The Buddhist Society of Western Australia (Inc.)
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MINUTES OF THE 2021 BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF WA (INC.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Meditation Hall, Dhammaloka, 18 Nanson Way, Nollamara WA 6061

Date: 27th March 2021

Time: 4.30 PM

1. **Opening**
   The President welcomed everyone present to this Annual General Meeting.

   1.1. **Conflict of Interest**
   No conflicts of interest were raised.

   1.2. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Inhabitants**
   The President acknowledged the traditional owners of the country where we are meeting today and the Elders past, present and emerging.

   1.3. **Homage to the Buddha Dhamma Sangha; taking of 5 Precepts & a Short Meditation**
   Ajahn Brahm led the attendees in taking of the Precepts. The President thanked Ajahn Hasapanna and shared that it's always good to start with a meditation like that, it's nice to sit peacefully at the start of a meeting like this.

   1.4. **Attendance – Quorum and Apologies**

   Quorum 68

   Apology received from Rachel Green.

   Apologies on the day. None.

   Sangha: Ajahn Brahm, Ajahn Brahmali, Venerable Hasapanna, Venerable Mettaji
   Executive Committee: Dennis Sheppard, Kseniya Abusaif, Natalie Mar, Linda McGuire
   Committee Members: Jee Too Foo, Lucky Kodituwakku, Bill Prins, Tonny Wijaya

   Apologies: Rachel Green

   Full and Honorary Members Present at AGM: 69

   Ainsley Haslegrave, Amanda Hunter, Ananda Thilakasiri, Anne Long, Anne Paige, Babara Mei Sim Chew, Barbara Haslegrave, Bianca Di Bua, Boon Chang Tan, Brett Cooper, Chalerm McDonald, Chen Sen Yap, Cherry Jackson, Chet The, Choon Seng, Darunee Wongsalee, Doria Guiffre,Dorothy Milenti, Ean Joo Beh, Eddie Khoo, Eddy Fernando, Ela Kowalski, Erandathi Ratnayaka, Gah Siong Lam, Geoffrey Webb, Hock Chin Tee, Hwee Cheng Tan, Ian Tan, Jake Mitra, Jee Too Foo, Karu Gunathilake, Kim Tee, Kit Lee Pang, Kosum Beyfus, Kseniya Abusaif, Lal Gunathilake, Lay Har Goh,

Lillian Uttam, Linda McGuire, Manel Fernando, Margo Ogledzka, Natalie Mar, Nayane Gunawardena, Nicholas Allott, Pamela Ross, Paul Farnhill, Paul Firth, Peter Hong, Peter Ross Smith, Pramuan McHugh, Prem Mirihagalla, Say Chuan Chua, Shiroma R Mendis, Sofia Fisher, Sompop Kamsrikerd, Stephen Connell, Susan Lee, Thai Thi Nguygen, Tom Ogledzki, Tonny Wijaya, Vaneta Huynh, Vivara Kunabutr, Wan Nee Ong, Willem Prins, Winsome Jackson, Zan Joo Beh, Nipa Fungtuesub, Thalatha Karunaratna, Molly Pang,

Proxies: 8
Tracy Simmons, Steve Kessell, Yupa Anson, Binh Anson, Lesleyann Watson, Sarah Long, Kaz Takehara, Jose Saavedra-Rosas

Total Eligible Voters: 77

2. Confirmation of 2020 AGM Minutes

The President called for confirmation of the minutes from the last AGM held six months ago on the 26 September 2020. The minutes were also displayed on the screen for everyone present. The President asked if there were any comments or questions about the minutes. There were no comments from the floor. The President called for someone to move (Bill Prins) and second (Ananda Thilakasiri) the motion to accept the minutes and called for a vote. The President apologised for not being able to make out faces in the crowd due to failing eyesight and jokingly commented that Ananda has a beautiful profile.
All in favour, none against, no one abstaining. Agreed by the Spiritual Director. The motion was passed.

