



Sacramento Insight Meditation

Sacramento Insight Meditation

Board Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2025

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 9, 2025 via Zoom.

Attendance

President	Amy Kovak
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Carmen Pereira
Secretary	Absent
Member-At-Large	Margaret Buss
Member-At-Large	Katie Stonebraker
Faculty Rep	Absent
Sacramento Dharma Center Rep	Diana Cassady
YPS Rep	Absent
Recorder	Christine Bitonti

Beginnings

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

Meeting Minutes

The Board Minutes for May 12, 2025 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Fiscal

1.1 Financial Reports

Financial Summary as of May 2025

Monthly Report:

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer briefly reviewed SIM's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity Reports for January 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials. An additional report includes the Statement of Activity by Class & YR Comparison.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities and Equity through May 31, 2025: **\$96,862.86**
(previous total \$92,002.98)

Statement of Activity

Net Revenue through May 31, 2025: **\$15,019.84**
(previous total \$10,789.04)

Notes:

We have brought in \$8,430 so far in pledges for the pledge campaign. There has been no change in the monthly recurring donations to the General Fund.

The insurance premium went up \$27.

The treasurer reviewed all aspects of SIM's financial statements for the month and answered questions from Board members. She concluded with the observation that SIM continues to end each month with a positive Net Operating Revenue, helped substantially by the recent pledge drive. Financial documents can be found in Meeting Materials.

1.2 Stock Donations

Carmen described what the process of donating stocks to SIM would entail using the platform, every.org. SIM would not be required to have a broker. Every.org would immediately liquidate stocks and disperse the funds to the organization. After a brief discussion, Board members expressed their approval to move forward with this venture.

2.0 Board-Faculty Communication

2.1 Faculty Report

No Faculty report was generated for this month as several teachers are out of town. Amy presented a proposed agenda for the upcoming mid-July Faculty meeting. It was reviewed and supported by the Board. Amy did note one potential addition for the agenda that she would suggest.

3.0. Community Outreach

3.1 YPS Update

Amy shared the YPS update provided by Beth Hart via email. Walt Opie served as the guest teacher on May 21, and a peer leader facilitated the June 4 session. Attendance has recently been around 10 to 12 individuals per meeting, typically with one or two new attendees each time. While the group remains small, it appears to be sustainable, with a core of four to six regular participants.

In her message, Beth expressed appreciation to the Board for its generosity in supporting additional teachers at YPS. Leaders are being more intentional about inviting dana, both during meetings and via their listserv. She also offered to share any announcements from the Board with the YPS community.

Amy noted that she has conveyed to Beth the Board's appreciation of her efforts and the importance of this group which encourages younger sangha members to practice together.

3.2 Social Media

Katie remains active with SIM's social media presence on Instagram. SIM has close to 400 followers on Instagram (391 at present with seven new followers this past month). Katie described her efforts advertising the recent tea with Diana Clark, the pledge campaign, and other events.

4.0 Operations Issues

4.1 Operations Manager/ Professional Services

No report was generated this month.

4.2 Teacher Liaison Crew Update

There was little to report this month. Amy reiterated that all Thursday nights in 2025 have been scheduled. The next task will be to schedule Thursday nights and other activities through 2026.

4.3 Fundraising Committee Report

Amy noted that the pledge drive has concluded, although pledges will continue to be welcomed. Outreach efforts for this year have ended. The campaign was successful, reaching approximately 99% of its goal. A total of 34 donors pledged to support SIM over the next five years, with commitments totaling \$32,750 per year — \$163,750 overall for the five years.

4.4 Diana's May 30th Friday Informal Event

Amy recapped Diana's three-day teaching weekend, noting that Diana repeatedly expressed appreciation for the opportunity and the warm response from sangha members. Amy received considerable positive feedback from members who especially valued Diana's perspective on Metta practice.

An extensive discussion of the Friday tea and evening restaurant dinner ensued. Various options for these events were suggested, including one that involved combining the two activities into one—a potluck starting later in the afternoon when more sangha members might be available. This discussion will continue in the future.

4.5 July 17 Community Day

The Board discussed the purpose and potential structure of this community night event, agreeing that it should primarily serve as a celebration of the successful pledge drive and the impact the funds will have on future teaching activities and events at SIM. The evening will also include expressions of gratitude to all who participated in the drive. The Board agreed that cake should be part of the celebration (Amy will look into options). The Faculty will determine who will take the lead for the evening, and Amy offered to assist with expressions of appreciation.

4.6 PayPal

Amy reported that she has completed this Action Item. She found out that the account does belong to SIM, but a designated representative from the organization must be named on the account. Since the former person in this capacity is no longer on the Board, she changed the name to her own and suggested that in the future, the new Board President might take over this task.

5.0 Volunteer Updates

5.1 Volunteers/Projects

Margaret reported that Susan told her about two new set-up volunteers, one of whom is also helping with the St. John's Project.

Amy reported that work remains to be done on the reconfigured website and donation pages. She also noted a plan to develop teaching modules from recorded talks, a long-term project that will require faculty participation.

Amy suggested trying kalyāṇamitta groups again, this time in connection with various Thursday evening Dharma talks, such as the upcoming series on the Brahmavihāras. These groups could be formed to further explore the teachings, meeting either in person or on Zoom for a limited period of time. Board members were supportive of the idea, seeing it as one of several meaningful ways the sangha could foster deeper connections among members.

6.0 SIM Board

6.1 Board Recruitment

A visual aid (poster or flyers) for Board recruitment was suggested. Amy explained that this approach would require a change in the organization's model of Board recruitment, which has traditionally involved discussion among Board members leading to a direct invitation to individuals who might have the skills and understanding of Board process to be able to make an immediate contribution. The item was tabled until next month for further discussion.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Updates

Diana reported that the minutes from the May SDC Board meeting are available on the G-Drive. She noted that no rent increases are planned for next year. The SDC Board is continuing to define its role now that the mortgage has been paid off. SDC President Sarah O'Gara has been researching how other Buddhist sanghas define their mission and approach fundraising, recognizing that SDC's structure (with three participating sanghas) is unique. The Board is in the process of developing its mission and vision for the future.

It was also noted that the Family Sangha may be discontinued due to a lack of sufficient organization. Additionally, SDC may transition its fundraising platform from SUMAC to Glass Register. SIM Board members may want to explore as a potential resource for SIM's own fundraising efforts.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Open Discussion

There were no items discussed at this time.

Action Items:

Who is responsible	Task/s to be performed	Completion Date
Amy and Carmen	Organize sign-ups for Kalyanamitta groups; complete “Gravity” form	July 25, 2025
Amy	Oversee development of web pages for upcoming courses for new teachers and for advertising	July 31, 2025
Amy	Add Board recruitment discussion on next month's agenda	July 14, 2025

9.0 Next Board Meeting

July 14, 2025, 6:00-8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Bitonti, Recorder
Karen Tercho, Secretary