

CCC Meeting 2/26/2013

5:15-6:45 Aladdin's Eatery, Squirrel Hill ♦ Attendees: George H, Kate F, Jen W, Red, David B ;
Jen W facilitated the meeting. Notes taken by George H.

Agenda:

- Committee Up-dates
- Up-date on Volunteer Needs
- Sangha Socials – How to Engage?
- Financial Status and Sustainability
- Next meeting schedule, topics and location

Committee Up-Dates:

- *Practice Council* (Red, Bill Meoni, and Deborah Brooks)
 - *Monthly email reminder* to Facilitators of schedules and suggested themes (fitting with Chan Huy eTalk). **1st Email sent out by Bill**, Feb 26 for March.
 - *Walking Meditation*. PC Recommendation: Tuesday Facilitators suggest a “Middle Way” between LRS’ traditionally slower, more individual focus walking and the more Sangha “mala” guidance from Chan Huy. One step with each breath, yet also walking in mindfulness of entire sangha, maintaining space behind person in front of us. Be comfortable, gentle with the guidance.
 - *Days of Mindfulness* – Deborah had offered to check with the Nuin Center for potential of a full-day DOM; 1-2 per year. Given Deborah’s mother’s health, suggestion was to have Michael handle. **George H will ask Michael for that.**
 - *Half-Day DOM’s* and/or other “Tea & Chan Huy” volunteers . At the Annual Meeting, George had offered to support such events (tech needs etc) bi-monthly when not acting as overall Organizer for CH Talks. *Status:* **George will solicit interest** (via Listserv) for the March 23rd eTalk, and then again in the fall. In April, he is overall Organizer, as also in June; Chan Huy’s May etalk is live from our Retreat.
 - Red asked about *Lateness Protocol* – do we need any action? Consensus at CCC was that Tony’s occasional emails on this (“Mindful Manners”) seems to be working. No action.
- *Member Care* (Michael S, Martha, Deb Guassman) - No report at this time.

Volunteer Needs:

- *Website*. Red asked if Bill still needed assistance. Both George and Kate have offered Bill support. He presently seems to be handling it; recently updated homepage to reflect our May retreat. No action now, but perhaps should be raised again if a more pro-active effort is desired on optimizing the website as a sangha-member use tool, or for sharing the Dharma.
- *Tuesday Opening & Closing* – David reported these seemed to be OK. Pat C is good with Opening. David is closing along with Dawn. **Kate will double check with Dawn about her need for an alternate.**
- *Retreat Committee* – George reported that Michael S feels comfortable with team (Tony, Laura, & George) but has also reached out the Sangha via listserv (Feb 22) for more volunteers. Michael has confirmed Nuin Center and is preparing a budget.

- *Sangha Socials* – Kate put out the request for hosts via the Listserv (Feb 3) but has not had any response. Various ideas were discussed, also noting the challenges for some folks to step up. **Kate agreed** to put out another email, **and George said** that he would approach Deb Gausman, and Bonnie, both of whom had previously expressed the value in Socials for getting to know each other.

Finance Status:

- *Committee Report* - Bill M was not able to attend. George distributed the Finance Committee report from the Annual Meeting. As noted there, the net loss from the 2012 Residential retreat (-\$2124) was roughly equal to the Sangha's then present balance of \$2326 (Nov 2012). *Note:* Current LRS Account balance as of Feb 27 is \$3044.
- *Chan Huy's Dana* - David asked why and how the decision had been made to increase Chan Huy's stipend on the Oct 2012 Retreat from \$1000 to \$2000. Kate said that this decision was made within the prior CCC to a request by Michael S – and, that it was not locked in as a commitment; it could be negotiated. Michael had put forth that since Chan Huy would be spending a full week in Pittsburgh in October, for Dharma outreach outside of the retreat, that we should help compensate for that. Chan Huy's visit to Slippery Rock University did net \$400, but other local groups served during his visit could not provide funds.
- Red and David suggested that we should consider Chan Huy's non-retreat-related activities during his retreat visits as separate, with Dana not coming out of the Retreat budget. Whoever coordinates/promotes those non-retreat actions would seek some payment for them from the communities served, and/or perhaps make a special appeal to Sangha members to support this Dharma sharing effort. **This topic will be continued** at the next CCC meeting.
- Kate noted that Michael S had also stated at the Annual Meeting that he would be creating a special appeal to the sangha members, for support of BlueCliff. **George committed** to getting financial expense items, by category, for the CCC by next meeting, including the funds sent for BlueCliff. Kate also asked if Finance could provide analysis of residential retreat costs on a per- day basis; could we start retreat Friday morning rather than have an overnight on Thursday, and lower our costs. **George will ask for this with Bill and Laura.**
- Jen opened a conversation on Finance from a new “frame” of reference, focusing not so much on “the money” as on how the LRS finances are a tool *to bring value* to our own Practice (Tuesday nights facility/library, etc) but also to sharing the Dharma more broadly via retreats and in support of monastics. A healthy discussion ensued, and will continue at the next CCC.
- Jen also suggested that we could promote the idea of members donating annually, or semi-annually by check, which offers them a tax receipt for Charitable deductions. It could also help bolster our Dana, as often members leave on Tuesday night not remembering to drop money in the basket. **To be taken up by ??? Finance?**

Next Meeting

- March 26th, 5:15 at Alladins. (Note: David just requested moving to April 9th).
- Key Topic – Chan Huy's relationship with LRS; how do we view his work outside the retreats during his visits to Pittsburgh, and what individual and/or Committee within the Sangha should be coordinating that?