Moved by: Bill Prins
Seconded by: Ananda Thilakasiri
Agreed by: Spiritual Director, Ajahn Brahm
Unanimously Accepted.

3. Reports & Adoption Thereof

3.1. Report by Spiritual Director Venerable Ajahn Brahmavamso

Everything is going so well in the BSWA, during the CoVid times, talks the monks and nuns are giving on YouTube.

In the 6 months since the previous AGM, in September, 2 full monks have been ordained as well as one novice monk. One junior monk disrobed because of illness. Made a profit.

Work has begun on the 6 fire-proof kutis on "Hermits Hill", part of Bodhinyana Monastery, having finally, successfully negotiated the Building License over seven frustrating years! The brick walls of the six huts are complete and we hope to have the huts ready to live in before the start of this year's Rains Retreat. The newly constructed office building in Bodhinyana had one of its rooms transformed into a studio from where we can live stream talks internationally as well as nationally or participate in committee meetings with the many organisations which our monks support.

Although we have not travelled internationally over the past six months, we have still given many talks and led many retreats in UK, Europe, USA, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong – over services such as Zoom. This has kept us in touch with our large international group of followers.

Our monk in Albany, Ven Mudu, has continued to develop a large support base in the Great Southern region of WA and has now been joined by a second monk, Ven Nivato. They have worked hard on the water supply and the fire breaks of their beautiful residence. It is still not a Monastery yet. Zoning is happening any time now.

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Ajahn Santutthi and Ajahn "JR" also worked hard rebuilding what was once a rundown stable for horses into a beautiful four bedroomed 'vihara' (monastic dwelling). The work was completed in mid-March and they have now taken up residence therein, 48 Stocker Road Roleystone. The name of the dwelling is "Kusala Vihara" and it is located at 48 Stocker Road in Roleystone.

In spite of the restrictions generated by the Covid pandemic, we were still able to hold many events at Bodhinyana, including the 2020 Royal Kathina ceremony and also held many retreats at Jhana Grove, but for Western Australians only. Unfortunately, Ajahn Appicchato's father died early in 2021 and the hard working senior monk had to fly to northern NSW to help arrange the funeral and many other matters. When all is settled, he will return to Bodhinyana.

Even though there has been no international travel, all the monks have worked hard serving the various duties of a monastic, many of which our lay community do not see. Our Sangha is growing, the monastic residences are growing and our outreach with talks and books and traditional Buddhist services is also growing. All is well. Jhana Grove is very stable and well looked after.

Ajahn Hasapanna mentioned the Nuns monastery, interesting things happening there. 21 space, 19 nuns, we can intake 2 more, coming in three months as lay person. Fortunately, we have a branch monastery, where one Anigarika will ordain tomorrow. Santi monastery in Bundanoon NSW was started by Venerable Nirohda and has been through many hands over the years but now offered to the Bikkhunis at Dhammasara. They will look after it, make sure it's built to the BSWA standards. Wonderful to see the Bhikkuni sangha growing, especially in Covid times. Well done Venerable Hasapanna, big round of applause.

The President called for questions: Barbara requested that we have more nuns give the talks on Friday nights, would like to see the nuns more often at Dhammaloka. Ajahn Hasapanna said this will be coming soon.

Ajahn Brahms asked the meeting "How many would like to see more Bhikkuni's sitting here teaching". Most of the attendees put their hands up.

3.2. President's Report by Dennis Sheppard

The President told about Ajahn Brahm suggesting that he not be long winded and how he can keep his reports succinct. Dennis talked about how it gives him great joy sitting here speaking about what's happened at this society and being able to acknowledge all the people that look after our society. He hoped that as we listen to this we enjoy and celebrate with sympathetic joy everyone that works so hard for the society. Charts up on the walls to give an indication where the depth of everything in the society goes to. Look at those afterwards.

It is just five months since the last AGM so I will try to keep this report as concise as possible because most of the information presented in the report last October is still relatively current.
First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the wisdom and the pleasure I have received from this society over the years both as an ordinary member, and by serving on its committee. My role as president over the past three years has been wonderful. It has given me the chance to work with exceptional people including Ajahn Brahm. I am incredibly grateful for his friendship and guidance and am in awe of his dedication to the Dhamma. Every moment of his life is Dhamma. It's quite special to see.

