The regular monthly meeting of the Pasadena Sister Cities was held via Zoom on Thursday, March 16, 2023. Vice President Michael Warner functioned as chair due to the illness of President Taleen Hindoyan and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Secretary Lena Louise Kennedy was present and joined at 6:10 p.m. *[she had problems logging into zoom]*

1. **Welcome**

Vice President Michael Warner welcomed members to the monthly general meeting.

1. **Presentation of Reports**

* **Treasurer Report**: Elisia Farmer, Treasurer
* **Income:**
  + No income reported.
* **Expenses:**
  + $60.63 to purchase a hard drive.
  + $500 reimbursement to Michael Warner for the SCI Summit *[Michael did not attend the SCI Summit; he transferred the registration to Marcia Talbert]*
  + **Membership Committee**: Michael Warner, Vice President reported the following membership items:
* Fifty-seven paid members
* Five paid students
* Eleven members make a quorum.
* We have sixteen members in attendance, so we have a quorum.
  + **Subcommittees Monthly Reports**: Subcommittee reports must be submitted to the Secretary a week before each monthly meeting. Oral reports given at the monthly meeting should not exceed 3 minutes. This month’s reports included:
* **Germany,** Olivia Bueno was absent – no report.
* **Japan**, Bryan Takeda was absent – no report.
* **Finland,** Shomari Maynard read Tamara’s report. Tuesday, April 11, 2023, to Monday April 17, 2023, Pasadena will welcome 5 Finnish students, three girls and two boys ages 17-18, and two chaperons. The students will stay with local Pasadena families and the chaperones will stay in a local hotel. The trip is focused on science, and they will visit Caltech and Huntington Library and have a night of viewing the 60-inch telescope on Mount Wilson. They will also spend one morning visiting a local high school with the host family, explore the City of Los Angeles, and visit the La Brea Tar Bit and LACMA. We hope that PSCC will host a reception for the students on April 12 or 14. The Finland chair mentioned that this is the 40th-anniversary of the Finland Sister Cities relationship. The recommendation by Tamara is that PSCC do something to commemorate this anniversary, perhaps with a silver platter or glass piece.
* **Armenia,** Nova Hindoyan – not present**:** Michael Warner read the report. The Armenia Subcommittee met on Monday, March 6, 2023, at the Hindoyan Residence. PSCC  
  member Vahan Poghosyan who lives in Vanadzor attended while visiting Los  
  Angeles and provided important details. The committee is working on the following items.  
  a - Establishing a pen pal program between Pasadena and Vanadzor students.  
  b - Finding reasonable options to provide warm jackets to the kindergarten students in time  
  for Back to School.  
  c - Looking for host families to support the exchange program.  
  d - Finding means to send children of Vanadzor to summer camps in Vanadzor (additionally,  
  our student exchange students from here can attend/serve as camp counselors).  
  All are welcome to attend and contribute their ideas to our subcommittee meetings and  
  events.
* **China,** Laura Terry the Vice Chair – no report was presented. However, Cathy Wei presented a report regarding the March 28 PCC International Cultural Affair that PSCC is co-sponsoring. All subcommittees are encouraged to attend. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m. meet in the quad. PCC will provide six tables and chairs for PSCC to display their exhibits. Please provide artifacts, your programs, brochures and dress in your Sister City attire or costume. No electricity will be available. DATE/LOCATION: March 28 11a.m. to 2:00p.m. Please bring Student Exchange Forms. Unfortunately, PCC will not be able to provide coffee and tea for us, but they will provide water and souvenirs for the PSCC Subcommittee.
* **Senegal,** Gary Moody was in attendance and gave the following report.
* The committee discussed membership recruitment, the Dakar-Plateau, Senegal website, and the Speaker Series event that will take place April 13, 2023. The Speaker will be Pasadena City Attorney Michele Bagneris, and the topic will be: “Trip to Dakar-Plateau, Senegal,”
* The Committee dialogued about collaborative relationships with PUSD and PCC.
* We hosted our Inaugural “The John J. Kennedy Speaker Series for Diversity, Inclusion, and Political Justice at the Tournament of Roses on February 16, 2023, and our keynote speaker was Dr. Rita Roberts – which will be held annually in honor of the late Councilmember.
* We will begin the planning process at our May 11, 2023, for the upcoming trip which will take place in the Fall of 2023 to Dakar-Plateau, Senegal.
* **President’s Report: Mike read the President’s remarks.**

