

HOTA – Program Committee Meeting Minutes – March 27 2018

Attendees: Surendra Pandey, Chandra Reddy, Swami Parmeshanand, Sri Mukthanand, Ami Patel, Prasad Yalamanchi, Anita Gupta, Shama Mehta, Sanjay Tripathi, Abhaya Asthana, Fred Stella, Nainan Desai

9:30 PM – 10:30 PM EST

Started with Prayer by Swami Parmeshanand

Session 2

Abstract combined session 1 and session 2 created by Vijay Reddy was shared with the attendees.

Beyond the language, it is the common underlying thread within the Hindu diaspora.

This aspect is not highlighted and so we want to have a dialogue and bring about this awareness.

The idea is to organize the Hindu community and these organizations are fragmenting the Hindu community further.

Organizations – what is it we want to do with them?

For the religious groups, we are bringing together the heads of all the major religious organizations so that the message can be effectively cascaded down.

Get heads of each language? But Gujarati orgs do not necessarily have a head. What they have is an org based on diaspora community geography. Gujarati Samaj of Montreal, Gujarati Samaj of Ontario, etc

Potential approach:

- Create a list/database of all the linguistic orgs
 - o Identify the % of members that are Hindus to help categorize these organize
- Org heads should at least be invited and come as a delegate
 - o What happens after the come and attend?
 - o Can we give them a topic and follow up? Ex. Future of our children, how do we keep everyone faithful to Indian culture or conversion, education
- Assemble the panel – to be determine how

One challenge with Telugu org is that it represents all religions.

We need to develop a working group for this initiative as it is not as simple. (Chandra Reddy has agreed to be involved as a subject matter expert and share his experience.)

We need to establish communication with these organizations. Establish strategy to communicate.

WHC is not simply an event. It is a place to educate people of what Hindu really is as it does not represent something very narrow. The outcome that comes out of these sessions is continuous work to strengthening and organization our community.

* Future could be that we change Hindu to Sanatan Dharma will include all organizations and branches of Hinduism and linguistics orgs.

Linguistics organizations are doing much to preserve our culture.

Understanding and identifying what success looks like is important. What we can accomplish

- All of them on one platform
- Identify common goals between cultural, linguistic and religious organizations
- Inspire to form small regional conferences of same nature periodically - build comradery, networking
- Pick a festival and organize a common event to bring together these
 - o Organizations and tie it to what the spiritual heads say, it could result in a “kumbh” – synergy and confluence will come from the spiritual heads.

Educate on the Hindu roots of Yoga – book could be shared at the conference for distribution.

- Sri Mukthanandji to share pdf version to this working group for consideration.

Anyone interested to join the a Working Group for Session 2 should contact Ami Patel

Marathi

Telugu

Kannada

Tamil

Bengali

Punjabi

Gujarati

Ended with Prayer by Sri Mukthanand