



Sacramento Insight Meditation

Board Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2026

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM) Board of Directors was convened at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2026 via Zoom.

Attendance

President	Amy Kovak
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Absent
Secretary	Karen Tercho
Member-At-Large	Margaret Buss
Member-At-Large	Katie Stonebraker
Faculty Rep(s)	Rich Howard
Sacramento Dharma Center Rep	Diana Cassady
YPS Rep	Dylan Ramirez
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 February 9, 2026 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1.0 Consent Agenda (No Discussion Items)

- 1.1 Social Media
- 1.2 Operations Manager/ Professional Services
- 1.3 Volunteers/Projects

2.0. Fiscal

2.1 Financial Reports

Prior to this meeting, the Treasurer briefly reviewed SIM's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity by Class reports for January 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026. These reports are provided in the Meeting Materials.

SIM's finances stand as follows:

Statement of Financial Position Total Liabilities and Equity through February 28, 2026:
\$145,964.29 (Previous total \$131,355.00)

Statement of Activity by Class Net Revenue through February 28, 2026: \$30,713.55 (Previous total \$16,184.26)

Amy reported a few highlights from the Treasurer's reports:

Approximately \$15,000 in annual pledges has already been paid early by SIM participants, representing about half of the projected total. The organization is also receiving roughly \$3,000 per month in revenue from recurring donations, although additional giving outside of the pledges has been lower than expected. She noted that there may be a shortfall this year and encouraged the Board to monitor the situation. She also mentioned the possibility of generating additional revenue by investing a portion of the organization's reserve funds in options outside the stock market.

3.0 Board-Faculty Communication

3.1 Faculty Report

Rich Howard provided the Faculty Report for this month. The complete faculty report can be found on the Google Drive.

Diana Clark and Walt Opie are looking forward to teaching the three-day non-residential retreat beginning March 16. Diana agreed to teach the Noble Eightfold Path course on the dates that Vance would have taught them in November.

Core faculty will teach on Thursday night, March 26, focusing on practice in daily life. Walt's book deal has been solidified, although it will not be available for a year or so. The opportunity to host a book-signing event was raised.

4.0. Community Outreach

4.1 YPS Update

Dylan Ramirez provided the update for the Young Persons' Sangha, reporting the largest attendance of 30 people at the last group meeting. Kirsten Rudestam will teach on March 11, and Carson from SIM's Recovery Sangha will facilitate on May 6. Rich recommended a podcast

for YPS leadership to access on the Buddha Insight Network, titled “Building a Sangha for Young People.”

5.0 Operations Issues

5.1 TLC

Karen provided an update on scheduling. With Kim Allen now confirmed to teach on April 30, only two Thursday evening dates remain open: May 28 and June 4. Tony Bernhardt was suggested as a potential teacher.

Rich explained the Faculty’s process of selecting teachers new to SIM and offered to consider any teachers that the YPS may have experienced. Dylan will pass that information on to the group.

5.2 Non-Residential Retreat March 16 – 18, 2026

Amy reported that Susan Ely has identified volunteers for the event (for set-up and clean-up) who will also be in attendance. So far, 17 people have signed up for the retreat. There is only one person who signed up for Zoom attendance only and another who signed up for both, requiring AV techs—one each day. This expense, plus the cost of a motel room for Walt, may mean that the event will not generate any additional revenue for SIM. Margaret volunteered to provide daily lunches for the teachers.

5.3 BDOG/Volunteer Assistance

The Big Day of Giving, the annual community fundraiser sponsored by the Sacramento Regional Foundation, will be held on May 7 this year. Rich expects SIM to participate more fully than last year, when the pledge drive was occurring. He emphasized that the event will provide strong exposure for SIM and noted that people often donate to an organization based on its online presence (text, photos, and videos). He emphasized that storytelling is an effective approach to attracting interest. Rich will work with volunteers with technical expertise to create the SIM BDOG website. The Board’s recorder volunteered to interview individuals involved in activities such as YPS and the St. John’s project, and to prepare short stories about them. Rich emphasized that showcasing SIM on the community website should begin on May 1.

5.4 Community Event July 9

Amy discussed with the Board issues that arose at the last community meeting. She suggested that the Board think about how they would like to proceed with the next such event scheduled for the summer. Board members suggested a potluck picnic outside or a simple event with desserts to share. Time for socializing could be included.

5.5 Announcement Schedule

Due to her school schedule and other obligations, Carmen cannot attend the Thursday sessions at SIM. The remaining four board members agreed to cover the announcement schedule.

6.0 SIM Board

6.1 Board Recruitment

Amy reported that there were no new updates on this matter. She still plans to meet with a sangha member who has expressed interest in Board involvement, although the individual would not be available to serve until 2027, to discuss the Board's mission and responsibilities. Concern was expressed about the limited interest in Board service, particularly given the legal requirement that the organization maintain a President, Secretary, and Treasurer at all times.

7.0. SDC

7.1 SDC Updates

Diana provided an update on SDC activities. Valley Streams sangha has a new teacher who recently left monastic life at Tassajara. The SDC has been reviewing its mission statement. Diana read the new version, which is more specific than the original and focuses on maintaining a shared home for the three sanghas. Board members expressed approval of the new statement.

Amy and Margaret are planning to attend the March 29 "State of the SDC" meeting with the SDC Board and members of all three sanghas. Information about the organization's finances will be sent out to the three groups. Diana encouraged the Board to review these documents carefully so they can provide feedback.

Diana presented two models of operation for SDC that have been proposed, expressing her support for the second one:

1. SDC would act as a landlord for the three sanghas, who would pay for all maintenance expenses (necessitating considerable rent increases).
2. SDC would maintain a commitment to keeping rents low by continuing its fundraising efforts and employing staff to manage maintenance and other matters.

Board members agreed that the second approach would be the most desirable.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Open Discussion

The Board discussed a recent occurrence at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento—white supremacist graffiti painted on the walls. The Board was in favor of sending a note of support and a \$500 donation to help cover the cost of repairs. Also, sangha members will be encouraged to write notes of support for delivery to BCS.

Action Items:

Who is responsible	Task/s to be performed	Completion Date
Amy	Write letter of support and send check to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento	March 13, 2026

9.0 Next Board Meeting

April 13, 2026, 6:00-8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Bitonti, Recorder
Karen Tercho, Secretary