

**TRIENNIAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**  
**The Urantia Book Fellowship**  
**July 8-9, 2015**

**MINUTES**

President Lila Dogim called the meeting to order at 6:44 PM on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at Techny Towers, Northbrook, Ill.

Report of the Credentials Committee: The Credentials Committee recommended the seating of the following delegates and alternates:

SOCIETY	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
First Society Chicago	Ken Keyser	Paul Anderson
UBLA - Los Angeles	Andrea Barnes	none
UB Society Oklahoma	Michael Challis	Cabot Eudaley
Orvonton - Chicago area	Daniel Glazer	Dana Bredemeyer
Golden Gate - SFO	Michelle Klimesh	Dolores Nice
UB Service Corps New England	David Tenny	Karen Larsen
North Texas	Nancy Johnson	David Glass
Rocky Mountain - Colorado	Andre Radatus	Lenny Cowles
Northern Light Alaska	Tony Finstad	none
Pilot Light Seattle	Thomas Pirie	Thomas Choquette
Heart of America - Kansas City	Bob Bruyn	Don Heinerikson
USGNY	Steve Dreier	Avi Dogim
Grand Canyon - Arizona	Eve McMahon	Larry Bowman
First Wisconsin	Robert Arkens	Vicki Arkens
Sunrise Nevada	Marvin Gawryn	Flint (Jake) Hamilton
ABCS - Florida	Lara Amyx	Guillermo Deoto

Jake Hamilton of the Sunrise Nevada Society was unable to attend, so Marvin Gawryn was the sole delegate.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Sally Annabella as alternate delegate from Seattle – Pilot Light Society in place of Tom Choquette who is absent. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Lila Dogim reported on the status of 2012 TDA resolutions. A status report was sent out by email.

There were no questions for members of the EC.

Bob Arkens was appointed as temporary chair.

A motion was made and seconded to have one chair for elections and resolutions. Discussion followed. By voice vote it was decided to have one chair for both.

Bob Arkens was nominated and elected by voice vote.

Election of a permanent secretary – for both nominations and resolutions.

Nominees: Steve Dreier, Dan Glazer, Larry Bowman

Steve Dreier declined.

The candidates left the room. Discussion followed. Vote by closed ballot

Larry Bowman was elected permanent secretary

(Minutes to this point were taken by Steve Dreier, Fellowship Secretary. Subsequent minutes were taken by Larry Bowman, TDA secretary.)

**Discussion about confidentiality:**

Dana Bredemeyer moved that we will maintain confidentiality about the discussion on the candidates; Michael Challis seconded.

Delegates and alternates voted: 27 yes, 2 no

Michael Challis and Eve McMahon were tellers.

**Can alternates speak:**

Michelle Klimesh moved that alternates be allowed to speak, Andre Radatus seconded.

Motion carried unanimously

Andre Radatus moved, and Michelle Klimesh seconded, that the applications be submitted for consideration and also be open for nominations from the floor.

Motion carried unanimously

Dana Bredemeyer posted on the board the names of 30 applicants.

Michelle Klimesh nominated Lenny Cowles from the floor.

Discussion about candidates present being able to speak for themselves before having to leave the room. Lara Amyx said that, if so, candidates elsewhere in the building should also come in to speak for themselves.

Michael Challis moved that candidates present not speak for themselves; Lara Amyx seconded

Motion carried

Recessed at 10:57 p.m.

**Thursday, July 9**

Bob Arkens called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Tony Finstad opened with a prayer

Resumed discussion of candidates

Dana Bredemeyer nominated Bobbie Dreier from the floor.

Ballots were passed out for election to the 9 terms.

Elected to 9-year terms:

- **Daniel Amyx**

- **Katharina Becker**
- **Guillermo Deoto**
- **Bobbie Dreier**
- **Steve Dreier**
- **Cabot Eudaley**
- **Cecilia Lampley**
- **Michael Painter**
- **Thomas Pirie**
- **Sean Privitera**
- **Andre Radatus**
- **Geoffrey Theiss**

Recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:37 p.m.

Candidates for election to the six year General Council term were discussed.

