

Minutes April 21, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting, Southern California Division, UNA-USA,
Porter Hall, Pilgrims Place, Claremont 10:00 a.m.

Present: Ardi Rashidi-Kalhur (Division President), Richard Harris (VP Chapter Services), Rome Friesen (VP Resource Development, Laguna Beach), Jim Stanbery (Treasurer), John Osborn (Bylaws Committee Chair), Rene Wilson (National Board Representative), Judith Harris (Co-President, Pasadena), Lyn Harris Hicks (Government Relations Committee Chair), Stevan Lunich (MUN Committee Co-Chair and Nominations Committee Member), Margaret Soderberg (Global Health Committee Chair), Anita Parpia (YPIC, Pacific-LA), Carl Mariz (President, Coastline Chapter & CCD Representative), Harry Hood (President, Citrus Belt), Bart Tendick (President, Harbor), Shirley Williams (Web Manager). Visitors: Naresh Sharman (presenter), Rosemary Van der Laan

In Kam Leung's absence, and at the request of Ardi, Shirley Williams took the notes of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m.

1. Introduction of attendees.

2. Approval of February 24, 2007 minutes

3. Treasurer's Report -- Jim Stanbery handed out printouts of the *Treasurer's Ledger 1-27-07 to 4-21-07*.

He pointed out \$9,000 was transferred to Wedbush, an investment account with higher interest rate. Transfer of funds from VP Resource Development: \$300 to the Media/Tech Fund to assist Shirley Williams in defraying costs donated to SoCal UNA; the \$200 in VP budget remains to cover Rome's possible requests to do the work of the VP RD Program. No net change in budget. Jim plans to transfer funds from the Davanzo Fund into the Wedush account when possible to do so without incurring fees. Totals: \$1,650 principal checking account; \$9,040 Wedbush Account; \$3,202 Lynne Davanzo Fund CD. Grand total: \$13,894. Jim directed us to correct the errors in the totals on the printed handouts. Treasurer's Report approved with corrections. Bills for Chapter's per capita dues were handed to the Chapter representatives.

4. Vice Presidents' Reports: – VP Reports were postponed to the end of the meeting at which time there was no time to report due to addressing the "National Issues."

5. Standing Committee Report: Sustainability: Carl Mariz
Presentation by Naresh Sharma on "Power from Biomass"

Mr. Sharma provided photos of installations and described Biomass Gasification: a low-tech, ecologically sound technology developed for converting biomass (plant/wood, crop waste, and animal manures) into electricity and heat. This small-scale biomass system would be suitable for rural areas anywhere in the world, but would especially help poor rural and remote communities without access to sufficient electricity become more self-sufficient. These small biomass systems typically convert a solid biomass fuel into a gaseous fuel through a process called gasification. The resulting gas, comprised primarily of carbon monoxide and hydrogen, is then cleaned before use in gas turbine or internal combustion engine connected to an electrical generator. Waste heat from the turbine or engine can also be captured and directed to useful applications. The small systems described by Mr. Sharma lend themselves to such combined heat and power operations much better than large central facilities. The cost to construct a small biomass system is \$10,000.

Carl Mariz proposed a motion to support this technology. After discussion, the motion was amended and approved as follows:

Motion: The Social Division shall accept "Power from Biomass" as a Sustainability Committee project. As part of this option, it is specified that No Social Division funds will be spent on the project. The Social

Division will provide leadership in finding sources of funding and new market areas for this technology provided the system is in compliance with required local health, safety, and environmental regulations and to applicable UN standards.

6. Chapter Reports:

Citrus: Nothing new to report

Coastline (Coastal Alliance): Carl Mariz

Next meeting May 4th at Irvine Ranch Water District, Alisa Viejo High School students, MUN

A big project slanted toward students is planned:

May 12th 9-1 p.m. UCI Lab Room 248

“Fighting Global Warming”

What you can do as an individual or family.

What your City or County can do.

Mayor and City Councilmen will be making presentations.

Free to Public. [Posted on Division website]

Harbor / Long Beach (Coastal Alliance): Bart Tendick

Spoke highly of Diane Gonzales, their Executive Director, who is working on projects. Noted Long Beach and Harbor need the infusion of youth into their chapters. The Gift Shop in San Pedro is doing very well, and contributes a considerable sum to UNICEF on a regular basis. **All are invited to visit it at 531 Seventh Street, San Pedro.**

Orange County: John Osborne

John reported a successful Annual Meeting. Their Board Meetings are now held in the suites of Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Unfortunately, the Gift Shop is now closed.