Being a longstanding member of this society gives me a beautiful view of its history. I first started attending in the mid to late 70s, and over those years I have fallen in love with BSWA. I look back to the founders of the BSWA, some now dead and gone, but there is someone special that is still around

today. She is Lynne Jackson, a modern-day matriarch who, along with some other members of the time decided on how the structure of this society should be; and where its influences should come from. I remember the various inputs as we were trying to decide which way and how this society should grow. We had visiting teachers from all the traditions. Mahayana, Zen and Theravadin. Once the house in North Perth was purchased (a big step helped along by Warren Smailes (who passed away one year ago) and his wife Karen, who put their house on the line as collateral,) we started to deepen and solidify towards the Theravadin structure. I remember Phra Kantipalo, now Lawrence, coming over from Sydney to spend extended times with us for retreats, teachings and working bees. I still remember him up a ladder on the gable end at the front of the house, attaching a Dhamma Wheel.

The BSWA decided to send Lynne, with a delegation representing us, to travel to Thailand and ask Ajahn Chah, by now a quite famous monk in Theravadin Buddhis circles, if he would be so kind as to send Monks to help our society grow. He agreed, and from that moment on we had a clear vision and constitution setting out a pathway for which we wanted to the society to grow. Building a monastery for Monks and Nuns was our number one priority. Today the BSWA is a wonderful reflection of how the Buddha saw the Dhamma operating inside a society. The Buddha had said to Mara the tempter that he would not die until the four pillars of Buddhism were in place. The order of ordained monks, the order of ordained Nuns, the order of committed Laymen and the order of committed Laywomen. He made suggestions as to where the monasteries should be located and how the four pillars should interact. He made it very clear that the relationship should be symbiotic, that the monks were to be totally dependent on the laypeople, and that meant that the lay people in return would receive the teachings and the wisdom that comes from the perspective found in the monastic settings. For Lay people to support the monks and nuns fully, he suggested monasteries not be too far away that lay people could not attend to them, and not so close to a city that they lose their silent Hermitage ambience. The Buddhist society has, I think, fulfilled these requirements perfectly and our system works very well indeed as Ajahn Brahm's been mentioning. This society is a model for the whole world to follow. Our constitution is balanced to allow an equalised authority through the four Pillars.

The growth of our Buddhist Society and its associated monasteries and venues had put a significant burden on the committee and executive, charged to look after its affairs. It became inevitable that we would need to professionalise our operation by bringing in 'paid expert help', to keep us in touch with the ever-growing regulation and to be lawful, in order to live up to the duties and responsibilities expected of us. To this end we have employed Stephen Connell as Operations Manager for our society. He has now been with us for a year, and he has transformed the way the society does its business and has brought relief to what had become a stressed committee. The future looks even more bright. We are now meeting our responsibilities fully under the Australian Charities & Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) by having in place rules surrounding what we have called Project Accord. Now that Stephen is more free we are looking to expand our out-reach further as we continue to grow the Dhamma.

As mentioned in my last report we have set up a Strategy Group to help provide an outline for the society to grow and flourish. To that end this group is made up with the presence of Peter Smith, Sol Hanna, Vicki McClafferty and Nicolette Binz together with Venerable Mettaji. Together, they have provided a strategy plan for the next five years. The new committee will have the benefit of their excellent work to plan for what the society needs to do to support and encourage our membership, especially around the Dhammaloka precinct. These ideas are not new and have been around for some years, but I believe they are becoming more urgent if we are to address the socialization, cohesiveness, and development of our Dhammaloka community, especially in bringing western people into the fold. Traditional Buddhist communities generally know how our community works and how to celebrate its virtues.

