



BKS Iyengar Yoga Association of Minnesota

P.O. Box 582381 • Minneapolis, MN 55458-2381

Board of Directors Meeting

January 20, 2019

Note

The proceedings of this meeting, while recorded accurately, did not follow the order of the agenda.

Location

The meeting was held at Shannyn Potter's studio in the Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson Street #341, Minneapolis.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:18 pm by Vice President Luanne Laurents.

Attendance and Determination of a Quorum

Present: Tiffany Bergin, Luanne Laurents, Nancy Marcy, Mona McNeely, Mary Jo Nissen, Shannyn Potter, Julie Sybrant. A quorum was established for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mona moved to approve the October 2018 minutes as amended per electronic feedback by directors. Shannyn seconded. Motion passed.

Election of 2019 Officers

After some discussion, Mary Jo moved and Shannyn seconded that we approve the following officer appointments: Nancy Marcy as president, Luanne Laurents as vice president, Tiffany Bergin as secretary, and Julie Sybrant as Treasurer.

Determination of 2019 Committees

We decided to keep the same committees in place as in 2018, with the addition of a committee to oversee the responsibilities of treasurer and tax filing. Committees and chairs (designated by an asterisk after the name) for 2019 are as follows:

- a) Administration: Nancy Marcy*, Luanne Laurents, Mary Jo Nissen
- b) Education/Events: Mona McNeely* and chairs of specific events
- c) Finance: Julie Sybrant*, Luanne Laurents, Nancy Marcy, Paul Busch (Shannyn will ask Paul)
- d) Media/Communications: Shannyn Potter*, Tiffany Bergin, Luanne Laurents
- e) Membership: Mary Jo Nissen*

Vice President's Report (Luanne Laurents)

Luanne presented IYNAUS-related information from Steve Weiss:

- a) Registration numbers for the national convention in April (Dallas) are almost at the ideal maximum capacity.
- b) IYNAUS is nearing a conclusion of the investigation into ethical conduct violations of Manouso Manos. During the interim, some new language has been added to the IYNAUS website regarding harassment, and complaint forms are accessible. Shannyn will add a link to same from the IYAMN website.
- c) The new general manager for IYNAUS is making headway on efficiency in operations to help the organization become more cost-effective in the future.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report (Luanne Laurents, acting Treasurer) Luanne had nothing new to report since the December meeting. Shannyn pointed out that all banks statements from the past 2008-2016 are posted online on Infocontact. Mary Jo later reported that the newly received bank balance is \$7,790.70 as of December 31, 2018.

Membership (Mary Jo Nissen)

- a) At the beginning of January we had 108 members and now we have 90. This is the result of members, primarily teachers, not yet renewing their membership, which is due by January 31st of each year.
- b) One of Membership Chair's responsibilities is to pick up the mail from our official P.O. box, and get it to the proper person (e.g., dues to the treasurer).
- c) Another responsibility that was discussed and agreed upon was for the membership chair to check the IYAMN email account on a regular basis.

Media/Communications (Shannyn and Luanne):

- a) We are now up to 1200 hits on Instagram.
- b) We need to look at means other than PayPal for people to pay on line for workshops. It needs to be less complicated and cheaper. Options are Zelle, Venmo, and a direct app with Associated Bank. Any of these is safer than just using debit/credit cards.
- c) The role of Mark, the webmaster, is to set up the technical aspects of the pages (Shannyn's role is design.) We need to oversee the set up to ensure there are no mistakes in pricing for each event; this has been an issue since we started using PayPal. Tiffany is willing to help with this oversight.
- d) Shannyn shared some specifics of how she uses social media, including looking up and sharing information from other Iyengar sites.
- e) Luanne informed new directors Tiffany Bergin and Julie Sybrant that we have an electronic repository for all official documents that can be retrieved at box.com.

Unfinished Business

Education/Events:

a) *Workshops for 2019*

- a. *Mary and Eddy workshop* is set for September 27–29, 2019. Nancy will be the primary contact and host. She'll apprise Shannyn of workshop content as she hears from them. Mona will be in charge of registration. Shannyn will check with Paul for SPYC space. Nancy will check with the Retreat to look at the space and see how much they charge. Note that we have not committed to them for 2020.
- b. *Laurie Blakeney in Decorah*: Steve Hornbacher remains in charge of this potential event. Note that IYAMN is bringing Laurie to MN in 2020.
- c. *H.S. Arun* will be coming May 10-12, 2019; however, we need to provide a letter from IYAMN to the government to advocate for his teaching in order to encourage the granting of a work visa in the US. Shannyn and Nancy will draft this letter. It is due 1/26/19 to Erica and Jim, who are Arun's managers here in the US. .
- d. Discussion of possible *venues for workshops*: SPYC has the space. Spirit of the Lake a possibility but capacity is around 30 maximum. Nancy and Shannyn will check out the Yoga Center Retreat in St. Louis Park. Tiffany mentioned a Minnetonka church that has reached out to her to teach yoga; she will check it out. Shannyn would like the largest spaces possible for workshops: capacity of at least 35-40 people is preferable.
- e. *Yoga days*: We set the dates as follows: Summer: July 14th; Winter, December 15th. Luanne and Mary Jo will work on these events.

b) *Workshops for 2020*

- a. Laurie Blakeney and Bobby Clennell have confirmed for 2020.
- b. Tiffany will do initial contacts for these teachers to find out their fees and requirements for housing, etc. Nancy will copy her on communications with Eddy and Mary as examples.

c) *Workshops for 2021*

- a. We will contact Lois Steinberg, Randy Just, Arun for 2021.
- b. We will further discuss 2121 workshops at a subsequent meeting.

Administration (Nancy and Mary Jo)

- a) Nancy briefly noted that we still need to follow through with officially revising the articles of incorporation and the bylaws. She noted having met and talked with attorney David Larsen while in Madison; he reaffirmed that we can legally streamline our operations and need not rely on member voting/approval to do board business.
- b) Mary Jo updated the group on the initiative to change our nonprofit status from private foundation to public charity. We agreed that, due to the partial government shutdown, we will need to wait more than the 6 months (as of February 1st) to find out whether the government will allow us to easily make the switch. Once we know, we can move ahead with next steps. Mary Jo will send Julie the documents that she sent to the IRS pertaining to this issue.

Trademark Issue

There has been no response from Julie Welle regarding the improper use of the Iyengar name to promote her yoga classes at the Retreat (she is not a CIYT). The name is still being used on the website as of 1/20/19. Nancy will send a letter to the Retreat regarding this violation of trademark, and include a copy of the letter sent to Julie. If there is no change, then the next step will be to inform IYNAUS.

New Business

Taxes

Once the necessary communications and signatures have been exchanged with the Associated Bank so that Julie Sybrant has access to the account, the Finance Committee will meet to go over the process for filing taxes. This will take place, hopefully, within the next two weeks.

Memorial for Geeta

After some discussion, it was decided that IYAMN will sponsor an open house to honor Geetaji on March 3, 2019, at Shannyn's studio in the Northrup King building. The event will include refreshments and the video of an interview with Geeta that Mary Jo transcribed. Possibly include speakers or audio-recorded anecdotes of Geeta by local teachers: we would need to email the teachers. Nancy and Mona will meet within a few days to plan this event and let Shannyn know the specifics for advertising. Mary Jo will be in charge of the video.

Binder Overview

We went through the contents of the Board notebook. Luanne provided a general explanation to the new members. Nancy will create a table of contents for the notebook.

Next Meeting

To be announced; email will be forthcoming with possible dates and times.

Adjournment

Mona moved to adjourn and Shannyn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Marcy
IYAMN Secretary