

ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS (all districts included)

National

Relationships

Lack of connection between National and the branches (many times)

know almost nothing about National or how it operates; limited contact with National

want to feel a part of National

national speakers have almost disappeared

don't know what issues the Board deals with

need face-to-face contact

don't have a sense of how TSA understands & operates its mission, objects, ideals, values

don't know Board's desire for the TSA

must be open in communications and maintain transparency

As a lifetime member, I appreciated the book, but would rather participate & contribute to the TS that I have made a lifetime commitment to

Make members feel welcome & valued

Involve members with knowledge to share

TSA leadership must get out of their ivory tower at least on a quarterly basis & physically visit struggling local groups (spend more time on outreach & less on administration)

A waste of time because the Natl Pres and the Board do whatever they want (X many)

TSA is left wing and we are not supposed to be political (meet tax-exempt qualifications)

Grateful to Kern and Sellon Foundations

TSA doing marvelous job

Much appreciation expressed to Natl for the efforts to solicit membership input (X many)

Do we need a Headquarters and land?

TS emblem should not be replaced by the 3 dots which have significance only in masonry

Policies

Fundraising

expand on funds available

invest heavily in up-dating our camps

establish separate department & professional position for fund-raising

fundraising as an absolute essential goal

members unaware that gifts are tax-deductible

become a vehicle for transformation rather than a fundraiser entity

go back to its esoteric roots, rather than being just another non-profit.

Groups

more national speakers and more teachers (X many)

personal visits from National

need more support of Lodgework from National

revitalize local groups

a physical presence is valuable (our Lodges & Quest publications)

encourage TOS representatives to visit groups

National Structure

no logic for the separation between TSA and TOS

use the 3 objects for direction; no additional "policy"

function of Board of Directors needs to change

TSA still maintains early 20th century model; more emphasis on latest information

choose middle way between TS as a museum or as socially active organization

define TSA communities as "face to face" or "internet"

Focus

be a beacon pointing the way to our evolutionary purpose
primarily collect & maintain resources basic to Theosophical study, & 'market'
their existence & importance to all who have an interest in spirituality
importance of the 3rd object
primary job of the TS – keep the teachings available (X3)
library should have a larger role in TS & outreach
TS is "The Library of Alexandria;" do what is necessary to preserve groups & libraries
must openly acknowledge the Masters of Wisdom
TS culture should not be inundated with intellectuality
continue to enhance presence on Internet

Other

police Internet & misrepresentations on TV (several times)
distance TSA from negative perceptions (remove swastika and the word "occult")
"Suggestion Box" on TSA website

Need for Education / Lack of Awareness of National's Activities

Unaware of lodge and National activities

give away older books in the warehouse
provide 'starter' libraries for lodges and study centers
reach young people by computer
have contact person in each lodge to disseminate info for TOS
branches should become involved with service projects
publish literature in Spanish (brochures and articles)
initiate, promote, and participate in interfaith dialogues
public programs at National do not draw from surrounding areas
create wiki, webcasts/podcasts
more information on Internet
TSA by-laws should be available on website
develop structured financial foundation to encourage lifetime or death gifting
TS too passive; needs activity
make distinction between TS and Theosophical movement
let membership know that dues may be waived or discounted, as necessary
re-establish active prison program
publish a science/spirituality peer-reviewed journal
National or TOS can provide ideas for service activities from which to choose
encourage each to serve in own way

Unaware of the structure of the TS and relationship among various organizations

International and Krotona's leadership are out of touch
open-up and promote the ES
abolish the Liberal Catholic Church
relationship with Chennai is very poor and the presidency has too much power
contribute in spreading branches worldwide
international by-laws should be available on website
merge all Theosophical organizations
too much emphasis on national politics; should give more powers to groups
limiting meetings to members only is unwise
be permitted to follow own practices, but learn additional practices without
having them mandated

Membership / Marketing

A larger & stronger membership base (includes retention)

attract people of color, older baby-boomers, [increase cultural diversity](#) (several times)

[active](#) recruitment and keeping up with current trends

new members discounts (restaurants, etc.)

explore how other organizations (i.e., Mormons) communicate their message; how can we do this gently, without proselytizing?

specific programs for specific age levels (i.e., 20-25)

generate numerical data showing membership trends

[add "tick box" to membership applications giving OK to contact new members](#)

[membership teas](#)

[present Theosophy as a way of life/may help with any life situation](#)

[use modern language; present more than "classical" Theosophy](#)

[strong community lays groundwork for theosophists' children becoming](#)

[difficult to get people to join](#)

[Slipping of TSA membership is a shame](#)

Create a public face through new and creative use of resources

financial resources; use of endowment

attract corporate/foundation attention

officers should do marketing, outreach, and helping to create new study groups (hire

administrator for organizational aspects)

[professional marketing/fund-raising organization](#)

