

Minutes of the August 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, August 11, 2008**

**In Attendance:** Lowell Adams, Bill Bryant, Bob Cox, Jalal Daneshfar, Bill Dudley, Larry Eberhardt, Bob Elliott, Zach Messitte, Firouz Mollaian, Nancy Musselman.

**Guest:** Dennis Watson (Amnesty International).

**Absent with Regrets:** Joann Bell, Eric Heinze, Marie Hooper, Darla Jackson, Ruth Males, 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 36<sup>th</sup> Street, OKC. Bob Cox presided, calling the meeting to order at about 5:31pm. A special welcome was offered to Dennis Watson, who represents the OKC chapter of Amnesty International.

President Cox announced with regret that Fred Dunbar has resigned from the board because of a personal health reason.

(2) **Business Reports.**

**A. Review of Minutes of May Meeting.** The draft minutes of the May meeting were reviewed. Lowell Adams moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Nancy Musselman. 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 5-12-08	...	\$5,490.74
Income	...	327.50
Expenses	...	<u>2,202.88</u>
Closing Balance, 8-11-08	...	<u>\$3,615.36</u>

Our income was derived from several sources:

UNA-USA (Chapter Allocation)	...	122.50
Luncheon Income (Spring Meeting)	...	45.00
International Day of Peace	...	75.00
Adopt-A-Minefield	...	85.00

Regarding the \$75.00 for the International Day of Peace, this total represented contributions from the Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma, the Respect Diversity Foundation, and one unspecified donor.

Expenses included:

Sodexo (for Spring Luncheon)	...	1,000.00
Ruth Males (postage & printing)	...	127.88
Friends of World Food Program	...	100.00
Adopt-A-Minefield	...	<u>975.00</u>
TOTAL	...	<u>2,202.88</u>

Bob Elliott moved to accept the report; seconded by Bill Dudley. VOTE: All Aye; motion carried.

**(3) New Business: International Human Rights Day.** The order of the agenda was changed slightly so that this item of new business could be considered at this point in the meeting. Dennis Watson was recognized, and he described his interest, as a member of Amnesty International, in promoting appreciation / awareness / understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Dennis mentioned several possibilities for a community-wide observance of International Human Rights Day (December 10<sup>th</sup>). Steve Morrow, a professor at OKC Community College, has indicated his willingness to screen a human rights film on campus. Elizabeth Chamberlain, the president of the OKC chapter of AI, has a list of films that are available from Amnesty International. An additional option would be to arrange a film showing at OCU – possibly through the film office headed by Dr. Harbour Winn. Dennis indicated that AI would certainly help with publicity of any such event that we could arrange.

Bob Cox volunteered to contact the Amnesty International group at OU. Nancy will contact Harbour Winn. Lowell volunteered to check with the Oklahoma City Museum of Art to see if we might possibly be able to use their auditorium.

It was noted that our observance of International Human Rights Day (December 10<sup>th</sup>) will be preceded by our chapter's UN Day program (October 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>), which will also have a Human Rights theme.

Dennis concluded his presentation by mentioning his personal interest in the "Peace Pole" project.<sup>1</sup> He has facilitated the planting of Peace Poles in several communities in Oklahoma, and he is willing to do more. Dennis can be contacted at yukondennis@gmail.com.

**(4) Committee Reports.** Several chapter activities were reviewed.

**A. Educational Programs.**

**UN Day 2008.** Zach Messitte was recognized, and he reported on plans that are developing for UN Day. He distributed copies of a 1-page sheet detailing "UN

---

<sup>1</sup> "A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer, 'May Peace Prevail on Earth,' on each of its four or six sides, usually in different languages. There are tens of thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace." (Source: [www.peacepoleproject.org](http://www.peacepoleproject.org))

Goodwill Ambassador Opportunities” in Norman, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.

He confirmed that Famke Janssen, a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will visit Oklahoma on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. She will be available for a dinner at OU on the 24<sup>th</sup>; our chapter luncheon in OKC on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and a dinner and discussion in Tulsa on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

UNODC focuses on several topics related to international crime, including Corruption, Crop Monitoring, HIV/AIDS, Human Trafficking, Illicit Drugs, Justice and Prison Reform. Money-Laundering, Organized Crime, and Terrorism Prevention.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Famke’s appearances will be designed to call attention to the persistent problem of human trafficking. The theme of her visit will be “Women and Human Rights.”

Dr. Jill Irvine will accompany Ms. Janssen, and Dr. Irvine will deliver the keynote speech during our chapter luncheon on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Professor Irvine is the director of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma.

**Trick or Treat for Unicef.** On this topic, Zach circulated a framed certificate from Unicef recognizing the success of last year’s Unicef fund drive at OU. Bob Elliott reported that it is his intention to distribute some of the Unicef “orange boxes” to OKC-area churches. There was a short discussion about the availability of boxes to distribute during the Trick or Treat season. We’ll be sure to have some at the “Global Oklahoma” festival on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Advocacy.** No report.

**C. Membership.** Nancy reported that she has received a report on new members from the national office. It shows that we have one new student member from Norman.

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

At this point in the meeting, Lowell reported that he submitted a final report to the Oklahoma Humanities Council on the grant that helped to fund our human rights video project. As a result, he expects that we will receive the final portion of grant funds within a short period of time.

**E. Nominations Committee.** It was noted that we need to find a new director to fill the vacancy created by Fred Dunbar’s resignation. Zach suggested that we should consider recruiting a person related to the Model UN program. A general discussion followed on the topic of how we wish to develop student leadership.

On that subject, Jalal mentioned the \$500 scholarship that has been budgeted for a Student Alliance member. There was a short discussion about this initiative, and Jalal circulated copies of the scholarship criteria that he prepared.

**F. High School Essay Contest.** Jalal reported that the UNA-USA national office has established new rules for the high school essay contest. There is now a centralized

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org).

essay submission process utilizing a new web portal. The implications of this change were discussed. A 1-page description of the new contest guidelines was distributed. It was noted that we are offering a prize of \$500 for the best essay submitted by a student from the Greater Oklahoma City area.

There was a discussion of past practices and good ideas for promoting the essay contest. Jalal will contact the national office to see if post cards or other promotional materials are available for use by local chapters such as ours. Jalal mentioned that, for a modest cost – as little as \$50 for postage -- he could prepare a mail announcement about the contest.

- (4) **Coordination with Student Alliance Groups.** Zach reported on student activities at OU. They are fund-raising for a trip to a national Model UN conference in St. Louis.
- (5) **Unfinished Business.** Larry Eberhardt was recognized. He reported on the results of the student internship activities that we sponsored in the Spring semester. One of the two students followed through on their assignments. Larry will bring a more complete report to our next meeting.
- (6) **New Business.** A couple of items of new business were discussed in this portion of the meeting.

- A. **International Day of Peace.** Bill Bryant reported on plans for the celebration of the International Day of Peace. This year's community-wide event will take place at the Myriad Gardens on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 3 to 5pm. Many local groups are coming together to co-sponsor the event. Featured speakers will include the superintendents of Putnam City Schools and the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

- B. **Global Oklahoma.** It was noted that the annual Global Oklahoma festival will take place on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. At our next meeting (September 8), we will organize a list of volunteers to set up and manage our table. Nancy volunteered to procure give-away items for the event.

- (7) **Adjournment.** In accordance with our usual meeting schedule, the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be on the second Monday of September:

**Monday, September 8, 2008 – 5:30 pm**  
**Disciples' Center**  
**301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**

Without objection, the meeting adjourned about 6:55pm.

*Prepared by Bill Bryant*  
*August 17, 2008*