



Sacramento Insight Meditation

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Board Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2025

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, July 14, 2025 via Zoom.

Attendance

President	Amy Kovak
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Carmen Pereira
Secretary	Karen Tercho
Member-At-Large	Margaret Buss
Member-At-Large	Katie Stonebraker
Faculty Rep	Absent
Sacramento Dharma Center Rep	Diana Cassady
YPS Rep	Beth Hart
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 June 9, 2025 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0. Fiscal

1.1 Financial Reports

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 June 30, 2025. Those reports are provided in the Meeting Materials. Additional reports include the Statement of Activity by Class and Mid-Year 2025 Budget Review.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

Total Liabilities and Equity through June 30, 2025: **\$100,059.62**
(previous total \$96,862.86)

Statement of Activity

Net Revenue through June 30, 2025: **\$16,286.68**
(previous total \$15,019.84)

The mid-year budget review document prepared by the Treasurer was discussed in detail, including expenses and revenue (projected and actual for the first half-year). At this point, 54% of the budgeted \$175,543 has been spent. Expenses may be lower over the next six months due to several factors that were discussed, including fewer nights and daylongs requiring AV support, as well as the fact that insurance and other annual fees have already been paid. Revenue exceeded projections for the first half of the year, but concerns remain for a potential revenue shortfall for the next six months. All the fiscal reports and spreadsheets are in Meeting Materials.

2.0 Board-Faculty Communication

2.1 Faculty Report

No faculty representative was available for this meeting. Reports from Rich and Diane were brief. Rich had a quiet month, teaching at SIM and at Rockland. Diane was traveling and unable to teach the June Year-To-Live class, which Sara substituted for. She did attend the July 2 SDC meeting. A quarterly Faculty meeting is upcoming, with five teachers expected to attend. Dennis is no longer participating in administrative meetings but wishes to continue teaching and mentoring.

3.0. Community Outreach

3.1 YPS Update

Beth Hart provided the YPS report. SIM teacher Vance Pryor taught virtually at the group's most recent meeting, and several additional teachers are scheduled to lead in

the coming weeks. Fewer teachers are currently scheduled for the second half of the year. Attendance typically ranges from eight to eighteen participants, with a core group of six to ten. While many new people have joined recently, some attend intermittently based on their other commitments. A YPS member has volunteered to assist with hosting meetings and coordinating with teachers. The group also discussed how to increase dana. Beth noted that they may need to be more intentional in raising the topic and acknowledged that younger participants may have a variety of reasons for giving less consistently.

3.2 Social Media

Katie reported having 401 Instagram followers. She has prepared posts for the coming weeks, in part to cover the time she will be on retreat.

4.0 Operations Issues

4.1 Operations Manager/ Professional Services

Amy has a meeting with David scheduled for later in the month. There is nothing else to report at present.

4.2 Teacher Liaison Crew Update

David has been handling teacher-scheduling logistics. Diana's November 2025 course needs to be integrated into the master schedule. Two courses for 2026 with Walt and Vance have been identified (one in February-March, the other in November). Karen noted that logistical support will be needed for these courses. Board members may be present at these classes and could potentially assist with technical support for the teachers. David is still looking for a microphone with the appropriate features for SIM and has not yet found a suitable option.

4.3 July 17 Community Day

Amy noted that the turnout for this event next Thursday may be low as there is a political rally planned for downtown Sacramento that many SIM members may attend. It was decided that the \$28 ½ sheet cake from Costco would be ordered for the event. Rich and Amy have created the evening's schedule to include expressions of gratitude for the efforts of sangha members, looking ahead at proposed activities at SIM, and sangha members speaking about their experiences.

4.4 Kalyāṇamitta Groups

Groups of three to four people will be formed to give sangha members an opportunity to connect and reflect together on each Dharma talk in the upcoming series, The Buddha's Antidotes for Challenging Times (six Thursdays from August 21 through September 25). The upcoming mini-retreat with Vance will also focus on this theme. These Kalyāṇamitta

groups may meet in person or online, depending on what works best for each group.

4.5 Vance's 3-day weekend August 28–30

The structure of the 3-day teacher weekends is a topic of discussion in the upcoming faculty meeting. The logistics for the day will be worked out in the next Board meeting. Karen has discussed accommodation for Vance at the Jennes' place.

5.0 Volunteer Updates

5.1 Volunteers/Projects

No update provided regarding volunteers. The updated donation pages have been published on the website. Additional changes will be made as needed.

6.0 SIM Board

6.1 Board Recruitment Process

This item was tabled until next month.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Updates

There has been no meeting to report on since the last SIM Board meeting.

7.2 SDC July 2 Meeting

Diane Wilde, Margaret, and Amy represented SIM at the July 2 SDC meeting. Notes and other documents from this meeting can be found in Meeting Materials, including five financial statements and the meeting minutes. Sarah O'Gara, SDC Board President, provided an overview of questions to be addressed concerning coordination among the sanghas and with SDC, fundraising, rent increases, etc. While there was no rent increase this year, one is expected in 2026, with a proposed increase of approximately 3%.

The issue of a proposed fee for space usage beyond each sangha's base allocation was also raised. At the suggested rate of \$75 per hour, SIM's annual cost would exceed \$13,000 based on past usage. SIM representatives expressed that this level of expense would be unsustainable and would likely require cutting or relocating programs. The SDC emphasized that it does not want the sanghas to reduce their programming.

Diana noted there is significant interest in SDC hiring a part-time Executive Director, as well as someone to oversee building and grounds management.

Amy has contacted an individual who offered to volunteer as a strategic planning consultant. Their information has been shared with Sarah O'Gara.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Open Discussion

No new business was discussed.

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	August 11, 2025

9.0 Next Board Meeting

August 11, 2025, 6:00-8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Bitonti, Recorder
Karen Tercho, Secretary