



# Sacramento Insight Meditation

**FINAL**

## **Sacramento Insight Meditation Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 12, 2022 via teleconferencing.

### **Attendance**

<b>President</b>	Absent	<b>Member-At-Large</b>	Amy Kovak
<b>Vice President</b>	Tony Pruitt	<b>YPS Rep</b>	Idris Ahmed
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sara Denzler	<b>Faculty Rep</b>	Absent
<b>Secretary</b>	Alice Carney	<b>SDC Rep</b>	Absent
<b>Recorder</b>	Christine Bitonti	<b>Member-At-Large</b>	Karen Tercho
<b>Member-At-Large</b>	Greg Gollihur	<b>Guest</b>	Diana Cassady

### **Beginnings**

The meeting began with a five-minute sit, personal check-in, and reading of the Board Participation Guidelines.

### **Minutes**

SIM Board Minutes from August 8, 2022 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

## **1.0. Board-Faculty Communication**

### **1.1 Faculty Report**

Individual reports from Diane Wilde, Dennis Warren, and Rich Howard are available in Meeting Materials on the Google drive. It was noted that Diane will not be teaching the “Year to Live” class in 2023. Instead, she will be teaching a six-month class on the Eightfold Path.

## 1.2 Legacy Project Update

The Committee met with prospective SIM teachers Neesha Patel, Walt Opie, and Vance Pryor. It was a very productive meeting with all three candidates expressing enthusiasm for the endeavor. Walt and Vance are ready to commit to involvement for two years, but Neesha was unable to do so just yet due to potential time constraints. All three expressed willingness to work with recovery groups in this process if they become involved.

Related to the Legacy Project is the planning of a special celebration of SIM’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the December 1 Thursday evening meditation session during which the Legacy Project will be formally introduced to the sangha. A planning committee for this event was formed with Amy, Tony, Greg, and Alice volunteering. They will recruit a faculty member and one or two sangha members to assist. The Board members will meet first before involving the others to determine the scope of the event and map out areas for decision-making and action.

## 1.3 Teacher Care Team - Identify Sangha member to participate

Rich and Karen are on this team, but still need one additional sangha member to participate. It was noted that teachers are still needed for the November 26 daylong retreat and December 22 Thursday night session.

## 2.0. Fiscal

### 2.1 August Financial Reports

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer reviewed SIM’s Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for August 2022. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM’s finances stand as follows:

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$135,982.24

Activity (Total Column):

Net Revenue through June: \$14,622.66 (-\$11,132.55)

Net Revenue through July: \$9,442.48 (-\$5,180.18)

Net Revenue through August: \$8,115.89 (-\$1,326.59)

Notes:

- The net expenditures for August includes payment of \$1,500 for tax preparation and \$1,400 in A/V invoices for multiple months.

Financial report from the Annual 2022 SIM Retreat is on file in Meeting Materials.

## 2.2 Presentation on Third Act Bank Pledge

Guest, Diana Cassady, introduced the “Third Act Bank Pledge” project that focuses on climate change by ensuring that funds currently financing the fossil fuel industry are withdrawn. She described a campaign focusing on the four largest contributors—Chase, Bank of America, Citibank, and Wells Fargo. She asked the Board to consider including a report about this campaign in the SIM newsletter and taking the pledge to meet with SIM’s bank to let them know that their practices are not consistent with the organization’s values. The presentation was followed by the beginning of a broader conversation about the role of a Buddhist sangha in social actions of this sort. Opinions on various sides of the issue were expressed. No action was taken. Tony suggested that a separate meeting be scheduled for Board members to discuss this complex issue more in depth.

## 3.0. Operations Issues

### 3.1 Website Committee Report

Amy reported that website development is moving along and is now in the hands of Three29 after the Committee provided considerable information and feedback to the group.

### 3.2 Need for Additional SIM and a SDC Board Members - tabled until October

Alice recommended that a newsletter article be written highlighting the Board “Guidelines for Operating” so that sangha members can understand the principles underlying Board participation and, given so, might be more interested in volunteering for a position.

## 4.0 Community Outreach

### 4.1 YPS Update

Idris reported that in October the YPS meetings will begin at 6:30PM instead of 7:00PM. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Tony expressed his concern that there doesn’t seem to be much interaction between YPS members and the sangha at large. Sara suggested that on weeks when the group doesn’t meet, they might be encouraged to attend SIM’s Thursday night session. Karen promised to make announcements of that nature to the group.

### 4.2 Diversity/Inclusivity Committee

Amy reported that a Committee meeting has been scheduled for early October.

### 4.3 eNews and Periodic Board Newsletter to the Community

Tony reported that three articles have been submitted by Annual Retreat participants about their retreat experiences and are undergoing editing.

A discussion occurred about the link to the dana page for any given upcoming Thursday night session—specifically, how it is sometimes missing, necessitating on-the-spot instructions that are cumbersome for sangha members and can result in limited donations for the evening. Probable causes for this problem were discussed at length, leading to the conclusion that more clarity is needed regarding various SIM positions (paid and volunteer) and lines of communication among those who hold them. Sara and Karen volunteered to discuss the issue and begin to outline a better model of workflow. Greg advocated for written descriptions of the various roles and procedures that would simplify communications and help those new to their roles.

## **5.0. Retreat and Class Updates**

### **5.1 Residential retreat 2022, update**

Sara highlighted a few items that are included in her 2022 Retreat Report that can be found in Meeting Materials on the Google Drive. She emphasized that the retreat revenues came close to expenditures leading to a very nearly “break even” situation, which had not been anticipated. Also, she noted that dana for both teachers and retreat center staff was very generous this year. Board members thanked Sara for the considerable effort she expended to make this retreat such a success—financially and otherwise!

### **5.2 Residential retreat 2023**

Sara shared that there are two decisions that need to be made fairly rapidly since pandemic uncertainties have put SIM behind in its planning for 2023: 1) to return to the Mercy Center next year or not and 2) what to do about obtaining a teacher since many who might be available tend to schedule a year or two in advance.

After some discussion, the Board voted to return to the Auburn Mercy Center next year and to ask Rich to reach out to Greg Scharf to see if he would be willing to return in 2023. Tony recommended co-teachers, if possible, for next year’s event and that a search for a teacher in 2024 be undertaken soon.

Sara reported that Jerry will be updating the retreat manual for the next retreat manager and volunteer staff for which Board members expressed gratitude.

## **6.0. Volunteer Updates**

### **6.1 Volunteer Update**

Set-up and A/V support are needed for the Beginning Meditation class on Wednesday nights. Margaret continues to look for volunteers to fill these roles. She did provide a list of suggestions already forwarded by Tony to the Board for a “fall-back” course of action if none are available.

Karen noted that she is scheduling next quarter's A/V needs with our two regular A/V technicians, including for the Beginning Meditation class on Wednesdays. It was reported that Josh Harbin has resigned his paid position. His duties have fallen back on Amy and Sabitre. Amy asked the Board to identify someone to take on these tasks as a paid individual. Idris expressed interest in the position which was greeted with much enthusiasm by Board members.

## **7.0. SDC**

### 7.1 SDC Report

Tony stated that the report is posted in Meeting Materials.

## **8.0. Next Board Meeting**

**October 10, 2022 @ 6pm - 8:30pm**

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Respectfully submitted

Alice Carney, Secretary