

Minutes of the December Meeting
GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(UNA-USA/OKC)

Draft

**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5:30pm, Monday, December 8, 2008**

In Attendance: Lowell Adams, Bill Bryant, Bob Cox, Jalal Daneshfar, Larry Eberhardt, Eric Heinze, Marie Hooper, Eunyoung Kim, Ruth Males, Zach Messitte, Firouz Mollaian.

Absent: Joann Bell, Bill Dudley, Bob Elliott, Murod Mamatov (OKC Community College), Nancy Musselman, Arlette Srouji, Ken Tillett, Harley Venters.¹

(1) Opening of Meeting. We convened in our usual meeting space at the Disciples' Center, 301 NW 36th, OKC. Bob Cox presided, calling the meeting to order at about 5:30pm.

Dr. Cox started the meeting by remarking in a positive way about the nomination of Susan Rice to serve as the next US ambassador to the United Nations. Eunyoung Kim was welcomed to the meeting. Introducing herself to the group, Ms. Kim described herself as a product of multicultural influences. She has strong connections to Oklahoma State University.

(2) Business Reports.

A. Review of Minutes of November Meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. Ruth Males moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Eric Heinze offered a second. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried. Dr. Cox thanked Lowell Adams for leading the meeting in November.

B. Financial Report. Firouz Mollaian was recognized, and he presented a 1-page report of financial transactions that have been made since our last meeting, summarized as follows:

Previous balance on 11-10-08	...	\$3,885.08
Income	...	0.00
Expense	...	70.00
Closing Balance on 11-10-08	...	\$3,815.08

The only expense during the period was a payment to the U.S. Postal Service for rent on our Post Office Box.

Firouz reported that he received a claim from Bill Bryant for \$143.40 – to reimburse him for the cost of web hosting services.

A motion to accept the report and approve the claim was made by Ruth; seconded by Lowell. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried. (Bill abstained from voting).

¹ Regrets were received from Dudley, Elliott, Musselman, and Tillett.

(3) Committee Reports. Several chapter activities were reviewed in this portion of the meeting.

A. Educational Programs / Fall Event. The date of our Spring Meeting / Luncheon has been set. It will be Saturday, April 18th, at Oklahoma City University.

Lowell asked for suggestions on a keynote speaker. Several ideas came forth.

Bill suggested that we might ask Eric Pollard to present a report on the UN's Climate Change conference that is currently underway. Mr. Pollard is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and he is attending the conference in Poznan, Poland.

Zach Messitte suggested that we could use the opportunity of our Spring Meeting to organize an inter-collegiate conference that would feature student input. This idea seemed to resonate with the members of the board; there was quite a bit of discussion.

Zach, Eric, Marie and Larry spoke favorably about inviting students to deliver short presentations on issues of an international nature. It was suggested that we might try to collaborate with the Eastern Oklahoma (Tulsa) chapter of UNA-USA on this effort. Perhaps students could be invited from TU, ORU, SWOSU, OCU, OU, etc. The topic of the program could be described broadly as "Student Voices on Global Issues" or something like that.

Zach offered to share this idea with the leadership of the Tulsa chapter.

Another suggestion was offered for a speaker. Eunyoung Kim commented that the University of Oklahoma had a scientist who served on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He might be invited to speak, she said.

There will be more discussion of this topic at our next meeting in January.

B. Advocacy Report. No report.

C. Membership. No report.

D. Adopt-A-Minefield. Bob Elliott was absent, so there was no report on our Adopt-A-Minefield initiative. Bob Cox mentioned that he has spoken to a representative of the Amnesty International group at the University of Oklahoma. Interest was expressed in the AAM project – a possible collaboration in the future?

E. Nominations Committee. No report.

F. High School Essay Contest. Jalal Daneshfar was recognized, and he reported that we have received our first entry in the 2009 contest. Other high school students have until January 5th to submit their entries.

Jalal shared a full-color promotional postcard for the Essay Contest, distributing one to each director. We reviewed efforts that have been made so far in reaching out to high school students, teachers, and parents.

G. Public Relations. Zach reported that students at OU raised about \$4,000 for UNICEF during the recent Trick-or-Treat for Unicef Campaign. A news release will be prepared and sent out.

(4) Chapter Coordination. There was no report.

(5) Unfinished Business. In this portion of the meeting, a couple of items of business were addressed.

A. Fall Peace Festival. Bill Bryant reported that our chapter participated successfully in the Peace Festival on November 15th. Several volunteers stepped forward to help out during the day, including Lowell Adams, Bill Dudley, and Firouz Mollaian. About 20 names of “interested” people appeared on our chapter sign-up list. Nancy Musselman will try to convert them to members of the UNA-USA.

B. 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our Human Rights Day program took place, as planned, at Oklahoma City University on December 7th. Good working relationships were established with the OCU Film Institute and two local chapters of Amnesty International. Lowell commented that the movie, “The Syrian Bride,” was very appropriate and worthy of the awards that it has won.

(6) New Business. Dr. Cox announced that, in preparation for the Biennial National Convention of UNA-USA, local chapters are being asked to prepare and submit resolutions related to “substantive issues.” The convention is scheduled to take place March 20 – 23 in New York City.

A candid discussion ensued. Zach suggested that the national office ought to assign a staffer to act as a liaison to each local chapter. Larry Eberhardt commented that the topic of “lines of communication” between the national office and local chapters has been a long-standing issue.

Substantive issue resolutions must be submitted to the national office by February 1st. It was suggested that we may discuss proposed resolutions at our next board meeting on January 12th.

On another topic, Lowell offered an idea for developing our chapter. He suggested that we should organize a group of volunteers who could be called upon to work on chapter projects. We might refer to this cadre as “Friends of the UNA,” he said.

Lowell’s idea was discussed extensively. He noted that, to be effective, the “Friends” group would require a coordinator (probably a board member). Methods for reaching out to volunteers were discussed. Marie suggested a mailing to our general membership.

The discussion evolved, and Bob Cox suggested that we ought to consider doing a survey of our local stakeholders – paid members and others who are on our mailing list. The survey could be designed to answer two fundamental questions; “What can we do for you?” And, “What can you do for us?”

Bob indicated that he would start drafting a survey and cover memo. Jalal volunteered to check on the requirements for a bulk mail permit. Marie offered to design a mailer. Ideas, information and work products will be shared via telephone and email over the coming days and weeks.

- (7) **Adjournment.** Our next meeting will be on the second Monday in January:
Monday, January 12th – 5:30pm
Disciples' Center
301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at about 6:50pm.

Prepared by Bill Bryant
December 10, 2008