My apologies for not being able to attend and run the meeting tonight, because I am feeling very ill. Thank you to our vice president for stepping in as the job requires. Upon returning from a very fulfilling SCI conference, I can say that we accomplished many things in Pasadena that others dream of, yet we have so much more potential reach and impact to achieve. I look forward to giving a full debrief in the near future in the form of a separate session to be arranged and announced soon. I am grateful for the opportunity and every minute was a learning experience - from knowing our own members to meeting dignitaries and diligent counterparts in other sister city organizations and wonderful local people on the trip. There are many ideas on the horizon!

* + **Standing Committees:**
    - **Student Exchange** – coordinator Isabella Warner – not in attendance. Elisia Farmer reported that she received fifteen student applications. Mike Warner read her report.

We have received several applications interested in our student exchange program. I have responded that we will notify them with interview details. As for today’s Zoom Meeting, I will not be able to attend as I am on a cruise.

* + - **SCI,** and SoCal: Carla Boykin was absent and excused. Mike Warner read her report. Here is the report of highlights from the SCI Africa Summit
* The SCI Africa Summit held in Cape Town, South Africa was an amazing and worthwhile 4-day event.
* **Tuesday-Friday:** The 4 days were packed with activities, workshops, and sessions.

There were many opportunities to network, meet dignitaries, get ideas, share, and make connections. Everything was a learning experience. The summit included numerous workshops and sessions on several topics to promote relationship building in particular with African countries. Due to inclement weather, tour cancellations, and rescheduling, it was challenging to stick to a schedule to attend some sessions and still go on pre-paid tours and excursions.

* **Tuesday Day 1-**

I attended the welcome and plenary session with keynote speaker Ndileka Mandela, the granddaughter of former South African President Nelson Mandela. She is a remarkable woman who is poised, articulate, and well informed on the concerns and needs of the unrepresented. That evening I was invited to attend a private reception at the official residence of the Counsel General of the United States in Cape Town. Besides meeting the Counsel General, I learned about opportunities for young people to intern and have international travel experiences while working with the United States Counsel.

* **Day 2 - Wednesday**

I attended the Mandela Day of Giving volunteer day and went to the Dance For All Studio, one of the NGO/Non-profit organizations. The students gave us a private performance of solo and group dances across various genres. The studio scholarships students who cannot afford to pay for lessons, but show aptitude, skill, and talent in dance. The dance performances were outstanding.

* **Thursday Day 3-**

Another fruitful session occurred with a panel discussion lead by President and CEO of SCI Leroy Allala. The discussion was insightful as the panelists talked about best practices and how local sister city chapters can partner with organizations to be effective in establishing productive working relationships.

* **Day 4 - Friday**

Fortunately for me due to rescheduling of the school visits, I was also able to go to one of the local schools in Langa Township with our two college age students, Elise Tervalon and Makia Talbert, who attended the summit. This was a great learning experience for all of us – especially me as an educator. It provided insight and ideas for ways Sister Cities can collaborate with schools in other countries. Later I attended the Libraries and Literacy workshop. In the session, attendees brainstormed and shared ideas on how Sister Cities can sustain this program for the future. We also heard from Africa's youngest chapter book and award-winning author sixteen-year-old Stacey Fru. She wrote her first book at the age of seven, and now has seven published books. Her books can be located on Amazon.

