



UAUS Council of Local Presidents Quarterly Zoom Meeting  
Saturday, December 30, 2017  
1:00 PM Central Time

MINUTES

**In attendance**

UAUS board members: Pio Park, President; Rick Lyon, Vice-President; Janie Whinery, Treasurer; Joanne Strobel, Secretary;

CLP members:

1. Katrina Glavan-Heise, President, Lone Star
2. Susan Owen - UAI ISB and Secretary, SURF
3. Danny Casco - President, GLMUA
4. Bob Solone - VP, GLMUA
5. Will Sherwood - VP, Local Carolina Readers
6. Meredith Van Woert - President pro-tem, SURF
7. Ed Owen - VP, SURF
8. Bruce Brown – of Lone Star (former UAUS Treasurer)
9. Jeff Wattles - VP, Ohio Students of the Urantia Book
10. James Woodward – President pro-tem, NCUR
11. Marian Hughes – President, HULA
12. Jonathan Zoba – VP, UA New England
13. Antonio Schefer – UAI Conference Chair
14. Chris Wood – UAI President (briefly)

Pio convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Due to the effects of recent eye surgery, he recused himself and turned the meeting over to Rick Lyon.

**Treasurer's Report**

Janie Whinery presented her report. The ending balance is \$37,707.67.

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Meredith Van Woert brought up the point of establishing a quorum, which should be 1/3 of the voting members of UAUS. Voting members consist of the president and vice president of each active local association.

Pio stated that quarterly CLP meetings were implemented as a courtesy by the current board for the purpose of facilitating communication and exchanging timely information between UAUS board members and local affiliates. Most if not all voting is reserved for the annual meeting. If quarterly voting becomes necessary, the CLP

will be notified in advance of the meeting and we will adhere to proper procedures. Pio thanked Meredith for her clarifications.

### **Reincorporation Update**

Rick Lyon presented an update on his attempts to reinstate the nonprofit status of UAUS. Since this was a group nonprofit exemption, the local affiliates have lost their group exemption as well. There is a considerable cost difference between a single UAUS reinstatement and an “umbrella” group reinstatement, which could cost \$4000.

Katrina said that her affiliate was established as UAUS dba Lone Star Urantia Association. They have no desire to file taxes as a local organization. Rick said that it is his understanding that a local organization is allowed to earn up to \$25,000 per year without filing taxes. Status was revoked in March 2017 so the San Antonio Conference was protected.

To prevent future breakdowns in filings and renewals, the permanent legal address of UAUS has been established at 533 W Diversey Pkwy, Chicago, IL 60614. The executive director of Urantia Foundation has agreed to forward all correspondence to the current UAUS board.

### **Fundraising / Calendar**

Pio acknowledged Will Sherwood for getting the calendar done professionally and in record time. At the time of this meeting, the donations generated by this fundraiser were estimated to be slightly more than the cost of the calendar and mailing, which was \$2,210.60. Calendars were mailed in two batches to all individuals on the UAUS mailing list.

### **UAUS subsidies for Africa and South America**

Antonio Schefer solicited \$1000 for each of two individuals as a sponsorship to attend the 2018 International Conference in Amsterdam. One of these individuals will be representing the country (Peru) which has asked to host the International Conference in 2021.

Marian Hughes suggested that UAUS establish a budgetary line item for future conferences so that individuals or local associations could donate to this fund rather than pulling money out of the general fund. Pio thought this was a good idea and stated that the board will take this request under advisement.

### **2018 Annual UAUS / CLP Meeting**

Chris Wood had asked Pio if the 2018 Annual UAUS / CLP Meeting could be held in Madison, WI during the regional Midwest Conference, June 22-24.

Since GLMUA would be the co-host, they will make the final decision and inform the CLP. If GLMUA does not wish to co-host, then it may not be appropriate to hold the

annual meeting there. Pio stated that there will be a northwest regional conference in Oregon around the same time.

Official notice to the CLP will be provided 30 days prior, although it has been customary to announce the location 6 months before.

### **UAI request to endorse a Canadian event with the Fellowship in 2020**

Antonio reported that the Urantia Book Fellowship has been requesting a joint conference with UAI. However, UAI does not want to proceed without the support of UAUS.

