

Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2020

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:15 pm on Monday, June 22, 2020, via videoconferencing.

In Attendance

President	Cathy Vigran-	Member-At-Large	Alice Carney
Vice President	Jerry Simkins	Member-At-Large	Jon Siiteri
Treasurer	Sara Denzler	Faculty Rep	Diane Wilde
Secretary	Barbara Briscoe	SDC Rep	Bob Jenne

Beginnings

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Jerry Simkins, at 6:15 pm. He led the group in a brief period of meditation followed by a reading of the *Guidelines: Board Participation as Dharma Practice* and a member check-in.

Minutes

The draft of the Board of Directors' meeting minutes and Executive Session for May 25, 2020, was revised and approved by the Board and will be available in the SIM library.

The May 25, 2020, Action Items were reviewed.

1.0. Fiscal

1.1. May 2020 Financial Reports

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$115,550.90

Activity:

TOTAL Column:

Net Revenue through Mar: \$5,506.43

Net Revenue through Apr: \$9,996.19

Net Revenue through May: \$16,744.13

The total equity amount includes a \$1,000 credit from the Angela Center for the 2017 retreat and \$5,800 in registration fees/deposits from the residential retreat in 2018.

1.2. Taxes

The Treasurer, Sara Denzler, reported that tax documents have been submitted to Tate & Associates for completion of taxes by the July 15 deadline.

1.3. Purchase of SIM Computer

The purchase of a computer for the SIM office is pending more information from Sabitre Rodriquez about a possible donated computer.

2.0. Community Outreach

2.1. Review of Covid Community Support Planning

Alice Carney, member-at-large, reported that member, David Guerreri researched financial supports for individuals affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The document will be added to the ENews.

Reverend Diane Wilde and member/psychiatrist, Tom Vigran, are planning to offer a community support group related to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.2. Safety Committee, Safety Training Volunteer Update

Deferred for now.

2.3. Follow-Up of Diversity Presentation

Jerry Simkins allowed considerable time for a robust discussion of how the Board would like to engage with the current-day racial injustice movement. Many suggestions were made including:

Book study

White Fragility

My Grandmother's Hands

Diversity Presentations

Amy Kovak

Prisoners

Self-Education

A document will be placed in the library for Board members to post related materials for others to consider viewing/reading.

SIM Main Folder>Racial Injustice

This topic will continue to be addressed in future Board meetings.

3.0. Retreat and Class Updates and Issues

3.1. Online Residential Retreat 2020

The Residential Retreat Committee (Sara Denzler, Jerry Simkins, Alice Carney, Rich Howard) met and reviewed the thirty survey responses from the community. Based on the responses, the committee decided upon a five day retreat beginning on Friday, September 11 and ending mid-day on Wednesday, September 16.

Attendee Limit: Thirty-two (32) which will allow teacher, John Travis, to meet in small groups one time with all attendees.

Cost: \$100

Scholarships: Available upon request and review.

Hosts: Rotate each day and will also serve as the manager-of-the-day. Attendees will be able to ask questions via Zoom Chat.

Registrar: Greg Golihur

Priority Registration: Survey respondents will receive a password to register by this weekend. Those who sign-up and pay the \$100 fee will be included as one of the 32 attendees. One week later, the registration will be open to the wider community.

Diane Wilde brought up the possibility of auditing the retreat. Sara Denzler indicated that the committee would consider this as an option for some number of people and report back.

3.2. Board Liaison for On the Other Side of Suffering (OSOS) Class

Dennis Warren has requested a Board liaison for his Fall course, OSOS. The class will meet for nine weeks, every Wednesday, starting September 30 through November 25 with a daylong retreat date yet to be determined. Jon Siiteri attended and was the liaison for the last class. He is willing to serve as liaison again if no one else shows interest. Online Registration for the class just opened.

3.3. Registrars and Hosts for Saturday Daylong Retreats

Host volunteers are being recruited through the end of year 2020. Since a registrar is no longer necessary for on-site registration, it was decided that the "Host" for the day will send the attendees a link to the Zoom meeting one week before the retreat and as needed for those who register thereafter and up to registration closure on Friday night.

