

Minutes of the SnowFlower Sangha Steering Council
Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Present: Walt Keough, Suzanne Kilkus, Cheri Maples, Mary Michal, Karuna Namenwirth, Karen Plum, Savitri Tsering, Carol Rubin

Absent: Lisa Glueck, Efrat Livny,

The meeting of the Steering Council (STC) was convened at approximately 7:15 p.m. at Karuna's home. The meeting began with a brief meditation.

1. Check-in for tasks from last meeting

All tasks had been completed except that Karen and David have not yet started working on retreat expenses because it was too early to do so.

2. Report from Scholarship Committee

Carol reported that after Walt, Lisa, Karuna and she had met for over two hours, they reached the draft recommendation emailed before the meeting (see attached document). After noting that the topic of annual contributions made at the ABM was directly linked to the scholarship decisions because they both rely on surplus funds, Carol reviewed the draft scholarship recommendation and discussion ensued of the different options considered and the reasons for the decisions reached.

The committee's recommendation was adopted by the STC to be presented to the ABM with these changes:

- a. The amount for the regional retreat would change from \$350 to \$300 and only 2 scholarships would be available rather than 2.25;
- b. The criteria described in 4.a. will be revised to delete the second criterion and to reduce regular SnowFlower participation to 6 months, rather than one year.
- c. In support of the many young participants who have joined the Sangha, for the proposed drawing for the new national scholarships, one drawing will be solely for applicants age 30 and under, with a second drawing for the remaining applicants.

3. Use of Sangha Surplus

In the past couple of years, most of the surplus went to donations to non-profits, as decided at the annual meeting, which posed several potential problems. The STC discussed several different options, including a 75%/15%/10% split (between scholarships; Love and Understanding; donations to non-profits), . However, given that most of our surplus comes from the October retreat, with an added amount specifically contributed for the purpose of retreat scholarships, and the large number of young newcomers, the STC now will recommend to the ABM that 80% of surplus should go to retreat scholarships, and 20% to the Love and Understanding project (or possibly a 75%/25% split). The "surplus" will be determined on a November to November year, following the October retreat.

4. Love and Understanding Project

Mary reported that two national OI member photographers were helping with the video. She offered to show the video narrative to the STC before finalizing the video but the STC saw no need to do so and will rely on the decisions of those involved in the project.

5. Opportunities for children

Savitri reported that the Sunday gatherings for families at Deer Park have gone well and she will re-announce them to the Sangha as a whole.

6. ABM Agenda

The agenda will include, although not necessarily in this order:

A request from the Coming Home Project for Sangha endorsement (Cheri)

A report on the STC's recommendation regarding scholarships and use of surplus funds. (Carol)

A proposal about incorporating Sharing the Merit into our sits (David)

A request for volunteers and opportunity to sign up (Mary M.)

A report on the annual retreat (David or Walt)

Reports from Love and Understanding (including preference for making donations and receiving solicitations), Caretaking Council, and Schedulers' Council.

Suzanne and Cheri will facilitate the meeting and determine the final agenda. Walt will convene the first meeting of the Schedulers' Council, Karuna the Steering Council, and Celeste will be asked to convene the first meeting of the Caretaking Council.

7. Recruitment of a Newsletter Editor

Because Erin Hanusa is now considering remaining as editor of the newsletter, we are not actively soliciting a replacement as we would love to retain Erin's editorial skills.

8. Action Items

Cheri and Suzanne will finalize and organize the agenda for the ABM issues as needed.

The other action items all relate to the ABM meeting as described above.

The next meeting of the STC is will be determined after the volunteer solicitations at the Annual Business Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Rubin, Secretary