

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

Approved

**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5:30 pm, Monday, November 12, 2007**

In Attendance: Lowell Adams, Bill Bryant, Jalal Daneshfar, Bill Dudley, Fred Dunbar, Larry Eberhardt, Ruth Males, Firouz Mollaian.

Absent with Regrets: Joann Bell, Bob Cox, Bob Elliott, Eric Heinze, Marie Hooper, Darla Jackson, Zach Messitte, Nancy Musselman, Jerry Stephens, Ken Tillett, Harley Venters.

Guests: Linda Esser, Bailey Haynes.

(1) Opening of Meeting. We convened in our usual meeting space at the Disciples' Center, 301 NW 36th Street, OKC. Lowell Adams presided, calling the meeting to order at about 5:33pm. Our two guests were introduced.

NOTE: According to our chapter by-laws, "A quorum of the board of directors shall be one-third of the Board membership." (Reference: <http://www.una-okc.org/ChapterBy-Laws.pdf>).

(2) Business Reports.

A. Review of Minutes of October 8th Meeting. The draft minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Ruth Males moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Fred Dunbar. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

B. Financial Report. Firouz Mollaian reported on financial transactions since our last meeting, summarized as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Previous balance on 10-8-07 | ... | \$3,644.72 |
| Income | ... | 1,390.00 |
| Expenses | ... | <u>319.60</u> |
| Closing Balance, 11-12-07 | ... | <u>\$4,715.12</u> |

The income was from three source categories: (i) Luncheon Reservations (\$390.00); (ii) Grant funds from the Oklahoma Humanities Council (\$900.00); and (iii) A reimbursement from Joy Mennonite Church for our chapter's contribution to the International Day of Peace project (\$100.00).

The expenses were in two categories: (i) A reimbursement of \$232.10 to Ruth Males for postage and printing expenses related to the UN Day Luncheon; and (ii) A payment of \$87.50 to Rosemary Brown for design work on our UN Day Luncheon brochure.

It was noted that we haven't paid Sodexo yet for the expense of catering our UN Day luncheon.

Bill Bryant moved to accept the Financial Report; seconded by Ruth Males. VOTE:
Approved by consensus.

At this point in the meeting, there was a change in the order of the agenda. Mr. Adams recognized Linda Esser, who brought forward an item of New Business.

(3) New Business: Discussion and Possible Action on a Collaboration with C.A.S.T. – Cultural Awareness for Students and Teachers. Ms. Esser described several projects that her group, C.A.S.T., is working on – including an Awareness Walk on December 8th (addressing the problem of the unlawful conscription of child soldiers) and a Hunger Banquet on November 19th (in support of World Neighbors). She distributed copies of a calendar of events that C.A.S.T. is engaged in.

The mission and purpose of C.A.S.T. was described, and an interest was expressed in forming a mutually supportive, non-financial relationship with our chapter. It was noted that our two groups could support each other by promoting the activities and events of both in a reciprocal fashion. For example, it was noted that C.A.S.T. has already begun promoting our High School Essay Contest. Promotional materials for the Awareness Walk and Hunger Banquet were carried on our chapter's table at the Fall Peace Festival. Additionally, C.A.S.T. collaborated with other communities partners in co-sponsoring the International Day of Peace celebration.

Bailey Haines added that C.A.S.T. has an active group at Putnam City North High School, and they are looking for opportunities to expand their presence in other area schools.

At the end of the discussion, it was generally agreed that our chapter should continue to support C.A.S.T. activities in an informal way whenever there is perceived to be an alignment with our chapter's mission and purpose.

Ms. Esser was invited to keep us informed about future C.A.S.T. activities.

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

A. Educational Programs.

Human Rights Video Collection. Lowell reported that our video collection is now in the possession of the Metropolitan Library System, and it is being made available to patrons. He circulated a 2-sided card that describes the collection. It will be distributed to school teachers through various means, including through the mail.

Lowell reported that the card was professionally designed by Rosemary Brown at

a cost to our chapter of \$200. Other anticipated expenses include:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------|
| Printing | ... | \$378.48; and |
| Envelopes and Postage | ... | \$100 |

Ruth Males moved to authorize the expenditure of chapter funds for these expenses; seconded by Larry Eberhardt.

On a related topic, Lowell reported that he has been invited to address the Model UN conference that is being held this week at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. His talk will focus on the history and goals of the UN.

High School Essay Contest. Jalal Daneshfar was recognized, and he reported that the news about our High School Essay Contest is spreading through word-of-mouth and email announcements.

We will know the number of entries by the date of our next meeting. Entries must be submitted by December 3rd. On the topic of judging, Larry Eberhardt volunteered to serve as an evaluator. Jalal welcomed Larry's offer.

Lowell suggested that each director should use their personal and professional contacts to promote the contest.

UN Day Luncheon. Ruth Males reported on our UN Day Luncheon. Sixty-four reservations were received, including 7 at the student rate of \$10. Fourteen student were admitted at no cost – thanks to our “luncheon scholarship” arrangement.

