

SS Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa

Yuba City, CA, USA

Candidate Statement

Personal Information

Name:	Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Yuba City, CA 95991
Name of Spouse:	Jay Grassell, MD
Occupation:	Business Owner
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	45 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	30
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Grandfathered in as a KY teacher in 2000
Ashram Communities lived in:	Northern California, Bay Area.
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Member of Khalsa Council for many years, KY Teacher, now living in a large Punjabi community

Questionnaire

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

The community recently asked me to serve on this board and I'm responding to that call. I am committed to the mission we started 50 years ago to spread the word of our Gurus with love and devotion, to maintain a beautiful life style. I want to serve so our grandchildren inherit this powerful mission & loving community. Also, because of my past experience on the board that can be of benefit: the issues, the finances, the structure of our organization, the key positions – I am familiar with them all.

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

I have served many decades in this Dharma in many capacities and have a lot to share. Taught Kundalini Yoga for many years before it became big. I have grown children and young grandchildren that are active in our lifestyle. In addition, decades of business experience in Finance, Healthcare and Management. My European background (I grew up in Germany/lived in France & Austria) gives me a unique point of view.

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

I have been part of 3HO since the early 70's with years in several Ashrams in the Bay Area. 30 years in a Punjabi community in Yuba City. I was a founding member of the Punjabi American Heritage Society of Northern CA and took turns serving as president. We do a tremendous amount of outreach & are prominent in our area. Khalsa Council member since the mid 90's. SSSC board member 2012-2017

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.

I continue to be deeply inspired by these timeless teachings. Had many interactions with him that changed my life. SSS was a guest at our Ashram in Yuba City several times. I practice Bana, Bani, Simran and Seva daily & find my own healing via shabads, deep meditation.

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) It's the key phrase if we want to carry on, stay together as a spiritual community.

- b) It means going beyond the outer perceptions to see the soul within, always. Even when things are down and darkest.

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
- b) Spiritual level

- a) On a practical level: anticipate the future, the call of the next generation. Don't wait until a crisis. Engage constructively & consistently with the goal to transfer positions and power/seva to promising candidates & do so actively.
- b) On a spiritual level - the more important one – we need to look to our Guru, Siri Guru Granth Sahib at every turn for guidance and inspiration so we can handle the choppy waters of this ocean. In addition, make a position on this board an honor to be bestowed, less of popularity. A gathering of saints.

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) There is work to be done. One thing I would like to see is a solid pathway for the 2nd generation: ongoing dialogue on, for example, offering meaningful positions within the organizations. Positive, sound ways to seek younger talent to take place of outgoing generation. Another one would be perhaps an email group where the community can respectfully bring concerns. Create an understanding that the board members (most) volunteer their time and service.
- b) When challenged, I tend include all views to resolve issues through the heart. If one expects gratitude from serving, one is set up for unhappiness. It is seva, selfless service 100%, not personal.
- c) High tension makes me slow down, observe the dynamics, go inside. Let go and let God.

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) What helps me is first off, my past 5 years on the SSSC board (many financial/org/employee issues) My 30 years as an employer of Physical Therapy clinics; balancing expenses and payroll with shrinking reimbursements. Understanding the dynamics of those who work for me & providing guidance, security and grace to it all. Plus, my turbulent time as President of the Punjabi American Heritage Society; hate crimes occurred, we took a very public stand with me as the spokesperson to the media.
- b) Taking an approach of serving vs. requesting. Understanding the reality of a person I am dealing with that is different of mine. "Stand under"

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) Siri Singh Sahib said from day one that he came to create teachers, not followers. Going forward our service will be quite different from the years past. A new generation has come front and center. Their needs and the calling of their souls is the new service. The challenges are many. Finding a common language. A need to "be" with one another w/o judgment. Living for one another. "The Aquarian Age is not going to come to us, it is coming through us".
- b) As a trustee of the SSSC my preference would be to be still, to listen deeply, to use what wisdom I have & appreciate the process. Not reacting! Look at the years ahead and recognize the direction into which we are going. The voices/needs/calls are out there & want to be acknowledged. What skills do I bring to it? Again, it is gleaned from my daily work experience as outlined above. Over the years a profound shift has occurred not only in the work place. Now employers have to be in tune with the times if they want to attract & keep valuable talent. As an employer one needs to recognizing skill, dedication & commitment as it sustains the business. Also, the teaching of KY has changed – much more business oriented. Other skills that helped me are on the board are extensive financial & business management skills acquired over 30 years.

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) These requirements are familiar to me. It will take my time. But I have dedication of working to support and serve the Dharma; it's worthwhile to spend the time it needs as seva.
- b) As an owner my work schedule is flexible.
- c) The biggest challenge for me? When things move slow, allowing the time for everyone to catch up. Patience.

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?

I am not.