This proposed Dhammaloka project needs to have a dedicated working group to assess what we actually need and want. The strategy paper sets out a procedure for this. The rough idea and plan propose an idea to open up the library to the courtyard and add a new toilet block at the back of the undercover courtyard. This allows us to remove the existing toilets behind the Community Hall kitchen to allow a

new expanded Commercial Kitchen. A guide plan that I have drawn sets this out, and also shows the Community Hall extended into the stage area, with stage relocated into the 4m setback area at the side of the hall. This allows better flow and opportunity to open up the southern wall to the courtyard to make the stage visible from there. This opens the Community Hall to the courtyard and allows an idea to build a coffee pavilion at the front beside the Bo tree. The cost would probably be around 600K. There is also plans to open up Dhammaloka more during the week, both to offer service and teach the Dhamma. We currently have a midweek meditation happening on Wednesday evenings. As mentioned last time We have opened a Care Group Listening line at the back of our house at No. 37. Milford Way, adjacent to our centre. Members who have been trained in listening skills are making themselves available to listen to anyone who may wish to call and discuss any trauma's or troubles that they may have. The lines are open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. There is also plans to expand the service to our community in other areas as the need arises. Chaplaincy work is also being looked at with possible plans to provide Buddhist Chaplains to the various governmental institutions.

This year is Ajahn Brahms 70th birthday with a big celebration planned along with fundraising for several of the projects he is involved with as spiritual director of many organisations. The extent of this work is prodigious, and the Organisational Chart shows most of these organisations that benefit from Ajahn Brahms ministry. Often this work goes unseen by our membership and it is literally quite profound. The BSWA provides a very powerful base for all of these activities to succeed. There is a team headed by Anusha that will be planning the event and we look forward to a highly successful day. I would also like to mention the large workload taken on by our monastics. The very beautiful Dhammasara monastery has expanded its accommodation and Bodhinyana Monastery has the Hermit Hill project ongoing with more accommodation etc, they also have a new office and internet building. The Kusala monks in Kelmscott have moved into their new premises, a very beautiful conversion of what was once a stable. Venerable Mudu at Bodhinyana Great Southern is gradually building a community with lots of work improving access to our Monastery / Hermitage there

This past year or so has presented many challenges for our society as Covid has caused many things to change. As mentioned in my report 5 months ago the BSWA has managed the problem well with the use of 'live streaming' and Zoom meetings. The committee and our Sangha have managed amazingly well with the upshot being that we have probably delivered Dhamma in a way more full than before, and this process is still ongoing.

New members of the committee for the past short term are Kseniya Abusaif as vice president, Natalie Marr as treasurer and Linda McGuire as Secretary, all who have joined with myself and Ajahn Brahm to make up the executive. Doria Giuffre, Gah Siong Lam and Paul Firth joined the committee then, and as was mentioned last time all these members did a wonderful job in helping Stephen prepare documentation and policies required by the ACNC over the entire term. Special mention is made here of the work on Project Accord done in the treasury by our current treasurer Natalie, with Boon, who was still treasurer then along with the still current treasury team. They had swapped the operating software and completed the enormous task of documenting it all. Members that stayed on the committee from the year before were Jee Too Foo, as assistant treasurer, Tonny Wijaya as webmaster, Lucky Kodituwakku looking after memberships and Bill Prins, ever faithful all-round member who heads the Dhammaloka subcommittee and looks after events and security. The committee is also populated by monastic representation in the form of spiritual director and assistant spiritual director, and we have been blessed in having Ajahn Brahm and Ajahn Hasapanna filling those roles. We have also had the bonus of Ajahn Brahmali's attendance to assist Ajahn Brahm over the past year and that's been wonderful as well.

The committee have been considering some recommendations from the Strategy Group that go to good management and decision making, and we have decided to institute a 'Line Management' strategy from the now fully implemented sub committees through to the five executive members including Ajahn Brahm. Each sub committee will have a budget and spending limits overseen by line management

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through to the executive, all overseen by the committee. We are hopeful that this procedure will make our operation more efficient and less stressful.

