

Subud Pacific Northwest Regional Board Meeting November 7, 2009

Board members present: Benedict Herrman, chair, Michael DuBois, Vice-Chair, Serena DuBois, secretary, Marston Gregory, Treasurer, Marius Hibbard, co-chair BSV, Miryam Gordon, Greater Seattle chair, Hadijah Gregory, vice-chair Subud Greater Seattle, Latham Stack, Portland chair, Benjamin Boyce, men's helper, Camille Hofvendahl, ladies helper.

The meeting was preceded by latihan and testing and began with a few minutes of quiet. Benedict thanked the board members for being willing to come. Testing was shared. Benedict: tested needs of the region and our role in dealing with it. Region hesitantly, terrified is stepping into a new place and Benedict's role is to speak from his heart. He feels we are moving forward a little bit despite all outward indications. Marius: felt pretty good about it; business being conducted, no disasters. Marston: people are struggling with a lot of personal issues, he got we need to think differently about caring for each other. Helpers could test with people who have issues, be more conscious about them. Hadijah: ladies tested the state of the region and what we could do to help: first it was compact and then the container was overflowing, borders and boundaries disappearing, sight increasing. Miryam got that there was a lot of individual looking, individual guidance, and what should we do was put head down and move forward. Camille got the state of the region was really full. Felt a lot of latihan and a state of compassion. Benjamin got the state of the region was so-so and his state was to pray for it. Michael got the region was like a dysfunctional family and we need to get better. His role was good. Serena got that it was stretchy and full of growth.

Meeting began with this:

Insurance: two proposals. Heart of Partnership, Great American Insurance Group, which currently insures regional liability factors and the BSV entity and Church Mutual were the main contenders. Currently Seattle and Portland are insured locally. Benedict stated that he feels that it doesn't matter if it remains as it is now or becomes regional as long as we are all insured for the value of our houses. Every center pays its share of liability, which is spread throughout the region. The Region picks up Alaska because it's so small. There are three insured buildings: BSV, Seattle and Portland. The region paid \$84 in 2009 that was not covered by groups. Seattle is paying currently \$1200; it would be a LOT more if we went to Church Mutual.

After discussion it looks like there isn't a price break for Seattle and Portland if we insured regionally. It will cost more for Seattle and Portland if we do so. Benedict's only concern is that we are adequately covered so the Region isn't in a bind. He recommends that Seattle get two or three insurance companies out to appraise the house and make sure they have enough insurance. Marston noted there is a \$5000 deductible in the fire policy, so we need to have that money available either through the center or the region. After discussion it was agreed that we continue as we are.

Treasurer's Update and Budget: Good news thanks to several centers increasing pledges we are doing better than last year. Right now we are \$3700 ahead, in part because the regional helpers keep picking up their own expenses. Miryam feels that everyone should use their budget and then donate it back. It's a tax advantage for the person doing it and the Region knows what it's spending. If you donate it by turning in receipts with "donate" on it, the region will know what is spent. Hadijah feels it ought to go to the nation as well. Regional budget is \$1420 a month and of that \$1200 goes to Subud USA, so we have \$220 to run on. Miryam stated they had to pay less and wanted to know if it should go to housing or pledge. Benedict says he feels it should go to pledge because we have a standard pledge to meet to Subud USA. Reducing loan payments just means we just end up paying the money back later when times get better. BSV has to legalize the sewer line and the cost may be between \$5 and \$10,000.

Family Camp for 2009: There is one person who hasn't fully paid and is working on a payment plan. Without him we don't break even. Hadijah feels we have to have space for people who can't pay because they are young, divorcing whatever. Benedict said in his seven years as camp coordinator he worked with them as adults setting up payments and gave them respect and treated them as adults and they could act like adults.

End of year Donation: Marston recommends we do a donation to Subud USA at the year-end from the \$3700 that we have over this year. Hadijah suggested \$700; Miryam suggested something between \$500 and \$1000. Camille suggested a donation to SD as well. Benjamin said they discussed a fund for regional members. Marston noted we have an assistance fund of \$75 per person. Benjamin suggested a percentage amount. Serena suggested \$1700 and dividing it up between Subud USA, SD and the assistance funds. **Marston moved we keep \$2000, give \$600 to Subud USA, \$600 to SD and \$500 to increase the assistance fund to \$1000 for next year. Serena seconded and it as approved unanimously.**

Budget for 2010: Marston suggested we increase our pledge to Subud USA in 2010 to \$1300. Benedict suggested we keep it at \$1200 and possibly do a year end donation in 2010 if we can. **Miryam moved we retain the budget of 2009 in 2010. Marius seconded and it was passed unanimously.**

Menucha: Menucha was ten people short of breaking even, per Raphael a week ago. He has had some sign up since then. Everything is in line. Menucha will break even if we get a few more people. The gift shop is a separate item. The manager gets free room and board, which is not figured in. We thought about raising the percentage to region to 25% and Lewis said "no!" adamantly and said he would donate 5% to the Region. We are close to breaking even and should pass the hat this year.

Regional Helpers: Anything the committee can do for the helpers for Menucha 2009? Camille says there is a lot of criticism from time to time. Helpers present feel they are set for this year. Camille hopes that there will be testing for

regional helpers for the new term at Menucha from people who are not going to the World Congress.

Regional Membership: Elisa was not present, so no report. She had a tremendous difficulty coming to grips with what this job is and resigned at one point. Benedict wrote back and said she was uniquely qualified for it and please don't. The position is membership coordinator. Benedict suggested she call regional members make contact etc. It may be an idea that didn't fly or we may need another person to do it. Benedict has asked that the center reps go back to their members and ask them to have the Census in by December 1.