4.0. Board/Faculty Communication

4.1. Faculty Report

Faculty representative, Diane Wilde, referred the Board to the meeting minutes for the June 8, 2020, faculty meeting that are available in today's *Meeting Materials* and in **SIM Main Folder>Board/Faculty>Senior Faculty Meeting Minutes** in the digital library. The meeting covered the following topics:

Diversity Statement

Guest Teacher Protocol

New and Visiting Teacher Considerations

Dullu Sigh - new to SIM

JD Doyle - new to SIM

Neesha Patel

Vance Pryor

Heather Sundberg

Greg Scharf

“Jump-in” Attendance in Zoom Meetings

The Faculty also expressed an interest in changing our Zoom contract to having only **one** SIM account with multiple users.

4.2. Relationship with Vance Pryor

Dennis Warren will be in contact with Vance Pryor to discuss the possibility of him teaching at SIM on an at least quarterly basis.

Diane Wilde was in contact with Neesha Patel who expressed an interest in teaching more often at SIM and possibly in conjunction with Vance Pryor. Diane will be presenting this possibility to the faculty at large.

4.3. Update on Quarterly Faculty Meetings and Minutes

The Faculty met on June 8, 2020, and the minutes were made available as noted above. In addition, the Secretary will continue to highlight Action Items that pertain to the Faculty and send them under separate email.

4.4. Requests for Mentoring

Diane indicated that the request for mentoring had increased during the pandemic; she has received nine requests. She is working on setting-up a schedule and a protocol, with Rich Howard, that requires mentees to be responsible for scheduling follow-up visits, not the other way around. She reported that many mentees are experiencing anxiety, loneliness and fear and may benefit from psychotherapy. She and member/psychiatrist Tom Vigran are in the

process of developing a support group to address the impact of the pandemic on individuals' lives.

5.0. Volunteer Update

5.1. Registrars for Residential Retreat 2020 and Fall Classes

Barbara Briscoe reported that our in-person Daylong Retreat registrars were asked to serve as registrars for the Residential Retreat 2020 and two Fall classes to which they have agreed. Sara Denzler and Barbara Briscoe will meet with the residential retreat registrar within the week and the registrar for Fall classes in two weeks. UPDATE: Greg Golihur will be the Residential Retreat 2020 registrar and Diana Cassady the Fall classes registrar.

6.0. SDC

6.1. Building Report

Bob Jenne reported that the new SDC roof will be mostly done this week and that the final cost will likely fall within the expected range. In addition, there is an effort to have solar panels installed this summer. The SDC is proposing that each sangha donate \$2,000 to the cause. A vote will be taken at the next Board meeting in July.

6.2. Reopening SDC Committee

Jon Siiteri reported that the SDC Reopening Committee has formed and will be reviewing the guidelines put forth by The County Department of Public Health. Notifications will be included in the ENews. Diane Wilde suggested a PhD student who is interested in being on the committee.

6.3. SIM Representation to SDC Committees

The President, Cathy Vigran, has asked the SDC President, Barbara Colton, for the names of the SDC committees that include a SIM representative. This issue was raised after it was learned that a SIM representative was on the SDC Design Committee without SIM Board approval. Cathy clarified with the SDC Board that in the future SIM representatives to SDC committees will need to be approved by the SIM Board.

6.4. Key Card Follow-Up

A list of keys and key cards belonging to SIM Board/Faculty and members will be sent to Linda Dekker at the SDC upon completion.

7.0. Operations Issues

7.1. Possible Webpage Redesign

The Board will note possible improvements to the SIM webpage and will post these suggestions to *SIM Webpage Suggestions for Changes* doc located in the SIM library:

SIM Main Folder>Board>Materials to Edit

7.2. Protocol Draft for Guest Speakers

Rich Howard is working on the Guest Teacher Protocol (in-person and online versions).

8.0. Executive Session

The Board went into an executive session at 8:10pm.

9.0. Next Board Meeting

Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Briscoe
SIM Board, Secretary