* Attendees: Vern Harrington, Tom Burton, John Foster, David Hayes, Kathy McGrane, Lori Leff, Joe Zurylo, Al Daggett, John LaFrance, Natasha Pavlovic, Elisa Gonzalez, Robyn Kinsey, Jacqueline Gens

***Guru Yoga, Song of the Vajra***

* John Foster appointed Moderator
* Minutes Approved
* Next Gakyil meeting January 13, 2013, Sunday, 12:30 PM

**Staff Updates (3 minutes)**

* Secretary:
  + Discussion of Membership, membership renewals for 2013 coming in approximately 20 have come in already. Membership Database being transferred into QuickBooks
* Geko:
  + Risk Assessment Visit from Travelers. Gakyil will work with Travelers over time; items needed: Emergency Lighting in Stairwells, lit path out of the bulding, Fire Extinguishers; pre-printed guidelines for how to use Fire Extinguishers, Fire Drills for residents, etc. Floodlights on outside of building need to have bulbs, do the fixtures work?
  + Roofing: Ridge Cap and Scaffolding to be built. Steeplejack wants $1,200 to repair emergency leak in the roof over Yeshe’s Room.
  + Approve: $1,200 to $2,000 for roof repair work.

**Whole Gakyil (minutes)**

1. External Communications
   1. 52 Members within 50 miles. Elsewhere there are 400 members. Proposal has been made to Jacqueline to create an interactive online blog/newspaper to try and engage more people.
      1. Jacqueline has an MA in communications, has blogged extensively on non-profit organizations. DCA presently has little publicity “presence” in North America. A blog that gives an in-depth profile of the community would be useful in connecting with more people. A blog can generate its own online community, would improve our presence on the web.
   2. Could the blog detract from The Mirror?
      1. The Mirror is primarily a print publication that cannot keep up with local time-sensitive events the way that a blog can. The blog could magnetize interest and work synergistically with the Mirror.
   3. The cost would be $4,800 per year to pay for Jacqueline to blog
   4. MOTION to have Jacqueline create and run the blog for a 6 months trial period APPROVED.
2. Brief discussion of WebEx
3. Retreat Venue Discussion
   1. Hall at Amherst not available.
   2. There is no facility like Mohawk School that is ready made for us to walk in and set up a retreat.
   3. The field behind the schoolhouse is available. Haying and ticks could be an issue.
   4. Charlemont Fairgrounds is available
      1. 3 bathrooms & electricity available; $350 is the cost to use the Fairground
   5. Tenting @ the Schoolhouse a possibility
   6. Upper Khandroling—Vajra Hall
      1. Parking?
   7. Proposal is to use our own facilities to sponsor the retreat rather than an outside venue.
   8. SMS also has to be covered wherever we go
   9. DECISION: DCA uses its own facilities for the Retreat

**Whole Gakyil (Continued)**

1. Retreat Coordinator Options
   1. John, Al, Naomi, Andrea Lawrence possible coordinators
      1. Naomi is unavailable if the retreat is on Khandroling
   2. Description of all the coordinators for last year’s retreat
      1. 20 different discrete groups to coordinate
   3. John LaFrance is nominated as Retreat Coordinator;
   4. APPROVE John LaFrance as Retreat Coordinator
2. Upper Khandroling Projects Discussion
   1. Well needed to provide water for Khandroling
   2. $7 to $10k for a well on Upper Khandroling
   3. A generator is needed; the well is
   4. Parking and Pavement discussion
   5. Revert to Discussion about Jacqueline’s Blog
   6. An objection is raised about the cost of $400 per month, a second vote is taken, the Blog is APPROVED again at the same cost, $400 per month, with 1 dissenting vote and one abstention.

# Blue Gakyil (minutes)

1. Point person for Email
   1. Elisa to be point person
   2. DECISION: Kathy to be the point person for outside communications; Kathy will coordinate & make sure questions are answered directly
2. A coordinator for SMS is necessary
   1. Naomi? Andrea?
3. Info about Fabian’s retreat
4. Firm up info about Rinpoche’s retreat so it can go on website.

# Red Gakyil (minutes)

1. New cabinets for the schoolhouse
   1. Proposal to replace entire cabinets not just the countertop
      1. DECISION: New countertop to be installed.
2. Town Hall will not approve Granting for the Schoolhouse because they don’t know us.
3. Fundraising discussion
4. Discussion: Emailing ATMA mailing list
   1. John to communicate with Gerry

# Yellow Gakyil (minutes)

1. Nary can’t be at the farmhouse yet
   1. Give him 2 weeks to get a vehicle
2. Discussion about Administrative Fees.