Dana Bredemeyer moved, and Guillermo Deoto seconded, that we proceed with the vote.

Motion carried

After the vote, there were five candidates who received votes. Another vote was required.

Lenny Cowles moved, and Tony Finstad seconded, that we open back up for discussion.

Motion carried

Bob Bruyn moved, and Dana seconded, that we vote for two: the top vote (if 9) gets the six-year term.

Motion failed

Voting continued for the 6-year and 3-year openings.

**Paul M. Anderson** of Boston was elected to the 6-year term.

**Miguel Anoba** was elected to the 3-year term.

President Lila Dogim called TDA into a formal session at 3:07 p.m.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the slate that was elected as detailed above.

Motion carried

Tony Finstad asked about how we contact those candidates who were not elected. Lila Dogim said Administrative Director Paula Thompson has a letter that does this. Larry Bowman asked if it was OK to notify General Council of the newly elected Councilors. Lila said to do so.

TDA went back into informal session at 3:13 p.m. to discuss resolutions.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Follow up discussion of Heart of America Society resolution from 2012 TDA about financial reporting.

Guillermo Deoto moved, and Dana Bredemeyer seconded, that we let the resolution rest.

Vote: yes 8, no 7; motion passed

## NEW BUSINESS

### **TDA Resolution for Ongoing Support for Gatherings, Summer 2015:**

Whereas there is growing interest in strengthening fellowship among the readers through gatherings, including local, regional, interest-based and outreach, and

Whereas conference venues often require up front deposits which exceed available resources of the organizing team, and

Whereas any one regional team may only organize an event once every several years, making it difficult to pass on learnings and maintain event expertise,

Be it resolved that the TDA requests that the General Council develop ongoing support for **societies and readers groups through** gatherings including, but not limited to:

- Funding, both grants and short term loans. Funding could be supported by regional events providing a percentage of registration fees as donation to the Fellowship, as well as general fundraising done by the Fellowship.
- Training materials. Text and videos on how to organize smaller conferences, venue selection, marketing, program design, mentoring, and so on.
- Providing a repository of lessons learned and basic templates for programs.
- Technology consulting and support for including remote attendees, providing wifi to attendees, etc.
- Raising awareness of events by making them easily discoverable on the Fellowship website.
- Registration assistance.
- Occasional symposia or summits for organizers and future organizers of these events.
- General assistance, consulting and mentoring.

It is suggested that these responsibilities be added to a permanent committee, perhaps Outreach, Education or Membership, and that an area on the Fellowship website be devoted to regional and alternative gatherings with area for attendees and for planners.

This resolution is co-sponsored by Orvonton Society, the Fellowship ad hoc How We Gather Committee, Agondonter Boot Camp Society of Florida, the Fellowship Membership Committee, Urantia Society of North Texas, Golden Gate Circle and Northern Light Society.

Dana Bredemeyer moved, and Andrea Barnes seconded, that we pass this resolution.

Michael Challis moved, and Andre Radatus seconded, adding "... support of societies and readers groups through gatherings ... "

Amendment approved

Approved as amended unanimously

### **The above becomes TDA Resolution #1**

Steve Dreier moved, and Tony seconded, that TDA resume at 6:30 and continue its business until completed. Ken Keyser offered an amendment that TDA recess until 8:00 and continue its business until completed.

[Michelle Klimesh left as Golden Gate Circle delegate, alternate Dolores Nice becomes the delegate.]

Recessed at 5:02 p.m. Called back to order at 8:34 p.m.

### **RMSF Resolution #1 (Failed)**

Whereas, the General Council was originally designed with 36 members when the founders believed that the Brotherhood/Fellowship would have scores of societies by now and this many councilors would be representative of such large numbers; and

Whereas, the General Council is not structured to be a directly representative or organization accountable to its members through a directly representative electoral process; and

Whereas, the number of societies and members therein seems to be shrinking rather than growing; and

Whereas, there are 36 General Councilors and it is becoming difficult, time consuming, and impractical for that number of councilors to be able to each speak and offer their opinions on each matter brought before their body over a short weekend meeting;

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Council through its Executive Committee review the concept of reducing the size of its body from 36 to 30 general councilors by electing 9 councilors triennially instead of 12 at the 2018 and 2021 Triennial Delegate Assemblies and 10 councilors at subsequent TDAs; and

Be it also resolved that the General Council will plan for a truly, representative governance and that auspicious time when a growing and numerous readership will require and demand greater numbers of councilors and more direct representation of the readership and membership of the Urantia Book Fellowship.