Pacific – LA: Anita Parpia

Anita reports that several YPIC events are in the planning stages for their chapter. The chapter has obtained a domain name and will confer with Shirley Williams on development of a website. Anita thanked Lyn Harris Hicks for all her work on the division resolutions. She mentioned that the next UNA SoCal meeting is planned for Los Angeles.

Pasadena: Judith Harris

Sherry Simpson Dean was a speaker at the national convention in March. The chapter is focusing on the environment this year. The Mayor of Pasadena is active in greening Pasadena. The chapter holds a “Coffee Talk” the 3rd Tuesday of every month. On June 3rd a major fundraiser is planned, honoring the Mayor. Their first quarterly newsletter is out, an e-Newsletter, in addition to their website. Bryce Harris, MUN, Pasadena City College is applying for a grant to get MUN in all high schools in Pasadena. The focus is on reaching younger people. One high school group in Pasadena is taking on an African school and orphanage project. The chapter is now gathering contact information from guests at events with a card that has a tear-off at the bottom with chapter information. Judith will forward the Word document to Shirley so that it can be downloaded on the division website for use by all chapters.

Pomona Valley: Richard Harris

The chapter’s Africa Committee has a medical project for Morocco. At the last board meeting, MUN students of John Moore, Cal Poly Pomona gave a wonderful presentation on their experiences in New

York at the MUN conference. John has been with the MUN for over 30 years now and is an inspiration to all. Over the year, his students have consistently won high awards.

San Diego: No report

SLO: No report

Santa Barbara: No report – [It was noted that their chapter is active, has a UNESCO Chapter, Sustainability: Supporting Lights for Africa and other developing countries – a device to enable students to read after dark.]

Ventura: No report

Whittier: Lyn Harris Hicks

Lyn reported the Whittier Chapter co-sponsored a presentation by Chalmers Johnson, author of NEMESIS: *The Last Days of the American Republic*.

San Fernando Valley: Lyn Harris Hicks

Lyn reported that David Tuckman was unable to attend and emailed the chapter's report to Ardi. The chapter is making effort to bring in new young people. David Tuckman was honored at the UNA-USA Convention YPIC with their highest award. Joint membership program with the American Association of University Women and the Regional Council of Organizations co-sponsoring a program celebrating women Nobel Peace Prize winners.

UNA – San Fernando Valley Chapter, YPIC, Cal State Flintridge presenting program:

Robert Muller, United Nations Asst. Secretary General, will be speaking on "*A life of Humanitarian Service in the United Nations & Careers in World Affairs*" Tuesday, April 24th – 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Admission Free. University Student Union Flintridge Room. For information call 818-414-1637.

[Subsequently posted on Division website]

UNA-SFV with Rotary Club raised \$4000 for building a dental clinic in Afghanistan. Pick-up-the-phone campaigns to call reps to support allocations sponsored by UNA-USA, and Program for Food (UN humanitarian effort). Lyn encourages chapters to participate and make the phone calls. The information is on the Division website under Take Action / Government Relations.

7. Standing Committees:

Human Rights Council, 4th Session Report – Ardi Rashidi-Kalhur

The 4th Session of the UN Human Rights Council met in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 12 to 30th.

For detail of resolutions and conclusion of the session visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/4session/>

YPIC – Ardi Rashidi-Kalhur

David Tuckman represents the Southern California region as a member of the UNA-USA YPIC Leadership Council. As reported by the San Fernando Valley Chapter, he was awarded the highest award at the National YPIC conference in New York.

Global Health – Dr. Margaret Soderberg

Margaret proposed our division host a Global Health Conference. She read an abstract from the Oslo Ministerial Declaration on Global Health – a pressing foreign policy issue of our time (March 20, 2007).

“... health is one of the most important, yet still broadly neglected, long-term foreign policy issues of our time. Life and health are our most precious assets. There is a growing awareness that investment in health is fundamental to economic growth and development. It is generally acknowledged that threats to health may compromise a country’s stability and security. “

Margaret also referred to *the Clinton Global Initiative* (disease, clean water, health infrastructure); and *Global Health Status: two steps forward, one step back* citing conditions still needing critical attention in low-income countries (pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles, malnutrition). Vaccinations are still important, as well as chronic conditions such as diabetes. In addition, environmental effects on health in industrialized nations as well as underdeveloped ones.

