SICA-USA Board Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

02.17.22

Attending, Board Members: Paul Nelson (Chair), Kristiana Kalab (Secretary), Lauren Stanley, Susannah Rosenthal, Sanderson Morgan, Ralph Davila (Acting Treasurer), and Lawrence Pevec. National Helper Liaisons: Jim Dehner and Michal Brownell. Lauren, took minutes.

* Call to order at 4:22 PST, after latihan

Motion to approve meeting minutes by Ralph; seconded by Sanderson; approved unanimously. Lauren and Kristiana will share secretary duties; Lauren taking minutes, Kristiana to edit them and send to the Board. Lawrence stated preference for uniform format and indication of who spoke.

* Financial report

Ralph sent out January report, bank balance, and ongoing 2022 donor list before the meeting. Current balances: $3,390.11 -Checking. $9,965.99 -Savings, $13,356.10 -Total as of February 17th. Year-end report format will be the same format as monthly report and include all months of the year with their own reports. Kristiana requests documents three days in advance of the meeting, to review. Ralph worked with former and current treasurers of Subud California to come up with a format to cover our needs. We don’t need software – the task is relatively simple.

* Annual report

Paul wrote an annual report, using last year’s report as a guide. He appreciated the feedback from Lawrence and Lauren. The report will go on the blog in part and there, provide link to whole report as a webpage. There was a request for pictures - Paul took a screenshot of us.

* Website

Lauren Stomel continues to put out posts but expressed concern for lack of quality in some of what is submitted. Kristiana asked about criteria. Paul provided a link to the guidelines on the website. https://sica-usa.org/guidelines/

Lauren Stomel’s email contact was shared to communicate with on the matter of making posts and contributions. Lauren Stanley said this is a discussion that could be taken up outside this meeting, in committee. So far members of the blog committee are Paul and Lauren Stomel; should be more.

* Discussion of testing results

Kristiana has concerns about the format; thinks reporting back should be extrapolating rather than long transcripts. Michal questions the purpose of memorializing the testing results - these are sacred and time-sensitive and do not need to go into archives. Their usefulness is of the moment. Some of the men did provide summaries. Kristiana made a motion that we allot enough time to share after testing in the future; seconded by Sanderson. Paul expressed that this is not a topic suitable for a motion. It should simply be noted in the minutes. Lawrence said it doesn’t need to be documented and the sharing can be spontaneous and informal. Ralph doesn’t want documenting and sharing should be voluntary. Susannah values sharing testing because of the poetry. Jim: writing down testing results is an individual thing and can happen or not. After discussion, motion is taken up again and passes unanimously.

* Cultural Conversation & Board retreat

Sanderson: California congress - 2-hour slot. - we have a lot of ideas and can pull this off. Need to focus on a board retreat - this seems very important.

Lawrence: would prefer to meet as a board as soon as possible but not to have a group event with a center and members beforehand. We don’t seem ready to do a program for other Subud members yet. Ability to have in LA is limited to their ability to host us. Possible to meet elsewhere.

Kristiana: wants to know about the logistics and people’s ideas for structure of event. Not thrilled about only having the Sunday at the California congress because launching a new idea should be done at the beginning of a congress, not when folks are eager to leave and go home.

Susannah: has tried for a long time to get a free space to do cultural activities at congresses. Really feels we need a dry run together. Doesn’t understand what the Cultural Conversation is. Doesn’t want to go to LA in March. She offered Co-play as a venue that could be more feasible, affordable.

Sanderson: he’ll keep talking to Rifka and hope to give her some content.

Paul: maybe we could treat the typical SICA entertainment slot as the Cultural Conversation event. Board retreat could be in Indiana and there we can develop potent content.

Susannah: there are beds that can be provided, kitchens, someone who can cook and has offered. Kristiana is willing to help with food, was café coordinator at SUBUD NY.

Lauren Stanley had to leave the meeting at 5:30 PST; Kristiana took over recording minutes.

Sanderson: mentioned that SUBUD CA was undecided as to how they would structure their hybrid (Zoom & in-person) Congress.

Discussion shifted to considering having the retreat at Co-Play in Muncie, Indiana. Questions were asked about when the weather would be best for traveling there. April and May were suggested.

Lawrence: Wants to find a good weekend that doesn’t happen during Ramadan.

Jim shared some sleeping arrangement concerns. Susannah assured everyone that there was lots of space for privacy and for all needs to be met.

Ralph: Curious about Indiana. Mentioned that it doesn’t seem a good time Sunday after Latihan in CA for Cultural Conversation Launch. He’s interested in having retreat in Muncie at Co-Play.

Michal: NH Board retreat is planned for May 15th

Sanderson: Made motion to have SICA-USA Board Retreat at Co-Play over the May20-22, 20022 weekend. Seconded by Ralph.

Motion was passed unanimously by remaining board members. (Lauren has expressed her support before leaving.)

Sanderson and Paul are co-chairs of Cultural Conversation Committee. Lauren, Susannah and Lawrence are members.

Paul: $500 from SICA is available to offset expenses related to travel as has been the practice since he joined the board. Maybe some funds would be available to offset costs for food.

Ralph: nominated Lawrence for Vice-Chair. Susannah seconded the nomination. He was elected unanimously. Lawrence said he is happy to accept and see what the job description is.

The next Board meeting will be Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 9 am-12 noon PT.

Suggested Agenda

-Lawrence lead the discussion regarding committee work and organization.

-Sanderson update on Cultural Conversation developments.

-Group discussion on Board retreat. Lawrence: strongly requested that we keep the conversation about organization in-between our Board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM PST.