

2021-03-18 Pasadena Sister Cities Meeting

Members Present

Boualem Bousseloub, Laura Terry, Gary Moody, Lena Kennedy, Tammy Silver, Carla Boykin, Elisia Ligons Farmer, Ofelia Edmonston, Taleen Hindoyan, Maggie Gihanian, Isabell Warner, Michael Warner, Bryan Takeda, Helen Kouyoumdjian, Johnny Kamon, Angie Gomez, MaryEtta Knox, Lucia Adams, Fred Alcantar

Guests Present

Lori Nalbandian, Elise Tervalon

Meeting called to order by Taleen Hindoyan at 6:09pm

Membership Report: Taleen reported we have 44 paid members. There are 76 people on the list of which 44 have paid. Send your \$25 dues to: Pasadena Sister Cities, PO Box 822, Pasadena CA 91101.

Lena Kennedy had corrections to the minutes from the February meeting: Corrections approved by vote of membership.

Carla Boykin introduced Lor Nalbandian and Elise Tervalon, the two Pasadena Sister Cities students that participated in the Youth Leadership Conference.

Lori Nalbandian, attends PCC with hopes to transfer to a 4-year college and study public health. She is a former student of Carla Boykin's and is in a Girl Scout Troop led by Taleen Hindoyan. In 2018 she traveled to Vanadzor with Pasadena Sister Cities. She was part of Coping with the Pandemic Panel. It was a great opportunity for her to connect with high school and college students. To prepare, she read a lot of articles and learned about various effects of the pandemic, such as the mental effects of the pandemic. The panel discussed how we can help people that are struggling during the pandemic. She enjoyed hearing the panels on other topics. She was able to watch the panel given by the international students. To improve the event, she thought a post-forum opportunity for reflection would be a good idea.

Elise Tervalon, attends Hampton University, is a communications major and is passionate about social justice. Elise is also interested in West African culture and loves writing. She was on the Racial and Gender Equity panel for the Youth Summit. Very much liked being on that panel. She experienced the isolation of being one of the only black students at her high school so participating on the panel meant a lot to her. On the panel she met all different types of people and especially connected with another girl on the panel. Panel was eye-opening for Elise and she said it was very interesting to be a part of it.

Gary Moody asked the two participants what were the most pressing issues for the youth at the conference. Elise thought that racial and gender issues were. Lori agreed, equity was a huge topic in the conference. Peace, Kindness and Cooperation were the theme of the conference.

Boualem asked them for a definition of the difference between equity and equality. Lori defined equality as, everyone gets the same resources, no matter their needs. Equity is when people get the resources according to what they need. She gave the example of what different college students need based on their background. Elise said that for a country to be equal, we really must address equity.

Carla said both of our students did an outstanding job on the panel. Carla said there will be a replay of the conference. Asked the students about a dance number they put on. Elise said it was fun but took a lot of time. They did the dance five or six times. Lori thought it was fun to see so many scholars have fun trying to dance.

Treasurer's Report: Report was emailed. Angie Gomez pointed out that we are in compliance with all taxing agencies. Elisia and Michael will go over all forms to double check that all our filings are correct. Michael said that 2020 has been taken care of.

Committee Reports

Japan: Johnny Kamon reminded people to pay for their stamps if they want to order them. Send \$20 per sheet to: Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, PO Box 822, Pasadena CA 91101. Bryan heard from Mishima about a koto concert with the high school students there and the possibility of an online concert for us. The Japan Sister City committee asked to have interactions with Pasadena students.

Finland: Laura Terry reported that there was a discussion about how to get increased student involvement. Laura will be in contact with the contact at the Finnish high school. Laura reached out to students at John Muir High School about getting involved with Pasadena Sister Cities. Lucia Adams will also work on outreach.

Armenia: Maggie said the president of the Armenia Relief and Development organization sent us a thank you note for our contribution. He provided a list of the families that we helped. They needed bedding and items for warmth. The money helped 50 families so they could buy items they needed. They will take picture of the families and will send up photos.

Senegal: Boualem Bouseloub reported we had over 115 people attend the most recent webinar, a talk by Dr. Terrance Roberts. Next talk will be on April 8, with Dr. Aaron Bruce from the Art Center College of Design talking about Global Citizen: An Educational Journey. Lena Kennedy remarked that we have an extensive relationship with other schools and organizations. All of our

speaker series are online, look on YouTube and search for Pasadena Sister Cities to find them at watch at your convenience.

China: Nothing to report

Germany: Will hopefully have a Zoom meeting with Germany on March 22.

Student Exchange: No new developments. Hopefully, we will get to travel soon.

SoCal Sister Cities: Carla Boykin reported that they will do a production of the Youth Leadership Program in May.

Hospitality: Laura shared the Hospitality Team Report with us. The Hospitality Team had their first meeting. They are creating a calendar of activities. She asked that all the sub-committees give her their events so everything can be on one calendar. It is an online calendar so can be easily updated. They are planning for a BBQ in the summer, a bazaar in June and/or November, and November PCC table-top displays. They meet at 5pm before our Sister Cities meeting. Contact Laura to calendar items at lauraterry48@aol.com. They discussed having a hybrid BBQ where Sister Cities provides the meat and everything else is divided among the sub-committees. For example, one committee would bring salads, one desserts, one beverages, etc. Committees could bring something that reflect their sub-committee culture if they want, but not necessary. BBQ would be free. Thinking about Saturday, August 14. Also thinking about a picnic at Brookside Park. If we have exchange students, they are invited.

Masks: Fred Alcantar reported that we can get masks printed with our logo. They would be about \$8.00 each if we ordered 100. They would be black masks with the logo in white. A motion was moved and seconded, did not carry. We will not order masks.

Michael Warner recalled that the group that traveled to Senegal got home just a year ago as the pandemic was coming.

Elisia announced that April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. She is asking each person to make a loaf of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and donate them somewhere, your choice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm. Next meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Silver
Secretary, Pasadena Sister Cities