[creative marketing \(catch-phrase, non-profit business, i.e., Paul Newman\)](#)

[membership committee](#)

[be a presence in the community](#)

[identify ourselves as theosophists in service projects \(several times\)](#)

[publicize our service activities](#)

[host public presentations at libraries, universities, etc \(several times\)](#)

[PBS TV presence](#)

[Oprah: Theosophical book suggestions, requests for interviews \(X2\)](#)

[charismatic speakers traveling the country](#)

["heavy hitters" \(years ago had famous actors and dynamic speakers\)](#)

[increase the public's understanding of Theosophy](#)

[develop DVDs about Theosophy, HPB \(X2\)](#)

Publicize

TV

the arts

radio

flyers

ads

advertise camp sites

through other groups

regional and national experiential retreats

Internet and beyond

[public programs with people from National](#)

Colleges

[newcomers' information packet \(digitalized\)](#)

Advertise through "living the life"

[take advantage of opportunities to publicize Theosophy as they arise](#)

[be a living example of Theosophy](#)

[be outgoing and meet new people, inviting them to meetings](#)

[carry a Theosophical book, enticing strangers to ask questions](#)

[get the word out \(several times\)](#)

[extend friendship \(walk the walk of "brotherhood"\) to all who enter our meetings \(X3\)](#)

[we are Theosophy; by our lives Theosophy is demonstrated](#)

Build new lodges and study centers
Provide understanding of the benefits of joining a group
Find ways to “hook” the public (practical applications, not “dry” Theosophy)
We will never be a large organization, but “we are not for everyone” can be an excuse to be inert
Start with topics that draw people; relate to Theosophical teachings.
Include in *What is Theosophy* pamphlet what Theosophy is not

Charge for “friends”

Encourage people “below the radar” (?)

Target young people/children

more work/programs/activities for children/families

identify topics of interest

camps as a destination for YTs

target college and high school students

attract vibrant younger members (getting on the social network was a great move)

develop YT speakers & leaders to attract more YTs

children’s materials for families

teach concepts rather than being academic (no specifics about Theosophy)

web page for seekers of any age.

children’s books with embedded Theosophical ideas

child care at meetings/programs

children’s book contest

give more say to members under 35; older members must recognize that they don't know all

attract younger people through artistic performances (Besant-Hollywood is doing this)

Programming

Expand types of programming

more regional conferences on Theosophical issues to help members-at-large

leadership seminars at regional, federation and national levels

graduate level study

reach out to all economic groups

more programs for the public, the ordinary worker and student

experiential activities at federations and camps

camps used as training centers for new members

teleconferences (permit more interaction than webcasts and more convenient times)

Krotona & Olcott put on “road shows” for groups

mentorship, experienced teachers

Each member create a personal mission statement

Encourage group leaders to develop own study questions

More reading and discussion time needed at TS meetings

Focus on quality of programming

groups need help from National (more materials, ideas, visits as in past) (many times)

greater use of media (i.e., Power Point, computer innovation is appreciated, animation)

excellence in programs without being "slick"

keep programs affordable

develop innovative approaches while not diluting content

use modern language

more study guides with questions and activities that bring topics “to life”

TSA website “user friendly”, “wonderful”

Subjects suggested for programming:

basics (many)
meditation (many)
transformation
science & the latent powers
more emphasis on Theosophy
Theosophical message and way of life
Theosophical classics
Secret Doctrine
brotherhood
spiritual growth; spiritual knowledge
leadership development
therapeutic touch
power of thought

Rudolph Steiner work
meaning of “occult”
peace
love
emphasis on heart wisdom, not academics
experiential mystery school
tattwa and tarot
meaning of Soma
Open Mind, Open Heart DVD
yoga
gong baths
concerts
astrology

Making Theosophy Practical

Service

More TS-sponsored involvement in service and community outreach
change mentality: not just get, but give
cooperate with animal sanctuaries, organic farms and solar and wind energy
lodge involvement in prison work & additional service projects
service projects bring recognition

Do humanitarian work together to bond

TS serves by sharing spiritual ideas; TOS serves through meeting physical needs

Three Objects are service to humanity if members implement them

Serving the TS is serving humanity

Expression through practical action (i.e., visits to nursing homes, healing) (X2)

What can the TSA do to make a better world

Respect the individual paths of those who are not at this moment on a “service path”

Contemporary & Relevant Activities

Make HPB’s knowledge relevant and current

Stop breathing self-important rarified air and become active in creating new knowledge

Make TS more practical, revitalize

focus on current social issues (not history, academics, theory), practical solutions

promote vegetarian diets; demonstrate how to make the transition

Get members politically involved

Demonstrate how to follow the example of the late John Roberts in the Northwest

Suggest that all groups hold peace meditation every meeting; include for America, “See the U.S. come together in unity.”

