

GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER –
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(UNA-USA/OKC)

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5:30pm, Monday, November 15, 2004
Jefferson Room, First Unitarian Church

Approved MINUTES: Bill Bryant, Communications Director

In Attendance: Bill Bryant, Jalal Daneshfar, John Fleming, Tish Malloy, Dorothy Messenger, Firouz Mollaian, Fran Morris, Kayhan Movafagh, Nancy Musselman, and Glenn Norris.

Regrets: Ann Cong-Tang, Marie Hooper, Jessica Hughes (OU).

Absent: Bill Dudley, Hans Dookhony (UCO), Bob Elliott, Jackie Kaneholani, Payal Patel (OCU), Harley Venters.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by *John Fleming* at about 5:37pm.

(1) Business Reports. Three reports were received in this portion of the meeting.

A. Review of Minutes of September 27, 2004 Meeting. Mr. Fleming recognized *Bill Bryant*, who noted that the minutes of the September meeting were previously distributed.

It was moved by *Fran Morris* and seconded by *Nancy Musselman* to approve the minutes as distributed. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

B. Financial Report. Mr. Fleming recognized *Firouz Mollaian* who presented a financial statement for the chapter. A current bank balance of \$2,914.78 was reported. However, Mr. Mollaian commented that he recently discovered that the bank has mistakenly applied several deposits to our account. Therefore, the true balance of our account is \$210.00 less than reported.

Income since the last meeting included receipts from the Adopt-A-Minefield dinner (\$1,078), receipts from the UN Day Luncheon (\$855.00), sales of merchandise at the Global Oklahoma celebration (\$65.00), and a “mis-deposit” of \$175.00 (part of the mistaken deposits noted above).

Expenditures since the last meeting included \$50.00 disbursed for our chapter’s sponsorship of the “UN Day” events at the University of Oklahoma, \$526.50 to OCU for the UN Day luncheon, \$1,078 to “Adopt-A-Minefield,” \$40.86 to reimburse John Fleming for the award plaque presented at the UN Day luncheon, and \$4.95 remitted in sales tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

A written report was submitted to Mr. Fleming and to Mr. Bryant for the chapter’s records.

Mr. Mollaian noted that he has received an unpaid claim (\$137.69) from Fran Morris, related to expenses for the UN Day luncheon. Mr. Fleming noted that *Bob Elliott* may also have a claim for expenses he incurred on the Adopt-A-Minefield dinner.

Other discussion: *Dorothy Messenger* expressed an interest in reconciling her membership reports with Mr. Mollaian's record of income from the national office. Mr. Fleming endorsed that idea.

C. Membership Report. Mr. Fleming recognized Mrs. Messenger who reported that she has been in touch with the national office regarding the latest update on our chapter roster. Currently, she said, we have a confirmed membership of 49 family units and 53 individuals. Ours is one of the smaller chapters in the UNA-USA constellation.

To follow up on our recent chapter-sponsored events, Mrs. Messenger said, she will send a membership invitation to a list of people who are not yet members.

(3) Committee Reports. Reports were presented in several program areas.

A. Educational Programs Committee. Fran Morris reported that the UN Day luncheon was considered to be a "rousing success." There were about 55 people in attendance. About \$300 was netted for the chapter. An excellent presentation was delivered by Dr. Phyllis Bernard. Many volunteers contributed to the event in many important ways.

It was noted that a "film night" was offered at OCU on Monday, October 25th. Mr. Fleming reported that the program was well attended. *Glenn Norris* commented that the film was powerful and evocative.

Mr. Fleming offered kudos to *Jessica Hughes* (in absentia) for the great work that her group put into organizing the UN Day events at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Fleming attended the keynote speech by Justice Yvonne Kauger, which he described as "excellent."

B. Adopt-A-Minefield. Glenn Norris reported on the fundraising dinner for landmine clearance that was organized by Bob Elliott on November 4th. He reported that the video presentation by Heather Mills McCartney was very touching and positive. Those in attendance discussed follow up actions that might be implemented to expand the Adopt-A-Minefield campaign. Mr. Fleming expressed "pride" and "praise" for Bob Elliott's great work.

C. Educational Projects. Three projects were discussed in this segment of the meeting.

(i) **Global Oklahoma.** A report on the "Global Oklahoma" celebration was given. Our chapter had a table at the event. We sold Unicef cards and distributed collection boxes for the nation-wide "Trick or Treat for Unicef" project.

(ii) **“Trick or Treat for Unicef.”** It was noted that the distribution of Trick or Treat boxes yielded some good results. *Jalal Daneshfar* reported that he distributed boxes through the University of Central Oklahoma, the Kiwanis Club, and three high schools in Edmond. As a result, he said, a total of \$306.94 was collected. That sum represents a partial accounting of the funds collected, he said, since he has not received a complete report from all of the volunteers who helped.

Additionally, Glenn Norris reported that the children in his church collected \$30 to \$40 (estimated). Mr. Daneshfar noted that he has a videotape that describes the Trick or Treat for Unicef project.

