



Tseg্যালgar East Gakyil Meeting Minutes
via Videoconference
Sunday, December 6, 2020 | 3:00pm (ET)

Moderator: Miranda Shannon

Meeting Minutes: Nancy Paris

In Attendance: David Hayes, Ed Matheny, Nancy Paris, Miranda Shannon, John Shannon,
Tseg্যালgar East Community

Guru Yoga

- **Moderator Introduction**

- Today, we are holding the annual 2020 Tseg্যালgar East General Assembly meeting online at a later date due to the pandemic. We were also due to hold a Gakyil election at this time, but because of a shortfall of candidates we have postponed the election to Sunday, December 20 at 3:00pm. On that Sunday, we will also have a community meeting.
- We invite Gakyil candidates to step up for either one year renewable or three year terms. Requirements include being an IDC member for three consecutive years in addition to their current 2020 membership. We ask that they send a picture, a cover letter and their resume or CV to Gakyil@tseg্যালgar.org by Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020.
- Please note that at least three board members are needed, preferably one of each color (Blue, Red & Yellow), to serve as President, Secretary (must be MA resident) and Treasurer so that we can be compliant as a 501c3. There are nine positions available in total: three for Blue, three for Red and three for Yellow.
- We include the [Statutes of the International Dzogchen Community](#) of Tseg্যালgar East document in our agenda. We ask that all Tseg্যালgar East members refamiliarize themselves with these statutes in the next couple of weeks. Only by understanding what we agreed to as an aligned Gar can we move forward in the correct manner.

- **Yellow Report**

- **Account Balances**
 - Main Checking: \$31,122
 - Dzamling Gar House: \$258
 - Khandroling Development: \$3,423

Vajra Hall: \$4,227

Reserve: \$60,317

PayPal: \$12,906 (We will be transferring some of this to our main checking account)

Dzamling Gar House PayPal: \$384

- Some funds that do not appear in the P&L came in during the fourth quarter for projects that the Community has generously supported.

- **Special Projects**

Stupa restoration project fundraiser: \$9,694

Air Filtration System fundraiser for the Gonpa: \$4,430 (Actual cost is \$6,406 - an additional \$2000 will be paid from another fund)

- Year End Fundraising Campaign to date: \$3,000

- [3rd Quarter Profit & Loss Report \(P&L\)](#)

Due to the pandemic, this year differed from preceding years due to so much shutting down. As a consequence both revenue and expenses are about half of what they were in the previous year. However, thanks to Blue Gakyil efforts online programming income is way up this year.

The report shows that through the first 3 quarters of fiscal year 2020 we are in the red by \$13,522. This differs from the past couple of years when we were in the black by several thousand dollars. It is our view that the remaining 3 months of 2020 will show that the income and expenses will zero each other out, and that it is likely that at the end of the year we will see a shortfall of about \$13,000.

There will not be a need to raid the reserve account as this shortfall can be made up between the checking and PayPal accounts.

Question regarding Dzamling Gar House Rental Property - \$14068.00:

- Answer: This year we wired funds from 2019. Rental income no longer comes into our account, as it is paid directly to Dzamling Gar to pay off our debt. We made \$32,736 on rental income in 2020. There was no loss this year.

Question how much is left in the Stupa restoration account:

- Answer: There is a \$1,600 balance.

Question is the IDC third quarter expense included in this report:

- This information will be reflected in the 4th Quarter. Also the membership payment from Kundrolling is not reflected in this report.

- Budget for FY2020 will be formally voted on at the December 20, 2020 Community meeting.

Meriling properties on Tenerife - In 2019 Meriling restructured its relationship with its institutional shareholders (IDC, Dzamling Gar, Merigar West, Merigar East and Tsegylgar East). This converted our legal status from a percentage of stock ownership to a percentage of ownership of the real estate itself. According to Spanish law this

process was a taxable event. Meriling should have paid 6.5% tax on a 7 million asset transfer. They chose to pay only 1%, on the advice of their lawyers and financial consultants, with the understanding that the authorities would probably not penalize them for the underpayment. This is unfortunately not the case. As a consequence, a penalty of about 97,953 Euros will be added to the tax balance of 326,892 Euros - for a total of 450,355 Euros according to Spanish tax authorities.

When restructuring occurred, Tsegyalgar negotiated with Dzamling Gar that Tsegyalgar would not be liable for possible future tax issues. This is an internal agreement, as it cannot be stated on Spanish legal documents. Tsegyalgar East's shareholder percentage is 2.65%, which translates to being responsible for 11,934 Euros of the amount due. However, as a result of the negotiations mentioned above, the goal is for them to fundraise the amount due without seeking a contribution from us. Funds to cover penalty and taxes are currently being worked on, and shareholders will be notified as soon as possible.

