

Board and Sangha Meeting - 2021 Annual Report

Jan 9th 2022 at 2:30pm

Agenda & Minutes

Present - Angela Sumegi, Sean Houlahan, Andrea Lorient, Del Duchene, Michael Farmer, Jati Rafyanti, Alain Routhier, Frank Roy, Leanne McCallum, Helene Kaufmann, Marianna

- **Opening motivation** - Angela

- **Financial report** - Sean
 - Best year despite Co-vid - thanks to Khenchen Guru and the hard work of zoom organization done by the Palyul team and volunteers. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are able to double our contribution to the children of Namdroling for 2021 from \$4,000 to \$8,000.
 - Total revenue = \$74,330; total expenses = \$50,482; Net = \$23,847 surplus. For full financial details, please click [HERE](#)

UPDATES & OLD BUSINESS

- **Report on the Children** - Angela
 - Money sent to India contributes to educational, health and personal needs of the children
 - Sending \$8000 to India for 2021
 - We do issue year end reports on the children and the Centre but Trish suggested that it would be good to show even more clearly how the money is being used at Namdroling Monastery
 - The following discussion described the difficulties in getting information from and money to India and explained what we are doing to manage those difficulties. For example, we are now in touch with the Vice-president of the nunnery who has agreed to look after sending us an annual report and pictures.
 - Andrea mentioned that we will be finding a way to put the following on the website (so that donors will have a specific place to access information rather than relying only on the annual report we send out by email)
 - Year end letters that include
 - How donations are being used and what benefits the children are receiving
 - Pictures

NEW BUSINESS & FUTURE PLANS

- **Programming** - Andrea and Angela
 - 2021 events
 - Centre closed
 - Khenchen taught 3 times - twice only on Zoom, once in person as well as on Zoom
 - Future events
 - Starting with secular meditation twice a month - to support the Ottawa community and anyone interested in meditation
 - Suitable for all levels of meditation practitioners, especially for those who find motivation and support in meditating with a like-minded community.

- Possibility of opening the Centre for tsoks - we have to review this month by month depending on the laws of the land. Currently, it is not possible.
- **Centre Communications & Technology** - Andrea and Angela
 - We have improved our regular monthly communication to sangha
 - Website maintenance
 - 2022 website calendar updated with all ritual & meditation practices
 - Website Announcements with monthly practices are updated every month
 - Regular monthly emails sent out via mailchimp
 - Facebook Page updated regularly
 - Facebook group - Norman, our current admin/monitor has raised a concern about posts in different languages on our group that he cannot vet. Discussion included suggestions to keep accepting multi-lingual posts if:-
 - We can find people to work with Norman to vet non-English posts
 - Angela will check with Norman regarding which languages are showing up. From a quick look, it would appear that Chinese is the main one.
 - We will aim to find a Palyul Chinese speaker to work with Norman
 - Helene volunteered for French
 - Marianna volunteered for Russian
 - One suggestion is to create a messenger group with Norman so they can easily interface about this
 - Policy will be finalized after discussion with Norman
 - Need volunteers to help with communications - Monthly emails (mailchimp), Monthly website updates, Facebook Page and Group
 - Discussion: Challenges in finding volunteers - people want to help but it is a commitment and sometimes a lot of time is invested in training and it does not always work out.
 - Thankful for a group that we are starting to train (Jati, Sylvie, Helene, Ani Norbu, Shiyi) Our connection to the International sangha is growing
 - Working on international events with other Palyul sanghas - going very well
 - Working with different centres in Ohio, Chicago, Mary,
 - Different languages - Bulgarian, Romanian, Greek, French, Chinese
 - Chinese sanghas - work with Cindy and Shiyi
 - Still facing challenges with technology

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Dedication** - Angela