

Meeting Notes
Annual All-Sangha meeting
Wet Mountain Sangha
January 1, High Noon, 2009, 999 Fortino

Present: Donna Mack, David Cockrell, Jan Meserve, Merrilee Barnett, Darryl Murphy, Tracy Foltz

First of all, many praises and many thanks were given to Jan Meserve, 2008 Steering Committee chair, and 2007 Change Your Mind Day Chair. Jan has worked tirelessly (and sometimes alone) for the sangha's benefit, and everyone present was most appreciative. Jan is set for some extended travel to India and other places in 2009 and is stepping down as Steering Committee chair. Thanks Jan!

Tracy Foltz was unanimously elected Steering Committee chair for 2009. Congratulations and thanks to Tracy for taking on this important leadership role for the sangha. As Linda Stone was off on a family visit in California, an anecdotal treasurer's report suggested that our current balance is about \$1,100 with no outstanding bills. It was agreed that a rainy day fund of \$600 should be retained at all times, because it probably will rain at some point.

Program Stream (Merrilee Barnett): Highlights of the discussion regarding WMS program for 2009 included the following:

- We reaffirmed our interest in **full-day sittings** for the year February 14, May 9, and August 8. This schedule needs to be communicated to Sarah Bender, however, and is contingent upon her availability. (Subsequently, Kate confirmed the Feb. 14 date with Sarah).
- We would also like to work with Sarah to hold our first **weekend retreat**, November 14 and 15, if she is interested and willing. We acknowledged the request from Sarah to visualize our relationship with her for this year. In addition to the incredibly valuable full-day sittings, the weekend retreat feels like the next form of deepening we would like to engage in.
- We affirmed our interest in a **full-day workshop in Pueblo with Joan Sutherland**, probably April 5. David will communicate this interest to Joan to confirm.
- **Leader training and refresher workshops** will be held January 11 and February 8, 10:00 am – 12:00. All leaders are encouraged to attend, as this is our chance to work together to enhance the consistency of our leader practice and share our experiences and challenges of leading. The Feb. 8 workshop may need to be rescheduled, depending on the times of Precept Study Groups in Colorado Springs. We are probably in need of a few more leaders at this point.
- The **dharma study group** (Buddhism Without Beliefs) will continue to meet on the 4th Saturdays, 10:00 – 12:00 for the next few months.

Zendo Stream (Darryl Murphy):

- The group decided to buy a new altar. A motion was approved to budget up to \$200 for the purchase. Darryl will work with Leticia Thurman to try to find a suitable altar, even if it needs to be refinished before it can be used.
- A decision was made to try to acquire a temple bell (densho), although no budgetary allocation was approved (\$100 was mentioned). David volunteered to inquire further into the bells that were available at *Art on Main* in the summer. If anybody has additional ideas, they will be welcomed.
- Acquisition of a new sutra bell and Buddha were not agreed to. We will continue to roll these ideas around on our tongues and see how they taste for awhile longer.

- A discussion was initiated concerning the “walls of the zendo”, i.e. the relationship of the sitting space to the remainder of the church, and appropriate protocol for entering and leaving, chair arrangement, walking meditation paths, etc. This conversation will be continued at the leader trainings on Jan. 11 & Feb. 8.

Dorcy Center Stream (Doug Messner):

- It was reaffirmed that we should enthusiastically encourage new and relatively new members to consider participation and leadership at the Cancer Center for Monday night sittings. This is the Bodhisattva work of the sangha and a great opportunity for relatively new folks to engage in compassionate service.

Communication Stream:

- The group hoped that Kate Jarrett will continue to coordinate sangha communications. An important aspect of this is to establish better communication with Springs Mountain Sangha, and especially with Sarah Bender. We need better communication with the SMS Steering Committee (perhaps a steering committee liaison), focusing on schedule issues and retreat planning.
- We also need to maintain updated sangha email and mailing lists, with Tracy, David, Kate and others having up-to-date versions of the lists. (David will work on this one right away).
- Darryl Murphy will be taking over as webmaster in the next month or so, and the website will continue to be our primary convenient source of updated information on upcoming events and issues. Darryl wants to include a calendar in the website.
- We currently have no newsletter and have not maintained a WMS section of the SMS newsletter. However, many felt that distribution of the SMS Dharma Rag to our members would be a good addition to our communications.