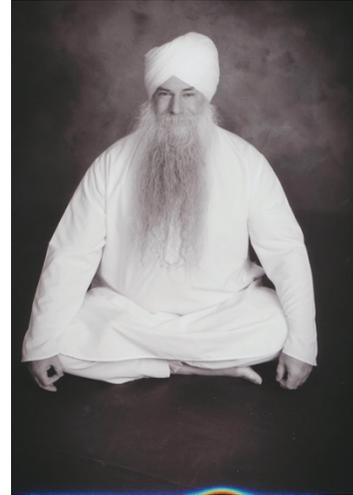


SS Viriam Singh Khalsa
Eugene, OR, USA
Candidate Statement



Personal Information

Name:	Viriam Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Eugene, Oregon USA
Name of Spouse:	Viriam Kaur
Occupation:	Retired
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	48 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	45 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	KRI certified Lead/mentor
Ashram Communities lived in:	Eugene
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	Eugene community council

Questionnaire

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

It is a blessing to help fulfill the vision of the Siri Singh Sahib and to serve the mission of the Guru. I am called to serve this vision and mission.

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

I have several areas of expertise and experience that are assets to the board and larger Dharma:

- 1) Most importantly - I love and strongly believe in the mission of Sikh Dharma and have been in positions of leadership since the early 1980's.
- 2) I have served the current SSSC board since its inception 8+ years ago as Secretary with an established record of dedication and service.
- 3) I work well with groups of people. I managed a work force of 60 employees and chaired many meetings and trainings in this capacity.
- 4) I am used to collaborative work efforts with diverse sets of people, goals and needs. I have worked with many non-profit boards and community entities that serve disadvantaged youth in Lane County. I speak fluent Spanish.
- 5) I have experience working with budgets, administrative rules, hiring, policy development and procedures and various inspectors and monitoring agencies for the past 35+ years.
- 6) I am a person of integrity and by the Guru's grace I have been kept up. I am motivated and enthusiastic about the tasks and mission of the Dharma.

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

First and foremost, I have served on the Siri Singh Sahib Corporation Board (SSSC) since its inception in 2012. Prior to that I was involved in the trial and settlement portion of the UI lawsuit as well as the legal case against the former law firm of Schwabe et al.

I have served the Dharma as an active minister since 1975. I have taught Kundalini Yoga since 1973 and have taught classes for the past 25 years at the University of Oregon. I am currently a lead trainer/mentor with KRI and have done this for the past 25 years. I have served the Eugene Sangat as Executive Secretary of the Eugene Community Council from 1985-2009. I was a member of the Khalsa Council from 1984-1987 and from 2008 onward. I am active in the Eugene Interfaith community and speak regularly to educational and civic groups on Sikh Dharma

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.

By the Grace of God I am the Siri Singh Sahib's student and he is my spiritual father and Teacher. The Siri Singh Sahib gave me the opportunity to meditate and chant to Guru Ram Dass and I have been blessed to obey. Sadhana and my relation to the Guru is the basis of my character, standards and integrity. The Guru has blessed me with a strong discipline and Sadhana. For the past 25 years I have meditated on Guru Ram Dass for at least an hour every day. This practice has gradually impressed the idea of service upon my mind and being. I relate strongly to my father Guru Gobind Singh for strength, character and leadership in all situations. I believe in the Khalsa.

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 is in and of everything and to successfully evolve in consciousness the individual must have the direct experience of this truth. In practical terms, for me, it is to invoke God and Guru in all thoughts, actions and relationships. Time can then build the trust that is why patience is a virtue. The strength of the Siri Singh Sahib Corporation is the joining in spirit and consciousness of the individual into the yoked mission of the Guru and our spiritual teacher. This is Khalsa consciousness. My ongoing prayer for the SSSC board is that we can inspire each other, effectively work towards common goals in an organized way, and collectively serve the mission in an ethical, responsive, conscious, kind and truthful manner, by the Guru's Grace. I expect and experience the board to be practical and spiritual, organized yet open to change, disciplined to the responsibility entrusted upon its members but personally joyful and fulfilling. Ang Sang Whahe Guru.

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 of the SSSC is an evolving one, moving from where we are to the vision presented of the Khalsa by both the Siri Singh Sahib and Guru Nanak Dev through Gobind Singh Ji.

A lot can be said about this but briefly, practically and spiritually the SSSC board members need to embody, in their individual way, the values and personal grit of commitment and experience with the Dharma. SSSC members need to embody the vision and values of the mission.

The role of the SSSC is many things but primarily includes being responsive to the needs and opportunities that face the Dharma. The primary role of the SSSC is leadership/service to both the constituent institutions but also the individual Sangat members.

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?

As an SSSC trustee I am accountable to the Sangat by fulfilling the covenant of trust placed in me by the Sangat, while calling on the connection to my Spiritual teacher, the Siri Singh Sahib, and my Guru.

I can enhance and build connection to the Sangat, through the SSSC, by selfless service and keeping up.

Spirit of service is the means of accountability, to Guru, Teacher and Sangat.

I respond to crisis best by experiencing that the Infinite is with and within me, that my Teacher has taught me well, and that everything I do must speak to the blessings of the Guru.

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?

Having worked in County government, as a public servant paid by tax dollars, I am well accustomed to transparency and accountability. Basically, anything I said or did could potentially end up on the front page of the local newspaper, thankfully this was never in a negative light.

Inclusion, transparency and accountability rest on expressed trust. Expressed trust is maintained by truthful communication, respectful on-going contact(s), and service through hard work and competency. These are some of the elements that can be built into our organizations. It will be a blessing when we can emerge from our present litigious environment.

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?

- a) The greatest challenge is inclusion and preparing ourselves for growth. We were created out of the commitment to mission of our teacher, the Siri Singh Sahib. With his physical passing and our continued growth, it is essential we continue to teach and reach out with our connective core, our common sharing, shared values and our mission.
I believe organization, communication and inspired leadership can meet this challenge.
- b) The second challenge is preparing our youth to take over, with the requisite skills, all aspects of this organization. As a family, we need an organized way to provide support for our youth via mentorship programs, jobs, and opportunities. I have contributed and will continue to do so to provide solutions and support for our youth in this capacity.
- c) The third challenge is financial. We need to create Dharmic businesses that can both provide living wages and support for the Sikh lifestyle for our youth as well as serve the greater community. In turn these businesses need to be profitable to allow some support of our non-profit entities and teaching concerns. Investment and solid leadership are called for in this arena. It would be my priority to propel this process.

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?

My record speaks for itself. I have participated in most SSSC meetings over the past 8 years, in addition to being on several sub-committees. My attendance record is available and is exemplary. I admit it can be a challenge, but I have met that challenge. My challenge serving on the SSSC board has been to remain flexible and open to learning and dealing with the breadth of issues brought before the board for consideration, learning the necessary details and sometimes skills to be effective in areas that are often not my strong suite. I have learned a lot and been blessed by this experience of service to the Guru and contribution to the board.

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, I have no relations serving. My wife – Viriam Kaur, serves as Chair of the Sikh Dharma of Oregon board (unpaid) but that has not been a conflict of interest. If an issue came up where there was a conflict of interest I would recuse myself from the topic at hand.