

Deep Spring Center Board of Directors Meeting
October 20, 2015, 6:30 pm @ Elizabeth Cheslak's Home
Ann Arbor, Michigan

attending: Rori Stienstra, Amy Koch, Jason Riggs, Elizabeth Cheslak, Beth Mulder, Tana Dean
not attending: Barbara Brodsky, Adriana Medina (board candidate)

Brief Sitting

I. Board Elections

Discussion continued about Deep Spring Board officers, their responsibilities, terms, elections, etc. We are looking for broader participation on the Board, from people with energy and interest, folks from within the Sangha, or those who may or may not currently attend programs at Deep Spring. Board members agreed to look again at potential candidates. Everyone agreed that service needs to come from the heart.

Rori asked the Board for more support with her responsibilities. Everyone agreed to step up our participation, and to assist with whatever is needed. Again, people were asked to respond to all the emails, even with just a “thanks, but I have no input at this time” response.

Amy was nominated for President. She agreed to think about it. Amy and Rori will meet and discuss possible co-leadership for the near term. No officer changes were made at this time.

PLAN: revisit at our next meeting

II. Board Membership

The Board committed to ongoing outreach and recruiting. Board membership is on the volunteer page of the website. It was agreed that we need guidelines for the process of bringing new people on board.

PLAN: Elizabeth will start a draft of guidelines to be discussed at the next meeting.

III. Vision

Rori's wish is that we allow Deep Spring to become the center for support and the inspiration that it was meant to be.

Beth's wish is that our Board meetings become more joyful.

IV. Retreat Report

A. Remembering Wholeness retreat in Indiana, October 27- Nov 1

Mary Lawton and Bill Riccobono are essentially acting as the retreat committee for this retreat: planning, coordinating, registering, making scholarship decisions, etc. This is a big job, and we are very grateful for their efforts. However, we still need a Retreat Coordinator, someone to oversee all the retreats, hold the “big picture” and we continue looking for someone to fill that role. It is on the Volunteer page now. We again discussed the merits and the fiscal possibility of

incentivizing that position with either pay or reduced fees. No decision was reached. But gratitude is extended to Karen Mori who is a constant and willing adviser.

B. Emrich issue

1. There was an extensive discussion of the events and correspondence surrounding the bed bug situation that occurred at the June retreat. It is hoped that there was a gap in communication between Shari (on site at Emrich) and the Diocese, which may have led to Emrich's rejection of our request for reimbursement for our losses caused by the infestation.

PLAN: Tana will send Jason all our correspondence with Emrich

Jason will consult an attorney, who is also a friend, for advice and options on how DSC might proceed toward resolution.

2. Emrich for 2016- We discussed the June 2016 retreat in light of the current tension with Emrich. Other possible locations were mentioned. Scheduling for 2016 is well underway at all venues. We have a reservation for June 2016 with deposit due in Jan.

PLAN: Tana will confirm our reservation with Emrich

V. Remembering Wholeness at Deep Spring

Our first Remembering Wholeness (RW) took place on Sunday Oct. 11th. It was a lovely, sweet event that lasted about three hours, with about 15 people attending. There are two more Sundays scheduled for RW at DSC in 2015. Primary organizers at this time are, Beth, Betty, Nina and Lalita. Suggestions included: 1) keeping the grounding food simpler than it was this first time and 2) spreading the word to bring more people into participation.

PLAN: Beth will talk with the other organizers about the above suggestions

VI. Treasurer's Report

A. The Board reviewed both the September and the Quarterly (Jan -Sept) Profit & Loss Statements. By the grace and generosity of our growing Sangha, Deep Spring remains solvent, It was noted that our fundraising efforts need energy and attention if this trend is to continue.

B. Tana shared the Financial Exploration that she has been working on with Quickbooks. This is an effort toward creating more transparency in our accounting reports and in finding a format that makes DSC financials easier for the Board and others to understand. It included the categories of General and Admin (cost of running the center), All Income, Retreat Income & Expenses for this year as well as for 2012 thru 2015, and an overview of fundraising 2012-2015. All agreed that this was very helpful, and that our finances are becoming easier to understand. Much gratitude was extended to Tana!

VII. Teacher Council Report

A. Dottie called a Teachers Council meeting, the first since spring, which met on Oct 4th. The agenda focused on the future, class offerings, retreats, what we can offer after an Intro to Meditation class, what other classes or workshops we might offer, the status of Teacher Training and the possibility of establishing a teacher certification program. The meeting was rich with brainstorming and several individuals committed to future participation. The next meeting will be November 15th, at Deep Spring, and a December meeting date will be set at that time.

- B.** General discussion about the status of DSC classes. We need Intro, Beginning and continuing for 2016
- C.** Teacher Training (led by Barbara and Dottie) is going well. Karen & Lisa's study group continues, also going well
- D.** Teacher led retreats for 2016
 1. Spring at Howell will be led by visiting Teacher Amma Thanasanti
 2. Steiner in the Spring- Amy, Markus and Adriana have volunteered to lead that retreat
- E.** Spiritual Emergency (SE) Several people recently attended a spiritual emergency workshop, which generated discussion and sparked a visioning process around SE and bringing that service to Deep Spring. The enthusiastic discussion focused on how DSC might support people experiencing spiritual crisis: point of contact, drop-in center were mentioned.
PLAN: discuss at future meetings

VIII. Administrative Issues

- A.** Volunteer opportunities- will continue to identify needs and promote them
PLAN: Tana will keep the volunteer page updated
- B.** Year End Fundraiser- reminder that letters from the President, a Teacher, and Barbara will be needed soon. We need to ask a teacher to write
PLAN: We need to ask a teacher to write
Folks will start their letters. Follow up at the Nov meeting
- C.** Blog- our blog is up and running, with the first posting by a DSC teacher. We still need an editor and a content approval process.
PLAN: seek someone to approve content and approve submitted blog entries
- D.** Tana updated us on her current health status potential impact on her work schedule.

Next Meetings: November 23, 2015. There is no meeting in December

All meetings are held at Deep Spring Center unless otherwise announced. All meetings are open to the Sangha. The agenda for the upcoming meeting, and minutes from past meetings can be found at www.deepspring.org

Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Cheslak, Secretary