



**URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
CLP MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 2013
Leavenworth, KS**

UAUS President Will Sherwood called the meeting to order on July 25, 2013 at 12:22 pm CDT at University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS. In attendance were Vice President Pro-Tem Mike Wood, Treasurer Bruce Brown, Membership Committee Chair Michael Berry, and Study Groups Committee Chair Kathy Wanenmacher.

CLP members present:

Urantia Association of Kansas City: Joel Wood President and James Flasschoen Vice President

GLMUA: Benet Rutenberg President and as proxy for the Vice President.

New York/Pennsylvania Urantia Association: Doug Cable as proxy for the President

Southwest Urantia Reader Family: Ed Owen Vice President and Susan Owen as proxy for President.

Spirit of Oklahoma Urantia Association: Evelyn Sisemore President and David Linthicum Vice President.

Urantia Association of Florida: Share Beasley President and as proxy for the Vice President

Urantia Association of Los Angeles: Will Sherwood President and Margo Sherwood as proxy for the Vice President

Ohio Students of *The Urantia Book*: Michael Berry as proxy for the President

Lone Star Urantia Association: Bruce Brown as proxy for the President

The roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

MOTION was made by David Linthicum to correct grammatical errors and adopt the corrected CLP meeting minutes from September 28, 2012. The motion was seconded by Michael Berry and was adopted unanimously.

MOTION: Bruce Brown moved to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Benet Rutenberg and adopted unanimously.

MOTION: Will Sherwood moved the next CLP meeting be held in conjunction with the 2014 Study Group Symposium in Chicago, Illinois at Techny Towers with date and time to be confirmed. Share Beasley seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

OFFICER REPORT

President's Report:

I'd like to thank each member of UAUS for this opportunity to serve and look forward to a mutually rewarding term of office in service to the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Since the last Governing Board meeting by phone on March 15, 2013, much has transpired. Bruce Brown and I took office as treasurer and president respectively on April 1, 2013. And, as many of you know, Chris Wood, UAUS vice president, was elected to the office of UAI President and resigned his position with UAUS. We wish him much success in his new role at the international level. I firmly believe Chris will serve with distinction and hopefully inspire "adventurous youth" to become more

active, both domestically and internationally. I'd also like to acknowledge our outgoing UAI President, Gaetan Charland, for the outstanding job he has done in leading UAI these past years.

Concurrent with Chris' resignation from UAUS in preparation for the UAI presidency, the previous UAUS Governing Board appointed Michael Wood to serve as Vice President pro tem to fill the remainder of Chris' term. Michael's candidacy for vice presidency will be voted on at this meeting.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank David Linthicum, our past president, and Istvan Hargitai our past treasurer for their years of excellent service. Both of them have helped make this transition go as smoothly as possible given the circumstances. I personally look forward to the resources and support that David and the other past presidents, Benet Rutenberg and Lee Armstrong bring to our movement and board. Their experience and wisdom as we move forward is invaluable.

In addition, I'd like to recognize Meredith VanWoert, Ed Owen, and Susan Owen for their service helping your new governing board officers, including myself, to understand some of the concerns faced by local associations. Among other issues, these include membership stimulation and governing board transparency. Hopefully, all the issues and concerns they brought forward will be discussed and resolved during this meeting.

As with any transition, there were a few snags getting your new governing board fully operational, not the least of which was setting up a new bank account for UAUS. Since the outgoing treasurer lives in Ohio and would be leaving the country for several weeks during the board transition, the board thought it best to open a new bank account.

Unfortunately, UAUS has not yet received the final non-profit acceptance letter from the IRS, and because Texas law would not allow us to open an account in our treasurer's back yard without that letter, and because California law would allow this, given that we've already received our non-profit EIN (Employer Identification Number) from them, we elected to open the account with Bank of America in California, using my home address on the account.

We chose Bank of America because branches were easily accessible to both myself and Bruce. We also established online banking so that we both would have full access to the account.

As many of you know, UAUS has very limited operating funds given that only about 10% of our current treasury is available for general use, with about 90% (\$30,000.00) limited to conference funding. Given this situation, the board's first order of business, after establishing our bank account, was fundraising. We developed a campaign with a cover letter, reply card and envelope, and using general funds money, the board unanimously approved a budget and sent out a little over 1,300 letters soliciting contributions.

Though the results we'd hoped for were less than ideal, the campaign was a success with all costs, including printing and mailing being \$1,698.03 and the total receipts, with additional contributions still arriving, at \$3,170.00 at the time of this writing. This gave us a net profit of \$1,471.97. It is the board's hope that certain of the motions on this agenda will generate interest and stimulate additional contributions.

