



Finance Report 2019

April 8, 2020

Several times now Bob has shared with us the Buddhist phrase that “the teachings are given freely because they are priceless.” From that precept the Buddhist practice of dana (pali for generosity) grew. It is a means for the sangha members to express gratitude for the teachings and to cultivate the joy of giving. And, importantly, your donations help to pay the rent and related expenses.

White Hall operates as a business. Each week Bob collects the Dana which is treated as income and reported on Schedule C of his personal income tax return. We have discussed whether to create a non-profit. Given the size of the Sangha and amount of income collected, there does not appear to be any practical reason to do so.

There are two sources of income, Dana and retreat fees. Bob collects and deposits the income and as noted reports it yearly. When we have a guest teacher, he/she is given a portion of the dana directly from the donation box. Otherwise, Bob deposits the funds.

Retreat fees cover the cost of the space, the farmhouse, supplies. Dana for the retreat teacher is collected separately and given directly to the teacher. We apply a rental rate of \$250/day for the farmhouse use. Around here the rate is a bargain!

Last year the Dana totaled \$2,266 and the fees collected for the four retreats totaled \$1,641 for a grand total of \$3,907. Expenses totaled \$5,944. The expenses include advertising, subscriptions, supplies, nominal local business tax and use of the farmhouse which we have ascribed a cost of \$50 per session and \$500 for a two-night retreat. Bob receives no personal income. We ended the year with a deficit of \$2,037.

Dana is whatever each of us is comfortable giving. There is no suggested amount. We are grateful for your generosity and your participation in the Sangha. Our aim is to have a

sustainable sangha and hope this information helps to inform you as you consider what to give. In addition to the Dana Basket at our sessions, the White Hall Meditation website has a section for dana and outlines how one may donate, including via mail or making a donation by credit card or PayPal.