It will not be an IC20 nor will it be a UAI Continental Conference. Rather it will be a separate and unique conference, co-sponsored by the Fellowship and UA Canada in partnership with UAUS. It will probably not happen unless UAUS agrees to participate in some way. Nathan Jansen of Quebec, president of UA Canada, is interested in co-hosting the conference with the Fellowship.

At this time, Joanne asked for and received permission to read aloud the official UAUS statement which was presented on September 8, 2017 to attendees of the initial meeting of Fellowship and UAI representatives who were considering the creation of a joint committee to create a joint international conference. \*

Following is a transcript of this statement:

#### **UAUS Statement regarding Joint Planning Committee**

UAI is an international group of students of *The Urantia Book* who desire to share the book and its teachings. To accomplish this, we created an organization to serve as a central hub of information and outreach – based on the teachings of *The Urantia Book* – to people across the world. UAI recognizes the value of teamwork in the projects and activities we undertake for the mutual benefit of those whom we serve – our fellow citizens of Urantia – by way of national and international conferences, reader services, publications, forums in various languages, and numerous other projects.

UAUS remains committed to spiritual unity between and among individuals. We believe that unity should always be fostered at the individual level when it comes to participation in conferences, activities, and projects. This unity does not, however, necessarily extend to the organizational or planning committee level.

The process of planning, hosting, and setting up any event is challenging. Attempting to jointly organize events, with coordination between two large and diverse organizations, makes the process that much more difficult. We have found this process to be the source of unnecessary confusion, stress, and sometimes disappointing results. It also limits the diversity of our events. UAUS wants to host more events, a variety of events, which appeal to our ever-growing numbers of diverse individuals and cultures. Our

respective organizations have a distinct “personality” which flavors and benefits the event and we do not wish either group to lose that distinction.

Our real and enduring goal is spiritual unity, and trying to create organizational unity distracts us from that goal. We have spent a lot of time trying to create organizational unity when what we really need and want is spiritual unity among all our brothers and sisters. Organizational unity does not always foster spiritual unity.

We, the members of the UAUS board, do not see how organizational unity, as in creating joint committees to host events that both of us are fully capable of producing on our own, can either benefit the people we serve or promote this revelation. Should we as organizations coordinate our efforts and work to complement each other and never compete against each other? Absolutely! But this should be the extent of our joint efforts. When it comes to the nitty gritty details of planning and hosting major events, we simply do not see the benefit of joint organizational planning and hosting.

Our brothers and sisters in the Urantia Book Fellowship are always invited and always welcome to every UAI or UAUS event. But for now, our board has decided that trying to organize events – spending a lot of time and stress trying to figure out who pays for what, who is responsible for what, who makes decisions, getting those decisions from our respective governing boards in a timely manner, and how to choose or deal with conflicts over programming, presenters, topics, or logistics is not a productive use of our volunteer time and energy.

Again, real and lasting unity shall be nurtured - and hopefully found - among the individuals attending our respective events. We encourage all local Associations to work together with neighboring UBF Societies. We will continue to encourage our members to participate in UBF events as attendees, workshop leaders, plenary presenters, or logistical help. And we will welcome participation of UBF members in these same ways at our events.

In conclusion, the UAUS board has decided to not participate in a committee to jointly host national or international conferences with organizations outside of UAI. While UAUS respectfully declines to participate in joint event planning committees as currently envisioned, we will remain open to individual proposals going forward.

We recognize the experience of UBF and applaud their past success in hosting events both large and small. We wish them continued success in the future.

Presented by Rick Lyon, UAUS Vice President on behalf of  
Pio Park, President  
Joanne Strobel, Secretary  
Janie Whinery, Treasurer

\* Note: despite our statement, UAI joined this Joint Planning Committee.

Antonio stated that all they are asking is for UAUS to endorse it.

Discussion by the CLP included:

1. What is meant by “endorse”?
2. If we had an official proposal then we could vote on it.
3. We cannot make a decision today because this is not a voting meeting.
4. We could reframe the situation by saying UAUS is extending our outreach in North America.
5. The request requires more precision in order to better consider it.
6. Is there a theme set yet?
7. Will Uversa Press books be sold? Antonio replied that *no books would be sold*.
8. What is UAI’s motive in this endeavor?