Regional Helpers report: Benjamin and Camille both went to Montana. Montana groups split based on a family feud, and now there are two groups Flathead Valley and Calispell. It appears better this year than last. Camille's impression was that Spokane was more together last year than this year. There are more women than men. Southern Oregon: People came out of the woodwork. In Ashland there were five women, a lot of latihan and testing, good food. They do latihan in a person's studio. Went to Bandon and three women and a man came. New Regional Helpers will be tested in at the World Congress. Benedict suggests they go up to people and ask them if they want to test as Regional Helper. Alaska: Camille said they looked at going there last summer, very expensive and looked like Alaskan women were coming down to Menucha. This year they are going to the World Congress.

Family Camp and Regional Congress: Do we want to combine this in 2010? We combined them in 2006 and 2008. The National Congress is looking at the Vancouver Hilton, and two other local venues. Do we want to hold Regional Congress at Family Camp or National Congress? Hadijah pointed out that having them with National makes for it being schizophrenic and pulls people away from national business. ***It was moved and seconded that we have 2010 Congress at Family Camp, which will be a three-day weekend this year. It was passed.*** We need to decide the number of people coming at this meeting. It was 62 in 2008. Benedict suggested we say 55 people because of the world and national congresses taking people in other directions.

Center Reports:

Serena read the **Bellingham/Skagit Valley report:**

We have roughly 20 members in our group at present most of whom are active in the latihan. We have three active women helpers, two men helpers and a full committee. Our members are spread out through several counties from San Juan on the west to Ferndale in Whatcom County on the north and Stanwood on the south. We have occasional younger members attending latihan although most of the group is long-standing and older. Dana Tift has opened an acupuncture practice in Burlington and comes to latihan in our group on a regular basis now.

We have had a lot of activity in the Subud PNW B-SV group in 2009. On the dewan side we have continued the monthly Helper/Committee Latihan started in previous years and have added a monthly Helper s Latihan as well. We have

kedjiwaan days roughly every other month. They vary between days for testing and latihan interspersed with periodic social get-togethers. On alternate months we hold a business meeting which nearly always includes a potluck lunch. On the downside we are losing a major donor at the end of 2009 and have had to adjust our finances downward accordingly, which included having to lower our housing commitment to the region to \$300.

During the summer of 2009 we held several work days at the Subud house which included house and yard clean up, priming, patching and painting the house and other necessary chores. Michael regularly mows the lawns at the Subud house as well. A member contributed money for a new water heater; a leaking area in the roof around the water heater vents were calked, and several smaller repairs have been made.

In 2009 we held two fund raisers. The first was our Second Annual Bird Watching event on Valentines Day, led by Paul Woodcock. He was supported by the group who helped drive the bird watchers, prepared lunches and a tasty potluck dinner for all, which included turkey prepared by Chef Michael. The evening ended with latihan. The second fund raiser was a concert by Luther Schutz, accompanied by Elisha Gullixson at the Bowman Gallery in Anacortes with food provided by the members. Both successfully added to our coffers and allowed us to donate to Subud as well.

This year marks 25 years of Subud B-SV supporting the Bellingham Community Foods Program [BCMP]. Michael and Sebastian continue to put in hours every month on this and at present are feeding 600-700 people one Sunday a month.

Portland chair, Latham read their report:

Subud Portland continues to be blessed with incredible members, dynamic, involved, and loving. There are over 90 households on our mailing list, although, like most groups, only two or three dozen are actively involved.

Over the last six months, we've done several fundraisers for Susila Dharma, including a fantastic night of drama performance that was organized by Benedict, a Naked Ladies clothing exchange, and helping at the quarterly Project Quest dinner. We had several nights of Bapak's talks during Ramadhan, and shortly we will be starting a monthly Bapak talk night. Raphael Baker has organized the popular monthly movie, and we also had a game night and a night of poetry reading. Finally, we feted our newer members with a delightful evening of potluck dinner and socializing. We are in the middle of a renovation project to improve the space in the Subud house and bring us into compliance with fire code regulations.

We are in the middle of a major effort to examine our finances and set a formal budget for the coming 1-2 years. Our Co-Treasurers, Leana and Morris McClellan, are doing a fantastic job of cleaning-up our bookkeeping and managing our monthly finances. The Group's finances have been impacted a bit

by the deep recession. Vice-Chair Gene Younger is dynamic and reliable, and a wonderful addition to the committee.

The rest of 2009 will find us holding the annual Susila Dharma art sale organized by Halima Wolfgang and Marilyn Schirk, and the holiday party/potluck dinner.

Subud Greater Seattle chair Miryam read their report:

Subud Greater Seattle has completed a whole host of renovation projects and the building is looking beautiful. The mood is upbeat and attendance has ticked marginally up. We have chosen the doing-business-name of Spring Street Center to use for marketing efforts in our rental ramp up.

We have been working on quarterly kedjiwaan days which have been well attended and recently held a sandwich-making event for Tent City that was a center Susila Dharma project. That went so well that we have a center coordinator willing to see about scheduling another, in anticipation of maybe a regular event being added to our schedule.

Our next general meeting in February, we will be testing in a new committee, which will hopefully bring new energy to the dewan. Our outgoing committee of Miryam Gordon and Hadidjah Gregory is really unfortunately small and more could be accomplished with more committee members.

We are working on rental guidelines and marketing efforts and hope to find a "rental manager" either from within group or an individual who has time and does not need a significant employment situation and would like to do this work.

Art Camp: was folded into Family Camp.

New Business: Latham wanted to propose a conference call for Center Chairs. Benedict said run with it. Benedict asked who would be Congress Chair for 2010. Serena looked it up and found Hanifi Libman was elected at the 2008 Regional Congress

With this the meeting was adjourned.