

Feb. 2, 2014 Community Meeting

- We reviewed ideas to organize for the visit of Chas DiCapua's (May 16-18). This included:
 - Emailing sangha's in the area
 - Putting an ad in Crazy Wisdom (agreed to pay for ad)
 - Listing in the Ann Arbor Observer (deadline might be Apr 10)
 - Check for a Community Events calendar on AnnArbor.com (Phil)
 - Contact AnnArbor.com if a reporter might be interested (Phil)
 - Generating fliers to be posted around AA
 - No food to be provided on Saturday, only some things to drink
 - The board has approved a preliminary budget of \$2000 for the visit. The Teacher Circle should generate a more complete budget in case additional funds are needed.
- We reviewed the material from the Retreat Site Search done by Mary and Terry Gliedt - see <http://ima2.org/retreats/Search/> The search began by looking for a wide range of possibly sites in the area (see spreadsheet on the web site). From this list those sites within an hour's drive were looked at more closely, with five being visited (DeSales Center, Capuchin Retreat Center, Columbiere Retreat Center, Albion College, Weber Center)
Costs for a bed and meals did not vary too much (\$70-80/each night). All had large meeting rooms, had kitchenettes and allowed us to bring in snacks. Some provided linens, some not. Dining for most must be shared. All had single rooms or allowed a single to stay in a double for a little extra money. Most sites are quite busy and encouraged us to book early for 2015. All have grounds for walks.
Three were handicapped accessible (Columbiere Retreat Center, Albion College, Weber Center). Albion is only available in the summer. The rooms at DeSales are the oldest. Weber, Capuchin and Columbiere have the nicest rooms.
Weber, Capuchin and Columbiere are larger and could accommodate more people than we've had at retreats in the past.
- Hugh had agreed to be on the board for a short time when we were getting organized. The board will be appointing someone to replace him. Phil said he expected the board would meet 5-6 times this year (1.5 hrs meetings). We decided that Lou should announce there is an opening and encourage anyone of interest to contact Phil.
- We discussed the possibility of holding the Community Meeting after the sitting, rather than before, with the idea that this might encourage more people to participate. It was decided that Lou should conduct a survey by asking how many would consider attending after the sitting, but would likely not attend before the sitting.
This morning two indicated they might come after, but not before. None strongly felt the meeting should be before the sitting. Terry suggested we should ask this question next week (or maybe two weeks) to see if the interest changes much.
- A few of the retreat sites will ask that we have an insurance policy. This led to a short discussion and concluded the board should investigate what is involved in getting insurance and make a decision.