

HOTA – Program Committee Meeting Minutes - February 6 2018

Attendees: Vipul Patel, Anita Gupta, Vijay Reddy, Sri Mukthananda, Abhaya Asthana, Sanjay Tripathi, Ami Patel, Fred Stella, Nainan Desai, Ram Sahadeo, Geeta Devi

9:30 PM – 10:30 PM EST

Started by Prayer by Sri Mukthananda

Overview of WHC and HOTA was provided by Abhaya Asthana Ji

Difference between HOTA and HMEC was clarified. This year HMEC will be a part of HOTA

We started our first call last week

Session 1, 2 and 3 were discussed in detail:

Same language/culture and different language/culture organizations and their challenges were discussed

It was stated that Hindu Sanskriti (philosophical underpinnings is the same) is the focus of both cultural and linguistic groups

The question was asked - What is the role of secularism and what does it mean in these organizations? Secularism means Hindu roots cannot be discussed is what people seem to think

Organizations such as TANA, ATA, NATA started from one organization and are of the same language

How can we bring it back together? Where are we going? Should we look at the mission and vision of these organizations?

A common concern for all organizations is the sustainability into the next generation

We could reach out to different organizations and ask about the challenges – we can do a case study where we can combine the cultural and linguistic organizations and ask the following:

- What is the aim of the linguistic/cultural organization?
- What are the common threads?
- What are the criteria for unification?
- Why do we have different organizations?
- Why do we have these sub divisions?

We can share the findings from the subgroup research in session 2

Session 3:

We need to start by bringing more awareness to the Hindu Human Rights violations within India

- How can we from here use our collective voices to speak out against these violations
- We can look at the targeted Hindus in our regions as well
 - o Indy example and the temple stood up to support

We need a media coalition – joint efforts

- US orgs – press release (speaking with one voice)
- Create relationships with influencers

Cross linkage to other tracks and collaboration: Human rights – lack of education, lack of media, economic (funds) and political (policy)

One platform to defend our Hindu human rights:

- Tangible output out of this would be what?
- Possible outcomes, possible solutions
- Policy document?

Ended with Prayer by Sri Mukthananda