

ZONE 4 MEETING CHERKASSY, UKRAINE
13th to the 19th of September 08
International Helpers Report



The zone 4 meeting is an important event in the calendar of the WSA. It represents the sharing of the status and aspirations of the 24 countries that make up the Zone. Its boundary includes countries within the Middle East such as Israel and Lebanon, as well as the Scandinavian countries, also the established countries of Central Europe such as Germany, Austria and Switzerland, as well as those growing and emerging Subud communities within Eastern Europe and the Balkans. It is a heady mix and makes for really lively meetings, but also presents unique challenges arising from the diversity of the constituents.

The organising team of the Ukraine should be congratulated on the work that made this meeting possible. In spite of the spread out nature of the venue the participants managed to create a feeling of closeness and love towards each other in our shared Subud experience. The coincidence of Ramadan also helped. The hotel kindly agreed to serve breakfast at 4.00 and 5.30 AM for those doing the fast. This enabled the International Helpers to meet Valentin and Oliver in the morning to review and to discuss the day ahead, helping to maintain support and closeness between Helper and Committee throughout the meeting.

It was great to have international guests such as Osanna Vaughn, Julia Hurd, Sharifin Gardiner, Maya Bernardes, Halim Korzybski, Rahmaniya Bowden and some of the youth from zones 3 and 4, as well as other visitors present at our zonal meeting, all of which helped to create a feeling of international brotherhood that lies at the heart of our Subud experience.

The first two days (Sunday and Monday) were Kejiwaan days during which time we did Latihan and testing, splitting into manageable groups. Themes were deepening our receiving of the Latihan and Latihan in daily life as well as personal testing.

Moshe and Udi from Israel and Paula from Poland



Russians on accepting (mostly!) to host the next Zone 4 meeting...

In brief the business began on Tuesday with reports, discussions concerning the roles of the Kejiwaan Councillors, committee and helpers and on how we can improve our work together within the zone. Wednesday dealt with other business including international matters, world congress etc. The Thursday was set aside for an excursion, as well as being the day of the Ukraine congress, during which business was conducted in a harmonious way and was an indication of the growing strength and togetherness felt by the Ukraine members. Testing for another Ukrainian woman NH was carried out at in the morning with Natasha Solomenko from Dnepropetrovsk being appointed to join the team. Friday returned to the zone business with budgets etc, and the making of intentions as to what positive aspects of the meeting to take home to share with the groups. The idea that the next zone 4 meeting should be held

jointly with zone 3 was discussed and eventually rejected as it was felt that the unique needs of the zone were better served by a dedicated meeting. Greece offered to host the next zone 4 meeting. After some discussion Russia was also proposed and following testing and discussion the Russian committee and helpers agreed to investigate this possibility and report back within the month. The manner in which this sensitive issue was dealt with was impressive and our Russian brothers and sisters are to be commended on their calm but honest appraisal of the problems that such an undertaking would have to overcome.

These meetings represent wonderful opportunities to network with the country teams within the zone, plan forthcoming visits and so on. We were able to meet the Norwegian, Swedish, Israeli, Moldavian, Lithuanians, Ukrainian and Russian helpers and committee to discuss various issues. The Kejiwaan Councillors were able to spend time together to discuss and test about their work and so on. Unfortunately there was no representation from the Balkans, Denmark or Lebanon.

We were able to do testing after the morning Latihans on various themes such as feeling the influence of the heart and mind upon ones receiving, loving and respecting ourselves and each other, using the Latihan to guide us in daily life, feeling the true cultures of the different countries of the zone and so on. 3 women and 1 man were opened during the meeting, all of them from the Ukraine.

Finally we came away with the impression that really good work was done in the time we spent together. The zone managed to achieve a little more cohesion, no easy task given the diversity of its constituents. The kejiwaan side was ever present with the KC's taking more of an active role in conducting personal testing, and the atmosphere of Ramadan permeating the proceedings.

With love and prayers that we may all remain firm in our worship of Almighty God.

Farah
Jorge
Andrew