

Circle Stewards Minutes from September 21, 2013

Taken by Enduring-Vow Brown

Agenda Items:

Reminder from Senshin that the last weekend of the month is intended to be free from afternoon activities and meetings to allow people to rest. The tenzo circle also reported that they are considering having the last weekend of the month not include lunch.

Email clarification to group that “ZCLA Stewards” email group goes out to the entire active membership of ZCLA whereas the “ZCLA Circle Stewards” email group goes only to the Stewards of Center Circles.

There was general consensus that the quarterly scheduling is working well for people. Some indicated that finding documents and signing up on the various groups was confusing. The continuing email problems with Yahoo non-delivery of yahoo group email was raised. The residents email group was recently changed over to google by Kaizen. Yudo will follow up with Dharma Joy and ask about the shared stewards egroup list. It was agreed that while we are having email issues, important emails should probably request that people confirm receipt. Mukei and EV will create access instructions for yahoo groups and google docs links in the members section of the website. The difficulty of multiple sign-up sheets was raised and EV will experiment with creating a consolidated sign-up sheet.

The issue of bringing up newer members into positions of responsibility was raised and circle stewards were encouraged to put forward people’s names when they identify someone they feel might be suited to a position. Open steward slots for Parking and Day of Dana were discussed. Responsibilities for Day of Dana and Tenzo Co-Coordinator are being re-evaluated.

The importance of personal contact with people versus relying on email communication was raised. The importance of communicating and linking was highlighted. It was clarified that Sensei Daishin is the ZP1 & 2 TC link. The status of the ZCLA prison circle is that it is non-functioning. The working Jail Circle is functioning outside of ZCLA with a mix of ZCLA & Shambhala members. The Wisdom circle has taken root and reported that they are ready to handle any issues that might be brought to them. Senshin requested Circles to update her with the coming and goings of members so that she can schedule the Entering/Leaving Ceremonies.

Senshin solicited comments from the group on Tangaryo from all over the world and the low attendance on Thursday nights.

It was clarified that ZP3 students will begin with Interview Instruction at 8:00 and miss service if necessary to accommodate larger groups or students arriving late.

The importance of circle steward awareness in the areas of budget and development were highlighted. There was initial discussion of creating Dana as a ZP4 series topic. Training new and old practitioners in Dana was raised as being essential because it is still largely being related to by people in a transactional sense. The group was asked by Muso to raise the Dharma Training Fund into their awareness and to not be afraid to talk about it money and the realities of the center’s budget, including its deficits. Creating additional program themes around the dharma of money were discussed.

The distinction between a group and circle was raised, specifically in relation to the altar flower group. There is a sense that some groups, (examples – chiden, security, altar flowers) are more straight volunteer groups rather than circles with mission statements and directed learning.

There was consensus from the group that this was a very useful meeting and that the group would like to meet twice a year rather than once.

Action Items:

All: Send Faith-Mind any updates or corrections to the circle stewards list

Faith-Mind: Update Circle Stewards list

All: Send your circle's thank you list to Yudo for the WW by end of next week, Sept. 27

Yudo: Check with Dharma-Joy to see what email groups he 'owns'

Senshin: Compile a list of the owners of all the center email group accounts

All: Notify Senshin if you are the owner of a center e-group

Enduring-Vow: Experiment to see if sign-up calendars can be integrated

Mukei/EV: Create access instructions in the members section for Yahoo groups and Google Sign-In Sheets

ALL: Integrate dana awareness to your circles

ALL: Update Senshin with Circle membership changes