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**UAUS Council of Local Presidents Quarterly Zoom Meeting**

**Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 1:00 PM Central Time**

**MINUTES**

In attendance:

1. Pio Park, UAUS President
2. Rick Lyon, UAUS Vice President
3. Joanne Strobel, UAUS Secretary
4. Share Beasley, UAUS Treasurer-elect, and Urantia Florida (UAF)
5. Danny Casko, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA)
6. Marian and Matt Hughes, Hawaii Urantia Local Association (HULA)
7. Jim Nelson, Washington State Urantia Association (WSUA)
8. Katrina Glavan-Heise, Lone Star Urantia Association
9. Will Sherwood, Virginia Carolina Readers
10. Tom Vasile, Urantia Association of Los Angeles
11. Jon Zoba, Urantia Association of New England

Via proxy:

1. Sherry Cathcart Chavez, Virginia Carolina Readers
2. Marie Vasile, Urantia Association of Los Angeles

Not represented: NY-Pennsylvania Urantia Association, Sprit of Oklahoma Urantia Association, and Urantia Association of Kansas City.

Pio called the meeting to order. Joanne took roll call and a quorum was declared.

Will Sherwood called to adopt the December minutes, and was seconded by Rick Lyon.

Pio introduced Share Beasley, vice president of the Urantia Association of Florida, and made a resolution to appoint her as the interim UAUS Treasurer. Will Sherwood moved to accept the appointment and Tom Vasile seconded the motion. The attending CLP members unanimously approved the resolution to appoint Share Beasley to the position of UAUS Treasurer. Share will serve until the next election in March of 2021.

Pio gave a financial report. The current balance is $37,063.62. After this meeting he will hand over the accounting program to Share, who fortunately uses the same software.

**ELECTIONS**

The 2019 election results for the position of President were unanimous for the incumbent Pio Park, who ran unopposed.

Note: there were no nominations for Treasurer, hence the resolution to appoint Share Beasley, who graciously offered to assume the duties prior to this meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

In previous emails to the CLP, members were asked to vote on the location of the 2019 annual meeting. The overwhelming majority voted to hold the meeting during the Midwest Conference in Normal, IL. GLMUA is sponsoring this unaffiliated event, which will be held on Friday, August 16 through Sunday, August 18, 2019.

Rick reported that a meeting room has been procured for the CLP and that Zoom participation will be available. Early check-in may be available.

Share encouraged support of this conference, especially since there is a children’s program.

Joanne suggested that attendees could come in a day early and spend the night at Urantia Foundation. There was some discussion about the possibility of renting a van from O’Hare to Normal.

Will Sherwood called the question and the CLP members unanimously approved the decision to hold the 2019 annual meeting at the Midwest Conference on the afternoon of Friday, August 16 . Early check-in will be available for CLP members.

**UAUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

Rick Lyon led a very general discussion about GLMUA’s $2500 budget for the conference. Expenses include the main meeting room @$600, a projector at $75/day, expenses for Landon Arken for the children’s program, and approximately $250 for materials.

The CLP discussed options for funding conferences. And it was suggested that UAUS contribute up to $500 for a local or regional conference, one per year on a first come basis. If the UAUS annual meeting is held at the conference, the amount could increase to $1000.

No decision was reached.

**ISB GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Rick reported that in our last meeting the CLP approved sending a resolution to the RC for the creation of a UAI Governance Committee to be added to the ISB. Below is the draft of this resolution. If there are no major corrections he will submit it to the RC on Thursday.

**Proposal to Create the ISB Governance Committee**

Urantia Association of the United States proposes the following resolution to the Representative Council (RC) of Urantia Association International (UAI):

Whereas, worldwide awareness of the Urantia Revelation is increasing and growth and progress of UAI has increased the need for quality leadership recruiting, training, and education, plus efficiently transferring responsibilities to newly elected officials; and

Whereas, the importance of UAI’s mission and vision is recognized as worthy of long-term leadership continuity and development; and

Whereas, there is an increasing need to maintain compliance with UAI governing documents including UAI Charter and Bylaws, policies, and government regulations; therefore be it

*Resolved,* That the Representative Council shall add a Governance Committee to the International Service Board.  Only former ISB members shall be invited to staff the Governance Committee.  The Chairperson of the Governance Committee shall be elected by the members of the committee itself and shall not be a voting member of the ISB or the RC.  The RC shall create an ad hoc committee to create a proposal to form this Governance Committee, create the wording to be added to the UAI Charter and Bylaws, determine an appropriate number of committee members and their qualifications, and create a description of roles, responsibilities, functions, and manner of acting for this committee; to be approved by the RC as an amendment to the UAI Charter and Bylaws.  The ISB will then issue invitations to initially staff the committee.

**Summary Explanation and Justification:**

Prior to the 2011 UAI elections for the International Service Board, the ISB decided that the Charter and Bylaws Committee had served its purpose and was no longer needed. The chairman position for Charter and Bylaws Committee was not filled and the committee was eliminated.  Urantia Association of the United States is submitting a resolution to create a Governance Committee to replace the former Charter and Bylaws Committee.

UAI is incorporated as a nonprofit organization; a legal entity in the State of Illinois, United States of America.  Monitoring of policies, practices, and actions is not only wise but is a government requirement.  UAI also has an increasing fiduciary responsibility to our members and financial contributors that warrants Governance Committee participation. UAI will be well served with independent internal oversight for ethics, conflicts of interest, and assessment of strengths and weaknesses for improving management efficiency, service effectiveness, and mission progress.

