

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
5:30 pm, Monday, May 12, 2008

In Attendance: Lowell Adams, Bill Bryant, Bob Cox, Bill Dudley, Bob Elliott, Eric Heinze, Ruth Males, Zach Messitte, Firouz Mollaian, Nancy Musselman.

Guests: Megan Bird, Stephanie Holliman.

Absent with Regrets: Joann Bell, Jalal Daneshfar, Fred Dunbar, Larry Eberhardt, Marie Hooper, Darla Jackson, Murod Mamatov (OKC Community College). Ken Tillet, Harley Venters.

(1) **Opening of Meeting.** We convened in our usual meeting space at the Disciples' Center, 301 NW 36th Street, OKC. Bob Cox presided, calling the meeting to order at about 5:38pm. A special welcome was offered to Megan Bird and Stephanie Holliman, who are members of the Model UN Club at the University of Oklahoma.

(2) **Business Reports.**

A. Review of Minutes of March Meeting. The draft minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Bill Bryant offered the minutes for approval, with one correction: The names of Zach Messitte and Firouz Mollaian should be included in the list of members who were "Absent with Regrets." Ruth Males moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Bob Elliott. 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 3-10-08	...	\$3,790.24
Income	...	2,516.50
Expenses	...	<u>816.00</u>
Closing Balance, 5-12-08	...	<u>\$5,490.74</u>

Our income was derived from several sources, as shown on the next page.

One payment was recorded: A check written to Sodexho for our UN Day luncheon in October.

Firouz described several items that are payable, including a payment to Sodexho for our Spring Luncheon (approx. \$1,000), a claim from Ruth Males for postage (approx. \$128),

and a contribution of \$890 to the Adopt-A-Minefield program.

<u>Chapter Income</u>		
UNA-USA Chapter Allocation	...	166.50
Luncheon on 4-19	...	770.00
“Scholarships”	...	650.00
UNICEF	...	20.00
Hunger Banquet	...	20.00
Adopt-A-Minefield	...	<u>890.00</u>
TOTAL	...	<u>2,516.50</u>

There was a discussion in which several members expressed their appreciation for the contributions, financial and otherwise, our chapter has received from individual members.

Lowell Adams moved to accept the report and approve the pending payments; seconded by Nancy Musselman. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

C. Year-End Activity Report. Bill Bryant reported that the national office has changed the report format for our chapter’s annual report and extended the deadline for submission. No action is required at this time, he said.

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

A. Educational Programs.

Chapter Meeting / Spring Luncheon. Dr. Cox commented that our Spring Luncheon was a really good event. It was noted that our next luncheon will be in observance of UN Day – Saturday, October 25th.

UN Day Planning. Zach reported that he is aiming to schedule a UN Goodwill Ambassador to appear in Oklahoma for our celebration of UN Day in October. There is a possibility that we will be able to plan a program centered on the global problem of trafficking in women and children. He’ll have more to report at our next meeting.

B. Advocacy. Bill Bryant reported on plans for the next fund-raising / awareness walk for the World Food Program: “End Hunger: Walk the World.” Once again this year, the Oklahoma City Walk is being organized by students from Casady School, with support from many community organizations (including our chapter).

In terms of issue advocacy, he regretted the fact that he did not have any progress to report. He invited another member of the board of directors to consider volunteering for the job of Advocacy Director.

C. Membership. Nancy Musselman reported that she did not have an update on membership.

Bob Cox and Zach Messitte reported on a contact from the national office – a phone call inquiring about our chapter’s activities. The publication of Bob and Zach’s commentary in *The Oklahoman* newspaper last October caught the attention of the national office. Additionally, Bob reported that the San Diego chapter of UNA-USA contacted him to get more information about our Human Rights Video Collection.

D. Nominations Committee. Bill Dudley advised that there are no new nominations to report at this time, but he has a couple of prospects that he is working on. Dr. Cox recommended that each director should consider that the recruitment of new directors is a task for each of us.

E. Public Relations. It was recalled that we have discussed, in previous meetings, the desirability of having a resource person who could function in a public relations capacity for our chapter. The directors agreed that we need to have someone on our board who has “media savvy” – able to relate eloquently to representatives of the news media. Zach volunteered to take the job for the next year, and we were glad.

(4) Coordination with Student Peace Alliance Groups. Dr. Cox recognized Megan Bird and Stephanie Holliman, and they proceeded to describe some of the upcoming activities that are being planned by the Model UN Club at OU. The next Model UN conference at the University of Oklahoma will be in February, 2009. Before then, members of the Model UN Club will have other activities to prepare for the conference. There was some discussion about participation in a national conference of Model UN student organizations. It was mutually agreed that our chapter would like to support the mission of the Model UN Club, and vice versa.

Our goal of organizing an observance of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was mentioned. It was suggested that the Model UN Club might like to collaborate with other members of the UNA-USA Student Alliance in planning a community event.

(5) Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business brought to the attention of the directors.

(6) New Business: Election of Officers. In accordance with our by-laws, Dr. Cox opened the floor to discussion and action on the election of chapter officers. Through a process of nomination and discussion, the following individuals were re-elected by acclamation:

- President ... Robert H. (Bob) Cox
- Vice-President, Programs ... Lowell Adams
- Vice-President, Membership ... Nancy Musselman

- Secretary ... Bill Bryant
- Treasurer ... Firouz Mollaian

(7) **Other Discussion.** Several items of general interest were discussed.

Bob Cox noted that our chapter has benefited from the internship arrangements that we have entered into with students from OU and OCU. He suggested that we should continue our efforts to reach out to young people who have a global perspective. In that regard, Zach offered an idea designed to incentivize students to join UNA-USA – he suggested that our chapter should rebate half of the student’s membership dues.

There was a discussion about the Model UN Club’s need for funds to send students to a Model UN national conference – either in New York City or St. Louis.

Bob Elliott mentioned that he is preparing a large mailing to area pastors that will highlight some of our chapter’s upcoming events (such as the “End Hunger: Walk the World” project).

Eric Heinze volunteered to serve as our chapter’s Advocacy Director.

(8) **Adjournment.** In consideration of the fact that some of our members have out-of-town trips and other activities planned during the next couple of months, it was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be on the second Monday of August:

Monday, August 11, 2008 – 5:30 pm
Disciples' Center
301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK

Without objection, the meeting adjourned about 6:50pm.

Prepared by Bill Bryant
May 20, 2008