

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.

InstructionsXXXXY

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:	S.S. Siri Pritam Kaur Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Yuba City, California
Email:	siripritamyc@gmail.com
Name of Spouse:	Jay Grassell
Occupation:	Owner of Physical Therapy clinic
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	45 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	25 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	I was grandfathered in as Kundalini Yoga Teacher, when various levels were established
Ashram Communities lived in:	Hargobind Sadan: San Rafael, Berkeley, CA

3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	SSSC Board of Directors Trustee 2012-2019 and 2021- present
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Questionnaire

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

“You must answer the call when it comes...”

I am currently a trustee therefore familiar and with all the issues and projects we are tasked with. I do see that I have the necessary professional skill set and life experience to effectively serve in this capacity.

And at this time when our Dharma finds itself at the cross roads, I am compelled to continue. Plus, I now find myself part of an intentional team of eight skilled and passionate candidates running for this election, all openly committed to preserving the timeless teachings of our teacher, his legacy and vision. The unity, mutual respect and talent this collective effort offers will allow me to serve the Mission in a way that would otherwise not be possible.

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

Many years in this Dharma, lots of teaching Kundalini Yoga. Also, my European back ground (grew up in Germany, lived in France and Austria) serves me. I have business experience in finance, healthcare and organization, and experience as an employer in a professional setting, overseeing and & building an organization. Previous and current service as a Trustee on the SSSC Board.

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

Member of several Ashram communities way back when, teaching KY for 35 years. Far-reaching connection with a large Punjabi sangat, being instrumental in creating the Punjabi American Heritage Society & serving as its president, I’m welcomed & respected in the communities I have lived in.

I currently serve on the SSSC Board of Directors as a Trustee; thus, already familiar with its process. For more details on me:

*****pioneeringpunjabis.ucdavis.edu/siri-pritam-khalsas-story/

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

My experience of the Siri Singh Sahib as a teacher was profound and life changing. It has deeply influenced my life. He did the work of a catalyst, challenging his students & propelling them forward beyond their fears. It is mostly in retrospect that his impact is understood.

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 see us all as students of his teachings in various ways. Some near, some far, all seeking the elevation & liberation he guided us toward. In my day-to-day service to this board and to our organization, my prayer is not forget to see God in all, every day and every time.

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

That is such a great question... because it is the essence of that understanding that drives each board member. My understanding of the role of the SSSC Board is to uphold the purity of the Mission we were given and we have tried to live so far. On a practical level, I foresee the SSSC Board enacting legislation aligned with that Mission & make changes only with consciousness. On a spiritual level, I see us always guided by and aligned with Siri Guru Granth Sahib.

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?

Our sangat has experienced deep divisions ...my belief is that we are all One, and the upliftment the Dharma offers can overcome even these divisions. My desire and focus have always been to be with the community, and build relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC Board, wherever the opportunity is. One important way – and we are NOT doing enough of that, is by more openness (some call it transparency) of what we are actually doing on that board, and by bringing in more new people especially from outlying areas rather than already known individuals. I have heard too many times that people do not know what we, the SSSC board are doing, that our twice annual reports are more PR oriented rather than real, and that sangat members are kept not informed of important topics that ought to involve the entire community. I certainly plan to change that.

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?

The times we live in demand from us to practice & live diversity, equity and inclusion, but I want to do so in a real sense, not just checking a box. I incorporate those ideals now in my personal and professional life and plan to stay the course. We have already made significant forward steps in the last few years in our Dharma. I foresee advancing the organizational goals by voting in favor of motions and bills that I believe are appropriate in support of those ideals.

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?

I believe the challenges facing the organization and community are:

Restoring our public reputation.

Maintaining the integrity and purity of the teachings we were entrusted with.

But mostly it is outreach – the world today is hurting and in pain, so in need to what we were so freely given.

To use our resources to establish/strengthen our connection to all countries on this earth and offer our teachings our help, our upliftment.

Yogi Bhanan came to create teachers, not students; his purpose of coming to the west when he did, was to help mankind through the instability and insanity of this change in ages we are finding ourselves in. It is our obligation to head that call.

Ways to do that is by bringing Quality people to our lower boards, people who are serving the call of their soul and remember what brought them to this path.

As a Board Trustee I would support legislation advancing these goals.

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 can fulfill the time requirements described above, have done so for years now. My clinic work is done from home, allowing me in-between time.

The most difficult part? The most difficult part of serving as Trustee on this particular SSSC Board is negotiating through the divisions that exist on serious issues affecting the organization.

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.