Some of the greatest justifications for a Governance Committee are identification and recruiting of new leaders for elected positions, facilitating communication between board members during transitions after elections, providing continuity of actions from former board members to new members, monitoring board activity and decisions to assure compliance with government requirements, preventing duplication of UAI policies and practices, measuring and reporting organizational metrics that indicate growth and progress, plus assuring our adherence to existing UAI policies and fulfillment of UAI mission and vision statements.

This proposal harmonizes with a worldwide growing trend of nonprofit organizations establishing compliance assurance, continuity of management, and long-term leadership quality through a Governance Committee at the management board level. This would likely contribute to creating a higher degree of UAI activity and credibility in years to come.

The governance committee concept has become a critical step for board and organization development and mission growth and long-term viability.  All major, well-organized and well-managed non-profit organizations incorporate a Governance Committee into their management structure.  A Governance Committee could assist all local and national associations to recruit, develop, train, and educate association leaders to serve on the ISB and possibly other positions throughout UAI internationally. Finding qualified leadership is an increasingly difficult task that UAI and all our associations go through with every election cycle.  This is especially difficult when experienced ISB members reach their eligibility term limits.

New board members will benefit from improved orientation and continuous mentoring from departing board members.  Keeping former board members actively involved with the ISB for transition responsibilities seems wise.  It would be good if we had some internal evaluation tool that will help us to keep UAI on track with regular strategic planning and our sense of direction and purpose for the organization.

**UAUS BOARD POSITIONS OPENING UP IN APRIL 2020**

Rick Lyon reminded the CLP that he will be finishing his final term as vice president and is not eligible for another term. This critical position will be open. The Secretary position will also be open next April.

**MEMORIALS**

The board took a few minutes to gratefully remember Urantia Foundation Trustee Richard Keeler, Southern Kindred Spirits members Eddie and Joanne King, and Mike Ferree, who served as the first president of GLMUA.

**FAREWELL TO SOUTHWEST URANTIA READERS FAMILY**

On March 20, Meredith Van Woert, President Pro Tempore, informed the UAUS governing board that they made the difficult decision to retire SURF until a future group of people wishes to re-activate it. SURF membership had dwindled to three and this number had prevailed for the past five to ten years, rendering SURF a Local Association in name only.

They resolved to:

1. Close SURF post office box
2. Close SURF bank account and donate all funds to the UAI financial aid fund to sponsor readers to want to attend the 2021 Urantia Association International Conference in Peru
3. Archive SURF documents, as appropriate.

The CLP expressed their deep appreciation to Meredith, Vice President Ed Owen, and Secretary Susan Owen for their years of dedicated service.

**LOCAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

GLMUA is hosting the Midwest Conference in August, in conjunction with a celebration for Jesus’ birthday.

Marian and Matt of HULA will attend the Estonia Conference in July. Their Local Association currently has 16 members.

Lone Star study groups are doing well. They hold regular potlucks, and held their annual Remembrance Supper in April. The Dallas area is hurting due to the passing of several members. There simply aren’t as many readers as there used to be.

Share reported that UAF officers recently got together to plan and strategize on how to get their membership back up. They would like to see their Association go beyond study groups, and foster opportunities for more socializing and worship. They originally formed with more than twenty members, and they had local events, books fairs, and performed Library Placement outreach.

Jon reported that theirs is a newly reignited Association after having dwindled down over the past decade. They hold an annual retreat at The Angel House, where their biggest emphasis is on worship. They also meet yearly at a state park to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. Because New Englanders live fairly close together, it is conducive to a cohesive community. Their members are enjoying joint affiliation with the Fellowship as well.

Tom and Marie Vasile feel that is important to keep UALA active, even if they do not have ten full members. They find great spiritual value in their Skype ministry, with virtual study groups held on Thursday and Sundays. They’re also involved in establishing a Urantia Family Life Community, to foster the spiritual development of families. They are interested in determining how many readers are trying to raise children. They will make a presentation at the 2020 Global Experience in Vancouver.

Will reported that Virginia/Carolina Readers are constantly connecting with each other. They have at least 6 study groups and will hold a mini conference in October.

Jim reported that WSUA is not very active but they still gather for study groups.

**UAUS WEBSITE / PAYPAL**

Scott Brooks continues to oversee the UAUS website. PayPal has been added to allow for credit card payments and donations.

**UAI eTAPESTRY DATABASE TRAINING**

Rick reminded the CLP that every local Association is entitled to have someone to access their portion of the database. Contact Margaret Slater-Thompson by email at: centraloffice@urantia-association.org

**FUTURE UAUS CLP MEETING DATES**

2019 Q1 – Saturday, March 30 via Zoom

2019 Q2 - Saturday, June 29

Annual Meeting – Friday, August 16 at the Midwest Conference in Normal, IL (time TBA)

2019 Q3 - Saturday, September 28

2019 Q4 – Saturday, December 28

NOTE: Unless otherwise announced, all times are **1 pm Central**, which is

* 2 pm Eastern
* 12 noon Mountain
* 11 am Pacific
* 8 am Hawaiian

Submitted by Joanne Strobel on June 24, 2019