**SICA-USA Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2021**

(Compiled by Lawrence Pevec from Zoom recording)

**Attendance:**

Paul E Nelson *(Chair),* Hamilton Cheifetz *(Past Chair),* Ralph Davila *(Acting Treasurer),* *Board Members:* Lawrence Pevec; Sanderson Morgan; Lauren Stanley and Susannah Rosenthal, *Web Coordinator:* Lauren Stomel, *National Helper Liaisons:* Jim Dehner, Michal Brownell.

**Zoom Call to Order.** 5pm PDT/6pm MDT/7pm CDT/8pm EDT

1. **Moment of Silence.**

1. **Approval of last Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2021:**

**Lawrence Pevec:** Motion to approve minutes as amended in the chat.

Discussion: Two changes applied; 1) Ralph removed the *Healing Arts* category from the list of SICA\_USA funding categories and fund-raising application due to possible liability issues and 2)

**Lawrence** is *currently* doing the video series.

**Sanderson Morgan**: Second

Motion passed (unanimously)

1. **Treasurer's Report:** **Ralph** sent out all transaction reports.The SICA-USA bank balance is currently $7800.00. $900 - $1000 has been raised from the fundraising effort. All funds are in Savings (BECU). $105.00 from the Wells Fargo account which Hamilton has closed, has been moved. All new fundsare going into the BECU account.

**Board liability Insurance.** We need to buy a BoD policy without also buying a general liability policy. We must buy a policy in the state where we are registered. Ralph got two quotes from Washington underwriters. We can get full coverage for $674.00 per year. $1Million general liability and $1Million BoD liability. General Liability would cover items at headquarters Subud Seattle Subud Center where we’re registered as a non-profit.

**Hamilton:** Motion to approve purchase of less expensive liability insurance policy.

**Sanderson:** Second. Motion passed (unanimously) Added to line item of budget.

**Ralph:** Will add Jim and Michal to the insured directors list.

1. **Discussion of cultural conversation & annual fund drive:**

**Susannah:** Talked to the international branch of SICA as liaison from our board to update them on the fund drive, the website statistics and other activities.

**Lawrence:** Conversation is moving along well. 2-3 blog items per week. Each blog will have fund raising pitch at the end of blog. **Paul** intends to produce a blog item specifically about current SICA-USA fund drive. **Paul** wants all directors to write one like his with the pitch at the top. He wants to pick up the urgency on the fund drive.

**Lauren Stanley:** Confused about what is happening with my essay piece (The Drift)? **Lauren Stomel** said it is scheduled for release on the 28th. We need to learn how to go to the admin page to see where everything is scheduled.

**Ralph:** Is the use of **Lauren Stanley’s** piece subject to *copywrite* requirements? **Lauren Stanley:** I think we solved that. A *link* to the full magazine article is included. **Paul:** The way we did it is beneficial to the original source (the magazine). **Ralph:** Likes idea of getting permission because it adds credibility.

**Paul** reviewed the blog stats (via screen share). March (’21) is most popular month in SICA-USA history so far. (101 hits per day average. More than double over last year’s stats.) Discussion and training of formatting WordPress by **Paul** and **Lauren Stomel.**

**Hamilton:** Described his fund-raising outreach to Subud Portland.

**Sanderson:** Has contacted people about donations of art work. How are we going to do that? How about if we encourage Bachrun Lomelle to write about his work and offer it as a premium?

**Ralph:** Talked more about offering premiums to higher level contributors.

**Lawrence** reminded directors that Robert Mertens offered unspecified help with his art for our fund-raising effort. Also, we can’t offer a premium for a $100 donation. Offered as purchase or possible auction.

**Ralph:** Wants artist to value and put the price on their work.

**Paul:** Doesn’t want an auction. Wants blog contributions from all members with fund-raising pitch. Wants Lawrence to ask Robert M. to write a blog post about his work.

**Lawrence:** Wants directors to contact people in their regions/networks and find out what they do and encourage them to write about it for the blog. It shows we can keep the blog fresh. Ask them to write about whatever their passionate about.

**Paul:** Talked about **Reynold Weissinger** doing latihan with Allen Ginsberg in SF. That is the kind of thing that should be inwritten about. There is very little online about Ginsberg doing the latihan.

**Paul** is literary executor for **Sam Hamill**. Has his books and can offer them as a premium.

**Sanderson:** Will send an example of how their article will look on the blog to encourage them to respond.

**Ralph:** **Bustemi** (auto designer) will be contacted by either **Sanderson** or **Ralph**.

**Paul:** Describes phone call and meeting with Simón Cherpitel and Lawrence. He offered Simon monetary help from SICA-USA but he didn’t respond. The conversation was labored and difficult. Paul talked about editing blog post submissions in order to eliminate typos and improve syntax.

**Lawrence:** re Cherpitel call: We contacted Simon for two reasons. 1) About using his material and getting him to write about it for the blog and 2) to participate in Communication Committee. His frustration is that there are too many websites out there and we can’t get all the information. Simon suggested a daily newsroom like update that can be used to alert subscribers to new content on all the sites. **Lawrence** didn’t know that these things had been discussed at the SUSA Archives meeting already and weren’t Simon’s ideas.