Andre moved that TDA approve and forward the above resolution to GC; Dolores seconded.

Vote on motion: yes 4; no 11; 1 absent

The motion failed

### **RMSF Resolution #2 (Failed)**

Whereas, the Executive Committee (“EC”) which presently has 14 members, acts as the governing body of the Fellowship; and,

Whereas, the EC meets frequently in person and by phone, and said meetings can be both expensive and time consuming; and,

Whereas, several of the functions of the committee chairs and officers can be combined or eliminated; and,

Whereas, 14 EC members becomes awkward, time consuming and impractical when deliberating on numerous issues where each EC member must give their opinion; and,

Whereas, “The only sacred feature of any human government is the division of statehood into the three domains of executive, legislative, and judicial functions,” [71:8.1] but this feature of separation of powers is absent from the governing structure of The Urantia Book Fellowship;

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Council review the structure of its EC and consider the following ways to reduce its number:

1. Eliminate the Secretary General position and have the Secretary take over these duties;
2. Eliminate the Membership Chair position and have the Vice President act as Chair of Membership;

3. Eliminate the Finance Chair position and have the Treasurer act as Chair of Finance;
4. Move the Judicial Committee out of the Executive Committee and set it up as a separate committee with powers similar to the Judicial branch of the government; so that it is completely at arm's length and has powers to rule on both EC and GC decisions with due process.

Andre moved, and Michael seconded, that TDA approve and forward the above resolution to GC.

Vote on motion: yes 4, no 12

The motion failed

### **RMSF Resolution #3 (Failed)**

Whereas, Uversa Press is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Fellowship, and therefore should not be considered an Ad Hoc committee;

Therefore, be it resolved that Uversa Press be governed by elected officers including a President and a Secretary, and that these two officers shall be elected for 6-year terms, similar to committee members, by the EC; and,

Be it resolved that these officers of Uversa Press need not be members of either the EC or GC, but do need to be members of the Fellowship.

Andre moved, and Michael seconded, that TDA approve and forward the above resolution to GC.

Vote on motion: yes 2, no 14

The motion failed

### **TDA-inspired Resolution #4 (from a TDA delegate)**

Whereas, the retiring presidents of The Urantia Book Fellowship have hard-garnered experience from their service;

And, whereas, there are retired general councilors of long service who also have long experience of value to the UBF.

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Council shall study implementation of a purely advisory body made up of retiring presidents and ex-general councilors of long service to make available this experience to the General Council, Executive Committee, and standing committees in the spirit of the "supercabinet" and "the house of elderstatesman" concepts referred to in Paper 72 of The Urantia Book.

Andre moved, and Tony seconded, that the TDA approve and forward the above resolution to GC.

Question called: vote on calling the question: yes 10; did not pass (needed 2/3)

After further discussion, the delegates were ready to vote on the motion.

Vote on motion: yes 16.

The motion passed

### **The above becomes TDA resolution #2**

### **Resolution from the TDA chairman**

Whereas the Fellowship President addressed the previous TDA's resolutions in a prompt and thorough manner; and

Whereas, the results were communicated to the TDA members in a prompt time frame; and

Whereas, such prompt action has not always been the case;

Therefore be it resolved that the 2015 TDA express its gratitude to the President for her prompt addressing of its resolution.

Vote on motion: passed unanimously

**The above becomes TDA resolution #3**

President Dogim returned at 9:44 PM.

The TDA went back into formal session to approve the resolutions.

Lara Amyx moved, and Bob Bruyn seconded, passing all three approved motions. Motion passed.

The 2015 Triennial Delegate Assembly adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence J. Bowman

Secretary to the TDA