

Albuquerque Vipassana Sangha

Minutes of Membership Meeting -- 28 October 1999

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The meeting began at about 6:55 pm at Adelante Development Center following a twenty minute meditation sitting. Approximately 14 members of the sangha were present, including all members of the Board of Directors except for Judith Kidd and Mel Schneider. The meeting was facilitated by Kathryn Turnipseed and Suzanne Kryder, who started the meeting with a brief discussion of procedural "ground rules". All decisions were made by a consensus of the sangha members present at the meeting.

Reports to the sangha

Tax-exempt status

Stanley ("Sandy") Lee gave a brief report on progress on obtaining tax-exempt status for the corporation. He said that he would be meeting in the next few weeks with Mary Anne d'Arcangelis, the student at the UNM Law Clinic who is currently handling our legal business. For corporations with annual revenues of less than \$10,000, the IRS requires a \$150 fee to process the tax-exempt application. After some discussion, it was agreed that Sandy would organize a small fund-raising effort among members of the sangha interested in making contributions to cover the filing fee. The sangha felt that this would be an appropriate way to raise the money, since the principal advantage of obtaining tax-exempt status is allowing members to deduct contributions to the sangha, and this advantage is only of interest to sangha members who itemize their deductions.

Treasurer's report

Tamara Saimons reported that she currently has about \$200 in general sangha funds, plus an additional \$500 check from Mark and Betsy VanLeit which is earmarked for the scholarship

fund. In addition, Bonnie Kelly said that she has about \$375 in general sangha funds, and Suzanne Sluizer said that she has about \$25 in general sangha funds. Thus, the sangha currently has a total of about \$600 in general funds and \$500 in scholarship funds.

Tam proposed that she establish a savings and checking account at the New Mexico Federal Educator's Cooperative for the sangha, with the savings account to be used for scholarship funds and the checking account to be used for general funds. After discussion, the sangha agreed with this proposal, and authorized the Board to decide low-level details about the accounts, such as whose names would be on the accounts. (The Bylaws require that all checks written on a sangha account have two signatures.) After more discussion, the sangha agreed to authorize the Board to make small expenditures of up to \$50 per item on its own, without having to get the sangha's explicit approval. An explicit exception to the \$50 limit was made for rent payments, which can be made as necessary.

Teacher selection

Sandy was asked to give a report on the Santa Fe sangha's progress in the area of finding a new teacher, following the departure of Eric Kolvig. However, he had nothing to report, as he has not been in touch with anyone in Santa Fe regarding the teacher search.

Sangha needs

Committees

The sangha discussed the need for establishing some committees to handle ongoing needs of the sangha. Four committees were set up, as follows.

Location committee

A location committee is needed to handle relations with whomever we are currently renting our meeting place from, which at the moment is Adelante. Fred McEnroe reported that the Unitarian Church has almost completed its current construction project, and has requested a meeting with representatives of the sangha in November, before Thanksgiving, to discuss the possibility of the sangha returning to the Church for its Thursday night meetings.

Members volunteering to serve on the location committee were:

Fred McEnroe
Anthea Mawby
Sandy Lee

Education committee

An education committee is needed to schedule speakers and other activities for the Thursday night meetings, as well as organizing classes in beginning meditation. Joan

Granger and Fred McEnroe are planning to offer a series of beginner's classes starting in around January. Maggie Seeley volunteered to help schedule speakers for Thursday nights, as Suzanne Sluizer, who has been getting our speakers, will be going out of the country starting in December.

Members volunteering to serve on the education committee were:

Joan Granger
Fred McEnroe
Laura Putney
Tam Saimons
Maggie Seeley

Retreats committee

A separate committee is needed for organizing retreats that the sangha may wish to sponsor.

Members volunteering to serve on the retreats committee were:

Will Arthur
Zina Geller
Bonnie Kelly
Suzanne Kryder
Anthea Mawby
Laura Putney
Tam Saimons

Finance committee

A finance committee was proposed to assist the treasurer in investigating the best methods for the sangha to manage its financial affairs. For example, it may be desirable at some point to move some of the sangha's money into higher returning and/or socially conscious investments.

Members volunteering to serve on the finance committee were:

Will Arthur
Sandy Lee

Upcoming meetings

Frequency of membership meetings

After some discussion, the sangha reached a consensus that, for now at least, "official" membership meetings should be held about once every four months. The Board was requested to

consider the issue of specific dates and times for the next meeting, which will be held in February.

No meeting on Thanksgiving

The sangha decided that the regular Thursday night meeting will *not* be held on Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving).

Selection of new Board member

Board member and president Kathryn Turnipseed announced that she will be leaving the Albuquerque area in December and moving to New York State. The Bylaws provide that a replacement Board member shall be elected by the members of the sangha. It was agreed that an election for a new Board member will be held at the Thursday night meeting on December 2, and that sangha members will be notified of the upcoming election by mail or e-mail (see **Membership and mailing lists**, below).

Membership and mailing lists

Sandy gave a report on the status of the new membership and mailing lists. The starting point for the new lists was an old mailing list of about 127 people that originally came from Colin Selleck. About 20 people have been dropped from the list, either because they requested it or their phone numbers are no longer valid. Approximately 40 people are on the "active members" list so far, as a result of a request or response to an earlier telephone call. Most of the remaining people are "unknowns"; we don't know whether their information is correct or whether they wish to remain on the list.

Since we plan to notify people about the December 2 meeting to elect a new Board member, it was decided to use this mailing to try and resolve the status of the 60 or so unknowns. Sandy agreed to have the mailing ready by November 23. People on the list will be asked whether they wish to remain on the list, and also whether or not they want their name released to other organizations who request our mailing list from time to time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

* * * * * Stanley Lee, secretary * * * * *