

# SS Gurujodha Singh Khalsa Bakersfield, CA, USA

## Candidate Statement



### Personal Information

Name:	Gurujodha S. Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Bakersfield, CA, USA
Name of Spouse:	Siri Ved K. Khalsa
Occupation:	Attorney
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	46 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	20 plus
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:	Harrisburg, Broadway, WLA
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Jethadar, Granthi

### Questionnaire

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

I believe in the mission to bring peace and prosperity to the planet through spiritual technology and given my skills, attributes and experience I believe this is excellent venue for me to serve.

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

I am teacher, a martial artist, a sangat member, an attorney that advises the Kern County Board of Supervisors, a SSSC Board member and someone who had the opportunity to serve and learn from the SSS directly. I believe that each of these skills and the attendant experiences individually and collectively, provide me with a good tool set to serve as a SSSC Board member

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

I served as the administrative director of the Broadway Ashram under MSS Krishna Kaur. I am a member of the Khalsa Council. I served as an Assistant Chancellor to the SSS for nine (9) years. I served as the Granthi for the Los Angeles Community for seven (7) years. I served as part of the SSS's personal security team travelling with him to India (3x), South Africa and to many destinations in the United States. I have served as the President of the SSSC during my tenure on this Board.

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

a) Please describe how your personal sadhana and spiritual discipline support you to keep up.

I was blessed to have direct exposure to SSS as part of his personal security team. I was also a resident of LA and served as General Counsel for Golden Temple Foods for 5 years. SSS was always teaching and I believe he is still instructing. In his later years when he used to walk he would sometimes place his hand on my shoulder and guide me where he wanted to walk using me as a quasi-physical support. There are times I can still feel that hand and hear his voice. Sadhana and spiritual discipline are necessary for survival on the planet at this time. My spiritual discipline which includes my martial arts practice is the basis for my life and the source of any small bit of wisdom I may have.

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?

God permeates the entire Universe. Everything and EveryBody. To the extent you can experience this reality you will be God conscious. To the extent you cannot and you are captured by the illusion of duality you will not “know” God.

- a. I apply this saying in my everyday life including service on the Board by realizing that every experience and every statement is God generated and has been presented to me for my growth and spiritual advancement.
- b. Take out worry and anger and know that all things come from God and all things go to God. Every problem has at least 1 solution and that collectively working together there is more “Godstuff” at work and we are capable of great things together.

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

a. The role of the SSSC is set forth in its Mission and Vision statements:

1. Mission Statement of the SSSC

With the guidance of God and the grace of the Guru it is the mission of the SSSC to protect, preserve and cultivate the prosperity of the constituent community and its assets; listen to, serve and elevate the constituent community; support the nonprofit and for profit entities and the family of constituent communities; and live to and hold the values of the teachings of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib and the Siri Singh Sahib Bhai Sahib Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogi Ji: selfless service, compassion, kindness, honesty, integrity, trustworthiness and Guru inspired consciousness.

2. Vision Statement of the SSSC

To Serve, Align, and Grow our Family of Organizations to Uplift All. The key phrase for me is “With the guidance of God and the grace of the Guru...” From both a spiritual and practical level this means to me that the role of the SSSC and its members is to take those steps as given by our teacher to align with the will of God and Guru and have the fortitude to follow-through and execute on that guidance.

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

- a) How you would like to build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) How you will personally deal with the pressure of accountability while

maintaining your spirit of service?

c) How do you traditionally respond in a crisis or high tension situation?

a. To build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC I would recommend SSSC members be assigned to specific regions of the world and visit identified communities in those regions during their term in office.

2. Public meetings at Summer and Winter Solstice. Along with public meetings at other regional festivals (Chile, Brazil, Europe, Germany, Russia etc.)

b. I don't believe accountability and service are incompatible.

c. I breathe

b.

8. The SSSC practices inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life, and

b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?

a. I am an attorney for the County government and I am certified in health care compliance. I have participated in and taught classes regarding inclusion, transparency, and corporate accountability.

b. I would continue to work with Office of EPS and the Office of Dharmic Counsel to insure that our legal and ethical standards remain high and that our practices at every level of the organization remain consistent with best practices.

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 Dharma (Sikh Dharma-3HO and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities)? What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?

b) What skills, tools, and techniques can you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help us move toward the vision you described above?

3HO and Sikh Dharma are only 2 parts of the spiritual infrastructure which support the principal mission of this Dharma which is to create Spiritual Communities. The communities must be self-sustaining therefore there is a need for conscious business; future leaders must be trained therefore there is a need for educational institutions,

therefore the need for MPAs around the world. The teachings must be shared with integrity and accuracy therefore the needs for 3HO, KRI. The Guru must flow through all aspects of the mission therefore Gurdwaras, the ministry and all aspects of Sikh Dharma must be maintained. Just like the Golden Temple these four points of entry: business, schools, yoga centers, and Gurdwara form the four pillars of the spiritual communities that we are charged with creating. The challenge and the solution are the same: to work as one to meet the circumstantial and resource challenges we will face in actualizing specific results on the road to this long term vision. The skill, tools and techniques necessary to serve are fairly standard and straightforward: practice the teachings, read from the Guru, sing God's praises and serve the Sangat. I intend to continue to do all of the above.

10. Board service regularly requires 10 to 20 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 are three Face-to-Face meetings per year (two in New Mexico following the International Khalsa Council Meetings (end of April and end of September) and a third in January or February in Los Angeles or one of our Ashram communities). The Face-to-Face meetings are two days in April and September and three days in January/February. *Note: One day of each Face-to-Face meeting period is always on Monday.*

- 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. In the same manner as I have done for the past 8 years
- c. Flying/Travelling in Coach

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?

N/A