

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

**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**5:30pm, Monday, October 9, 2006**  
**Oklahoma Christian Disciples Center, 301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Prepared by: Bill Bryant, Secretary**  
***APPROVED November 13, 2006***

**In Attendance:** Lowell Adams, Mónica Alzate, Bill Bryant, Ron Burkard, Bob Cox, Jalal Daneshfar, Marie Hooper, Ruth Males, Firouz Mollaian, Fran Morris, Nancy Musselman, Emily Shurley, Jerry Stephens, Harley Venters.

**Absent:** Bill Dudley, Bob Elliott, Lee Tucker (OU).

**Guests:** Wassim Bouanani, Abdullah Najim.

**(1) Opening of Meeting.** Convening at the Disciples Center, the meeting was called to order by Bob Cox at about 5:30pm. Introductions were made all around. Wassim Bouanani and Abdullah Najim were welcomed to the meeting.

Before the business portion of the meeting commenced, several preliminary items were addressed.

Ruth Males reported that she has handouts and other materials left over from the Global Oklahoma festival (October 7<sup>th</sup>). It was suggested that they should be turned over to Bill Dudley, since he has agreed to set up our table at the Fall Peace Festival (November 11<sup>th</sup>). A plan was made to deliver the materials to Mr. Dudley via Harley Venters or Nancy Musselman (or another director for whom a delivery would not be too much trouble).

Two guests from the University of Central Oklahoma were recognized -- Wassim Bouanani and Abdullah Najim. They are students who are interested in starting a UNA-USA chapter at UCO, possibly a Student Alliance group. They explained their interest in this project, as well as the steps they have taken so far to establish their group. Great interest was expressed in this project, and the members of the board of directors offered expressions of encouragement and support.

Bob Cox shared several announcements:

- UNA-USA is sponsoring a national conference on Africa;
- The Eastern Oklahoma chapter of UNA-USA is hosting a UN Day Dinner on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>; and
- Our UNA-USA national office has published a booklet describing how to start up a “Young Professionals” group.

Professor Cox has additional information about each of these items.

(2) **Business Reports.** A couple of items of business were considered in this portion of the meeting.

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

**B. Financial Report.** Firouz Mollaian presented a 1-page “Treasurer’s Report.” The report summarized the chapter’s income and expenses as follows:

Previous balance on 9-11-06	...	\$3,271.92
Income	...	2.01
Expenses	...	<u>0</u>
Closing Balance, 10-09-06	...	<u>\$3,273.93</u>

The income was the result of a miscellaneous collection of funds at the Global Oklahoma Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Marie Hooper reported that she has incurred \$177.00 in expenses related to the UN Day Luncheon. She itemized her claim as follows:

Postage	...	\$ 112.00
Supplies & Copying	...	<u>65.00</u>
TOTAL	...	<u>177.00</u>

It was noted that registrations for the luncheon are being received.

Emily Shurley moved to accept the report, including Marie’s claim for reimbursement; seconded by Ron Burkard. VOTE: All aye; motion carried.

Firouz remarked that he will be out of town during the chapter’s UN Day celebration. To assure that necessary payments may be made during his absence, he handed over the checkbook to Bill Bryant.

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

**A. Education / Programs.** Marie reported on preparations for the UN Day luncheon program at OCU. Good progress in being made.

Additionally, Marie reported on the first steps toward formation of a Student Alliance group at Oklahoma City University.

Fran reported on our chapter’s participation in the Global Oklahoma festival. The following volunteers deserve to be recognized: Bill Dudley, Ruth Males, Firouz Mollaian, Nancy Musselman, Jerry Stephens, and others who helped out and had fun.

The crowd at Global Oklahoma was great. Several people expressed interest in the High School Essay Contest. Lots of “Trick or Treat for Unicef” boxes were distributed.

A reminder was offered about the Fall Peace Festival. It will take place on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center Music Hall. Our team of volunteers will be Lowell Adams, Bill Dudley, Bob Elliott, Ruth Males, and Jerry Stephens. Others are welcome to join.

**B. Advocacy.** Bill Bryant reported that he is seeking a meeting with Rep. Frank Lucas in order to discuss congressional support for funding of the United Nations.

