

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:	Harimander Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Espanola NM USA
Email:	harimanders@gmail.com
Name of Spouse:	Sarb Sarang Kaur Khalsa
Occupation:	Yoga Teacher
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	43 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	8 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Yes Level 2 certified 2016
Ashram Communities lived in:	Los Angeles and Espanola
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Sound Sevadar HGRD

Questionnaire

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

I've been working in or with the Legacy businesses since 1980. Having invested so much of my life in the success and future of our businesses, I feel compelled to serve and bring my perspective, wisdom, and experience to the board and community.

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

I am coming up on completing my first year as an SSSC board member and I bring a much-needed diversity with my Guru centric vision and strong neutral mind. I have a wealth of diverse experience in my 40 plus years as a Sikh. I've worked with or for almost every for-profit and nonprofit Dharmic business. I've run my own business, worked for small businesses, 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 time as an SSSC board member in addition to my leadership experience that started in Los Angeles for many years before moving to New Mexico. In LA I was a Jathedar covering a misl for Guru Ram Das Ashram. I worked in several of the nonprofit 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. 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.

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. I currently teach Kundalini Yoga as taught by Yogi Bhajan to the local community, at university level and in addiction recovery centers.

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?

I reference the daily Hukamnama and Aquarian sutras.

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 can bring 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

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 spiritual and 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.

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) It is essential to participate in a range of daily and community events that cover the areas of Bani, Bana, Simran, what the fark and Seva. Gurudwaras, Gurupurbs, Akand Paths, Lungars and community events are priorities for me. To have a strong commitment and spirit of service to the global community mission by livestreaming our daily programs

b) . 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. By maintaining a neutral mind, the sense of outrage that would motivate sharing of information in this time of polarization is critical to confidentiality.

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

a) What experience do you have incorporated 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?

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 UNM. 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. I also spend personal studying these concerns.

b) I've always been a proponent of diversity, equity, and inclusion. I believe in a balanced approach as opposed to an all or nothing approach. One that focuses on positive action and clear goals as opposed to negative statements focusing on efforts to remove thoughts, actions or bias.

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) As a board member coming up on my one-year anniversary the greatest challenges are: 1) The loss of the Guru's voice in our perspectives and reality. 2) the rise of and giving voice to the "Agents of Fate". 3) looking for solutions from outside our community for the critical challenges we face. As we know from the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh, that unity is the greatest challenge.

B) My gift is the neutral mind, and my approach is solution oriented. Coming from a place of neutrality my influence would be to find a way to satisfy the opposing positions through deeper understanding of the Gurbani where all solutions can be found.

C) Kundalini yoga is my primary resource for skills, tools and techniques. To begin with I would recommend the following techniques be used for a minimum of three minutes at the beginning of every meeting. Improving appreciation of other perspectives and better emotional balance would greatly and improve our interaction and activity.
<https://www.libraryofteachings.com/kriya.xqy?q=emotional%20balance%20sort:relevance&id=e13f10e792d6476eae8bee568f0faddb&name=Perspective-and-Emotional-Balance>

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) Yes.

b) Since becoming a board member my attendance and participation has fulfilled the requirements. And I expect that to continue. I have flexibility in the demands on my time and energy.

c) Representing minority position and participating as fully as I would like. 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