

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 13, 2006**  
**Oklahoma Christian Disciples Center, 301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Minutes Prepared by: Bill Bryant, Secretary**  
*Approved December 11, 2006*

**In Attendance:** Lowell Adams, Bill Bryant, Ron Burkard, Bob Cox, Jalal Daneshfar, Bill Dudley, Bob Elliott, Ruth Males, Firouz Mollaian, Fran Morris, Lee Tucker (OU), Harley Venters.

**Absent with Regrets:** Mónica Alzate, Marie Hooper, Nancy Musselman, Emily Shurley, and Jerry Stephens.

- (1) **Opening of Meeting.** Convening at the Disciples Center, the meeting was called to order by Bob Cox at about 5:30pm.
- (2) **Business Reports.** A couple of items of business were considered in this portion of the meeting.

**A. Review of Minutes of October Meeting.** The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed, and Fran Morris moved them for approval as published; seconded by Jalal Daneshfar. VOTE: All aye; motion carried.

**B. Financial Report.** Bill Bryant reported that he is holding the checkbook while Firouz Mollaian is out of town. He presented a 1-page “Treasurer’s Report.” The report summarized the chapter’s income and expenses as follows:

Previous balance on 10-09-06	...	\$3,271.92
Income	...	420.00
Expense	...	<u>177.00</u>
Closing Balance, 11-13-06	...	<u>\$3,514.92</u>

The income was derived from ticket sales for the UN Day Luncheon. The expense was a check to Marie Hooper for reimbursement of costs related to the UN Day program.

It was noted that the report refers only to the chapter’s Check Book balance. The chapter enjoys additional cash assets of \$2.01 (collected at the Global Oklahoma festival last month), which haven’t been deposited yet.

Ruth Males moved to accept the report; seconded by Bob Cox. VOTE: All aye; motion carried.

**(3) Committee Reports.** Several chapter activities were reviewed during this part of the meeting.

**A. Education / Programs.** Marie Hooper was absent, but Fran Morris offered comments about our chapter's educational programs. She observed that we need a chairperson for our Spring meeting; Fran is willing to help.

There was a brief discussion about the purpose of the Spring Meeting, a short history of past programs, and some ideas were offered on a theme for our 2007 meeting. Lowell Adams suggested that we might engage a woman from his church (Emma Stewart) who performs a realistic impression of Eleanor Roosevelt.

A date for the Spring Meeting was set, tentatively: Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ruth Males offered to co-chair the meeting. The duties and responsibilities of the chairperson were reviewed. Lowell will contact the Eleanor Roosevelt impersonator. Fran will ask Marie to reserve a space for us at OCU.

In the event Eleanor Roosevelt is not available to perform, Dr. Cox suggested that we should invite Eric Heinze to speak. Professor Heinze was appointed by Governor Henry as a co-chair of UN Day activities in Oklahoma.

**B. Advocacy.** Bill Bryant distributed copies of a memo from the UNA-USA national office seeking input from local chapters on our organization's Advocacy Agenda for 2007.

It was noted that last year's agenda included four primary goals: UN reform, the Millennium Development Goals, UN funding, and international treaties and the rule of law.

Harley Venters suggested that we ought to support an active role for the United Nations in the development of a security framework for Iraq. This idea was discussed and refined. Eventually, it was agreed that Bill will develop our chapter's response to the national office in coordination with Harley and Bob Cox.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The following comments were delivered to the national office via email on November 15, 2006:

*"... We agree with the broad-based topics outlined in the 2006 Advocacy Agenda -- UN reform, the Millennium Development Goals, UN funding, and international treaties and the rule of law. We think each of these topics are worthy of continued support in 2007.*

*"In addition, we would like to promote another timely topic involving the UN directly, including its relations with the United States and other nations. In particular, we think the UNA-USA should support an active role for the United Nations in:*

*(1) Developing a security framework for Iraq that will permit an orderly end to the American occupation; and  
(2) Negotiating a comprehensive agreement for peace in the Middle East."*

**C. Membership.** Because of Jerry Stephens' absence, there was not a Membership report.

**D. Adopt-A-Minefield.** Bob Elliott deferred his report until a later date.

**E. Nominations Committee.** Bill Dudley was recognized, and he reported that he has talked to a local attorney about possibly joining our chapter as a member of our board of directors. [Austin Reams](#) is very interested in the mission and goals of UNA-USA.

Fran suggested that Mr. Reams should be invited to join the board immediately if he is sincerely interested in supporting our organization. Further discussion resulted in a motion. Bill moved to appoint Mr. Reams to the board of directors, contingent on a determination that the UNA-USA membership requirement has been met; seconded by Fran. The motion was approved by consensus.