**C. Membership.** Jerry Stephens reported that 5 new members have joined the chapter since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our current roster includes 74 members, according to our latest report from the national office.

A question was raised about the membership status of our directors. Are all of us up-to-date on dues payments? Jerry will check on that question and give reminders as necessary.

**D. Adopt-A-Minefield.** No report.

**E. Nominations Committee.** No report.

**F. High School Essay Contest.** Jalal Daneshfar brought copies of a 1-page announcement about the 2007 edition of our High School Essay Contest. They were distributed. Jalal described the details of the essay contest. An entry deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup> was established, which will give judges about 3 weeks to evaluate the essays.

Previous publicity efforts were reviewed. Jalal commented that personal contacts with teachers and youth leaders are most effective. On that note, Emily Shurley volunteered to make contacts with a couple of schools in the OKC area. Her enthusiasm inspired others to think about exploring some of the ‘doors’ that are open for getting our message into schools. A pass-around sheet was created and circulated, and several board members signed up to visit with schools in the Greater Oklahoma City area.

With regard to the definition of “Greater Oklahoma City area,” it was discussed in general terms. However, there does not seem to be a strict definition.

A committee of volunteers was identified to evaluate the essay submissions. Members include Ron Burkard, Jalal Daneshfar, Nancy Musselman, and Jerry Stephens.

**G. Public Relations.** Ron Burkard suggested that someone else should take the lead on publicity efforts, temporarily, while he recovers from medical treatments. Emily announced that she has arranged for announcements about the UN Day Luncheon to run on KCSC radio, and she has made a request for news coverage of the event by KOCO Channel 5 television.

Jalal commented that we ought to consider establishing a speakers' bureau. This idea received an enthusiastic response. Jerry expressed support for the concept, offering his effort to help get it organized. Emily agreed, offering to put some of her energy into the project. Fran remarked that the Chamber of Commerce might be a good resource for identifying local community groups. Lowell commented that we need to think about the content of the presentations that we want to take out into the community.

(4) **Chapter Coordination.** During this portion of the meeting, several items were addressed relative to our chapter's coordination with related organizations and events.

**A. UN Day Planning.** This item was covered earlier in the meeting. Nothing new was added.

**B. Student Representatives.** Wassim Bouanani reported that the international student council at UCO is sponsoring an International Festival on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to attend.

(5) **Old Business.** There was no unfinished business to discuss.

(6) **New Business.** A couple of items of new business were brought to the board's attention.

**A. Student Internship Program.** Recognizing that we are an active chapter of the UNA-USA and that we have many tasks that could be carried out by an unpaid student intern working for college credit, Professor Cox presented this idea to the directors. Parameters of the program were discussed:

- Duties of the intern would need to be defined;
- Tasks related to specific activities would need to be defined;
- A protocol for supervising the intern's work would be required;
- The student's hours on task would need to be tracked.

Bob offered to develop a protocol for relating to the student and his/her faculty member.

Emily commented that we should think carefully about this opportunity. She suggested that we should bring our ideas to the next meeting. Bob welcomed this suggestion. He asked each committee to consider how they would use an intern to support / expand the activities of our chapter.

There was more brainstorming about how the chapter might utilize the talents of a nimble-minded college student.

**B. Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation.** Jerry Stephens was recognized, and he proceeded to describe a proposed affiliation with the Oklahoma Partnership for Public Deliberation. To accompany his description, Jerry handed out a 4-page memo.

Excerpt: “*OPPD’s principal aims are to encourage public participation in the public policy decisionmaking process. The assumption is that by encouraging such public participation will result in a broader understanding by Oklahomans of the implications of a broad range of public policy issues.*”

A roster of the participating organizations in the OPPD was reviewed. Jerry pointed out how the Partnership relates to our chapter’s objectives – particularly in terms of outreach, organization of a speakers’ bureau, etc.

Fran commented that she sees the wisdom of affiliating with a group of like-minded organizations in this way. It was noted that there is no cost involved with joining the Partnership.

A motion to approve Jerry’s proposal was made simultaneously by Ruth, Emily, and Marie. A second was offered by Fran. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

(7) **Announcements and Adjournment.** It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be:

***Monday, November 13, 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 6:50pm. Professor Cox thanked everyone for their active participation.

*Prepared by Bill Bryant  
October 26, 2006*