

# HMEC 2017 – Program Committee Meeting – May 24, 2017

**Attendees:** Sri Muktananda, Kumar Dave, Hansa Dave, Ram Sahadeo, Swami Parmeshananda, Anita Gupta, Surendra Pandey, Fred Stella, Ami Patel, Arun Jain, Sanjay Mehta, Sant Gupta, Ravi Joshi

**9:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Prayer by Sri Muktananda

## Program Draft Review

- Walk through of the revised draft and additions from last week's meeting by Arun J.

## Brainstorm on Theme and Topics

### Sri Mukta

- Theme is very relevant
- It will be great to continue a deeper dive into Spiritualism in Mandirs and Temples as Learning Centers
  - Last year we spoke of need for Satsang, spirituality
  - This year, we should make it more real and tangible, how to setup a group, how to make it happen
  - For learning centers, classes started on a regular basis
  - "Believers" – CNN show on Aghoris in negative light
- We should discuss how to work on Hindu activism
  - Stay coordinated and connected together for issues such as press releases and have a bigger influence
  - **Sanjay M.**
    - Coordinated awareness campaign
    - Ex. Hindu's against defamation
    - Lots of folks reaching out to VHPA
    - We need to come out with a focused approach

### Fred S.

- Encourage his local Midwest temple to come and attend the conference
- Spirituality and interfaith
  - Specifically interested in Connecting with Interfaith Groups and Programs
  - Where do we want to go to with the subject of conversion
    - **Ram S.** is interested in professional input on the effects of religious conversion, the effects of studies
  - Not aware of studies specifically, but would suggest to explain the tactics and motives

- Psychological effects of individual choice vs force, coercion, etc

#### **Ravi J.**

- Movement started in India started with Rajiv Malhotra's Swadeshi Indology Conference
- Theme pertains to membership in the temples and youth have a place to go to for their concerns
- Portrayal of India and the gaps in how our youngsters are taught - How to represent our culture
- Research program which ends up with enough material for youngsters so that they may represent themselves adequately
- Hindu thought is either imparted in a traditional manner not easily understood or on the flip side we have Western Indology
- **Sant G.** concurs and suggest that one of the best way to do what Ravi J. suggests, it would be great to give a live example of how this is to be executed
  - Case Study and Success stories of your temple and how you have done it
  - HAF, Chinmaya Mission, and SSVV have created concept of Dharma Ambassadors and the objective is the same
  - Would it make sense to have a session on this with various subtopics? Can Ravi J. take the lead on this?
  - We can try to get Rajiv M. to the conference
- **Sri Mukta** – Have discussion of Rajiv's books – book club or distribution to temples
  - Examples of where this is being practices
  - Translations, transcribing of religious texts – get volunteers more involved into this process

#### **Kumar D.**

- Having visited temples and inviting temples, one thing comes to light is that the value of networking is not clear or bought into
- Maintaining membership needs to be addressed as only 10-15% are engaged

#### Temple Management Software

- **Sant G.** - Ravi in Ohio had created a software and it is available
- Revisit him again to share success stories
- Issue is the maintenance and upgrade fees
- What are the best solutions out there that we can showcase and talk about?
- **Ami P.** – can we speak of an even bigger lens of engagement?
  - Technology enabled Temple
  - Technology empowered Temple
- **Sanjay M** – concurs of doing live broadcasts and getting 10-15 mins of experiences being created with the youth
- **Sri Muktha** – concurs live streams to create engagement ex. of Zoom
  - Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc

Prayer by Sanjay M.

Next Meeting May 31, 2017