(Out of sequence) Chris Wood joined the meeting in progress at 3:07 to offer some additional insights.

When asked to define “endorse,” Chris replied that it means to do nothing to stop Canadians from working with the Fellowship. UAI would like there to be continental conferences in North America. The UAI conference fund can be opened to any international or national conference.

By endorsing it, he means to not actively oppose it; perhaps even to encourage people to attend it.

The conference will be focused strictly on teachings from *The Urantia Book*. There will be no interfaith activities, as there were in Denver.

Katharina Becker is the UBF Conference Chair and she is very easy to work with. Chris wants to be able to have the UAI International Conference Chair coordinate it with her. But they don’t want to cause a rift between UAI and UAUS, if UAUS chooses to actively oppose it.

Bob Solone asked, “How about if we *inactively* oppose it?” When asked what is the opposite of “actively oppose?” Chris replied that it means to encourage people to attend, nothing more... no money, no man hours.

Chris recounted that the Fellowship initially approached the Canadians about a joint conference. This event is being actively sponsored by UAI and the Fellowship. It will not be branded as an “IC.”

As far as motive, Chris wishes to “bring together the myriads of people in North America.” For whatever reason, he feels that people are staying away. He feels this could be a powerful event.

As of now the Fellowship is not going to sell their books at the conference. But conference chairs could reverse this decision in the future.

Jonathan commented that he looked up the definition of “endorse” and it means to declare one’s public approval or support of.

Rick told Chris that he is hesitant to endorse it before we have heard a firm proposal. However, he told Chris that we will not actively oppose it.

### **UAUS National Conference**

Pio emailed members of Southern Kindred Spirits about the conference but has not yet received a reply. We are anticipating summer or fall of 2019 in either Nashville or Oregon. There has not been a national conference for some time but the board felt that 2018 was too soon.

Susan Cook is the UAUS Conference Chair and a professional conference planner. Eddie King of SKS is also great at putting on conferences.

Subject to SKS approval, the national conference will be held in Nashville in 2019.

### **Local Association updates**

Jonathan Zoba of Beverly, MA is now VP of UA New England and has been asked by President Mike Sullivan to be the liaison with UAUS. He has been actively working on the Garden School project, which is an 8-acre summer camp acquired 1½ years ago.

Katrina reported several active study groups going strong in Texas.

Marian reported that the last HULA meeting was when Pio visited. They had 18 people. She would love to host a “Pacific Rim Conference” some day and is willing to do the work. It would draw from Australia, Korea, the Philippines, Tahiti, NW United States, and South America.

Big Island has a devoted study group. AS Study Group Co-chairs, Marian and Matt updated the UAUS Study Group list on the website and will continue to monitor it. Marian requested that they please be notified when information changes. She is also encouraging all study groups to register on the online Study Group Directory.

Rick commented that Scott Brooks has been building a new online directory platform and it will be so much better! Rick is now an official member of the inter-organizational SGD Committee.

Ed Owen reports that everything is going great with SURF. He and Susan have been connecting with Meredith Van Woert and John & Jane Ploetz.

Jeff Wattles lamented that Ohio Students is in hibernation.

James Woodward reported that Northern CA is still inactive so there isn't much going on organizationally. He recently visited Richard Keeler in Wyoming and asked for healing prayers for him.

Will Sherwood's affiliate had a mini conference in October, hosted by Patti and Dave Pearson. Dave has since graduated. Will suggested that Myrtle Beach could be another option for the National Conference.

Bob Solone of GLMUA reported on their recent holiday party and program, co-hosted by Urantia Foundation and First Society of Chicago.

### **FUTURE UAUS CLP MEETING DATES**

2018 1st Quarter – Saturday, March 31 via Zoom

2018 2nd Quarter – Saturday, June 30 via Zoom

2018 3rd Quarter - Saturday, September 29 via Zoom

2018 4th Quarter - Saturday, December 29 via Zoom

Submitted by Joanne Strobel, UAUS Secretary on January 27, 2018

Signed: *Joanne Strobel*