**Paul:** Talked about Subud Archives Assoc. that has a site already. More discussion about how and what it should contain. Paul *screen shared* the site which is not yet available to the membership.

**Lawrence:** Will monitor and keep the board updated on these developments.

**Paul:** In terms of getting content for the blog **Rachman Cantrell** is another person to contact.

**Lawrence:** Is trying to locate the photo archive of Unolve Bjernes a Norwegian member he worked for in Indonesia. Lots of historic photographs of Wisma Subud and Bapak’s family in that archive.

**Susannah**: What about **Hamilton Pevec’s** video work?

**Lawrence: Hamilton** is being contacted by **Lawrence** for a blog item.

1. **Emmanuel Williams’ Grant application:**

**Lawrence** felt it was not complete enough to qualify for a grant. Didn’t receive or read the sample material included in the application.

**Susannah:** Has worked with EW on a book about sex. Can find some people to help him fill out the application.

**Sanderson:** Reminded that there was a sample attached.

**Ralph** said Emmanuel didn’t fill out the app himself, that helikes Emmanuel’s books and work with children. He connects well with young people. Has lots of books on Amazon and sells them at congresses. He puts something out there every day. He’s a working author. Wants to see him get the grant based on my history with him.

**Paul:** Read his book on Sex and thinks its brilliant. Wrote about it on his blog.

**Ralph:** Motion to grant the requested $300 to Emmanuel Williams. **Susannah:** Second. Approved (unanimously)

1. **Meeting with SICA International:**

**Susannah:** Spoke about her meeting with SICA International.

Liked the way they started their website (The Subud Village). Name changed from *the SICA Village* to its current name. Told them about what we’re doing here at SICA-USA.

Talked about Facebook and its problems for us.

1. **Renewal of SICA-USA Sponsorship Poetry Postcard Fest:**

**Paul**: Spoke about the upcoming Zoom Postcard Fest Online Exhibit launch and website on Sunday, March 28th.

**Lawrence:** Spoke about his involvement in the postcard fest last year and wants to send out word about it to all Subud membership. Feels there could be support given the success of Zoomuse.

**Ralph:** Acknowledged and appreciates **Lawrence**’s video on his postcard process and noted that museums and galleries are eager for these types of process videos.

**Susannah:** Is excited about spontaneous art being important to our work.

1. **Jim**: Wants to offer to do latihan as a group before the SICA-USA board meetings.

**Paul** will open the Zoom meeting a half hour prior to the scheduled meeting so members can share latihan with mutes on or off.

1. **Healing Arts Discussion.**

**Ralph:** Do we all agree that *healing arts* should be taken off the website? **Paul:** Explains why he made an executive decision to take it off the list of categories we serve. **Susannah:** That group should access SIHA and doesn’t think there is a likability issue. **Ralph:** Explains there is no SIHA any longer. It broke up due to conflict between different types of healing arts practitioners. They sent us $1K so we would deal with healing arts. **Susanna:** There is still the International level of SIHA under SDIA. So we don’t have to worry about it. **Lawrence:** Notes SDIA is supporting it on their website. **Lauren Stanley:** Healing is part of culture can’t we just use a disclaimer?It’s not a clear-cut issue. **Ralph:** Healing can be supported through music or art as well. Relates that a CA member got Covid from a Subud medical person. The consequences are great. **Susannah:** says that at a CA SICA-USA meeting, lots of the directors are healing arts people. Talks about healing through art and a domain name she developed for it. You can’t claim its healing, its art. **Lauren Stanley:** Are we talking about not recognizing healing at all or just for grant funding? **Paul:** Just for grant funding, we will still support it on the blog if it’s well written and relevant.

1. **General discussion about material for the blog:**

**Paul, Lauren Stanley, Susannah:** We’re not getting many applications yet and that’s a good thing. We’re not quite ready. Lauren Stanley askedif the fund drive was one year or will be ongoing. **Paul:** It’s renewable each year. suggesting it’s an annual subscription like NYT. **Lauren Stanley:** If we’re doing this perpetually it’s a lot of content to produce. **Ralph:** If we contact the other publications and they write a blurb about their content it will provide content for our site. **Lauren Stanley:** Do we accept anything we receive for posting? Are we an editorial board? **Paul:** it’s a hybrid of being a reporter, editorial board, and content networker. Talks about the history of the blog. It was a “cobweb” site. (Rarely updated.) Increased hits on the site are a result of the increased momentum and scope of the site. **Lawrence:** We need to get the next generation to contribute material to the blog. Mentions his children and Shoshannah Margolin’s daughter Myra who is a professional animator and videographer. The bottom line is that we need an editorial guidelines. **Susannah** wants to be involved in that conversation.

1. **Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM PDT. Next meeting, third Sunday at 2:15 PDT, 3:15 MDT, 4:15 CDT, 5:15 EDT. Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/s/2064225002**