

# SS Harimander Singh Khalsa

## Española NM, USA

### Candidate Statement

#### Personal Information

Name:	Harimander Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Espanola, New Mexico USA
Name of Spouse:	Sarb Sarang Kaur Khalsa
Occupation:	IT Consultant
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	40 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	04/23/2014
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	KRI level 2 certified 10/03/2016
Ashram Communities lived in:	Altadena, Los Angeles and Espanola.
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Seva manager for audiovisual and sound system support for Khalsa Council, KRI, Hacienda de Guru Ram Das events including Gurdwara and yoga center.

#### Questionnaire

1. Why do you feel called to serve on the SSSC Board?

I've been working in the Dharmic businesses since 1980. Having invested so much of my life in the success and future of our Dharmic businesses, I feel compelled to serve and bring my wisdom and experience to the table.

2. What relevant areas of experience and expertise qualify you for this position and will make you an asset to the board?

I have a wealth of diverse experience. I've worked with or for almost every for-profit and nonprofit Dharmic business. I've run my own business, worked for small business and worked in the

enterprise, both within the community and in the corporate world.

3. Please summarize your prior and current service to the Dharma. If you have served in leadership positions, please note them.

My leadership experience started serving in Los Angeles for many years before moving to New Mexico. I was a Jethadhar covering a misl for Guru Ram Das Ashram. I worked in several of the non profit and for profit entities, which continued when I moved to NM. One of the positions was managing the mailing lists and mailings, which I cleaned up to save money and improved outreach. In 2000 I started working with Akal Security as a contractor and evolved as the company grew to director of IT. I was instrumental in the building of the IT dept. and the data center from zero. IT was essential in supporting the company growth and profitability. Currently I have my own business teaching Yoga and providing computer support to the local community and Dharmic businesses. I continue as Seva manager for audiovisual and sound system support for Khalsa Council, KRI, HGRD events including Gurdwara, Lungar hall and yoga center.

4. Please describe your experience of the Siri Singh Sahib as a teacher and your experience of his teachings.

a) Please describe how your personal sadhana and spiritual discipline support you to keep up.

My experience of the SSS Ji is after 40 years of experience and thousands of in person classes my relationship is rock solid and he is my spiritual teacher who I have complete faith and trust in. My daily Amrit Vela practice of 7 Banis, yoga and meditation are what sustains me, physically mentally and spiritually. In this lifestyle we have outstanding examples of character, standards and integrity which I continuously immerse myself in. It is my prayer and focus to be of divine character, of the Guru's standard and to live from my Soul.

5. Please describe what the Siri Singh Sahib's saying means to you: "If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all." In practical terms:

a) How would you apply this saying in your day to day service on the board?

b) How would apply this perspective to help our community and organizations move forward together?

a) Using the sutra "Recognize that the other person is you."  
b) Using the sutra "Understand through compassion or you will misunderstand the times."  
It means that there is no us and them, no other and that you recognize that the other person is you. When we are in our ego we judge and when we are in our heart we accept. When operating from the heart and acceptance we bring trust and healing. Operating from a place of head and ego brings distrust and destruction.

6. What do you understand the Role of the SSSC to be? How do you see the SSSC carrying out

that role on a

a) Practical level and b) Spiritual level

The role is to leverage the collective unity, strength and wisdom of the leadership and the community to guide and build the organizations to their fullest impact. Each member must stand on their own merit in the present, not on their accomplishments of the past. The personal impact is the satisfaction of knowing that I'm serving my Guru, my teacher, and community and in doing so fulfill my destiny.

A1) Practically speaking we need to assure responsible management of the physical assets and maintain representation of the committed community.

A2) The actions, direction and methodology need to be in alignment with the wisdom of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib and the teachings of Yogi Bhajan.

7. As an SSSC Trustee you are accountable to the Sangat. Describe:

- a) How you would like to build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) How you will personally deal with the pressure of accountability while maintaining your spirit of service?
- c) How do you traditionally respond in a crisis or high tension situation?

a) It is essential to participate in a range of daily and community events that cover the areas of Bani, Bana, Simran and Seva. Gurudwaras, Gurupurbs, Akand Paths, Lungars and community events are priorities for me.

b) In my position at Akal Security I was on call 24 x 7 because if IT stopped working the company stopped working. Holding that responsibility taught me to deal with the pressure of accountability and the only way to keep up for a decade was to have a strong commitment and spirit of service to the company mission.

c) With a calm neutral mind and a slow deep breath. "There are no problems only situations and solutions." This quote, from Yogi Bhajan, is something I live by.

8. The SSSC practices inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

- a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life, and
- b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?

a) Yes, in many situations these practices are expected in today's world. I received training during my time at Akal Security and recently updated my training as a teacher at the University of New Mexico. During the UI board era, I researched the governance and history of other spiritual organizations and nonprofits going through a leadership transition, so I am familiar with these terms and how the best practices have changed from the time the majority of our legal structures were created, and what is considered best practice today.

b) I've always been a proponent of inclusion, transparency, and accountability. This was not always

welcomed due to the individual interpretations of the Siri Singh Sahib's practice of closely held business. I believe in a balanced approach as opposed to an all or nothing approach.

9. How do you see the 3HO/Sikh Dharma family of Nonprofit and For-profit organizations serving humanity in these times?

a) What do you see as the three (3) greatest challenges facing the Dharma (Sikh Dharma-3HO and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities)? What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?

b) What skills, tools, and techniques can you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help us move toward the vision you described above?

A) From my current vantage point outside the management of the Dharma, I see polarization, negativity and looking for solutions from outside our community as the critical challenges. As we know from the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh, that unity is the greatest challenge. From a place of neutrality my influence would be to find a way to satisfy the opposing positions through compromise.

B) My gift is the neutral mind and my approach is solution oriented. I would need to be more deeply involved in the board dynamics to suggest a path with more detail. My initial approach would be to observe and listen.

10. Board service regularly requires 10 to 20 hours per month (or more) in evening and weekend board and committee meetings. These meetings are generally held at 8:00 pm Eastern time (20:00 hours). In addition, there are three Face-to-Face meetings per year (two in New Mexico following the International Khalsa Council Meetings (end of April and end of September) and a third in January or February in Los Angeles or one of our Ashram communities). The Face-to-Face meetings are two days in April and September and three days in January/February. *Note: One day of each Face-to-Face meeting period is always on Monday.*

a. Can you fulfill these requirements?

b. If so how will you balance these requirements with your other personal and professional responsibilities?

c. What do you anticipate being the most difficult part of serving as a Trustee on the SSSC Board?

a) Yes

b) I understand the significant challenge of this undertaking and I am prepared to make it work. If I am chosen to serve, Guru will provide the faculties and facilities. I have flexibility in the demands on my time and energy. With a calm neutral mind and a slow deep breath. "There are no problems only situations and solutions." This quote, from Yogi Bhanjan, is something I live by.

c) The current environment of polarization and negativity. Maintaining balance with the time commitment considering the fullness of my life already.

11. Are you related by blood or marriage to an officer, director, employee, or paid contractor of any of the constituent organizations (nonprofit or for-profit) including all subsidiaries?
- a. If yes, to whom are you related, how are you related to them, and what is their position?

No