Our participation in the Libraries and Literacy book donations was a wonderful way to support the host country. We purchased an assortment of books for grades Kinder through high school from the vendor at the summit. I saw firsthand the delivery of the donated books at the school and the excitement of the teachers and students who received a much-needed addition to their sparse school library. The volunteering experience with NGOs and schools was a wonderful way to have community engagement. Visiting both places was one of the highlights of the SCI Africa Summit for me. One can gain a better understanding of culture and the needs of the community when one interacts with the people of the local community. The other highlight would be the closing gala dinner and the blessing and naming of the elders’ ceremony. It was fun, festive and a bit solemn at the end for the blessing. We heard them call the names of John Kennedy and Boualem Bousseloub.   
  
Suggestion for future summits/conferences for delegations: To be a more cohesive delegation, it would have been beneficial for all members to have met before the trip. It would be advised to give clear expectations for those members who attend and any upon return. There was a disconnect at this summit that might have been avoided had this happened. There were awkward and uncomfortable moments that occurred that could have been prevented. And I hope it does not dissuade any attendees from continued and future involvement with PSSC. This is something that hopefully could be discussed later. 

* + **Friendship Cities:**
    - **TAINAN** – Nat Nadhar announced the approval of his proposal on November 17 to make the city of Tainan a Friendship City and over one hundred days have passed since. December 2022 a meeting was set up with Mayor Gordo, unfortunately he had jury duty. Since January 7, 2023, no action has been taken. Nat spoke again with the Mayor and the Mayor agreed to have a meeting but required Nat to set it up with his office. Michael Warner shared that there is no policy for a Friendship City. On April 3, 2023, there is a meeting scheduled with the Mayor at 3:30 p.m. In 2017 Nat tried to have a Sister City, but it did not work; now they simply want a friendship city. The extended discussion concluded with the approval to set up a meeting with the Mayor.
    - **President Taleen Hinodyan** reported that there are three Friendship Cities that are in the works: Naynon, Nungu, South Korea, Nanora, France.

**President Taleen** said that she will set up policies for Friendship Cities.

1. **Motions:**
2. Elisia Farmer made a motion to pay two invoices totaling $560.63 [$500 reimbursement to Mike Warner for SCI Conference and a $60.63 purchase of a hard drive]

The motioned was seconded by Gary Moody.

The motion carried unanimously.

1. **Announcements**

* Shomari Maynard shared information about a project that she is working on regarding her experience in Finland as a student. The project is focused on connecting students of color to study abroad with opportunities and Shomari received two grants from the U. S. Department of States Education, but she did not indicate the dollar amount.

1. **Discussion:**
   * + - * Tommye Martin requested that the PSCC brochure be updated and add Dakar-Plateau, Senegal.
         * Michael Warner suggested that we discuss paying a portion of the President’s Airfare and Lodging to attend the SCI conference at the April 2023 meeting.
         * Michael Warner noted that this is the PSCC 75th anniversary with Germany.
         * Nat Nader gave this website to get the details about the upcoming conference: [www.2cranemusicfestival.com](http://www.2cranemusicfestival.com) for anyone interested in knowing.
         * Dakar-Plateau, Senegal needs to design a plaque to be placed at the Pasadena Convention Center along with those of the other Subcommittee Sister Cities.
2. **Members Present:** *(16 people were in attendance*) Bob Aronoff, Leslie Caldwell, Taliba Carr, Elisia Farmer, Maggie Gihanian, Angie Gomez, Taleen Hindoyan, Yin Yin Huang, Lena Louise Kennedy, Tommye Martin, Shomari Maynard, Maureen McConnell, Gary Moody, Nat Nahdar, Laura Terry, and Michael Warner

**Voting Privilege**: Everyone in attendance had voting rights and we had a quorum.

**Excused Boardmember**: Carla Boykin

**Absent members**: Olivia Bueno, Nova Hindoyan, Johnny Kamon, Isabella Warner, Bryan Takeda

1. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50p.m.
2. **tendance:**

Lena Louise Kennedy, Secretary