

Prout Alliance December 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

 mail.google.com/mail/u/0



Prout Alliance

www.proutalliance.org



The Prout Alliance Quarterly Newsletter:

PA CONNECTION

December, 2022

“You must have a flaming moral purpose so that greed, oppression and exploitation shrivel before the fire in you.”

P.R. Sarkar, Supreme Expression II, p.148

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PROUT ALLIANCE STRUCTURE 2022-2023

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Steering@proutalliance.org

Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Liaison

Dada Maheshvarananda, Steering Committee Member, Prout Research Institute
Founder/Director

Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary, Education Work Group Liaison

John Linkhart, Steering Committee Member, Finance Secretary, Membership
Committee Liaison

Prakash Laufer, Steering Committee Member, Wild Apricot Lead
Administrator/Database Manager

Nina Shapiro, Steering Committee Member, PA Newsletter Editor

Alex Jackimovicz, Steering Committee Member, Deep Activism Working Group
Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Howard Nemon, Committee Chair

membership@proutalliance.org

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Beth Wortzel, Committee Chair

nominations@proutalliance.org

WORKING GROUPS:

Materials Work Group Chair Pro Temp, Natalie Schafer

proutmaterials@proutalliance.org

Education Work Group Chair, Mark Friedman
education@proutalliance.org

Deep Activism Work Group Chair, Alex Jackimovicz

alexjackimovicz@gmail.com

Overcoming Racism and Casteism Workgroup, Prakash Laufer Liaison

prakash.laufer@gmail.com

Basic Necessities Workgroup, Mark Friedman, Liaison

Steering Committee Report:

The Steering Committee sends our heartfelt greetings and thanks to all members and friends of Prout Alliance. As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect on our work this past year and look forward to the possibilities in 2023.

Beyond becoming legally incorporated Prout Alliance with 501c3 nonprofit tax status, we have collectively increased the numbers of our members by thirty percent. We also now have a working vision and mission statement which was approved at the recent Annual Meeting of Members. This year, we worked on creating a functioning database and financial management system. We have also instituted the distribution of a newsletter every three months so that we can all feel connected to each other's work and can support each other as we are able to. We have teams and working groups that meet regularly and two newly formed groups, Basic Necessities and Deep Activism. We added a Steering Committee position, which brings us to 7 instead of 6 members; welcome Alex!

All in all, 2022 has been a very fruitful year for Prout Alliance. We could not do this work without your continued participation and contribution for which we are very grateful.

We look forward to our work together in 2023, as we continue to grow and develop our organization for:

"a world in which every person has a high quality of life, free from exploitation and oppression, supporting physical, mental and spiritual development, while ensuring that the rights of plants and animals are protected".

Submitted by Nada Khader, Steering Committee Chair

Secretary Report:

I am continuing to work on our organizational bylaws.

Steering Committee minutes continue to be posted in Wild Apricot to be viewed by members.

Submitted by Mark Friedman, Steering Committee Secretary

Good News Report:

THE FUTURE HOME OF PROUT ALLIANCE!

Construction continues on the building of the Prout Research Institute in Marshall, North Carolina, 30-minutes by car from the city of Asheville. This photo taken November 18, shows the basement framing is finished, the subflooring is done, and the ground floor framing is going up. The cement posts around the building will support the deck. So far we have raised \$200,000 in our campaign. You can help make this dream a reality by contributing via [PayPal](#), creditcard, or check to The Prout Research Institute (PRI), a nonprofit corporation registered in North Carolina serving North America. It is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization by the United States Internal Revenue Service.

RESEARCH: "The Housing Crisis in America" by Tapan Mallik, Ph.D. This ground-breaking research paper clearly shows the extent and severity of homelessness in the United States, with 580,000 people at the latest estimate, and why it is happening. Most importantly, the paper offers very practical ways how to solve it, including Community Land Trusts, Housing Co-ops, Co-Living communities, government subsidies and financing of affordable housing communities, and changes in zoning laws. Current examples of each one are shown. Finally it outlines Prout's approach to housing. [Download](#) the 9-page pdf.

Another 10-week online course of [TOOLS TO CHANGE THE WORLD](#) will begin on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00-8:30 pm, led by one of the co-authors, Dada Maheshvarananda. Everyone is invited to attend. Send an email to maheshvarananda@gmail.com to get the zoom link.
Submitted by Dada Maheshvarananda



Nominations Committee Report:

- Several issues arose during the voting for steering committee members this cycle.
- First, not all the individual emails with personal codes that assure anonymous voting arrived. It appears the mail server had issues with some people's accounts. Most were resent from a different email server and arrived fine.
- Apologies to those whose request to have them resent did not arrive in time or who simply didn't realize they were missing the code.

The second issue was with the google doc that contained the ballot. Mistakenly it was not sent as a public document, so one had to enter a google account password to access it. Once this was discovered, the access was opened up and, as far as I know, everyone who had this issue eventually voted.

- Lastly, the question was raised as to what is the necessary quorum of total memberships to considering a vote official. I believe the steering committee will clarify this before the next election if there is nothing already in place.

Submitted by Beth Wortzel, Chair

Materials Group Report:

The Materials WG is working with Wilder Nicholson on updating the Prout Alliance website along with Prakash Laufer and the steering committee.

This work includes refreshing the design as well as some of the content.

Submitted by Natalie Schafer, Materials Committee Chair

The Prout Alliance Treasurer's Report:

Prout Alliance Statement of Financial Position

- [Prout Alliance Statement of Financial Position as of 7-21-2022.pdf](#)
 - Click on the link above to download the report shown below
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Prout Alliance
Statement of Financial Position
As of November 21, 2022

| | Total | <i>Notes</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Bank Accounts | | |
| Prout Alliance (5659) | \$5,708.84 | |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$5,708.84 | |
| Total Current Assets | \$5,708.84 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$5,708.84 | |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Total Liabilities | \$0.00 | |
| | | |
| Opening balance equity | \$100.00 | |
| Retained Earnings | \$4,827.06 ^{*1} | |
| Net Revenue | \$781.78 | |
| Total Equity | \$5,708.84 | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$5,708.84 | |

Prepared by Prakash Laufer 11-21-22

**1 Notes - Retained Earnings were earned over the past 3 years since the formation of Prout Alliance (excess of revenue over expenses)*

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- **Prout Alliance Statement of Activity**
 - [Prout Alliance Statement of Activity 11-21-2022.pdf](#)
 - Click on the link above to download the report shown below
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Prout Alliance Statement of Activity
January 1 - November 21, 2022

(Cash Basis)

| | Total |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Revenue | |
| Contributed income | |
| Donations directed by individuals | \$ 4,325.00 |
| Total Contributed income | \$4,325.00 |
| Event Income | \$ 1,675.00 *1 |
| Membership Fees | \$ 1,815.89 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 7,815.89 |
| Gross Profit | \$ 7,815.89 |
| Expenditures | |
| Awards & grants to others | \$ 1,000.00 *2 |
| Contract & professional fees | |
| Legal fees | \$ 365.00 *3 |
| Total Contract & professional fees | \$ 365.00 |
| Events | |
| Food | \$ 680.00 |
| Venue Rental | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Total Events | \$1,880.00 *4 |
| Office expenses | |
| Affin-Pay Fees | \$ 119.48 *5 |
| Loomio | \$ 125.00 |
| Quickbooks | \$ 842.68 *6 |
| Wild Apricot Membership Software | \$ 1,224.00 *7 |
| Total Office expenses | \$ 2,311.16 |
| Partner Support | \$ 1,000.00 *8 |
| Prama Institute Fiscal Sponsor 7% Fees | \$ (22.05) *9 |
| Web Development | \$ 500.00 *10 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 7,034.11 |
| Net Operating Revenue | \$ 781.78 |
| Net Revenue | \$ 781.78 |

Notes

- *1 Registration Fees for Annual Conference & Meeting
- *2 Seedlings for Sovereignty Program Support
- *3 Includes \$275 for 1 time 501C3 Filing Fee & Annual Filing with in MN
- *4 Expenses for Annual Conf / Meeting
- *5 These are the Wild Apricot payment processing fees (like CC or PayPal Fees)
- *6 QB fees paid 7 months & then full year \$538 Paid on 10-27-22.
- *7 Wild Apricot paid for 2 years (15% discount)
- *8 PRI (Prout Research Insitute) Donation
- *9 Refund of overpayment for Prama Insitute 7% processing fees from 2021
- *10 50% payment for Website Redesign - In Process

Prepared by Prakash Laufer

11-21-2022

The PA 2023 Operating Budget is attached for your review.

PA 2023 Operating Budget

| Income | Amount | Notes |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Membership Dues | 2,500.00 | |
| Donations | 1,500.00 | |
| Donation Match | 2,500.00 | To match dues & donations |
| Annual Mtg Reg | 2,500.00 | Annual Mtg |
| In-Kind | 300.00 | Cash Value - In-Kind Donations |
| Income Total | 9,300.00 | |

Expenses

Fees

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Domain Names | 50.00 | Annual - P USA & PA |
| Hosting Website | 60.00 | Annual |
| WildApricot Donation Fees | 200.00 | |
| Corporate Filing Fees | 50.00 | |
| Fee Sub-Total | 360.00 | |

Licenses

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|------------------------|
| WildApricot | 510.00 | Adjusted Annual Fee |
| Quick Books | 594.00 | Annual Fee |
| Zoom | 120.00 | |
| License Sub-Total | 1,224.00 | |
| Events | 2,657.00 | Annual Mtg |
| Projects | 3,000.00 | |
| Website Work | 500.00 | Upgrade |
| Services | 630.00 | Contract Support Staff |
| Contingency Reserves | 479.00 | |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Supplies/Equipment | 150.00 | |
| In-Kind | 300.00 | Cash Value - In-Kind Donations |
| Expense Total | 9,300.00 | |

Proposals for further discussion and consideration for 2023:

Finance Committee: The SC proposes to establish a standing Finance Committee (FC) to: work with the Treasurer regarding PA financial matters; ascertain PA financial capacity to support various proposals (e.g., project funding, etc); do fund raising; establish a Grants cycle for Project Proposals to demonstrate applied Prout & Neohumanism principles by developing P&P about how proposals are submitted, evaluated, awarded, monitored and final reports are filed and reviewed. Once appointed the Chair invites people to serve with her/him – subject to SC approval The Chair will also work with a SC member as a liaison to help facilitate communications between the FC, the SC and others as needed. If you are interested in serving as the Chair or as a member of the FC, please email the address below.

Paid Support Staff: PA faces the Catch 22 of needing paid staff to grow but needs to grow in order to pay staff. So, the SC is exploring the feasibility of retaining professional support personnel at a more substantial level than the 2023 budget currently reflects. The SC welcomes creative solutions to help solve the PA Catch 22 conundrum.

Please feel free to forward any questions or comments you have about the foregoing information and proposed initiatives to: linkhartjohn3@gmail.com

Submitted by John Linkhart, Prout Alliance Treasurer

Deep Activism Work Group Report:

Deep Activism for Proutists Affinity Group Sessions

This new group is a joint effort between the Prout Alliance (PA) and the Alliance for Economic Democracy (AED) that is using a virtual hybrid of presentation, workshop, and discussion group zoom sessions to review Deep Activism materials prepared for Proutists developed by Alex Jackimovicz (co-founder of the AED). The group (now having 24 people interested in participating in the sessions) will be going through the greater body of Deep Activism materials developed over the past six years. These materials are resources under development to make activism more strategic, and greater in scope integrating the internal shifts along with the revolutionary goals and ideology that are necessary for activists and organizers to become the change we want to see in the world. A large debt is owed to PR Sarkar who inspired much of the material, which is very much a fleshing out of various ideas he had into the practical and personal realm of activism and organizing for a better world, along with original content. The sessions began on November 8th and will continue twice monthly through Spring of 2023. For more information on the Deep Activism affinity group sessions, please contact Alex Jackimovicz at alex.jackimovicz@gmail.com

Submitted by Alex Jackimovicz, Deep Activism Group Chair

Education Work Group Report:

Monthly Education Series:

The Education Workgroup continues to schedule high quality monthly Zoom presentations by experts in their fields, on topics important to Proutists and other activists.

On November 10 Steve Phillips presented on the remarkable work done he has done with his team developing a local food system in Maui. His businesses include local food distribution, healthy food products, and a farmer's market. Look for videos of this and previous presentations at www.proutalliance.org

Coming up on Saturday, December 10, Shiraksha Mohan will head a panel discussing the Impacts of Climate Change.

Coop consultant Shawn Berry will discuss Worker Cooperatives in January; date still to be determined.

Register for all events at www.proutalliance.org

Submitted by Mark Freidman, Education Work Group Chair

Upcoming Events, Classes, Training:

Spiritually Speaking Club

Do you ever feel difficulty explaining Prout and your spiritual practices and ideas to others? Do you have trouble inspiring others to help change the world? Do you feel nervous when speaking to an audience? Would you like to improve your ability to communicate, encourage, and empower others?

Every week we will listen to short prepared speeches and practice giving brief impromptu answers to frequently asked questions. The feedback you will receive will be both supportive and give you specific ways to improve. You will learn to speak more confidently to a large crowd as well as reach out one-on-one to someone you just met. The trainers are Dada Maheshvarananda and Dada Jyotirupananda.

When: The club will meet on two different days at different times to facilitate people participating from different countries.

Choose the day and time that you can join:

- 1) Saturday 8:00-9:30 am EST every week.
- 2) Tuesday 7:00-8:30 pm EST every other week, with alternating weeks in Spanish.

Register: Everyone is welcome to join the club with a single annual donation according to your capacity. Please donate US\$ 40, US\$ 80, or whatever you can afford.

SAVE THE DATE:

JAN 11, 2023

FIRST QUARTERLY PA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8-9 PM EASTERN TIME

5-6 PM PACIFIC TIME

DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON



Photo by Chris Montgomery