

## **HOTA – Program Committee Meeting Minutes – March 6 2018**

**Attendees:** Sohini Sircar, Abhaya Asthana, Kaushik Joshi, Swami Parmeshanand, Ami Patel, Prasad Yalamanchi, Sanjay Tripathi, Kumar Dave, Vijay Reddy, Fred Stella, Chandra Reddy, Chariyu Parikh

**9:30 PM – 10:40 PM EST**

Started with Prayer by Kumar Dave

Prasadji shared the news of Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswati Shankaracharya Swamigal attaining Samadhi.

1 min silence was observed

Last week, we discussed the sessions again and narrowed in on the topics for each session.

Abhayaji was in India over the past few weeks and discussed with Swami Vigyanandji, Guna Magesan and others and provided a summary of his meetings, discussions and developments there.

### **Session 1 and 2**

The group there agreed too about how and why we should merge session 1 and session 2. Collective decision was made to merge Session 1 and 2. This will free up another session for us.

### **Session 3**

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has agreed to chair this session.

### **Session 4**

Bhagwat Gita translation into Arabic – could be a potential poster presentation too

### **Session 5**

New topics introduced:

- Challenges of Conversion for Hindus across the Globe – potential speaker is Sharad Ghole (Dharma Jagran)
- Success Stories of Hindu Activism in America and the model to be replicated across the world – potential speaker is Satya Dosapati
- Fighting for Hindus at Ground Zero- identify good speaker for this session

## Session 6

Sohini suggests that instead of picking from so many success stories, let's do a poll. We can promote a poll on social media and socialize to get votes on what Hindus would think are the most impactful success stories.

Maharishi Maheshji University has made significant contribution and we should invite them. Someone should be invite like Mr. Nader (Raja Ram).

If we do the poll, how would we select the nominees/candidates?

What are our criteria to shortlist?

- # of people impacted positively
- Creativity of idea
- Adversity, odds faced to accomplished
- Potential for Reproduction/Replication
- Sustainability
- Diversity
- Capital to implement

We can select 15 or so candidates and showcase photo, description and bio in the poll.

Sohini will take the project lead.

### **New Session Proposed:**

#### Mandir as a Nuclei for serving the needs of Hindu Community

- Freeing temples from Government clutches – Swami Parmatmanandji(Acharya Sabha)
- Temples as an instrument for serving Hindu Society - Madhu Pandit Das
- Role of temples in creating positive impact on youth, family and society – Dr Uma Mysorker
- Transforming temples for service activities - ?

Ended with Prayer by Kaushik Joshi