There are sub committees for Bodhinyana, Dhammasara, Dhammaloka, Jhana Grove, Broadcasting Web and AV, and the Spiritual Education Group which includes the Care group and Lay Teachers. Our Operations Manager has guidance and duty of care involvement with all of them. (See the chart for details)

The Operations Manager also advises on the 77-policy document that have been written and are now in place under the ACNCs Project Accord. 42 of those policy documents relate to our Financial Management Guide. Big thanks to Venerable Mettaji for standing at the back of all that and giving the right guidance for it to happen. Stephen also oversees the operations of Administration Library and Treasury. Thanks also to our staff, Ronnie Chin and Madu Wijebandara in Treasury, Amanda Hunter our administrator along with Cherry Jackson and Nick Allott. Then there is Manel Fernando and the whole Library team, who do a huge job in our Library.

Lynne Jackson is our female caretaker who has given years of great service to our BSWA. As mentioned, she has been here right from the beginning. Nicholas Allott is our Male caretaker. He is also now a bit of a fixture around the place here, with many years of service. He is a gentleman, and I think everyone would agree with that and we are so lucky to have him at our centre. Christina Yew and Scotty Ermer are the caretakers at Jhana Grove and do a fantastic job for us. The chart will show the Jhana Grove structure.

Vicki McClafferty has once again produced a brilliant monthly edition of the BSWA E-News Bulletin, on time every month, giving us all details of up-coming events and news from all of our Monasteries and Centres. This bulletin goes to our membership into upwards of 1700 computers. Nicholas Allott has continued to produce the Society's 'Enlightened Times' each quarter with deeper articles and news. Once again, this year I have posted the organisational chart of the BSWA. It sets out the vast structure of BSWA and how it works to balance the Monastic and Lay side of our organisation. The volunteers listed are by no means a complete audit. We have tried to capture the main body of volunteers, but it may need some update. Please let either Lucky or me know if you see any glaring omissions. Lucky continues to look after an ever-increasing membership list and continues to be a point of communication for our members near and far. Lucky organises teams of volunteers to look after Reception and all sorts of membership issues.

The committee is also served by Anusha, a never-ending source of energy for the Kalyana Mitta group and beyond to the social activities she organises. She works --- 'sort of', unofficially as Community Co-ordinator and, as mentioned has a big job in train for Ajahn Brahm's birthday. Andrew McDougall looks after the team arranging prison and pastoral visits along with meditation classes inside jails. He and his team are noted on the chart. Then there is Cecilia who last year stepped down as President of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils after doing an enormous job. She acts as an external affair operative and a legal sounding board for our committee. She, with Boon is helping to set up our Chaplaincy program. I would also like to mention Veronica who is now a volunteer Chaplain for us at Curtain University. Then there is Sol Hanna and his teams of people that look after the huge I.T. and streaming side of our organisation. This includes all our Audio-Visual requirements that are now headed up by Jake Mitra who has streamlined our AV and Live streaming capacity. It's a pleasure to have him here as he knows so much stuff.

Our Sunday School has been closed for a period over the worst of the Covid Crisis, however Lee Chan, along with her dedicated group of teachers now has it back on track. At its peak there are a couple of hundred students that do attend. A big thanks to all involved.

Thanks too to all the folk looking after our Armadale group (shown on the chart) and once again to Sol who is looking after an affiliate group in Busselton, Margaret River called (BAMBI). Long standing

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member Bianca De Bua, is still active doing many things for our society from looking after our Lay teaching program for beginners to cooking and stitching cushions which she has done for so many years, for sale. Stools now done by Geoff Webb. I do also want to mention the mainly Thai ladies who look after the community hall and Sompok Kamarikerd who looks after our centre, the Monks and the Nuns so well.

