

CCC Meeting Oct 29 2013

Facilitator: Kate F

Attendees: Kate F, Jen W, George H, Mike M

Note taker: GeorgeH

Next Meeting: Will be as part of Annual Meeting on November 16, 2014.

Mindful Meeting Guidelines were reviewed

Kate's proposed agenda was reviewed, and the CCC decided to first discuss the fall Retreat Report, and then prepare the Annual Meeting Agenda, including additions offered in email by Mike Milberger.

1. 2013 Fall Retreat Report – George H distributed a two-page report. Highlights included:

- 26 attendees, including (4) 1-day commuters. All but 2 had been on LRS retreats in past
- Members of the new WVA sangha visited for part of Sunday
- Jonathan Robison received the 5 Mindfulness Trainings
- Chan Huy spoke strongly to the theme, *Peaceful Action, Open Heart*, and the retreat was considered to be deep and nourishing. Chan Huy said it was the best LRS retreat yet.
- Preliminary financials showed Expenses of \$7664 - including a proposed total dana to Chan Huy of \$1300 (he received \$300 cash at the retreat) – exceeded Income of \$5925 by \$1739, similar to fall residential retreats in the past.

Dana for Chan Huy was discussed, and the CCC agreed to set it at \$1500 and get the money to him since we had lowered it for the Spring retreat down to \$1200, from \$2000/retreat in 2012. We also agreed that Dana must be discussed at the Annual Meeting **** **George H to communicate this to Bill Meoni, who will wire Chan Huy the additional \$1200.**

JenW asked that Finance Committee prepare a report for the CCC to show how this compares to previous retreats, especially as it relates to counting of Scholarship funds. **GH to handle with Bill M.**

LauraL and Michael S asked if we can/should reserve Kearns for Fall 2014. Kearns has advised that October is already booked and only Nov 13-16, and Nov 20-23 were available. Although questions exist about future residential retreats (see agenda below), the CCC decided to authorize a deposit of ~\$100 to hold the Nov 13-16th weekend. **George H to let Laura L know immediately.** (Author's note: this has been accomplished and Kearns is holding those dates for LRS).

2. Annual Meeting Agenda

CCC will provide the AM Facilitator(s) with logistic materials as needed (easel, notepaper, scribe w/ laptop, anything hosts or facilitators need). Originally George H was planning to facilitate, and stated that he would advise the CCC. (Authors Note: George H declined, and Denys Candy will now facilitate).

Red P offered to bring her easel used at retreat, but which does not have a flip chart. George to assist Denys in getting a flip chart.

Agreed upon Agenda items include those offered in email by George H and Mike Milberger:

- **Fall Residential Retreats** – do we need them, can we afford them? Would subsidized funds better serve expanding the dharma with public outreach events and more Days of Mindfulness?
- **Retreat Committee Structure** – should this be a Standing Committee, or otherwise structured to reduce stress and increase outcomes in preparing retreats?

- **Dana** –The \$2000/retreat dana offered to Chan Huy in 2012, and even \$1500/retreat, appears unsustainable unless retreat incomes (including dana collected on retreats) increase. Interest exists also for other use of sangha funds, such as in more outreach or monastic support. RedP proposed that some type of annual dana “pledge” program could be developed, including the option for automatic monthly donations from a member’s checking account. George noted that BillM can already facilitate such an option.
- **Visit by BlueCliff Monastics in August 2014** - are we interested, and can we commit resources to achieve this? BlueCliff is asking for 2-3 days so that they might stop-over in Pittsburgh in route to planned retreats in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. Some site seeing plus DOM.
- **Potential for different Dharma Teachers** for our retreats; would someone new, perhaps a female teacher, help increase retreat attendance?
- **Increased Ecumenical and Intra-tradition (Buddhist) event participation** ala LRS’ participation in this year’s International Day of Peace gathering..
- **Potential Communications/Public Outreach Committee.**
- **Applied Buddhism** – should the sangha engage in, or speak to, any specific social justice issue?
- **Semi-Annual Meeting** – some interest exists to have 2 All-Member Meetings per year, vs a single Annual Meeting, to allow for more in-depth discussion on complex and longer term issues

Originally, as facilitator for the Annual Meeting, GeorgeH planned to prepare an Agenda based on the above, and also seek out any additional proposals from the sangha November 14th. **Author’s Note: The CCC will meet with Denys Candy** early the week of November 11 (either in person or by conference call) to finalize an Agenda.

CCC must prepare its own Year-End Report/Summary. **RedP will take these two items on.**

The CCC seeks written reports from all standing Committees to be available for presentation, by the Committee chairs, at the Annual Meeting. **KateF will follow-up the Committees for these reports.**

Jilda Apone emailed LauraL asking if more chanting and music, as experienced on the retreat, could be added to our Tuesday evening meetings, at least on a monthly basis. The CCC agreed that this would be referred to the Practice Council rather than become an Annual Meeting item. *****Red P will handle.**

3. Carry over items from last CCC meeting:

- Financial report overview for Sangha members: **GeorgeH is working on it.** (Authors note: a preliminary report was emailed to the CCC members on Nov 5. If satisfactory, it will be presented at the Annual Meeting.)
- Invitation to host Bluecliff Monastic Tour in August 2014. See 2nd item Annual Meeting Agenda.
- Keeping Dharma teachers on topic and Alternate Dharma teachers for retreats. This topic had been brought before by MikeM. MikeM reiterated his belief that having some alternate Dharma teachers besides Chan Huy, particularly perhaps a woman teacher, might attract new attendees to our retreats and offer a different perspective. RedP suggested that this discussion needed to go beyond the CCC and have broader sangha input. **MikeM will speak on this** at the Annual Meeting Agenda.
- Books MikeM has from JoanneS via KatieH - The CCC agreed that Mike should bring copies of these books to several Tuesday night gatherings and offer them free to all. **MikeM will also put a note out via listeserv to the sangha.** (Author’s note: this is in progress; an email has been sent by MikeM and books are available on Tuesday’s in November.)

4. Tax Status – KateF suggested that the sangha post a very short statement of its understanding of the tax status of a donation to the Sangha (“we are a religious organization, and therefore contributions are tax deductible”) so we have something to easily refer to when this issue comes up. **KateF will follow up** on previous guidance given on this by a former sangha member who is an attorney.

5. CCC Members Parting

A sad note: KateF, JenW and RedP advised that they will not remain on the CCC for 2014. Was it something George said??? Kate had three years on the committee, and wishes to consider other opportunities with the sangha. Both Red and Jen advised that family issues, particularly with their parents, will be demanding in 2014 and they need to be free to respond to those needs.

GeorgeH stated that he will stay on the CCC. The regular meeting time and location may change pending availability of new volunteers. **A call will be put out by GeorgeH at the Annual Meeting, and to the sangha via an email for new members.**