The board also researched alternatives including PayPal and established a merchant account with Bank of America, so that we could process contributions through our website and via smart phones whenever Bruce or I are present. Bank of America was chosen because they offered the best combination of features and low costs, some of which were due to our non-profit standing.

One last item: Special thanks goes to former UAUS governing board member, Patti Snyder for stepping up and revitalizing The Messenger with the help of Vern Verass. The July issue was distributed through the UAI online email list and a print run of 150 copies was approved by the board at a cost of \$281.91 for distribution at this conference including an insertion of the Fundraising campaign materials. In closing, I'd like to share a personal experience.

Some years ago, while I was in Chicago and serving as the ISB Communications Committee Chair, I had a conversation with Gaetan Charland about giving. His comments as I understood them, was that the more he gave to the worthwhile causes in his life, the more he received. He did, however, caution me that "giving" for the specific reason of "receiving" doesn't work.

I took his thoughts to heart and after meditating in the presence of our Heavenly Father, decided to try a "faith experiment" as Gaetan had suggested by changing my thinking. In the past, I'd felt that if I committed to regular monthly contributions, I wouldn't have enough money to cover my monthly expenses. However, at this time, I decided to take a faith leap and started making contributions to my two favorite charities, UAI and Urantia Foundation.

I started small, to see if I would feel any "loss" or a financial "pinch." After about 6 months, when I hadn't noticed any "pinch," I upped my contributions to both organizations. Then 6 months later I upped them again. Over the subsequent several months, I noticed that I had been blessed with adequate funds to cover these increased contributions too. Plus that, my life seemed to be working better overall. It seemed that I might have made a slight move towards living by faith and, just as Gaetan had suggested, the more I gave, the more I received.

It is my hope that you all on the Counsel of Local Presidents, as well as members of your local associations, will join me in this exciting faith adventure of heart centered giving, and that you too may experience the joy that it has brought me. I pray you will join me in a faith experiment and support our 5th Epochal Revelation by establishing monthly contributions to UAUS, UAI, and Urantia Foundation.

Belief is always limiting and binding; faith is expanding and releasing. Belief fixates, faith liberates. But living religious faith is more than the association of noble beliefs; it is more than an exalted system of philosophy; it is a living experience concerned with spiritual meanings, divine ideals, and supreme values; it is God-knowing and man-serving. (1114.6)

Vice President's Report: Mike Wood, Vice President Pro-Tem

Since stepping in as Vice President of UAUS in December 2012, I have been involved in planning for the UAUS Conference this weekend here in Leavenworth, Kansas. In addition, my focus as your Vice President is to:

1. Continue to encourage conferences here in the US, especially regional conferences.
2. Include young readers in all UAUS activities. The conference here in Kansas was planned and is being executed by young readers who are under the age of 40. The goal is to learn by doing.
3. Study Robert's Rules of Order so as to be a better parliamentarian for UAUS.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Brown provided the following summary.

- Checking balance as of 7-24-2013 shows \$34,314.28. After accounting for restricted funds there is \$3,389.28 in available funds. A check for \$7,000 from the Conference Fund was given to the University of Saint Mary today. This will be replenished from conference registration fees plus 10% of any realized profit.
- Restricted funds total \$30,925 which includes:

- Conference Fund = \$30,000
- Officer International Travel Fund = \$800
- Scholarship Fund = \$125 (The fund goal is \$2,000)
- General discussion followed regarding the restricted funds, how these funds were established (CLP Motions). The Conference Fund was established to help fund loans to Local Associations wanting to hold conferences.
- No Profit & Loss or Balance Sheet is being provided to the CLP at this time.
- UAUS needs to generate revenue. Ideas to accomplish this are:
 - Get more members. UAUS currently has 601 members listed in the UAI database. If each member talked one other person in becoming a member, we could reach our membership goal. We need to ask people to act.
 - We need to be willing to sponsor those who do not have the fund to join.
 - If each member gives \$10 each to UAUS we could raise \$6,000.
 - There are currently 2,233 people in the UAI database for the US but only 1,300 have email addresses. Of these 1,632 are non-members which can be contacted to become members.