- **Administrative Manager Report**

- Regarding income and expenses, the only expenses that decreased this year are related to programming and events. Operational expenses remained the same. Though we made great strides in online events, it was not enough to offset the loss of income from in-person programming the year before. On a positive note we reached many more people online, averaging 50 attendees per course/workshop and select weekly/monthly practices, representing 29 countries internationally. Nobody was turned away to financial difficulties. Financial assistance was given to between 10 to 15% IDC members who requested help - level of assistance depended on what individual IDC members could offer.
- In addition to \$27,054 in online course/practice retreat income for 2020, \$3,500 was also collected in donations in support of Tsegyalgar East online programs. Dollar amounts are current as of today December 6, 2020.
- Thank you to all who added on a few dollars to help cover this year's PayPal transaction fees. Fees average about \$3000 per year.
- We applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and were approved for a little under \$5000. We then applied for Loan Forgiveness, and we recently received the paperwork. We should not have to repay it, as we used the loan in the way it was intended.
- Looking forward at the 4th quarter, except for unforeseen events, our income and expenses will remain flat, which includes expenses for the Stupa restoration, the Gonpa air filtration system and the garage rebuild at the farmhouse which will hold and protect the farmhouse and Khandroling equipment.

- **Blue Report**

- Blue Gakyil began using the Zoom videoconferencing platform in conjunction with in-person programming in 2019, in order to create expanded participation opportunities for Tsegyalgar's far away members. Familiarity with using this technology enabled us to move forward quickly when faced with the pandemic in March 2020. All programs were quickly switched to only an online presence, and an active weekly set of practices along with at least one monthly practice retreat/course was established throughout this time and up till now. Because all our programs have been online, this has made it possible for IDC members worldwide to participate in them. We made our programs more accessible by offering a translation feature.
- On average we have had 1479 connections per month, with a minimum of 8 to 12 participants to over 200 per session dependent on the program.
- We established relationships with various Gars and Lings worldwide, as well as translators who volunteered their services for some of our ongoing weekly practices as well as our practice retreats/courses. The languages we have offered so far are French, Italian, Portugese, Russian and Spanish.
- The silver lining this year was Tsegyalgar East's technological capability which enabled our sangha to connect and practice together with practitioners everywhere. Getting to know one another online, and practicing together was supportive and enriching. Friendships were formed and helped us to look forward to a time when we will maybe be able to practice together in-person.
- Upcoming programs include the videoconferenced replay in December of Rinpoche's Tsegyalgar East Khordas Rangdrol retreat, and in January 2021 Adriana Dal Borgo and Fabio Risolo will present The Dzogchen Teachings Through The Dzamling Gar Song. These programs are in addition to the online weekly schedule.

- **Membership Coordinator**

- Membership has increased from last year. For 2020 we have 241 members.
- Tsegyalgar East has 209
 - Ordinary: 172
 - Sustaining: 18
 - Meritorious: 5
 - Special (reduced): 14
- Kundrolling, NY - 32
 - Ordinary: 28
 - Sustaining: 4
 - Meritorious: 0

- + 2021 Early Registration
Tsegyalgar East - 8 Ordinary
- One Meritorious membership and one Sustaining membership were lost from the previous year, but 26 Ordinary memberships were added. The Ordinary memberships made up for the loss of these two.
- Total Income in 2019 = \$57,753.37
Total Income in 2020 = \$60,605.37 (+2,852)
- We did much better this year even with everything that happened, thanks to Blue Gakyil and everyone who participated - I agree the online programming has been very good.

- **Geko Report**

- Khandroling has been winterized. The bathhouse was drained, a woodshed was built for the wood being cut around the cabins, and when clearing the land. The wood that was cut around the projected Gonpa site will need to be collected before it snows. A new firepit was built at the Guardian Cabin. A rock garden was planted by Rinpoche's Cabin. A member donated a new canoe.
- The Schoolhouse Gonpa floor was painted. The Dormitory was painted. The basement bathroom still needs a new pipe installed. The parking lot has very large pot holes that need to be filled.

- **Friends of Red**

- Stupa project update: Pavers are finished, still need to place planters between the bathhouse and the Stupa. The planters will create a buffer between the two structures, and provide color and ambience to the area. Volunteers have come forward to help with this planting project. The hope is to establish an International Stupa Day, by coordinating with other Gars, and to universally consecrate the Stupas, and thus account for them as we do for the Mandalas. This would also bring awareness to the fact that these physical structures require maintenance.
- Garage at the farmhouse is complete and the tractor is stored in it for the winter. The camp kitchen shed by the pond had a tree fall on it, and has since been repaired by using materials we had on hand.
- Hoping that some repairs can be made in the Gonpa next year. The Gonpa just like the Stupa needs maintenance.
- Volunteers will need to work with the Geko to get the downstairs bathrooms working.
- Next year we will need to re-urethane the Universal Mandala at the Vajra Hall. It is going to be a significant expense, but a necessary one to protect it.
- The lack of water on the land during the summer dry periods needs to be addressed. There are periods of torrential rains and a water collection system

from the Vajra Hall roof could be considered. Also, a well with a steady source of water that doesn't dry up like a spring could be a consideration.

- The bathhouse at Khandroling needs to be renovated and made more serviceable.
- The Gonpa Air Purification System is up and running. It has a top of the line HEPA filtration system and an ultraviolet purification system. The heat does not need to be running for the system to work. It is cleaning the air continuously.

Dedication of Merits

Postscript

On December 20, 2020 the following actions were taken at the Tsegyalgar East Community Meeting:

- **Gakyil Election** - A new Gakyil was elected and will start their 2021 term on Monday, January 4, 2021
Blue Gakyil: Emily Luhrs and Nathan Stout
Red Gakyil: John LaFrance
Yellow Gakyil: Mark Alston-Follansbee and Al Daggett

- The [Tsegyalgar East FY20 Budget](#) was presented and approved