In conclusion I would like to encourage lay members of our society to join in giving service and to know that the possibility of realising the teachings of the Buddha in a deep way is real. Some may think the real work of Dhamma is only to be realised if you are a Monk or Nun. This could not be further from the truth. Each one of us, Monk, Nun, Layman, or Laywomen, we all need to realise the Buddha's teachings for our self. A Monk or Nun cannot do it for you. They can only point the way and our monastics are very skilled at doing this. The Buddha set the 'Four Pillars of Buddhism' in place for us all. His teachings are not exclusive. Doing service for the community is a great way to deepen and understand our practice. As the clarity we derive from the stillness in our mind is absorbed, we start to see what is apparent; together with the transcendent. The Buddha's truth is there for us all to see. Right there in the heart of the present moment. Do the work and develop confidence in your practice. See the world with its Dukkha for what it is. When you are close to the BSWA it will be beneficial. This is the power of the Buddha's insight in building the Four Pillars. You will see that service to its cause will gradually loosen the grasp we have on the world and the right view will manifest. This Dhamma is for us all; Monks, Nuns, Laymen, and Laywomen.

I commend my report to the meeting.

The President asked if there are any questions from the floor.
Stephen Connell responded: Not so much a question. I really want to acknowledge Treasury for all their work on the financial policies and thank them for everything that they've done . And thank you Dennis for your years of service.
Applause from the audience.

3.3. Hon. Treasurer's Report & Auditor's Statement by Treasurer, Natalie Mar

The audit was conducted by Dry Kirkness for the calendar year 2020 financials and internal controls. The audit was conducted on 3rd to the 5th of February 2021 right in the middle of the lockdown due to a positive community case of Covid-19. The audit was conducted online and caused the audit to be delayed and prolonged. I would like to thank Ronnie, Madu and the rest of the Treasury Team in working tirelessly to assist the auditors. It was exhausting but we got there.
From the audit, Dry Kirkness noted some performance improvement observations. These relate to four items:

- A variance between the fixed asset module and the general ledger arose in the Audit. This will be investigated and resolved in 2021 with a yearly reconciliation to be conducted in future;
- Accrual of a small amount of annual leave taken not calculating correctly in MYOB Advance. This will be resolved in MYOB Advance system improvements in 2021 and endorsed by the Committee;
- Some reported sales not being picked up in the MYOB Advance system generated BAS report. This has resulted in BSWA over reporting on it's revenue by approximately $208k. BSWA will submit an amended BAS for the 4 quarters and will make immediate contact with the ATO. The figure for Revenue in the Accounts presented is correct;
- BSWA is likely to need to make a repayment for an ineligible Jobkeeper claim. The Committee endorses the voluntary repayment to the ATO of any incorrect Jobseeker payments.

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BSWA end of year result for 2020 was a surplus of $702k. This is amazing considering a lot of businesses and charities seeing a decline due to the pandemic. This is largely from the donation income received by generous donors followed by royalties from Ajahn Brahm's books.
Cash assets have increased by $778k largely related to the increase in donations. The balance sheet looks very healthy.

Achievements between October 2020 to March 2021
The Financial Management Practice Manual commenced through Project Accord and to meet the ACNC is almost complete. One more to be approved for the next committee meeting.
Continuing in supporting the Monasteries and Hermitages.
Completing the 2020 audit online for the first time in history.
Treasury Team helping out at Dhammasara, visiting Venerable Ananda at Bodhinyana to talk accounts, going to Kusala Hermitage to assist with the renovations at the stables and to discuss accounts and to Bodhinyana Great Southern to visit Venerable Mudu to provide assistance although there was a glitch in the plan when three of us could not go last minute. Luckily the trip continued with Venerable Ananda making the trip with Boon and Ronnie and her family and it was a success.