(iii) **Peace Festival.** The possibility of setting up a UN Association table at the Fall Peace Festival was discussed. It was noted that the Board has previously authorized the expenditure of up to \$40 for this purpose, and the chapter has a small inventory of merchandise to sell. Informally, the directors authorized Mr. Fleming to reserve a table for the chapter. It was agreed that the table may remain un-staffed for portions of the day.

D. “The People Speak.” Mr. Daneshfar reported on “The People Speak,” a panel discussion that was held at UCO. The event was organized by the Campus Compact and the State Regents for Higher Education, with funding from the UN Foundation. The audience included quite a few UCO students as well as others from the community. Panelists included foreign policy experts from UCO, OSU, OBU, and the OKC National Memorial Institute on the Prevention of Terrorism. The program offered a great opportunity for interaction between panelists and audience.

E. “Celebrate Diversity.” Glenn Norris reported that he attended the Celebrate Diversity event on October 21st at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The community-wide event was well-attended, he said. There was excellent music and a creative presentation by Drs. Tom and Barbara Boyd.

F. High School Essay Contest. Mr. Daneshfar expressed disappointment that there were not any entries received in the High School Essay Contest. He offered commendations to the volunteers who helped publicize the contest. There was a short discussion of various ideas for more effective community outreach in the future.

G. Advocacy Committee. Bill Bryant reported on the results of an online survey that he used to collect input on the UNA-USA’s recommended advocacy priorities for 2005. He distributed copies of a 5-page summary of the survey results. He commented that responses were collected from 44 chapter members and other supporters. Widespread support for the UNA-USA advocacy priorities was found. Additionally, it was noted, there was broad agreement that the chapter needs to continue its efforts to educate the public, including our elected officials, about the purpose and mission of the United Nations.

(4) Review of Communications Committee Website. Mr. Fleming noted that Mr. Bryant's online survey was conducted through the chapter's new website, www.una-okc.org. He invited comments on the site.

Mr. Bryant noted that the number of visitors to the website has been small. There have been about 300 hits since the site was launched in late September. But, the website is functional in terms of communicating news about our chapter. And, he said, the successful deployment of the online survey demonstrates that our chapter can use the website as an interactive tool for gaining input from our chapter members and the community at large. As a result of the survey, he said, there were 23 people who volunteered to help with the chapter's advocacy projects.

(5) Chapter Coordination. Mr. Fleming opened a discussion of future activities for our chapter. He encouraged the directors to think about some ways that we might be able to expand our membership. Primarily, he recommended a personal outreach effort, and he distributed copies of UNA-USA membership brochures to be handed out to friends, colleagues, and associates who are supporters of the United Nations.

Mr. Daneshfar proposed that our chapter should put more effort into building a speaker's bureau. Mr. Fleming suggested deferring action on that idea until next year. Fran Morris noted that, in the meantime, individual members are free to accept speaking engagements.

Mrs. Messenger pointed out a need for our chapter to improve communications with members who do not have access to the internet. We need to be able to describe the benefits of membership, she said. She suggested that we should consider re-launching a periodic newsletter.

The discussion turned to the UNA-USA's national conference that will be held in March, 2005, in New York City. Mr. Fleming offered the idea of a chapter subsidy for one of our members to attend the conference. This idea was discussed, and Fran Morris presented a motion to authorize a \$500 subsidy for a local member to travel to New York to represent our chapter. Jalal Daneshfar offered a second.

Discussion: It was noted that some details of the conference have not been released. For example, the registration fee (if any) is not known. We might want to re-consider the amount of our chapter's support at a later date.

VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

Mr. Fleming noted that Human Rights Day will be celebrated around the world on December 10th. While recognizing that time is short for planning a local activity around this date, there was a consensus of opinion that Mr. Fleming should explore opportunities with the Peace House, the ACLU, Amnesty International, and other allied community groups.

(6) Unfinished Business. One item of business was discussed in this portion of the meeting. Mr. Fleming noted that, during our meeting in September, the directors heard a presentation from the Baha'i Community of Edmond. We were invited to explore ways in which our chapter may be able to support an appearance by Dr. Davachi – a world health expert who offers a presentation on moral education.

Mr. Fleming suggested that he should explore the possibility of working collaboratively with the University of Oklahoma to bring Dr. Davachi to Oklahoma City. There was a consensus of opinion that Mr. Fleming should move in that direction.

(7) New Business. Plans for the chapter's activities during the "Spring Semester" (January to June timeframe) were discussed in a general way. It was noted that our chapter's annual meeting will, by tradition, be held on a Saturday in April. In conjunction with that, it was suggested an Education / Advocacy program should be organized. Additionally, it was noted that the work of a Nominations Committee will commence after the first of the year.

The directors agreed that they should re-convene in January to pursue the planning of these projects.

(8) Announcements. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be:

***Monday, January 10, 2005 -- 5:30pm
First Unitarian Church
600 N.W. 13th Street
Oklahoma City, OK***

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:14pm. Mr. Fleming thanked everyone for their participation.

*Prepared by Bill Bryant
November 17, 2004*