

# **NATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**Saturday, 5 September, 2009 at 0930 hours in Perth Branch Building**

## **AGENDA**

1. WELCOME and SEDERUNT
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. HYMN followed by OPENING PRAYER
4. MINUTES OF NPAC MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2009
5. PRESENTATION BY ROWLAND ELVIDGE
6. SCOTTISH FAMILY VALUES AWARD 2009
7. REPORTING PA ACTIVITY
8. STAKE DPA REPORTS
9. OTHER BUSINESS
10. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING
11. CLOSING PRAYER

## **NOTES**

Attending : Douglas Yates (Chair), Roland Elvidge (GB Public Affairs Council Director), Hugh Stirling, Mike King, Daryl Watson, David Speirs, Scott Roy, Alan Duncan, Amy King

Apologies: (Dundee),

Opening Hymn        7, Invocation - Amy King, Spiritual Thought - Douglas Yates

Minutes agreed excepting: Mike King instead of Bill Dunbar, Alan Duncan added to the attendees; some confusion with date of next meeting.

Roland Elvidge :

- Formed links with the World Conference of Families. Running a conference on family values jointly with them in London next year. Suggested that you look at Elder Nelson's talk on Family values given to this organisation. Invited them to the Weathering the Storms of Life exhibition in Hyde Park, with the view of taking the exhibition outside the Church next year.
- Requests for views on how we improve access to the Church website. Comments on putting stake calendar information onto the site - seems that most Stakes are still having problems with updating calendar information on the site (although Edinburgh seem to be having success). Can have a calendar and newsletters available for members. Stake IT specialist can submit information (and possibilities of the newsletters being overridden with background information we might want to disseminate). Issues can be sorted in conjunction with Steve Presbury, but he is overworked, so make sure that your contact at Stake level really does have some IT experience.
- Media specialist in Bristol does the regular 'thought for the day' on the local radio station. Text of such 'thoughts' available from Bro Elvidge.
- Family Values awards: discussion of having a Family Values conference, or tabling the possibility of such through the Interfaith Council (as opposed to in an academic context). Blueprint for such a conference is still available with Douglas Yates.
- BYU Ballroom Dancers coming to Edinburgh and Aberdeen (one Thursday), in June next year. Some comments from Roland Elvidge: if we have particular advice on where the groups should go - Roland can act as a point of negotiation to point them to the best areas of the country to attend. (For instance they feel that you'd need to sell approximately 800 tickets to make one of these event).

- Helping Hands Events: negotiated with the Blood Transfusion Service / Organ Donation to hold an enrolment campaign in May of next year, and then donate blood in June - Helping Hands Day will not be a set Day next year, and instead can do one at Stake or Ward levels as we wish, on whatever Day we wish. General view that this was a mature approach.

#### Scottish Family Values Award 2009 :

- Recipient for Scottish Family Values Award is Robert Robertson, who is a local person in Dundee who was well known locally. Again, Dundee are checking for skeletons in closets. Could we work through Bryan Adam and have the award made in Holyrood. Invite a fairly select group of VIPs and MSPs who have a similar set of values, and don't publicise their names (unless they are specifically looking for such publicity?). Publicising the event itself should occur, but the main focus of the award is in building friendships. Dundee will come up with a date, venue and list of possible attendees. Douglas Yates will have a conversation with Bryan Adam to see if Holyrood is a good idea. An invite will be sent to Roland Elvidge. Budget <£1k. Another possibility is Gleneagles, as some good publicity would be in their interest.
- (Elder Bednar will be coming up on the 16th September and visit the Scottish Parliament - looks like Elder Kerr has organised this on personally - Meeting with Fergus Ewing and perhaps Murdo Fraser)
- Amy King had founded a campaign ("Front Page"), to control explicit covers on books and magazines. Tam Bailey (ex director of Barnados), the new children's commissioner will be meeting with Amy to be briefed about the campaign. Kernel in Scotland, but will be UK campaign, and contacts all over the UK. Have been probing whether a 'media darling' can be found to help out. All the workload presently on the founder

#### Reporting PA Activity :

- Expected to supply a Scotland report monthly - still need his reports in. Actually, we are now allowed to send in Quarterly reports via Douglas Yates to Roland Elvidge, but the first one of these will be due this month. Need to report on the big activities, but also need the bread and butter reporting to be done.

#### Stake DPA Reports :

- Edinburgh: President Patterson & Alan Duncan comprise the PA Council.
- Dundee: Full committee in place (Dawn Keogh, Amy King (Media), Evelyn Leeston (Community)). Local specialists in three units. A few articles in newspapers, and contacts building up through the local papers.

- Glasgow: Full committee in place (Albert ~McKinlay, Leigh D'Olivera (Community) Carol Goodwin (backup - been a local counsellor and rotarian), Lynda Foote (Media)). Slow on the media front, but Lynda is not in any way IT savvy, so getting her online has been a major +ve. New bishop in Cumbernauld, needs to be pushed forward. New mission couple in Hamilton. Spiritual Reflections project. Weathering the Storms of Life - membership plus, Fire Engine was cool.
- Aberdeen: Flow of articles seems to be going well, including the helping hands day stuff.
- Paisley: Fair spread of Church news being published on a week by week basis (usual Douglas Yates modesty). Provost attended work at the local hospice, which was simple to photograph and get a media article. Internal newsletters for public organisations is another way to get information out to a lot of people locally. Note that local community service seems to be more difficult to get members to become involved with outside Mormon Helping Hands, and we need to get better at maintaining our contacts outside of the yearly helping hands events. Recapitulation from Roland Elvidge on the need to concentrate on a handful of key influencers with whom we can build working businesslike relationships, as the core ideal of PA work.

AOCB :

- Training materials handed out from Roland Elvidge. Can we review this information with our Public Affairs Councils.
- Sometimes the anniversary of the founding of Units can be a good public affairs events. Stornaway building is now celebrating its 10th Anniversary, may be some mileage in that story. Mission have decided that every time a missionary moves in, an information pack should go to the local bishop - can we make this an automatic send by local PA, as the information will already been in our hands.
- Spiritual Reflections project. Book for health authorities with contributions from all the faith communities (about 20 pages for each faith community). Deadline for this was in August. Couple of stories submitted from Aberdeen. Dundee have some material available. Focus group in the Stake Centre in Glasgow sometime in September.

Date of Next Meeting :

5th December 09:30 - Perth Building

Benediction: Alan Duncan