

09/09/2023 - Intersangha Working Group Meeting

Role Call:

Heather (Chair + Summit), Michael (Wise Friends), Scott (Former Treasurer), Bryan (Website), Ezra (Secretary), Robin (Unity + Treasurer), Kaet (Summit)

Absent: Eleanor (Co-Chair), Anna (Communications/Co-Treasurer)

Intersangha Check In

Chair Report (Heather):

- Going to start transitioning things to Eleanor within the next month.
- It has been a tough couple of months. Lots of emails about meetings not happening.
- When Heather hasn't responded to emails immediately people are often upset and asking if the email is being monitored. We're all just volunteers and doing our best.

Treasury (Scott):

- PayPal: \$1201.27
- Checking: \$391.59
- Total: \$1592.86
- About \$300 - \$400 above our prudent reserves.
- There is improvement over the last couple of months, but we're down from this time last year.
- Scott has continued to keep the books.
- Transferring everything is a lot tougher than keeping track of things. People don't seem to stick around, and Scott hasn't been contacted.
- Scott, Anna and Robin will work on a conference call and finding a time to meet at the bank.
- We had put book purchases on hold, but last month used the \$100 to purchase books for Brookside.
- We have enough to purchase more this month.
- Purchases have been the 1st edition RD book. 2nd edition is double the price and therefor limits our ability to provide.
- Anna was able to use the Global book grant for (10) 2nd edition books. It was easy and they came quickly. Any meetings that want the 2nd edition and serve marginalized communities (Including: LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, Incarcerated, Treatment Center etc.) can use the grant.

Communications (Anna / Bryan):

- Anna needs access to the website. There have been a lot of meeting changes (cancelling, changing, and adding).
- Bryan will work on getting a WordPress account for Anna.
- Getting info to facilitators and the community has been challenging. Emails go unacknowledged and there's not a lot of engagement on social media. Would going back to the newsletter be helpful?
- The last newsletter was June of 2022. We had about 900 emails registered. MailChimp was purchased by Intuit and went from a free account to a paid one.
- It would be \$13/month for the smallest plan with MailChimp, and \$20/month recommended for our user audience. Maybe not a wise use of funds. We could likely export the audience and do it by hand if necessary or find a different format/resource.

Secretary (Ezra):

- Ongoing question about the quarterly minutes.
- Minutes for this year have not been added to the website. There are organization and formatting needs to make that possible.
- Will make past notes into PDF format and re-send in a google drive folder.

Unity (Robin):

- Hasn't had help, but just got someone.
- Not a lot of ideas for future events.
- Could do a monthly hike & maybe a Mt. Tabor picnic again.
- Some events have gone well, but most have just been people from the Saturday women/trans/nonbinary meeting. The last hike had a variety of people.

Wise Friends (Michael):

- Inquiry workshop is this week - Sept. 15th.
- The flyer for the workshop will be sent to meeting facilitators.
- There has been a lot of response to the workshop. Unknown how many will attend.
- Plans include: a panel, Eleanor and Thomas as primary speakers, writing during and time at the end for connecting/forming inquiry circles.
- We have quite a bit of space for new inquiry circles on our zoom account. Currently about 1 inquiry circle per day. People will be encouraged to use their own account or reach out to the intersangha email for available times.
- Request for a Spanish language translator for the upcoming workshop. Caption's function can be set to Spanish. Not super accurate, but it's something. Actual translations in real-time would be difficult. The person would have to type in the chat. Perhaps something to revisit for future workshops.
- Anna emailed Thomas to get a different format of the flyer for social media. Bryan will add it to the website and Anna can link from there.

Summit – 2023 Report/2024 Plans (Heather / Kaet):

2023

- Global discussed having a regional position, breaking up into time zones for instance, and having that person be the in-between resource for global and intersanghas. What would we want out of that? The focus was making sure that person is in service to sanghas and intersanghas.
- Monday (09/11) from 8-9 EDT there will be a meeting for further discussing this: “The Regional Structure Brainstorm Meeting.”
- The second edition book was discussed.
- Announced that PDX is hosting the 2024 summit.

2024

- Met with Joel and the incoming committee for 2024. Joel is going to stay involved, but there is currently nobody in the events position. It may wind up being Thomas.
- Discussed what PDX has to offer, and our plans.
- Hoping to use the hotel conference hall at PSU, although there are lots of options there.
- Will reach out to PSU again for rates and availability. Previously Dawn was in contact with them.
- Summit this year had good attendance. Better than the year before.
- There is excitement around the summit happening in PDX. Discussion around making it longer than 3 days for activities.
- Rates for PSU dorms are on 3 a night stay.
- Committee will be meeting every 2 weeks.

Responsibilities of Facilitators:

- An email has gone out to facilitators that they need to reach out when meetings are canceled (indefinitely or just one week), or there are other changes being made so it can be communicated to the community.
- When new meetings are starting people need to be aware that it is a responsibility to communicate.
- Generally better communication is needed between meeting facilitators and the intersangha.
- There have been really upset people contacting PDX and Global when listed meetings have not been active.
- The virtual Meditation Sandwich was not collecting dana which was corrected. It's important that all intersangha meetings are collecting dana.

Proposition of new Intersangha position- Outreach Coordinator:

- Steel Lotus sangha has a position for outreach coordination, and they do a lot of service in the community.
- There was an event on Monday called “Hands Across the Bridge”. They had booths for different types of meetings/programs. We could attend that type of event (Pride, Walk for Recovery etc.) and get the word out about RD.
- We have participated in events like this before and do have a banner.
- Tabled until October.

Open Items/New Business:

- Bryan could use more support at the Monday Dharma Rain meeting. He has been doing it for 3 years. Happy to keep doing it, but there will likely be cancellations if there are no other facilitators.
- Queerly Beloved (Friday @ 5:15pm) is struggling to find facilitators. It is a well-attended hybrid meeting.