

CCC Meeting 07/30/2013

**Facilitator:** Kate Fissell

**Attendees:** Kate F, Red P, Jen W, David B, George H, Natalie Neal, Mike Milberger

**Scribe (note taker):** George H

**Meeting Place:** Alladins, Sq. Hill 5:15-6:45 p.m.

**AGENDA:**

**Old Business:** a) Approval of Previous Minutes; b) Posting of prior CCC minutes to LRS website and Yahoo Group; c) Booking of 2014 Spring Retreat; d) Chan Huy's Dana from 2013 Spring retreat; e) Appeal to Sangha re Dana; f) Dana "talking points" for Facilitators; g) Forming of Fall Retreat committee; h) Sangha Finances re Fall retreat deposits; i) Sangha Social.

**New Business:** a) Ohio Prisoner Group email; b) Greater PV Community Theme; c) BCM Fall 2014 Tour request; d) Mike Milberger Concerns re Chan Huy for retreats; e) Next Meeting

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**Old Business:**

- a) June Minutes – Kate asked for Approval of her submitted Minutes. **Decision:** All Approved. **Kate will finalize** and send to George for posting on LRS website & Yahoo Group.
- b) Prior Minutes Postings – All 2013 CCC Minutes are now in the "Reports/Minutes" Section of the "Members Area" (left frame on Homepage) on the LRS Website. To view these, a sangha member must click on "Members Area", then fill in the Login **laughingrivers** and password **XXXXX**. The Minutes are under CCC in the Reports/Minutes tab. **NOTE: George will send an email** to the sangha re Minutes and these Login instructions. IF A MEMBER REALLY WANTS TO SEE MINUTES, going to the LRS website will be the easiest approach (see notes below re Yahoo).  
Re Minutes on our LRS Yahoo Group, George established a CCC Folder in the "Files" Section of the Group, and placed all 2013 Minutes. To access the Files section, and the folder, a sangha member must have a Yahoo Profile (no charge) *and* also be a full member in our Yahoo Group (i.e. they responded in the past to an "Invite" by Dawn). NOTE: Notice of CCC Minutes have been sent to the sangha – with attachments – in the past, BUT the attachment resides on the Yahoo Group; some folks may not be able to open it *if* they are not a full member ala "Invite" by Dawn. **No Action** required.
- c) Spring 2014 Retreat – Nuin Center is booked for May 15-17, and a deposit has been paid.
- d) Chan Huy Dana for Spring Retreat - Chan Huy was informed of our \$1200 decision/reasons etc, and Bill Meoni wired him the \$1200. Chan Huy responded with understanding and appreciation.
- e) Appeal to Sangha re Dana – George sent an email to LRS listserv with an Appeal. Per Bill Meoni, he has not had responses. George did hear from Patricia Thompson (Dayton Ohio) would attended our 2012 fall retreat and who wanted to send a check. George thanked her and gave her mailing instructions.
- f) Dana Talking Points for Tuesday Facilitators – George drafted some points and David edited. These points have not been issued to Facilitators. **David will review with Jen**, who had previously offered to "take a final look" and then David will distribute to the Facilitators.
- g) Fall Retreat Committee – The committee has been formed, a Theme chosen, and Promo flyers and notices are going out this weekend. The Committee is roughly on schedule. Biggest challenge is securing a caterer, and our mainstay caterer is out of the US. **No action needed by CCC.**

- h) Sangha Finances Sufficient for Fall Retreat Deposits? - short answer, Yes. The LRS Checking balance is roughly \$3800, which should be OK going into the retreat. CCC members requested that the Finance Committee provide a Financial Status to sangha members in some format that can help members understand how/where funds are received and disbursed. **George will ask Bill Meoni to prepare.**
- i) Sangha Social - Natalie and husband Bob offered a great Social on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Sadly the turnout was small, especially for such a beautiful day, but the hospitality, food, facilities and fellowship were wonderful (author's editorial, from one who attended). A big thanks to Natalie & Bob!

***New Business:***

- a) Kate discussed a letter Deb Brooks received from prisoners in an Ohio Correctional facility who are interested in support for Buddhist training, materials, outreach. Likely the prisoners were sending this to several sanghas. Deborah asked the CCC to handle. Kate stated that Tony Silvestre also brought this up, and that he would be willing to engage if no one else picked this up. **Kate will contact Tony.**
- b) Greater PV Community Theme – Kate proposed that Tuesday sangha facilitators might take up a theme related to Blue Cliff and the greater Plum Village Community as many new LRS members may not be aware of the larger Sangha. This would be an extension on our recent “Sangha Awareness” theme by facilitators. **Red offered to review** the present Facilitators Schedule to see when might be a good time. **Subsequent notes from Red:** *“So perhaps October would be a good month to do this, since some of our CCC members are scheduled to facilitate that month. It would be right after our retreat with Chan Huy, which might be a good time to introduce it (when folks are still feeling the benefits of being on retreat and deepening our practice together as a community). I know George is excited about offering some video on this topic, and perhaps we could find a way to squeeze Michael S. into the mix that month as well for his contribution.”* N.B. At the 2012 Annual Meeting, Michael S had proposed to lead a fundraising drive for Blue Cliff.
- c) 2014 Fall Tour by Monastics from BCM – Blue Cliff Monastery (BCM) has asked Pittsburgh to be a part of its fall 2014 Midwest Tour, which includes Columbus, Ohio, Ann Arbor and Lansing, Michigan and Chicago. This is a tour of 8 monastics (4 monks & 4 nuns) to assist sanghas with DOM's, 3-day retreats, and generally introducing this other part of our 4-Fold Community. At issue is: A) Would this replace our regular fall retreat? B) Do we have the financial and physical resources to support such an effort, including supporting the return leg of the tour (6 weeks later) through Slippery Rock, PA for a mini Wake Up tour there?  
Discussion: All in attendance thought this could be a great opportunity to help open the relationship with BCM, which has been desired for some time. Kate cautioned that the whole sangha should be surveyed on this; even if the CCC is interested, *we must know* if we have a broad support & **commitment.** **Author's Note:** Subsequent to the CCC meeting, George informed the OI and Aspirants on this. Many responded positively. Tony had serious concerns and questions. **George is meeting** with Tony on Aug 8 to clarify and will report back.
- d) M Milberger Concerns: - Mike Milberger shared some concerns/suggestions he has regarding our retreats and the dharma teachings not being as fluid and connected with the theme set forth by the retreat committee. This was discussed briefly and Mike was thanked by the group for sharing his concerns. We will discuss this further at future CCC meetings to figure out how to address the issues brought forward.
- e) Next Meeting: - September 10<sup>th</sup> at Alladin's – 5:15 pm