UAI President Chris Wood provided a demonstration of the new UAI website. He encouraged everyone to visit the website at urantia-uai.org and to sign up for the new social network in the Community section of the site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee Report: A report from Al Turnbo was read into the minutes as follows:

- The last *Messenger*, the official newsletter of UAUS, was produced in 2009, however that's all changed since Patti Snyder has stepped up as the editor. With the help of UAI Communications Chair Vern Verass, who is doing the design, she is revitalizing the *Messenger*. Patti's report follows:
 - The *Messenger* published in July 2013, the first edition since 2009. The goal of the resurrected *Messenger* is to bring creative messages of hope to the Urantia Community in terms of the activities and accomplishments of *Urantia Book* readers that further the Revelation in some way.
 - The *Messenger* is primarily focused on UAUS and in that respect all Local Associations are encouraged to participate in its communicative effort by informing the *Messenger* staff of local activities, plans and events; submitting articles of interest; making suggestions for inclusions; commenting on published issues; contributing to conversations, debates, ideas – controversial and/or informative – and all other possibilities of concern to our members and the UB community at large.
 - Thank you for receiving the *Messenger* in the spirit of brotherhood and for whatever you can or may contribute to its success. If you are interested in pursuing a close association with the preparation and publication of the *Messenger*, please forward your contact information to the UAUS Publication Committee.
- The UAUS website was recently hacked with some malicious code inserted. Between Scott Brooks, our webmaster, and Juan Carlos Huertas Donato, the UB Student and programmer in Colombia, the situation was resolved and the password changed to help prevent this happening in the future.
- The Publications Committee will soon be setting up a new tab for "Donations" on the UAUS website, and linking the page to the Bank of America merchant account which was set up with the recent change of administration.

Membership Committee Report: Michael Berry provided the following stats.

- There are 2,233 names in the UAI database
- Full Members = 459
- Associate Members = 42
- Governing Board members = 80

- Members-at-Large = 10
- Non-Members = 1,632
- Michael reminded the CLP membership is the lifeblood and revenue for our organization. We need to do a better job of supporting applicants, new readers, study groups and associations.
- New applications come in from the UAI website or are mailed or handed in. As soon as Michael receives it, the information is immediately entered into the database and an email and questionnaire sent. The applicant information and questionnaire responses are then sent to the Local Association for contact. Currently only the Local Association can approve the applicant for membership.
- Every Local Association needs a membership chair to assure prompt handling of applications.

Study Groups Committee Report: Kathy Wanenmacher presented the following report.

- The Study Groups Committee continues to hold monthly meetings.
- The committee has divided the US into seven sections with a Regional Contact person for each one.
- The Committee has been changing. Ellen Gaynor, former Pacific Regional Contact for three years, is now the Committee's Representative to the Internet. This vital position requires her to be actively aware of anything on the internet which concerns *The Urantia Book* and/or the Committee. She reports to the Committee on our conference calls every month or notifies the Committee if something cannot wait for the conference call.
- Meredith Van Woert who lives in California will now be our Pacific Regional Contact. She has also agreed to assume the temporary position of Mountain Regional Contact.
- Betty Tarpley continues to work tirelessly as the Central Regional Contact. Betty will be having back surgery in September.
- Skype has become popular and our Committee has learned to Skype. We will be encouraging study groups to consider this option. Skype study groups will be posted on the UAUS website. We ask that anyone who wants to start or join an existing Skype study group please contact the specific SG Regional Contact 48 hours before they attend their first Skype meeting.
- The Committee would like to work closely with the Local Associations. Please let me know when your association appoints a Study groups Chairman to work with us. We welcome the opportunity to increase our active interaction with readers and strengthen each Local Association. Working together we will create a strong community based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

MOTION: Bruce Brown moved Mike Wood be confirmed as UAUS Vice President for the remainder of Chris Woods term of office. Ed Owen seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

A motion to establish a UAUS mail box was tabled until the costs were determined.

MOTION: David Linthicum moved UAUS contribute \$300 to help fund the UALA Postcard Program for the calendar year 2013. Margo Sherwood seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

MOTION: Bruce Brown moved the UAUS Governing Board provide monies from the UAUS General Fund to help board members defray travel costs to a CLP meeting of up to 10% of the currently available General Funds but not to exceed a yearly maximum of \$1,000. The UAUS Governing Board may award these travel funds according to need at a regularly convened board meeting and memorialize this decision in the meeting minutes distributed to the members. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the CLP voted not to adopt this motion.

A Plan to Revitalize UAUS Local Associations submitted by SURF was briefly discussed. Suggestions were made to set up a committee of active members to include the UAUS Membership and Study Groups chairs to put together a plan to present to the CLP. It was suggested this committee –

- start by reviewing the UAUS Strategic Plan;
- include personal calls to members to create active interactions and personal relationships in the plan.
- Mike Wood volunteered to be the UAUS GB liaison and David Linthicum, Michael Berry, Joel Wood and Susan Owen volunteered to be on the committee.

MOTION: David Linthicum moved the restricted Conference Fund be capped at \$30,000. Will Sherwood seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm CDT.

Submitted by:

Susan Owen for Linda Elam, UAUS Secretary