Collaboration

Be aware/cooperate with/meet with/organize conferences with aligned groups/organizations (many, many times)

Reach out by attending other TS groups (2X)

Promote acceptance of all aligned disciplines with an umbrella organization

Our “uniqueness” often may be translated as a “holier than thou” attitude; guard against (2X)

Suggested organizations with which to collaborate/partner

Gnostics
Anthroposophists
Liberal Catholic Church
Jungian society
Foundation for Conscious Evolution
Institute of Noetic Sciences
Andrew Cohen
Ken Wilber

Crimson Circle
Pioneers College
The Kryon
TS groups & centers around the world
drumming circles and chanting sessions
[other religious traditions](#)
vegetarian groups
yoga & meditation groups

TPH/Literature

TPH

Emphasize core Theosophy through publishing and distributing Theosophical books; Quest books does not do this and Adyar books are not well marketed
TPH books are incredibly important to the TS role in the world
TPH could be a strong asset if its approach were changed
[Develop children's books](#)

Literature

Publish Theosophical articles in non-TS journals addressing issues/challenges of our day
Attract scientists with a peer reviewed, scholarly journal exploring mysticism/esotericism
Create book series, organized by theme, to be made available in sets
Make Theosophy intellectually accessible
update some older literature
[Theosophy is "old" and needs to be modernized](#)
make literature accessible electronically
trim down the 15-letter words
improve the "look and feel" of the core Theosophy documents
no young person has the patience to read current edition of *The Mahatma Letters*
the new study guides are readable; offer more of them – maximum 100 pages
Produce Motion Picture Media (i.e., video about the HPB and the Masters)
[The most important thing we have to offer the world is our core, or source, literature](#)
[Video games that teach Theosophy](#)
[Understand/discuss Theosophy through media other than books \(i.e., art\)](#)

Community

Appreciate having a group of like-minded people with whom to study and explore; camaraderie
Build more interpersonal, inter-organizational and universal relationships
lodge/study center members attend other groups (TS and non-TS)
create system to identify and assist isolated members to connect
study group for new members in addition one for more established members
lodge/study center directory in *Quest*
web-posted speaker/program list, with costs, for all groups
Merge TSA and TOS – service engenders sense of fellowship
Need for belonging can be met with items to show membership (Masons have a variety from which to choose; TS offers only a neck pendant)
[Support inter-group sharing: newsletters, members as speakers, talent pool \(X4\)](#)
[Assist groups to go to retreats/centers together](#)
[Encourage activities that bring members and families into relationship - like an extended family](#)

Employ conflict resolution strategy in groups – handle egos
Encourage compassion, understanding, forgiveness in disagreements
Set up “pen-pal” system
Groups need to feel a part of something greater; currently, there is a sense of isolation

Leadership

Seek out and develop new leaders
Need energizing visionary message, with direct experience to esoteric teaching
More Federation/local/lodge leadership training – a “traveling team”
Prepare leaders with quarterly meetings at Olcott for all group officers (on scholarships), similar to Olcott Experience but more often and repeated.

Comments About the Surveys or the Visioning Process

Self-serving exercise, designed to elicit certain predetermined answers, to further political expediencies
Leading, biased questions that compel agreement & don't lead to meaningful input
Insufficiently prepared to offer suggestions
Thank you to the Board for reaching out to solicit our opinions on the future path for TSA
How can we, at such a distance from HQ, answer questions about how well HQ is doing?

Miscellaneous

I looked at the horoscope of the Society (1875, Scorpio) and feel the year 2010 should be a good one for the TS, with better growth and more enthusiasm shown for the Society overall. The planets Jupiter (the greater benefic) and Uranus (Occultism and Social Contacts) are favorably placed in the organization's horoscope when both will be in Pisces together – in 2010.

Redecorate (feng shui the space)

We are going slowly but at the end, we will find our own light.

Should give more freely in order to move to the forefront, not for media “support” but for the positive ripple effect.

Leaders must come from atypical gene pool of theosophists; transformational practices can encompass the latest trend with our broad encompassing Theosophical base.

We may need therapists based in Theosophy in order to understand our unique unfolding process and its problems. Groups and businesses have someone on site who understands their uniqueness.

There are nascent stirrings of collective consciousness around core principles of the esoteric schools' ancient wisdom, but no one has captured the collective imagination.

If TS looked more like the future that would in and of itself help the future to be borne. And the future is certainly integrated rhythms without all the compartments we experience daily in our lives.

Again, the vibrations are everything.

I do not know what ‘shedding light on the path’ is.

Look into other countries; understand their problems and their efforts to deal with their challenges learn about their successes

Each person is extraordinary; draw them out and discover their talents.

Gear the teaching to the questions being asked

TS cannot be all things to all people for social acceptance

Truth is what we share, not a structure; money is a reward after we do the right thing