

Wet Mountain Sangha Steering Committee Meeting August 21, 2009

Present: Tracy Folz, Adam Harrison, Jacob Barger, Jan Meserve, Kate Jarrett, Leticia Thurman, Merrilee Barnett, Doug Mesner, Diane Mesner, David Cockrell

We had a discussion of the need for leaders to get to the zendo earlier. 5:20 seems to be the appropriate time. We need people to sign up as greeters. Greeters should help with set-up. Leaders need to be mindful of signing up for leadership and then following through. We reaffirmed the value of the densho bell. Some mixed feelings about the quality of our bell, but the attitude seemed to be mostly positive.

It was also reaffirmed that we have leader trainings more often. It was decided to hold leader practice each first Wednesday for a half hour.

David reported his conversation with Sarah about reinstating our full-day sittings. We decided to go ahead with a full-day sitting on Saturday, October 31—Halloween. We need to reserve the Center for the day. There was some discussion of weekend retreats and it was decided to hold off at least Spring before we try one. We reaffirmed that we will have quarterly full-day sittings regularly, and if the teachers are not available we will go ahead with a lay-led retreat.

Dorcy Center: Linda and Doug described the need for more sangha involvement in the Dorcy Center group. A sheet was passed around and SC members signed up to help on Monday nights. SC members will need to coordinate with Doug & Linda to decide whether they lead alone or with a regular Dorcy group member.

Zendo policies: We don't have to replace chairs on Wed. but we do need to replace them on Sat. (We need to check this one more time.) It is important to make sure swamp coolers are off and all windows are closed when we leave. In the winter, we need to be sure to turn the thermostat back to the auto setting. There was much discussion about reinstating tea after the Wednesday sitting. One idea was for the greeter to lead a migration to the basement, and the cushions will NOT be put away before tea.

There was a discussion of the scholarship fund. The policy as formulated by Tracy was affirmed: 1) We will fund 50% of the cost of a retreat; 2) Any event in the Open Source tradition is fair game; 3) We will try to fund requests before they go to SMS. It was decided that the SC chair, the meditation instructor, and the finance committee chair will be the scholarship award committee.

Seven day retreat Oct. 11-18. Koan Seminars will begin on Sundays in September with Sarah. Sundays at the river with Jan will go on for the next 2 Sundays.

The group spent some time sharing updates to our lives.