People to thank in the Treasury Team
I would like to thank with much gratitude, Ronnie and Madu and the rest of the Treasury Team, I thank you for your patience, humility and your hard work. You make me proud to be working in the Treasury Team.
Tai Vo and team (Hui Sia, Chen Sen Yap and Jirawan) for continuing with volunteering in doing the weekly banking and BSWA donations. Tai also helps with a number of handyman works in BSWA. Tai is always smiling when I see him on Saturdays, and it is infectious.
Boon Tan and Poh Lian Suan for providing valuable guidance and support to me and the Treasury Team as and when we need.
Jeffrey Tan and now Lim Eka Setiawan for volunteering in processing refund retreats.
I would like to thank all the volunteers including the volunteers that I have met through my short time as Treasurer. This includes Manel, Hwee Cheng, Pey and all the library volunteers, Lucky, Cherry, Chet, Bill, Eddie, the Thai Group and the Sri Lankan group, Committee members, Amanda, Stephen, Nick and Lynne. Much metta to you all. BSWA wouldn't be the same without you.
Lastly, I would also like to thank Ajahn Brahm, Ajahn Hassapana, Ajahn Santutthi and JR, Venerable Mettaji, Venerable Mudu, Venerable Ananda and the rest of the nuns and monks at Dhammasara and Bodhinyana. You helped make the Treasurer role a joy to be in. Thank you with much gratitude and kindness you have shown me.

If I have forgotten anyone, I apologise.
Applause from the audience.

The President called for questions from the floor
Ananda Thilakasiri: On page 5 of financial statement you can see that last year Travel & visiting monks expense was $118 but the previous year 2019 it was $62,590. So Covid 19 brought in extra funds. Who said Covid-19 is no good! Just to lighten it up. Laughter from the audience.

Ananda raised a query about increase of a little over 200% increase in Employee Benefits. You may not have details, but could you have quick look at that.
The Treasurer replied that it was mainly due to the addition of the Operations Manager salary.

Ananda replied it's an increase of about $126,000. Not expecting answers but the incoming committee should have a look at that.

Boon Tan replied that the Operations Manager hadn't been employed the whole year and we will see the full amount next year.

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The President called for any further questions. None were mentioned he then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The President praised the Treasury team who have come through with flying colours amidst Covid-19 and working from home.

Moved by: Ananda Thilakasiri
Seconded by: Hock Chin Tee
Agreed by: Spiritual Director
Unanimously Accepted.

3.4. Membership Report by Membership Secretary, Lucky Kodituwakku

TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERS

Full Members: 1,076. Associate Members: 408. Youth Members: 42. Honorary Members: 6

Members Paid for Lifetime: 415

Alles Lakshman, Abigail Kuo, Adrian Kemp, Adrian Magno, Agnes Tan, Agus Wardana Djaja, Ai Wei Chua, Amaratunge Kelum Nilakshi, Ananda Barton, Andy Khong, Angie Chew, Anna Liang, Anne Long, Anthony Yeo, Antony Croft, Antony Le Gall, Anura Gamalath, Ariel Tze Ling Wee, Arunodini Jayasekera, Astrid Bachmann, Athalie Pugh, Axel Winter, Babara Chew, Bandu Udalamatta, Barbara Shayne Vang, Bee Suan Koh, Ber Sun, Binh Anson, Boon Chang Tan, Boon Eiang Teng, Bryn Durrans, Budianto Oei, C Grainger, Caroline Battaglia, Catherine Ng-Phng, Chad-jwi Sim, Champika Ruwanmali Akuraeliyage De Silva, Chandan Chakrabortty, Chandana Jayasinghe, Charles Jesudasan, Chatura Mendis, Chee Way Siah, Chen Sen Yap, Cheng Niilus, Cheng Pin Loo, Cheng Soo, Cheng Toh Lee, Ching-Howe Chan, Choon Seng Ong, Christian Vogt, Christine Dyson, Christos Georgantas, Chwee Huang Chua, Craig Baldacchino, Craig Nicholls, Cristof Ensslin, Curtis Wayne Eggleston, Daniel Tian Yew Chang, Darryl Max Small, Darsun Tjahaja, David Burton, David Kok Eng Chan, David Wheeler, David William Indermaur, Dayan Samarasinghe, Denise Solly, Desiree Marion Bucks, Dessy Ulandari Turner, Devy Chan, Diana Minich, Diana Shum, Dilki Gawarammana, Dilruni Pallewatta, Dirk Hahn, Dishanthi Senani Jayathilleke, Drew Bellamy, Dung Van Le, Eddie Khoo, