

HMEC 2017 – Program Committee Meeting – May 17, 2017

Attendees: Sant Gupta, Surendra Pandey, Sanjay Mehta, Kumar Dave, Hansa Dave, Bhakti Mehta, Arun Jain, Preya Dave, Ami Patel, Anil Bajpai, Madhu Sharma, Divya Selvakumar, Chandra Reddy, Anita Gupta, Swami Parmeshananda, Ram Sahadeo

9:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Overview

- Prayer by Kumar D.
- Introductions by Sanjay M. of the Program Committee – Arun Jain, Preya Dave, Ami Patel

Theme Introduction by Arun J.

- **Theme: Hindu Temples and Institutions: Challenges of the 21st Century**
- Preliminary program ideas into 3 categories:
 - Temple management
 - Temple programs
 - Social issues
- Draft provided in invitation email
- Give special attention to the quality of the presentations
- Review all presentations and communication should be established with the speakers to ensure quality (Sant G. concurred)

Brainstorm on Theme and Categories

Open floor for additional ideas and what is presented by Indy team on theme and 3 categories

Chandra R.

- 3 Main topics are good headings
- What is the purpose, does it make a difference, 10-15% change by next conference

Anil Bajpai

- New temples coming up more and more
- Sustenance of temples – gear discussion towards “sarva devata” temples rather than isolated sect wise temples
- Discuss the pros and cons of more inclusiveness

Swami P.

- Technology and mass media exposure
- We ought to address certain social issues
 - Teenage pregnancy without counselling
 - Abstinence before marriage
- Cultivate environment where everyone can talk freely
- We can't compare to the India but have to make it relevant to current society and the daily routine
- What we do in temples should not be culture and tradition solely as it is not

Madhu S.

- Parallel youth track
- Getting younger generation involved in present temple management
- Part of the management forum should look at the future
- Most temple board members NC/NS area are older generation
- Need to somehow get individuals in 30s, 40s into management of temples
- We need a smoother transition

Bhakti M.

- Approach younger generation with the understanding of they are the future
- Transition is the biggest problem due to generation gap and methods of working
- Management style doesn't always work for the youth
- We should avoid youth being scheduled in other parallel sessions

Ami P.

- Move from the mindset of having youth on committees for labour and manual work only
- We need visionaries and not short sighted management

Sanjay M.

- It took us 7 years to just work with temples
- 3 types of temples
 - Guru Parampara Swami
 - Trustees who kind of own the temple
 - Democratic structure
- Constantly work with HMEC
- We have to commit to 10 years – to see the change in 25 years
- Bhakti M. Preya D. as examples – we have to mature our youth and young adults
- Let the thought process spread across the country
- Identity
 - We have to be visible
 - Ex. Hate crimes
 - We need to create confident Hindus
 - We should have a presentation on this subject to create the awareness

Surendra P.

- Have a Session on Youth in Management

- Madhu suggested and she should chair
- Mandir Vani – contact authors, sponsors to help us with cost of conference and printing the souvenir

Anil B.

- Whole session from youth of what they expect to see from management

Ram S.

- Mental Health of Religious Conversion
- Chaplaincy being developed by some programs

Anita G.

- Generation born and brought up here have a different view point of temple and management
- They may or may not have a similar view point from other 1st generation from India

Divya S.

- American Hindu World Service
- International service work
- Seva fits into the interfaith, global community
- Divya S. to submit abstract.

Kumar D.

- Youth in management should not be limited to the youth only
- Each temple by laws do not have it well implemented for youth management and should be discuss with larger audience
- Temple chaplaincy needs to be discuss further

Speakers

- Preya D. - Since we are trying to find quality speakers it is the responsibility of this group to find new and engaging speakers?
- Arun J. - We need to definitely get this groups broad out reach for quality of speakers