

NATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING
held on Saturday 13 June, 2009 at 0930hrs. in Perth Building.

Attending: Elder Stephen C. Kerr (chair); Pres. [REDACTED] (Dundee); Sis. [REDACTED] (Dundee Stake DPA); Pres. [REDACTED] (Glasgow); [REDACTED] (Paisley); B [REDACTED] (Aberdeen); [REDACTED] (Glasgow) and [REDACTED] (NPAD).

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Brother [REDACTED] welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following the singing of Hymn 270 an opening prayer was offered by Br. [REDACTED]

Opening Remarks: Elder Kerr reported that baptisms are on the increase and that National Public Affairs appears to be motoring along under the stewardship of Bro. Rowland Elvidge. President Uchdorf has called upon the UK to be a banner to Europe of the gospel. He spoke about the progress of inter faith and opined that Scotland was leading the way in inter faith. Bro. [REDACTED] gave an update on the present situation with inter faith in Scotland as it involved The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is more involvement now with local inter faith groups than ever before and this is producing more contacts and advertising in Scottish government circles. Elder Kerr discussed how this good work could be extended and suggested reciprocal YSA events and joint Helping Hands activities as examples of things that could be done. Elder Kerr spoke about the many common beliefs that many faith traditions hold and we should be building on this rather than focusing on what divides. He suggested that within six months each Stake President in Scotland should attend an inter faith event, and that each Stake should run an inter faith activity. Local bishops need to get involved with this kind of activity and help people to come through the doors of our buildings.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Agreed as an accurate minute of the business transacted.

Weathering the Storms of Life Exhibit: Edinburgh: Didn't run the VIP event but instead held a special event in Dumfries which was successful and well received. Displays were impressive. Aberdeen: 641 attended, 250 of whom were own Stake members; lots of schools were invited but only those closest to the venue attended; 7 VIPs attended led by Cllr. Jim Kiddie deputizing for the Lord Provost who spoke at the event. Each guest was given a gift of a 24-hours emergency pack. Dundee: 320 attended included the Lord Provost and two elected members. Emergency services were well represented and made a difference to the level of interest; PA personnel gave the VIPs a tour of the exhibit and VIPs were each given a gift of a hamper of home baked produce prepared by the Relief Society. Outside agencies put up displays during the whole exhibition period but only turned up physically on the Saturday. Local radio stations were contacted a fortnight before the exhibit came and then a personal note sent to them the week before. The event would have been better in a public building rather than the Stake Centre. Difficulties were experienced in advertising the event. Got the Stake Welfare

Committee involved and running things. Most of the attendees were Church members and almost all of the non-members were brought along by their Church friends.

Paisley: Citizens Advice Bureau, East Renfrewshire Credit Union and Energy Watch have indicated that they will attend and bring exhibit stands. VIP responses have been slow but it is anticipated that about 10 may attend the VIP evening. Glasgow: The Stake Welfare Committee are organising the event and will learn from the experiences of other Stakes.

Mormon Helping Hands Day: Updates were given on the preparations for MHH Day. All Stakes reported that community activities had been planned. Bro. [REDACTED] asked that each Stake organise to have a goodly number of digital photographs taken of the respective MHH Day activities as he will be obliged to submit a report on the Scotland response and photographs of the events help to give a better flavour of activities and enhance the written word.

Scottish Family Values Award 2009: Following a discussion on the nominations, it was agreed that Dundee Stake's nomination of Bob Robertson be selected. Sister [REDACTED] to progress arrangements for an October presentation.

Stake DPA Reports: Updates were given by Stake DPAs present. Sister [REDACTED] reported that the Deputy Lord Provost of Dundee had presented certificates at the Seminary Graduation event in Dundee.

Other Business: Bro. [REDACTED] reported that Bro. Elvidge on behalf of the UK PA Council would like more stories for the Scotland website from each of the Stakes and would like some feedback on the current website. It was reported that uploading to the site can be difficult – especially Stake calendar information. It was also felt that the writing of many of the articles on the site was 'too American' in style and there is a dilution of Scottish culture due to the over-features of US articles. The dates are also in US format. Bro. Elvidge has also made a plea for more feature writing on the UK Ensign pages.

Bro. [REDACTED] also reported on a request from Geoff Lachlan, formerly of The Scottish Inter Faith Council, who is requesting written inspirational material from each faith community in Scotland to include in a forthcoming book 'Spiritual Inspiration'. He seeks not simply sacred text, but other writings, poems or prose and is prepared to devote twenty pages to each faith tradition. The book would be available for use in NHS facilities, especially through hospital chaplains, and other similar venues. He asked that each Stake establish a small committee to take this forward, select appropriate material and email the material for consideration to him by the end of August.

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 5 September, 2009 at 0930 hrs. in Perth Building.

Closing Prayer: Bro. [REDACTED]