

Working Group meeting, September 24, 2005

It was proposed that, in order to offer more credibility to the Working Group's efforts, in the future, only those persons who were official representatives of their NCs would be voting on the issues brought up before us. Official representatives were defined as those NC stakeholders who previously represented their NC at the USC Congress forums or who have subsequently been appointed or elected as their NC's official representative to the Working Group. We want all members of the Working Group to attend the meetings, even if they are not official representatives. Everyone will be allowed to voice opinions or give suggestions. It is only when we vote on a motion that the action will be limited to the official representatives.

We also discussed the issue of either continuing with the existing format (a facilitator and volunteers filling in various positions) or formalizing the Working Group with officers, elected by the members. The majority vote was to formalize our format with elected officers. The majority felt it would add more depth to the Working Group and again, add to its credibility. The thought was also expressed that it would make the Working Group more efficient. To that end, the following stakeholders were elected as Working Group officers: Len Shaffer, Chair; Bob Gelfand, Vice Chair; Roger Kulpa, Corresponding Secretary (and website); Bob Cook, Treasurer; Joel Fisher, Parliamentarian; and, Ken Draper, Outreach Chair. We are missing one officer from the lineup. We need a Recording Secretary. We need someone from among the Working Group willing to take on this sometimes arduous but very important task. We are hoping that one of our members will be willing to take the position at our next meeting.

Even before being elected the Outreach Chair, Ken Draper had prepared a preliminary outline for an outreach campaign. We originally thought we could start by cashing in on the Budget Day event October 1 and doing some outreach there, but it was ultimately decided that it would be better if we first prepared an organized campaign. As Ken pointed out, this will be a joint effort by all involved. I saw that a number of members were disappointed and thought we were being too timid, but in the end, the majority agreed time was needed to organize a successful effort.

We then discussed having an outreach meeting the following Saturday (October 1, 2005) somewhere in City Hall following the Mayor's Budget Day, to discuss putting together an organized outreach campaign, but the meeting did not occur.

For those who were at the LANCC Outreach Committee meeting last Saturday, we were glad you could make it and happy to see you participating in this exciting new venture. A new structure, some new rules of engagement, and the start of a new and better outreach campaign were the results of that outreach meeting. We need everyone's support to make the Congress successful.

Len Shaffer