Looking ahead to our next big chapter-wide event, Ruth reported that a space at OCU has been reserved on April 19th for our Spring Luncheon. Regarding a speaker for the event, Ruth reported that a former director – Dorothy Messenger – has recommended that Moorman Robertson Work, Jr., should be invited to address our chapter.¹ This suggestion was taken under advisement.

B. Advocacy. Bill Bryant reported briefly on two things. One, our association

¹ “Rob is the son of Mary Elizabeth Work and the late Rev. Moorman Robertson Work, Sr. He was born in Houston, Texas, and grew up in Oklahoma. Rob's graduate studies are in theology and his undergraduate degree is in literature. He has worked as a manager, facilitator, trainer, project director and policy advisor. His writings on local development and local governance are available through the [United Nations Development Programme](http://www.un.org/development/dndp/) (UNDP) and have been published in several books. He is currently the Founder and Director of the Hillside Institute and for the past 15 years worked with UNDP, most recently as Principal Policy Advisor in Decentralized Governance. Before that for 20 years he held various leadership positions with the Institute of Cultural Affairs and the Ecumenical Institute and was a member of the Order Ecumenical. His work consisted of designing and implementing research, training and demonstration projects in community, organizational and leadership development. Rob has lived, worked or traveled in 55 countries around the world. His master teachers include Dr. Joseph Matthews, Dr. Jean Houston and Gehlek Rimpoche. His first wife Mary died in 2003 after 35 years of marriage and launching their two fine sons, Benjamin and Christopher.” Source: <http://robandbonniewedding.com/>.

participated in a national “call-in day” in support of congressional action to ban cluster bombs. Two, Bill has accepted an invitation to represent our chapter at a candlelight vigil in support of human rights. The vigil will take place on Monday, December 3rd, at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. It is being co-sponsored by the OSU student government association, Amnesty International, and “International Education and Outreach” in recognition of International Human Rights Month.

On the topic of human rights, Bill reported that he has been in correspondence with a national group that is lobbying Senator Inhofe regarding a measure to support human rights in Ethiopia. Contact Bill for more information, if you’re interested.

C. Membership. There was no report.

D. Nominations Committee. This item was not addressed.

E. Community Relations & Media. We reviewed, very briefly, some of the community outreach projects our chapter has been involved in – including the Fall Peace Festival. There is a lot of interest in our chapter. Forty-six people signed up to join our mailing list. And, we gained one new (paid) member.

(5) **Coordination with Student Peace Alliance Groups.** No report.

(6) **Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business to be addressed.

(7) **Other New Business.** Five items of new business were discussed:

A. International Day of Peace, 2008. Bill Bryant reported that our chapter has been invited to become the lead organization for next year’s celebration of the International Day of Peace. The Day of Peace planning committee met on October 10th, and it was suggested that the UN Association should be the fiscal agent for the 2008 celebration.

If our chapter agrees to tackle this responsibility, we’ll need to be prepared to manage a project budget of at least \$600. The entire cost of the 2007 celebration was borne by contributions from community partner groups – the Gold Dome Multicultural Society, the Respect Diversity Foundation, and other groups and individuals who contributed cash and in-kind resources.

It was agreed that we will place this item on the agenda for our December meeting.

B. Co-Sponsorship of “Joyeux Noel.” Bill Bryant reported that Oklahoma City University’s Film Institute is sponsoring a special showing of the movie, “Joyeux Noel,” on Sunday, December 2nd. A reception and discussion will follow the film presentation. Our chapter has been invited to be a co-sponsor of the reception for the cost of \$25.

By consensus, it was agreed that we will co-sponsor. Bill Dudley volunteered to cover the cost. Thank you, Bill Dudley!

C. Possible Internship for OCU Student. During the Fall Peace Festival, Professor John Starkey of OCU approached Lowell Adams and suggested that our chapter should consider the possibility of taking on one or more unpaid student interns during the spring semester. Lowell invited comments.

Jalal suggested that an intern could be put to work on the task of designing and implementing some guidelines for outreach to area schools – with the goal of developing more Student Peace Alliance groups.

It was generally agreed that we should learn more about OCU's requirements and expectations for internship assignments. Lowell asked Larry to get some more information from Dr. Starkey in this regard.

Lowell announced that this item will be re-visited during our December meeting.

D. Meeting Location. The challenges posed by road construction were discussed briefly. Access to the Disciples Center has been limited by the closing of 36th Street. Nevertheless, Jalal reported that he was able to negotiate the detour. It added only a few extra minutes to his travel time. Consequently, no action was taken on changing our meeting location.

Lowell commented that we are fortunate to have the use of such a nice meeting place, and it is favorably located for many of our directors.

E. Preparation of the 2008 Budget. It was noted that a budget for Calendar Year 2008 needs to be prepared. Last year, Bill Bryant and Firouz Mollaian collaborated to prepare a proposed budget. It was suggested that they should repeat their effort, with the expectation that this will be a business item for our December meeting.

(8) Adjournment. In accordance with established custom, the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on the second Monday of the month:

Monday, December 10, 2007 – 5:30 pm
Disciples' Center
301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK

Any special agenda items should be sent to Bob Cox (email: rhcox@ou.edu) in advance of the meeting.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned about 6:45pm.

Prepared by Bill Bryant
November 19, 2007