

Candidate Statement

Please email this statement to SSSC_Election@armaninoLLP.com by midnight Pacific Time on Friday, August 26, 2022. Please include a recent photo of yourself to be displayed to voters.

Instructions

1. Please respond to each question individually in the boxes provided.
2. Please answer each individual question. A general narrative/essay/story/letter will not be accepted.
3. Armanino will review your statement. If your statement is found to contain incomplete and/or inappropriate content, you will be asked to remove, revise, or update the content. "Inappropriate content" includes, but is not limited to, derogatory and/or inflammatory statements.
4. Several of the questions are identical to those asked of Candidates in previous elections. If you also submitted a statement in a different election, it is permissible to reuse your previous answers to those particular questions.

Personal Information

Name:	Avtar Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Kansas City, Mo., 64111 USA
Email:	avtar4khalsa@gmail.com
Name of Spouse:	Manjit Kaur Khalsa
Occupation:	Electrician
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	46 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	Approximately 25 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Level one; around 1995
Ashram Communities lived in:	St. Louis, Los angeles, Kansas City

3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Assistant Director, Yoga West, LA Administrative council and executive Council, LA property maintenance
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Questionnaire

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

The teachings delivered to us by the Siri Singh Sahib have been the greatest blessing of my life. I feel compelled to make sure they are preserved in their full depth and integrity and also to make sure all of those who are in need of them will have access to them.

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

These teachings have been an integral part of my life for 46 years. I've consistently done sadhana, lived in an ashram, practiced these teachings to the best of my ability, and attended every solstice and tantric course I could. I feel as though I have attained a basic understanding and experience of this lifestyle.

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

My wife and I have lived in ashrams for 45 years in St. Louis, Los Angeles, and now Kansas City. I've served in community businesses and served the community at large. I was the jethadar for missal 4 in LA. We were responsible for Sunday Langar, special gurdwaras, and maintaining the weekly akand path. I participated in the weekly ishnan seva at Guru Ram Das Ashram for 30 years. I was head of the daily langar program for 13 years. I was assistant director at Yoga West for 12 years and served on the administrative council for 6 years and the executive council for 3 years.

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

I lived in the St. Louis ashram for 15 years. We were an outpost ashram. For the first couple of years I had very little experience with the SSS. Kundalini Yoga, Sikh

Dharma, and seva were my points of focus. I felt like I had finally found something which actually worked. From the beginning I felt the SSS accepted me as his student. Over the years I accepted him as my spiritual teacher. Over time I gained a much deeper understanding of what our relationship was and what a great blessing I had been given. He has stood by me and guided me for the last 46 years. For that I am eternally grateful.

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?

In this, the SSS has given us one of the universal laws and principals underlying all religions and human interaction. It's a concept that requires a lot of work and a deepening understanding over time. It requires an underlying realization and commitment that all of humanity is on a path to expanded spiritual consciousness. It's my responsibility to be a living example to all those people and organizations I interact with.

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

On a practical level my role on the SSSC board is to gain an understanding of the problems, issues, and needs of 3HO and Sikh Dharma facing us. On a spiritual level we need to then find and implement solutions which will best serve our future and humanity. We've been given a wealth of teachings and tools to serve a world in desperate need of them. We need to create avenues to make them available to all.

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

- a) How would you build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) The SSSC is part of a close knit community. Given that board members are

likely to have strong connections to that community, explain how you will be able to adhere to the SSSC confidentiality policies that apply to board members?

There needs to be a two way flow of information between the sangat and SSS board about issues important to them and what we are working on. There will be things which the board requires confidentiality on. I will not have a problem maintaining that responsibility. But every effort should be made to have the SSSC board become a part of the sangat's everyday life.

8. The SSSC strives to practice diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life?
- b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?
- c) How will you advance the organizational goals of diversity, equity and inclusion?

I have worked with people of all ages, gender, and social classes both within 3HO and Sikh Dharma and in my profession as an electrician and solar installer. Our doors should be open to everyone. Those in need of our service and help should receive it to the best of our ability. Those who have the commitment and ability to promote the values and principles of Sikh Dharma and 3HO should be welcomed and encouraged.

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 Sikh Dharma/3HO Community and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities?
- b) What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?
- c) What skills, tools, and techniques will you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help it move toward the vision you described above?

Our greatest asset in serving humanity is the depth and breadth of the teachings the Siri Singh Sahib gave us. They are the most effective tools I've been able to find. At this moment our greatest challenge is maintaining the integrity of those teachings. Another challenge is in being ready to adequately serve humanity in these times of growing mental, physical, and spiritual stress. Thirdly we are aging as an

organization. We need to reopen the school and look for ways to give the youth a real voice in the future of the Dharma.

10. Board service regularly requires 20 to 40 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 may be multiple Face-to-Face meetings per year.

- 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?

I am nearing retirement age. I plan to cut work hours to 24 hours a week. For me the most difficult thing may be the political aspect. My experience with politics has been rather rudimentary.

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 related to anyone in any of the constituent organizations.