

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:	Guru Sangat Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Great Falls, Virginia USA
Email:	khalsaji@verizon.net
Name of Spouse:	Guru Sangat Kaur Khalsa
Occupation:	retired
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	50 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	44 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	no
Ashram Communities lived in:	Espanola, West Virginia, Washington DC, Northern Virginia

3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	<p>There are too many to remember and mention here so I will list some</p> <p>Founder / mgr Guru Ram Das Farm, WVA</p> <p>Employee Golden Temple Restaurant</p> <p>Partner Golden Temple Bakery</p> <p>Employee Honey Pure Beverages</p> <p>Employee Shakti Shoes</p> <p>Sikh Dharma of Va Admin Council Member</p> <p>Sikh Dharma of Virginia Inc Board member and president</p> <p>Khalsa Council Member</p> <p>Manager of Raj Khalsa Gurdwara approximately 2010 onward</p> <p>SSSC Board Member 5 year term 2017 – 2022</p> <p>Kiit Board member for about 3 years</p>
--------------------------------------	--

Questionnaire

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

It is a wonderful way to serve humanity, the planet, the mission and God and Guru. I care a lot about the individuals, the community, the mission and the organization and where this is all headed. We have a lot of truly brilliant and amazing board members on the SSSC (and a lot of truly brilliant and amazing people in our community too). It is not unusual in the SSSC to hear brilliance and wisdom and elevated consciousness in abundance from these amazing folks. However, I have also found that I have both a perspective and a vision that are not always represented by the other members of the board. So that's why I am running. I would like to continue to have the chance to contribute and share that perspective and that vision at the board level.

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

Many years of communal ashram living

Over 40 years of business experience in multiple different arenas

50 years of seva experience

Lots of experience in Children's Camps and raising and working with Children

50 years of sadhana and kundalini yoga and tantric yoga etc....

Years on the Khalsa Council

Many years on the Admin Council and later on the board of directors of Sikh Dharma of Virginia

Managing a Gurdwara that serves from 400-800 or more per week for about 12 years
This gurdwara is 95% attended by Sikhs who are not part of our community or orgs.
5 years of service as a board member of the SSSC
Being a student of SSS Yogi Bhajan since 1972 when I first met him
Being a Sikh and having the Siri Guru Granth Sahib as my Guru since 1975
Being a parent of 2 children who went through the whole india program etc....

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

Living communally in the 1970s and early 80s almost everything we did was for everyone else as well as ourselves including group sadhana and a lot of "family" business ventures. For me it was more Seva than just trying to make money. First we had an "Ashram" at our Farm in West Virginia that was very small and remote with about 4-8 residents most of the time. As an Ashram it served anyone who arrived on our doorstep and there was a constant flow. The Washington DC community was my home from about 1974 – 1980. It was 60-80 people as I recall and it was a lot of seva working family businesses etc.... I was in almost no "leadership" positions in the 1970's or 1980's but did lots of seva for the community, in the businesses, raising children, working in children's camps, and serving all of the Tantric courses and the Siri Singh Sahib whenever he came to the East Coast.

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

My experience of Siri Singh Sahib and his teachings was and is completely positive. I believe that it is certainly possible that other people may not have had the same experience. I do not question other people's accounts of their experience of Siri Singh Sahib. I do not reject, attack, denigrate or try to silence people who talk about their experiences with Siri Singh Sahib even if they are not all positive like mine were. I believe everyone in our community can and should speak about their experiences if they wish to. I believe it is of value for the healing and transformation of our community to listen to everyone, gather all the stories and ultimately develop a broad narrative of our history. That history will inform the process that has already begun to rework all of our institutions to avoid future harm

It would take 3 or 4 books to answer this question properly. The Siri Singh Sahib was

and remains my teacher. With tremendous compassion he cared for me and taught and counseled me and took me through a decades long process during which I had many incredible and deep experiences. He diagnosed medical problems that no doctor had been able to explain. He reached out so many times without being asked. He covered for me many many times and cared for my wife and two children in the same way. A few words or a few paragraphs simply cannot express the immensity of all that he gave and sacrificed or the gratitude I feel.

