

January UNA minutes

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY
Board Meeting, January 12, 2005

The board of the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City held its first meeting of 2005 Wednesday, January 12, in the Hyde Park Room of the UMKC Administrative Center.

Members in Attendance: Jay Sjerven, President, George Belzer, James Everett, Mary Murphy, Stephen Murphy, Richard Routman, Arthea Saller, George Saller, Louann Stahl, Sheldon Stahl, Karen Vorst, Karin Winn, Marian Woodward

The meeting was called to order by the President immediately following a meeting of the Program Committee.

Report of the Program Committee: The program committee is planning to hold six Public Discussions in 2005, with locations to be determined and with each program to be repeated at a venue north of the river. Dates for the first three are February 22, March 22, and April 19. They will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sheldon Stahl will be the speaker at the first meeting. He will present a balance sheet of UN accomplishments, and areas in need of improvement. Further topics may include the UN and state sovereignty, and issues related to terrorism. Promotion of the Discussions will involve mailings to the UNA membership, contacting the Model UN Clubs, and other advertising on campuses and through churches.

Sjerven announced an American premier of a play, A Young Lady from Rwanda, by the Kansas City Repertory Theatre in March, and suggested that perhaps the UNA could attend as a group.

Sjerven also informed the board that the annual USDA conference will be held May 3-5 and we may want to plan food aid activities to coincide with the World Food Program. Further discussion was deferred until more information is available.

Model UN Promotion Meeting: Sjerven asked that Belzer, Vorst and others involved with Model UN programs set a date to plan ways that the program can be promoted and implemented. Belzer noted that Model UN groups were growing in the Shawnee Mission schools, Rockhurst and JCCC but there was no such program at the Blue Valley or Olathe schools. He is assisting at Park University, UMKC, and will possibly be at KU. The Park Model UN is trying to get groups started in high schools north of the river. It was noted that UNA-USA has a program, MUNGLO, which provides training materials for a two-year period in designated cities with the understanding that the local affiliate will follow up after the two-year period has ended. The possibility of obtaining grant money was briefly discussed. Belzer suggested that it might be possible to recognize Model UN teachers/teams at the annual Mayor's Dinner.

Mayor's United Nations Day Dinner: Sjerven announced that he would set a meeting of the Mayor's UN Day Dinner Committee in February. Board members volunteered to do the following: Woodward will chair the Dinner and Reception sub-committee. Sheldon Stahl will chair the Speaker sub-committee; Woodward and Sheldon Stahl will serve on the World Citizen sub-committee. Winn will continue as treasurer for the committee. Jason Petosa will be asked to do the printing and mailing of invitations as he has done in the past. Sjerven and Stephen Murphy will work on publicity. Sjerven indicated that he would add persons, possibly from other organizations, to the several sub-committees. The possibility of adding mayors of other municipalities in the metro area was discussed. It was suggested that all previous mayors of Kansas City be included. Winn announced that the balance in the committee bank account is \$6482.55. The group agreed that the student contests would be eliminated and the focus be placed on the Model UN programs.

Advocacy Committee/Lawrence Outreach: Sjerven announced a two-fold emphasis on advocacy: 1) More outreach on the Mayor's UN Day Dinner, and 2) establishing a Lawrence chapter. Support for a Lawrence chapter includes Rashisa Banerjee and KU UNICEF. There will be a target mailing and with the aim of getting respondents together for a meeting. A Lawrence chapter would support KU UNICEF and fledgling KU Model UN. Sjerven will report progress at the next board meeting.

Peace Plaza: Everett reported that Peace Plaza fund balance is below the \$5000 minimum balance required. An insurance claim may have to be filed on the two solid steel letters that are missing if they are not returned.

Of the two 42-inch replicas of the Peace Plaza statue owned by UNAGKC, one is currently on indefinite loan to the UN Plaza in New York City, where it is on public display. The statue cannot be given directly to the UN because none other than signatories can make gifts to the UN. It could be given to UNA-USA, which is a signatory and could make the donation. However, Everett fears that if the status of the statue becomes widely known, the present administration might take steps to remove it from its present location. The second statue is in Everett's possession, and he hopes to use it to raise \$25,000 for a permanent maintenance fund for the Peace Plaza fountain. Sheldon Stahl suggested that Jack Jonathan would be a good contact in this fund raising effort. Everett noted that this "world-class" piece of artwork is showing up more and more on cards, paintings, etc, and will in due time become one of those easily recognized pieces of statuary in our metropolitan area. In the meantime, Everett is working with an Independence Boy Scout Troop that is interested in helping, in part by getting a scout who could be trained to do some of the minor maintenance. Current upkeep costs are about \$8,500 a year.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund balance \$2764.12
Peace Place Fund \$2605.91

McLean noted that a .06 entry under Misc. corrected an undiscoverable discrepancy in the general fund account. Income in the general account included a small profit on the

Annual Meeting.

New Business: Sjerven requested that the Board approve partial funding of his attendance at the national UNA conference. Everett moved that Sjerven submit his anticipated conference expenses at the next Board meeting for Board consideration and approval. Motion seconded and passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING OF THE UNA BOARD: March 9, 2005, 5:30 p.m. UMKC
Administrative Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Marie Winn