Bob Cox suggested that Eric Heinze should be offered an opportunity to serve as a director of the chapter. Bill endorsed this idea, offering a motion to appoint Professor Heinze. The motion was seconded, and a vote was called. The motion was approved without dissent.

An appointment letter for Mr. Reams will be drafted by Bob Cox, and Bill Dudley will supply Mr. Reams' mailing address.

**F. High School Essay Contest.** Jalal Daneshfar reported that publicity for the high school essay contest is being generated. We're expecting an article to be published in the *Oklahoman* newspaper. Personal contacts with area schools have been made by Bob Cox, Lowell Adams, and Emily Shurley.

The Fall Peace Festival offered an opportunity to distribute information about the contest. Bill Dudley reported on a school teacher who was very interested in the essay competition.

Ruth Males commented that Mount Saint Mary's high school has a Model UN program, and she suggested that it would be worthwhile to develop a personal contact there.

**G. Public Relations.** On the topic of publicity for the essay contest, Ron Burkard reported that a press release has been distributed to four area newspapers. He noted that Emily Shurley delivered on her goal of persuading Channel Five to cover our UN Day luncheon.

**(4) Chapter Coordination.** During this portion of the meeting, a couple of items were slated for discussion.

**A. Debriefing on Fall Events.** There was general agreement that the UN Day Luncheon was a great success, with a fabulous program. Bob Cox circulated copies of "thank you" letters that have been sent to Sherry Blazi, Orhan Osman, and the news director at Channel Five.

Regarding the Fall Peace Festival, Fran commented on the great value of our chapter's participation as an outreach activity. Additional input was offered by Lowell, Bill Dudley, and Ruth. There was an "amazing" turnout for the event, and lots of names were collected on a sign-up sheet which was given to Bob Cox.

The Global Oklahoma festival was another event that allowed our chapter to do outreach. It was noted that the organizers of the festival have sent a survey form to our chapter, seeking feedback. Ruth volunteered to complete the form and return it to Rose State College.

On the topic of outreach, Bill Dudley distributed membership brochures to each director – for use in recruiting new members to our organization.

**B. Student Representatives.** Lee Tucker was not present for this portion of the meeting, and so her report was given under "New Business."

(5) **Old Business.** A couple of items of unfinished business were on the board's agenda.

**A. Student Internship Program.** Bob reported that an OU student has expressed a strong interest in working for our chapter as an unpaid intern during the summer of 2007. The directors were invited to offer their thoughts on some duties that might be assigned to the student intern. A list of ideas was generated, including:

- Preparation and distribution of news releases;
- Projects involving outreach to high school students;
- A research project to identify the best practices of "benchmark" chapters of the UNA-USA;
- Development of a chapter-specific brochure;
- Building relationships with the community;
- Expanding the Model UN program in the Greater Oklahoma City area;
- Creating a stronger connection to business organizations in the area; and
- Advising the chapter on the development of a Young Professionals group.

Bob thanked everyone for these ideas. He indicated that he will move forward with this project by developing a short Memorandum of Understanding that may be used to formalize the engagement of an unpaid intern. He commented that he recognizes the value of each task that was suggested, and he is likely to include several of them in the MOU – including the Benchmarking Survey idea; the brochure update; and the exploration of opportunities for networking with the business community.

**B. Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation.** Discussion of this item was deferred until our next meeting.

**(6) New Business.** By this time, Lee Tucker had arrived, and she delivered a short report on student activities. She commented that the student affiliate group is considering how to be supportive of the work of the Greater Oklahoma City chapter.

A brief conversation ensued, and several encouraging comments were offered. Lowell remarked that the directors should be supportive of ideas that are generated by the student group. “Bring an idea to us,” he suggested. Jalal commented that he has a lot of faith in young minds. He suggested that perhaps the chapter can provide program resources in support of student activities. The idea of a film festival was discussed briefly as well as a possible fund-raiser for the Adopt-a-Minefield program.

Lee reported briefly on UN Day activities in Norman, including a panel discussion and a film night. These events focused on the topic of maternal health.

No other new business was brought to the board’s attention.

**(7) Announcements and Adjournment.** Bob Cox announced that the OU School of International and Area Studies will be hosting a symposium on relations between the United States and Canada on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to participate. More details will be shared via email.

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be:

**Monday, December 11, 2006 -- 5:30pm**  
**Disciples’ Center**  
**301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**

Any special agenda items should be sent to Bob (Email: [rhcox@ou.edu](mailto:rhcox@ou.edu)) in advance of the meeting.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at about 6:55pm. Professor Cox thanked everyone for their active participation.

*Prepared by Bill Bryant*  
*November 22, 2006*