She is making an outline of topics and has some people in mind. Ardi suggested the program be planned nine months in advance, possibly for the beginning of next year. He also suggested she invite other physicians to participate. Bart Tendick thought that Kaiser Permanente might be receptive for a venue. She was advised to find members for the Global Health Committee, meet with the committee, and come back with more details to an Executive Committee meeting. Ardi and Richard Harris volunteered to be on the committee.

Nomination Committee – Stevan Lunich, John Osborn, Judith Harris.

This committee is seeking two more members to make a total of five, although it is not limited to five. Current committee members: John Osborn, Judith Harris, Stevan Lunich. The added members need to be knowledgeable about the UNA organization, the Division’s wish to maintain independence and be issue-oriented, and be willing to serve.

Government Relations – Lyn Harris Hicks

Lyn went over the problems with getting our division resolutions through to national before the deadline. She thought that the UNA-USA deadline at the end of December should be changed, citing holiday time constraints. She agreed that starting earlier is one answer, but was worried that a longer time span would preclude addressing the latest and most current changes in world events. She asked for input into making the process go smoother. One suggestion she made was for individual chapters to submit independently, and then take their resolutions to the Division for support.

8. Strategic Plan - Ardi Rashidi-Kalhur

Ardi handed out copies of *SoCal Division Strategic Action Plan for a Stronger UNA Presence in Southern California Thru Chapters & Division Issue Priority & Follow-Up Actions*. Several members questioned why this document was offered, since departments were currently implementing goals from the Action Plan adopted in November 2006, called the *2007-08 Biennium Chapter and Division Action Plan for a Stronger UNA Presence in Southern California*. There was an agreement that Ardi's document could be considered as to whether it should be a procedural guideline with elaboration of ideas for implementation of our currently approved Action Plan.

9. National Issues:

Who is Who at the National – Rene Wilson

Rene provided attendees a handout with the *UNA-USA Board of Directors, Officers, Members, and the UNA-USA: New Management Team*

Priority Issues at National

Discussion of communiqués re UNA Restructuring – Rene Wilson

(Package of correspondence disseminated, including memos/emails from Bill Luers, UNA-USA President, Larry Levine, CCD Chair, Jim Stanbery and Carl Mariz, CCD Southern California Steering Committee members)

Rene read selected passages from January 30 and April 11 communiques from Bill Luers' which explains his rationale for UNA-USA restructuring. Rene said there is great deal of concern among Steering Committee and Regional Board members that this reorganization has decimated at the national level key staff who handle chapter and membership concerns. In Larry Levine's letter to the UNA-USA Board of Directors (*March 23, 2007*) he stated "*...many diverse people have voiced major concerns about how UNA-USA functions in general, and has operated in this particular situation. It appears that a very few people in New York are changing the direction and emphasis of UNA-USA while avoiding a really substantive discussion with the Board of Directors or the leaders of our many groups across the country.*" Levine pointed out that none of the decisions for restructuring involved advance discussions and/or approval of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

Jim Stanbery and Carl Mariz (*Email March 22, 2007 to Larry Levine*) wrote "*...The future of the chapters and division of UNA is at stake. The resignation of the board membership chair, the sudden abolition of key membership staff positions, the virtual elimination of funding for field activities in the UNA budget initially proposed for the coming year, as well as other factors, suggest a determination of the part of Mr. Luers, if not other officers of the organization, to phase chapters and divisions out of existence...*" "*Accordingly, we request that the regional directors serving on the UNA national board formally consult the other members of the board, as well as every chapter and division president, as to what guarantees of the future role of chapters and divisions the restructuring plan must clearly specify, and the level of respect and openness the board is entitled to from Mr. Luers if he is to continue as CEO.*"

General discussion ensued on the impact of this "restructuring" on the UNA-USA. It was felt that this restructuring infers membership was no longer considered important; and that only a few have imposed their vision for the restructuring of UNA-USA without due consultation with representatives and board members. Bill Luers will be addressing our division at Porter Hall, Pilgrims Place, Claremont on Friday, April 27th. Ardi asked for a count of those members planning to attend, and for those who wish to have dinner following the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 4:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shirley Williams