph and Halimah know.

B – LA is offering to host MSF Board Meeting January or February 2023, 5 or 6 days

X – NEWS FROM Subud USA MAY 14 MEETING – Luqman

A – Armani Center, has 1 acre of land, \$150,00 income from rentals, yearly

- One acre lot next door, owned by Alkaiti's daughter, who is willing to sell at a discount
- Simon, Hanafi, were also on line for this meeting
- The decision is in process, voted for Subud USA to continue to gather more information and spend up to \$10,000 on lawyers (Stephens and Stephens) about how to own, develop property and still maintain church status with IRS

- Minutes and financials are on Subud USA website for more details
- B– Yearly meeting for Subud USA on July 9, 2022, Saturday and possibly Sunday
- C – Rifka heading up a proposal team for US and Canada to jointly sponsor the next International Congress (2028 or 2029)
 - will meet in Subud Seattle
 - Britain is also exploring making a proposal

XI – OLD BUSINESS – Reset discussion

Will table tonight, may address as part of the June 10 - 12 event.

XII – Next Council Meeting, Friday, August 5, 2022, Santa Barbara

Luqman closed the meeting at 10:15.