

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

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5:30pm, Monday, May 11, 2009

In Attendance: Bill Bryant, Bob Cox, Mohamed Daadaoui, Bill Dudley, Larry Eberhardt, Bob Elliott, Ruth Gnagi, Eunyoung Kim, Ruth Males, Firouz Mollaian, Nancy Musselman.

Absent: Lowell Adams, Joann Bell, DeEtta Cravens, Jalal Daneshfar, Patsy Drab, Eric Heinze, Marie Hooper, Murod Mamatov (OKC Community College), Zach Messitte, Arlette Srouji, Ken Tillett, Harley Venters.¹

Guests: Jennifer Grover (University of Oklahoma), Joan Korenblit (Respect Diversity Foundation).

(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.

(2) **Business Reports.**

A. Review of Minutes of March Meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Bill Dudley moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Mohamed Daadaoui offered a second. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

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 3-9-09	...	\$ 3,447.54
Income	...	1,927.50
Expense	...	<u>2,131.79</u>
Closing Balance on 5-11-09	...	\$ 3,243.25

The income was attributed to several sources, mostly related to our Spring Luncheon:

Luncheon Tickets ... \$810.00; Special Contribution from Bob Lemon ... \$500.00; Contributions to Adopt-A-Minefield ... \$250.00; A membership dues Allocation Payment to our chapter from UNA-USA ... \$159.50; and a contribution to our annual "International Day of Peace" project ... \$25.00.

Several expenditures were noted:

- (i) A reimbursement to Ruth Males for stamps, cards, & brochures, \$380.55;
- (ii) A donation to the OCU Hunger Banquet, \$100.00;

¹ Prior to the meeting, message of Regret were received from Lowell Adams, DeEtta Cravens, Jalal Daneshfar, and Marie Hooper.

- (iii) Two checks written to Sodexo for catering services, totaling \$1,051.24;
- (iv) An award of \$500.00 to Zhou Fang, winner of our High School Essay Contest; and
- (v) A payment of \$100.00 to OU Faculty House for “Luncheon Deposit, 10/24.”

Firouz commented that our bank (IBC) will assess a \$10 charge each time we receive an electronic deposit of funds. This will occur, for example, each time we receive a payment from the UNA-USA national office. He expressed concern about this policy of the bank.

A motion to accept the report was made, and it was seconded. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

At this point in the meeting, Joan Korenblit was recognized. Bob Cox invited Ms. Korenblit to make a short presentation about her organization, the Respect Diversity Foundation.

According to the website of the Respect Diversity Foundation (www.respectdiversity.org), the mission of the organization is:

“...to help people of all ages successfully live, learn and work in our increasingly diverse society.... RDF seeks to help students of all ages understand other cultures and their own, create positive inter-group relationships and build strong communities throughout the state of Oklahoma.”

Using a powerpoint presentation to illustrate her message, Ms. Korenblit described the three main foci of the RDF:

- (1) Direct contact with participants in the schools and the communities through educators on RDF’s Speaker’s Bureau;
- (2) “Our ability to guide teachers to teach tolerance and respect through interdisciplinary projects under the umbrella of the Respect Diversity Symbol Campaign;” and
- (3) “The annual state-wide Respect Diversity Symbol Exhibit with art collaborations, by students, that teach the community respect for diversity through the arts.”

The RDF’s speaker’s bureau includes many community leaders, including civil rights leaders, artists, authors, Holocaust educators, historians, storytellers and musicians. She invited the directors of the UNA-OKC group to join the RDF Speaker’s Bureau. She expressed the hope that some university students would join the RDF Speaker’s Bureaus as a way of acting as “ambassadors” for the United Nations and its affiliated groups and activities (like the Model UN, UNA-USA, etc.).

At the end of her presentation, several directors registered their interest in serving on the RDF Speaker’s Bureau, including: Bob Cox,

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

A. Educational Programs / Fall Event. The attention of the meeting turned to preparations for our annual commemoration of United Nations Day. During the course of discussion, several notable comments were made, including:

- Jennifer Grover announced her goal of organizing a UN Day event on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman.
- Ruth Males noted that we'll need to have a supply of handouts; Nancy Musselman will help to meet that need.
- Jennifer offered some ideas for a program featuring a speaker and/or forum.
- Bob Cox suggested that we should check with the UNA-USA's Speaker's Bureau for ideas. Another alternative: OU's new Diplomat in Residence.
- Bill Bryant suggested that we ought to consider inviting Oklahoma's Secretary of State Susan Savage to speak at our UN Day luncheon. Bob Cox liked this idea, and he indicated that he would check with Secretary Savage about her willingness to be our keynote speaker.
- With regard to publicity, Jennifer offered to help.
- Bob Cox suggested that a timely Op-Ed piece could help to call attention to UN Day. He and Mohamed Daadaoui agreed to collaborate on this task.
- Firouz raised the issue of the \$10 charge that is being assessed by our bank, but this concern was not resolved.
- Bob Cox suggested that we ought to give greater attention to the manner in which we recognize the receipt of contributions.

There will be more discussion of plans for UN Day at our next meeting in August.

B. Advocacy Report. No report.

C. Membership. Nancy was recognized, and she gave a short report on membership in our chapter.

D. Nominations Committee. The names of two people were put forward in nomination to serve as members of the board of directors. Bob Cox reviewed the qualifications of Ruth Gnagi and Patsy Drab.

Bill Bryant moved to approve the nominations, and Ruth Males offered a second. VOTE: All Aye. Motion carried. .

E. High School Essay Contest. No report.

F. Public Relations. No report.

(4) **Chapter Coordination.** No report.

(5) **Unfinished Business.** No items of unfinished business were identified.

(6) **New Business.** Bob Cox advised that the 2009 Annual Report and Financial Report has yet to be completed. The UNA-USA national office is asking local chapters to submit their reports by the first of July.

(7) **Adjournment.** Our next meeting will be on the second Monday in August:

Monday, August 10th – 5:30pm

Disciples' Center

301 NW 36th Street

Oklahoma City, OK

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at about 6:40pm.

Prepared by Bill Bryant

August 5, 2009