Community Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2026

Present: (in gonpa) Gakyil member Gerard Miller, community members Dominik Niceva, Will Shea, Lauri Marder, Michael Northam, Bodhi Krause; and (online) gakyil members Katya Kuzmitskaya and Ellen Halbert, community members Gabriel Marder, Harvey Kaiser, Santo Santoriello, Vern Harrington, David Leskowitz, Paula Barry, Cindy Thiebeau, Mark Follansbee.

Guru Yoga

Agenda:

1) **Report on IG meeting:** Membership is mostly stable worldwide for full members, newcomers a little lower, but in general about on par with 2025 • IDC now has charitable organization status under Italian law, so can receive bequests and a portion of members' taxes. This process required some statute changes, and all gars' gakyils are encouraged to check legal documents on IG website to ensure alignment (dzogchencommunity.or/documents) Also on the IG website is information about how to support or donate to IG. • IG invites gars to request individual meetings with IG as needed to address specific challenges or other questions. • "News from IG" webpage includes information about scheduled teachings with Yeshi, guidelines for Vajra Dance, Yantra Yoga, etc, and scheduled teacher trainings worldwide. Gars are encouraged to notify IG of teachings with Yeshi and teacher trainings,to post on IG website. • If a member wishes to learn a secondary practice, with sincere intention, they should watch, along with a teacher or experienced practitioner, a recording of Rinpoche teaching it and giving the lung, and then should do the practice with a teacher or experienced practitioner. • Communications courses for teachers on how to present etc, are available from IG; interested teachers can write to blue@dzogchen.net. • IG asks that all program announcements include a list of relevant materials (eg, practice booklets, recordings, etc) as well as where they can be purchased. • 3 main challenges of gars and lings were discussed; Tsegyalgar East identified income, participation and attracting and retaining new members, and these were common issues for other gars as well.
2) **Red report:** The report was provided to members before the meeting and was summarized. • The back deck repairs proposal and estimate for Rinpoche's house have been updated since the report was prepared. The least expensive

option now recommended is to remove the deck portion that went to the pool and replace the remaining missing or damaged railings, for about $2000, or around two thirds the previous estimate. This will be postponed until spring 2027 per yellow recommendation. . • Recent painting of Vajra Hall circumference beam was paid for by donation, and we plan to complete the the ceiling treatment in spring 2027, also by donation. • Schoolhouse outer front door will be rehung so it closes securely, and inner entry doors will be modified so locks can be installed. Locks will also be installed on doors to private rooms. • Estimates are being gathered for dorm renovation, including floor covering and making private accommodation spaces. Winter is ideal time to work on this since the residents are away and the contractor has time. • Many projects at Khandroling need to be completed, depending on funding and community priorities, including Memorial Garden walkway, information signs for stupa, Vajra Hall and original mandala site, resuming our forestry plan, tree clearing, solar power and water well. • Michael Northam, the new schoolhouse caretaker, was introduced and discussed his experience that could benefit the community.

3) **Blue report:** The report was provided to members before the meeting and was summarized. • Summer retreats participation was good, with SSR having over 165 online and in person, and DDD having at least 40 in person; Enzo Terzano's recent online Chod teaching was also well attended. Upcoming retreats planned through summer 2927 were listed, with at least one event per month. • Need for additional local ganapuja leaders was discussed, especially until the Umdze course with Sebastien Remy in December. Members noted the importance of having leaders in the gonpa as opposed to online, the need for leaders to be well trained and the discouraging effect of criticism on willingness to lead. The suggestion was made to ask Sebastien about a possible Umdze certification that could give leaders more confidence and authority. • Request was made to clarify and publish dates for summer 2027 retreats by end of 2026 so people can make travel plans. • A winter online sangha retreat was suggested, focusing on practice, possibly combining a course of Vajra Dance (DVBB) with Sarale and Purification of Six Lokas practice. • Dr Phuntsog has also proposed a three part course on birth, life and death, with the first part in December or January. • Possible new Yantra Yoga courses with Paula were discussed, with breathing and pranayamas to be scheduled soon with interested locals.
4) **Yellow report:** The yellow reports and membership report were provided to members before the meeting and were summarized. • Third quarter books are

now aligned with accountant records. • Net revenue as of September 30 is about $29,000 compared with -$14,000 same time in 2025. Total operating revenue is about $57,000. • Yellow recommends caution with expenditures to ensure we have a cushion for emergencies. Schoolhouse mortgage will be paid off in July 2027. • Revenue is up about $36,000, due to restricted donations and schoolhouse rent paid. • Membership is down by 13 members. Secretary will follow up with non-renewing members from last year. • Payment platform is changing from PayPal to Stripe to save on PayPal fees. • Although we lose money in fees paid to IDC for reduced fee members, it's more beneficial to offer the reduced rate and have more members. • Expenses are expected to be $60,000 by year end, about $21,000 above projections. • Non-payment for programs has averaged around 50% of participants and resulted in retreat income being under budget projections .Suggestions were made to provide three tiers of payment for registrants depending on their ability to pay or asking for free donation of any amount, requesting IDC to provide worldwide guidelines for program donation, and providing brief education about karma in relation to the teachings at the beginning of programs. The importance of not blocking people from attending based on fees was also mentioned.

Q3 2026 Financial Summary - Tsegyalgar East

Oct 31, 2026

Through September 30, the books show a $29,013 surplus, against a $14,203 deficit a year earlier 2025. Cash stands at $143,283, up $37,942 from a year ago.

Cash by account, September 30

Account	Balance
BOA #1697	$39,023.94
BOA #1710	$2,073.58
BOA #2138	$10,175.18
BOA #5490	$3,199.25
Greenfield #2827	$286.31
PayPal (Main + FJCW)	$2,369.91
Petty cash	$201.11
Operating total	**$57,329.28**
Greenfield #6893, money market reserve	$80,107.60
Greenfield #6900 (Vajra Hall) + #6918 (Khandroling)	$5,846.13
Total cash	**$143,283.01**

Membership

From the membership records (not QuickBooks): so far in 2026, 219 members have paid $59,977, compared with 232 members and $67,069 in 2025. That is 13 fewer members and $7,091 less (−11%). Almost all of the drop is Ordinary members; renewals are still coming in.

Category	Members 2025	Members 2026	2025	2026
Ordinary	209	197	$52,354	$45,967
Global Sustaining	21	20	$11,265	$10,992
Global Meritorious	2	2	$3,450	$3,019

Dedication of Merit