



Year End Updates from GSSA Working Committee – Year 2011



Saad Sangat Ji,

Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa. Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh ji!!!

Current working committee is answerable to the Sangat. This year end update provides you information on 2011 activities and developments.

Please know that 2011 was a tough year since there were no elections at GSSA in last 10 years or so. Coming in an restoring Sangat's trust was a big challenge. As a Working Committee we had two choices (1) Look back, harp upon the past and stifle our progress (2) Follow **“together we must move”** model and work towards the betterment of GSSA's future. We opted for the second model, moved forward and took these **positive** steps.



Our Darbar Hall



Special Decoration by Sangat members on Vaisakhi

Harbhajan Nayar, President and Gulshan Singh, Vice President

Updates from the desk of President and Vice President

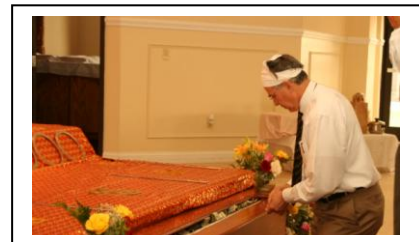
Openness and free flow of information

- Return to constitution of the GSSA. Constitution provides rules and regulations surrounding workings of GSSA Working Committee.
- Increased trust in the management as reflected by much higher stability in operational and project income
- Followed **For the Sangat, of the Sangat** and **by the Sangat** model. All questions and concerns answered in a democratic manner. All Working Committee meetings are documented in meeting minutes.
- Regular updates to Sangat on Gurudwara affairs via town hall, stage or general body and open meetings.
- New website (<http://www.gssa.us>) started with online information around our budget, accounting, activities, news, working committee. Please visit this website regularly.

Sikh Awareness

We need to be visible in the American society for the benefit of our community and our children.

- Congressman Rush Holt paid special visit to our Gurughar and promised that he will stand for Sikh cause and help us when needed. He listened to our youth at GSSA and answered their questions.



- Partnership with Sikh Collation resulted in to White House special invitation to our Gurughar's Sangat on bullying prevention in our schools.

White House sent special bus for the transportation of GSSA Sangat. Bullying prevention ideas were given at this conference and we are given contacts in to US Govt. administration in case we need help for our community and children.



Clearly define employee roles & increase their satisfaction level

- Employees roles, responsibilities and hours fully documented. Employees signed and fully understand their responsibilities now. Periodic reviews with employees are conducted and areas of improvement discussed.
- All Gurudwara employees were paid on cash basis. This deprived them of social security income in their old age. Started proper pay checks and federal reporting. This will help the employees their deserved state and federal benefits.

Safety, Maintenance & Projects

- Special attention paid to Gurudwara safety and beautification.
- **Sign Project:** Sign installed. 75% of project is complete. Landscaping around the sign in progress. All bids and paperwork for sign work is available upon request.



Charanjit (CJ) Singh

Updates from the desk of Treasurer

Clear & Open accounting with the introduction of technology.

- First time in the history of GSSA: All computerized accounting. All accounting is done in Quick Books software on the Internet.
- Quarterly reports on finances prepared and presented to the Sangat. Reports are available to Sangat on request.
- Gurudwara mortgage payments: Gurudwara mortgage was in default for the first month when we took charge. Took loan from many Sangat members to pay the bank. Since then Sangat's loan has been paid off and Mortgage payments are now stabilized Thanks to all!
- All finances of our Gurudwara are now stable. Vendors, employees and loans are paid on time.
- Internal audit of 2011 accounts & records in progress. Audit performed by the GSSA trustees.
- We can now accept donations via Credit Cards.
- In addition, we now have the ability to web cast our special programs on the internet.
- 2011 budgets approved with Sangat's approval.
- Initiated last 10 years of audit by taking Sangat's consent via ballot. Current committee was not able to start the audit due to other critical (safety and financial) priorities and lack of agreement with the elected bodies on how to manage the audit. We hope 2012 committee will make this a priority.
- Recent court order requires GSSA to pay \$100,000 for defendant lawyer fees and election master fees. Ballot has been sent to the members to address this issue.

Tejinder Singh Jassil

Updates from desk of Secretary

Improved Quality of Darbar Hall Programs

- Quality Raggi invited from California, India, United States and other countries.
- Additional stage time given to children and youth.
- Special programs organized for Vaisakhi and Gurupurabs.
- Organized the Gurmat Sangeet program with the help of Sangat. In spite of unseasonal snow it was very well received.
- Kept sangat informed on all darbar hall related activities via podium and website updates.

Karanjit Singh

Updates from the Langar Hall

- Improved the process for Langar sewa and ensured that langar slots are full for the year. Reduced langar sewa to \$200 for Friday langar and \$350 for Sunday langar which increased Sangat's participation.

Gurpreet Singh

Updates from the desk of Sangat Welfare

Sangat's Health

- **Health camp** organized where physician checked vision, foot and ankle, blood pressure free of charge and advised our Sangat members
- **Breast cancer awareness** seminar organized as our community needs more education and help on this topic. We need to take care of our mothers, sisters, wife

and friends with proper knowledge. Dignitaries came from well known health organizations.

Education

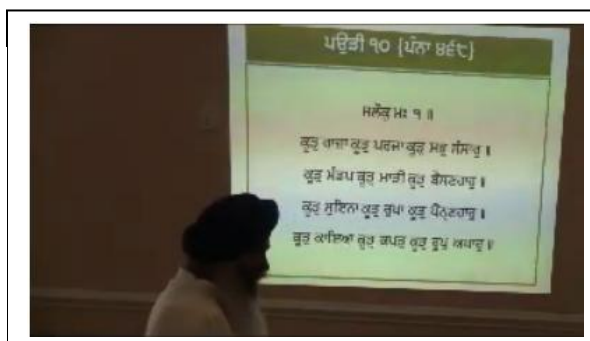
- **Weekly program for our senior citizens** organized by our senior and ex president Mr. Parampal Sidhu (Our Seniors, Our Treasure!!!).

Our seniors benefiting from weekly senior program.



- **Computer classes** from our seniors and Sangat. This is primarily organized by bhenjis in Sewa Group. Sewa Group's contributions are much appreciated.
- **Weekly Gurnat classes** by respected Gyani Bachittar Singh ji

- ❖ Gyani Bachittar Singh ji went to community college and learned computer skills. GSSA Working Committee fully supports self education initiatives by the GSSA employees.



Varjeet Singh

Updates from the desk of Youth and Children Welfare

- Facilitated activities of Khalsa School
- Installed basketball nets in area behind the darbar halls
- Participated in 2011 Sikh Games
- Took responsibilities for 2012 Sikh games. Planning in progress.
- Working with Sikh students of Rutgers University on Sikh programs.