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?

To me this flows out of the basic teachings of Guru Nanak that everything and everyone is created and is being sustained by God. It also relates another teaching that we all must realize that the other person is you. I believe that our duty and goal individually and collectively is to open our hearts and rise to the level where we see no difference between ourselves and others. I believe everyone needs to be loved, appreciated, listened to, and treated with respect regardless of what their opinions or beliefs might be. That everyone's opinion and perspective is unique and valuable. That everyone is equal and no one is greater than any other. That polarization and fighting amongst ourselves are destructive and interfere with what we are supposed to be doing which is loving and serving each other and all of humanity. I believe that if we can join together in seva working side by side and treat each other with compassion everything will work out. I believe we need to, as a conscious, intentional matter of mental discipline, choose to overlook the faults of others, focus on the good in people and focus on what we have in common rather than our differences. I believe we must care for each other in our community. However I believe that, as a community, focusing inwardly ALL the time and fighting amongst ourselves is a waste of our energy and our resources. This can easily get us to the point where we have little or nothing left for our real mission which should be to focus outward and to serve the planet. I believe serve others and the universe will serve you.

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

I understand the role of the SSSC to be actually multiple roles

1. Serve the Mission to uplift the world with the two amazing technologies of Sikh Dharma and Kundalini Yoga
2. Serve and care for the Community
3. Serve and care for the non-profit and for-profit orgs
4. Serve the planet and humanity
5. Oversight over all of the assets and orgs to make sure things don't go off the rails

Each of these roles has both practical level and a spiritual level and the SSSC should be considering both.

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?

a) More open lines of communication. We have tried to increase the number of community forum type events and I would like to see them increase even more. I still favor (until someone comes up with something better) that the board be made up of a large number of democratically elected trustees that represent all the diverse views and disciplines and geographical areas that make up our "community"

b) The volume of information that the SSSC deals with is huge. There is a lot of information that needs to be shared and can be shared with the community and beyond. A lot of this is put on the SSSC Website and there will always be more new ways to expand that. We just need to constantly keep trying to add more to the website. There is also some information that must remain confidential. For board members and staff knowing the difference between what can and cannot be shared is not as simple as it might seem. Board members need training and frequent reminders and personally have to be vigilant about watching what they say.

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 always worked hard to eliminate any discrimination in my business life and my non-profit work as a matter of principle. There is always plenty of room for improvement. For our org the next step is underway to evaluate each entity and the whole and determine what would be the next steps to increase the DEI.

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?

a) One major challenge in my opinion is going to be whether the organization can survive intact financially. The combined costs that we are facing are way beyond anything we have seen before.

Another equally daunting challenge is caring for and providing healing for all who have been harmed in the community .

Another difficult challenge is rifts and polarization which are splitting apart the community. All of us can, if we choose to, decide to accept everyone as they are regardless of their differing views and stop judging and fighting and polarizing. There seem to be some indications of progress in this area but it also seems like we have a long way to go.

The above 3 are just the beginning of a long list

B. It is not practical to provide detailed planning for addressing these issues here in this document. Anyone volunteering for the position of Trustee on the SSSC should plan on putting in a lot of long hours and doing a lot of work.

C. I think sections 2 and 3 above describe most of history and experience. There was a lot of training in the last 5 years serving on Kiit and the SSSC. Ours is a large and

complex organization with a long and complicated history. I came in cold with little knowledge of the workings of this organization or its history. It took me at least a year of board service to get a basic understanding of what was going on and how things work. This type of institutional knowledge is very valuable.

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?

- A) For the last 5 years I have been able to adequately fulfill the requirements. It can get to be a lot of work. Because I am retired it is possible. It definitely does spill into daytimes and is not always just evenings and sometimes there are conflicts with gurdwara seva that is required of me.
- B) I can continue to manage this for another term if elected.
- C) The most difficult thing about the SSSC is absolutely the amount of work. The 2nd most difficult thing is the weight and responsibility of having to participate in making very difficult and important decisions.

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?

Yes. My daughter whose name is Guru Sadhana Kaur works for LYF. She is the CEO.