

Dances of Universal Peace International
Board of Directors Telecon Meeting Minutes
12 October 2010
(Action Items in Italics)

BOD Members Present: Kabir Stuart McKinnon, Darvesha Victoria MacDonald, Halima Sussman, Maitreya Jon Stevens, Allaudin Sandy Hill

Also present: Munir Peter Reynolds (Executive Director); Martha Bracken (Office Manager); Sky Majida Roshay (Administrative Assistant)

*Toward the One,
the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, the Only Being;
United with all the Illuminated Souls who form the Embodiment of the Master,
the Spirit of Guidance.*

AGENDA

Welcome

1. Approval of Minutes from September 14. 2010
2. Review of achievements this year toward 2010 goals and objectives
3. Discussion of draft 2011 goals, programs and initiatives
4. 2011 Fundraising focusing on the Leaders Guild
5. Announcement of new DUP International Website
6. Next meeting

Check Out

Appendices

1 - 2010 Goals and Objectives

Next Telecon Date: Tuesday, 9 November, 5 p.m. Eastern time, 3 p.m. Mountain time and 2 p.m. Pacific time.

Out of Town Schedules

Darvesha is out of town from the third week of October through early November (and will miss the next telecon).

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Welcome

Munir welcomes everyone to the call and asks if we can start right in.

1, Approve Minutes of the 14 September Telecon

Kabir moves, Halima seconds, that the amended minutes of the 14 September BOD telecon be approved for distribution. Passes unanimously.

2. Review of achievements this year toward 2010 goals and objectives

Munir reviews the [2010 goals and objectives](#) with the Board and makes these observations:

In the area of Leaders Guild Development, he says we will continue to develop multiple languages in the website, including non-English resources for leaders guild members. The website will probably be "live" the week of October 18. In the interim, all leader resources including cds and Dance booklets have been available to leaders through the office. This is happening a bit later than specified in the 2010 timeline.

In the area of firming up IN's relationship with regions and clarifying dues payment, Munir says he now has a much better idea of how the regions function and they are all behind IN's new focus. For example, he has offered to meet with the German region leaders via telecon during their upcoming regional meeting.

The communications plan is in place, and Munir has been keeping Pir Shabda, Murshid Wali Ali and Oneness Project informed of progress; they are very supportive of IN's work.

The newly revised MTG guidelines have been introduced in a variety of ways: email, telecons, meetings at camps, and so on. Munir feels this is something that we need to continue to emphasize into the next year.

The development of gatherings and trainings for mentors has been delayed, on the advice of Darvesha, but it is a focus on the table for consideration in 2011, including the idea of streaming telecons and a possible gathering at the Lama Foundation. The Guidance Council is well aware of the need to work on this. Halima hopes this will be a goal for 2011.

We have made our best efforts to provide worldwide linking through the Worldwide Network links on the new website. We will work to improve and develop this area as we stay alert to ways to link people to what is going on, including the use of social networking sites. Social networking would probably fit into a revised communications plan for next year.

Munir notices that a Forums committee has not yet been established due to the amount of work being done in other areas. However, as the website

develops, more attention can be focused in this direction. Kabir notes that NA has been quite active in this area, with their regional telecons. Munir says IN might have telecons on issues of worldwide interest; Halima points out that time zone differences make truly international calls difficult.

Mission and goal statements are clear, except that the “MTG Guidance Council” is changing name to simply the “Guidance Council.”

In the area of fundraising, Munir sees this time of year as a time to call for support in various ways, perhaps including a list of 2010 accomplishments.

The database has been purged of unneeded records, about half the names formerly contained in it. Kabir has suggested that we need a protocol for tracking and improving the usefulness of our data, for example, making sure that a new Dance leader actually pays their leaders guild dues. We do not want to add more “non payers” to the Leaders Guild. Halima suggests that Martha send an email to new leaders, cc their mentor, welcoming them to the guild and explaining how to pay their dues, access the resources on the website, etc. Martha says that has not been done in the past, since memberships came through the regions, but Munir has asked for list of people who have come into the system within the last year and begin by sending letters to them. BOD is enthusiastic about this idea. *Martha and Munir will get the letter out to new members.*

The Board of Directors has organized into committees and task forces and has done a good job of working outside the board meetings this year; Munir is very pleased with the results.

