

Annual Sangha Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 1, 2011

12 Noon – 1:30 pm

Introductions

Tom introduced himself as the current President of Deep Spring Center Board and spoke to the thread of common interest among the diversity of interests offered by DSC.

State of the Sangha

In his brief report Tom summarized the advances made during the last year mainly the launch of a new website developed by Terry Gliedt and Tana Dean.

Treasurer's Report

Sherry presented financials for the 2010 year. There is an operating loss of \$10,235. Expenses have been kept to the minimum but revenue from classes, retreats and donations do not cover these needs. This is not sustainable over the long run so some additional revenue sources need to be considered. A mid-year appeal is planned for July, idea that was well received by the Sangha Sangha members commented on the financial situation:

- Introduce membership fee
- Create a fundraising committee
- Raise cost of classes in small increments. Building fee has not been raised in years
- Increase DSC media presence. Some examples with no cost include the Bluebook at U-M. The Spotlight section at the Ann Arbor News
- Donor appreciation event
- A marketing committee may help to focus efforts on having a better presence in the community.
- Board be more diligent on directing requests for volunteer activities

Guidance from our Guiding Teacher – Barbara Brodsky

Barbara spoke to the importance of both meditation and Spiritual Inquiry as essential to our spiritual life. Spiritual inquiry helps us to know who we are and meditation helps us to go deeper in this process.

Survey Results and Discussion

We received 92 complete responses to the survey. Survey results were presented to the Sangha. It was demonstrated that Sangha members have a wide range of interests regarding the different programs the Center offers.

The following ideas were brought forward by Sangha members and will be discussed at upcoming board meetings:

Small price increase for everything (retreats & classes)

Annual “free” class and retreat (dana only split evenly with teachers)

Reduced retreat price for “first timers”

Get dollars from “outside” the Sangha

Investigate Zen Temple and Jewel Heart funding methods

Seriously PUSH people for more money

Present “doomsday” scenario

Get message from Sangha meeting to non-attendees

Create and email list of “stuff” to donate (ongoing and one-time)

Create “opt-in” groups

Publish list of DSC contributors

Solicit for volunteers after each class/retreat

Membership fee

T-shirt and/or mug sale

Sale of “personal” stuff with share of proceeds

A “mindful consumption” email (vs. cup of coffee)

Another survey to Sangha asking for fundraising ideas

So Who Does What Now?

It was suggested to send a survey to the Sangha requesting ideas to increase revenue and ways they can help in volunteer work.

In addition to the existing committees the following has been suggested:

- Office support committee
- Fundraising committee
- Committee to organize the Potluck/Silent auction in October
- Marketing committee

Five individuals signed-up to volunteer for various committees. Board members will follow-up with everyone who volunteered.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.