

AGENDA

Albuquerque Vipassana Sangha Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 20, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meditation

Aspirations and Values

Review Agenda

Election to Board of Directors

Board report - review of the past year and a look ahead

Committee reports - review of past year and a look ahead

- Education
- Finance
- Retreat & Residency
- Bhavana Dana Presenters
- Communication
- Home of Our Own

Open discussion – What does it mean to be a part of this community?

Meditation

Minutes
Annual Membership Meeting
Albuquerque Vipassana Sangha
September 20, 2015

The board meeting was held at the AVC.

Board members present: Sarah Schwartz, Betsy van Leit, Tam Saimons, Tiska Blankenship, Mary Young, Alice Powsner, Ken Munoz, and Sivakumar Challa.

Other members present: Wesley Morton, Mel Schneider, Fred Herman, Judith Kidd, Janice Hart, Kathryn Turnipseed, Carleen Rocks, Ted, Barbara.

Ken opened the meeting at 1:00 pm by initiating a brief sitting meditation.

Ken read the aspirations and values.

Ken described the elections and the voting process. Five board members to be elected. Five nominations received: Tam, Ken, Alison Owens, and Fred for a 2-year term; Wesley for a 1-year term. Gratitudes expressed for the service on board by the outgoing board members: Kathryn, Alice, and Sarah.

Voting was conducted and the slate of five candidates was elected unanimously.

Board Report

Ken thanked everyone who volunteered for being a board member. Ken reported on some of the major events and issues of the past year, including new procedures set in place for social activities, an event on ideas and celebration of the sangha, ongoing process of evaluating how to provide dharma teachings in the sangha through sangha members and through visiting teachers, a survey of past sangha members, and events related to social activities and social engagements.

Committee Reports

Finance Sarah gave a review: a snapshot of funds at the sangha, the various expenses on residencies, and generosity of members in supporting sangha events.

Retreat & Residency Tiska and Fred gave a review, chiefly on organizing visits by various teachers for residencies. The committee expressed a need for more volunteers for organization and for events.

Bhavana Dana Presenters Betsy gave a review by describing the committee. The committee identified that the needs of the sangha in terms of offering teachings, are changing, and it plans to meet later in the month to discuss about it.

Communications Mary gave a review of the committee's work on announcements, website management, and the effort around the new sound system.

Home of Our Own Tam reviewed, on the maintaining of the space, on interacting with the owners and co-tenants, and on looking at the needs of the space in terms of seating, supplies for the altar, and the kitchen. Mention was made about a monthly event offering tea with community socializing.

Education Ken gave a review, and mentioned about the study groups offered, and in the plans, and about events not falling under other committees.

Ken thanked the board members and committees for their service and noted that some of the roles overlap among the committees.

Open Discussion – On what it means to be a part of this community.

On what it means to be a part of this community Ken presented with an introduction on his taking part in, and giving service, to the sangha for several years. He noted being part of the community by co-creating it and how it enriches his practice. He opened the discussion to all members.

Several members expressed their experiences on being a part of the community, chief among which are: community acts as an anchor, support of community key to develop insight and understanding of the teachings, community means something that speaks the same language, lots of friends and a place of refuge, community is an experience of presence and a place where one can express what our practice is, community being a peer-led sangha, community is at the heart of how we grow up, and a training ground for being outside in the world and a beautiful gift.

Tam queried about membership of sangha. A description of membership was given and clarity on its meaning was sought. A broad discussion followed on the benefits and constraints with a formal membership statement. Several objections were raised alongside how a stronger community might evolve with more clarity in the meaning of membership.

There being no further business, Ken initiated a sitting meditation prior to adjourning the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

Sivakumar Challa
Secretary