The Board has made a “doing business as” name change. Kabir notes that the delay in making it a legal name change has been to see if there would be comments from the community, but there has been little response. Kabir moves that IN take the necessary legal steps to change the legal name of the corporation to “Dances of Universal Peace International”; Darvesha seconds. Passes unanimously. *Kabir and Munir will work on this.*

3. Goals and Objectives for 2011

Munir suggests that most of the ongoing goals and objectives be carried over. The Guidance Council is working on their goals and objectives now, and Munir hopes that the two groups can combine forces to create a document for 2011.

Kabir appreciates the work the GC has done so far and looks forward to seeing what they come up with.

Munir says one focus is how to help galvanize the mentors into moving into their more active role, and wonders how the website will play into that, as well as the idea of streaming internet classes. Darvesha suggests guest teachers like Wali Ali. This would take some work and would involve the expertise of the GC to shape it. The Board would be more in charge of making it work technically. Discussion ensues about the interest of the Guidance Council and the possible need for a joint telecom.

Munir asks what else the Board needs to focus on next year. Halima says a lot of seeds have been planted and are now coming up, with a possible need to let things mature some without inventing new things to do. The website isn't even up yet, and who knows what may surface once that happens? Not much is actually completed; many things continue to need nurturance, growth and development in stewarding the Dances. That is already a big job.

Munir agrees that this may not be a time to bite off a lot of new things, but perhaps rather a time to solidify what has already been done. Halima agrees, but adds that the idea of webcasts and training is a huge piece in cultivating what has already been created.

Halima suggests taking the goals for 2010 and updating them. Darvesha concurs. This year has been a "masculine" forward thrust that now needs the "feminine" nurturing of continued growth. *Munir will reframe this, with the GC's input, to create a draft set of goals and objectives, hopefully by next month.*

These documents show how much has already been done, and may be a big part of the reason the regions are supporting the work of IN. Halima thanks Munir for the work in creating these documents and bringing clarity to the work of the Board.

Halima would like to share this document with the GC; she and Darvesha point out that the GC has been working for a long time on getting the guidelines revised and now is adjusting to the idea that they are now guiding the entire leaders guild and developing next steps.

4. 2011 Fundraising focusing on the Leaders Guild

Kabir had distributed some notes focusing on ways to begin organizing communication, fundraising and dues payment within the leaders guild. One of his questions was whether the GC would be willing to be involved in following

up with people who are not paying dues; Darvesha and Halima would prefer that that not be the GC's role.

Munir says that this area will be a major focus during the last part of this year. Halima says that she has shared the new website with some leaders, who were very impressed with the resources there, and said, "Wow, if this is what are our dues are paying for, that's worth it!" The idea was that the website would inspire people to want to be a part of the guild; there is a lot of positive energy and new ideas out there that can be tapped into to continue improving the website. She suggests that this enthusiasm will make dues collection easier.

Munir suggests that a telecon on how to make the best use of the website might be useful.

5. Announcement of new DUP International Website

Munir believes that the announcement of the new website will be sent within the week, and will be drafting it later this week. That letter will include other information as well.

Halima asks if the password protected area will be open to all mentored leaders whether or not they have paid guild fees; Munir says yes. She feels it will be tricky to take that away from people once it has been given.

Kabir is okay with grandfathering in people who are already members of the Guild, but does not want to extend that to new members of the guild. He feels that leaders who have not paid fees in the past may be inclined to pay them in the future because of the services being provided; some people will never pay fees, and perhaps now is not the time to take that up, though it does create a discrepancy to be dealt with at some point in the future. He also feels that mentors should not be bothered with whether or not their mentees' dues are current; Darvesha concurs, saying that in the past getting mentors to follow up on their mentees dues status has never worked.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, 9 November, 5 p.m. Eastern time, 3 p.m. Mountain time and 2 p.m. Pacific time. Darvesha will not be on that telecon.

Closing

Munir invites comments from the board as the meeting closed.

Adjourned at 4:15 pm mountain time.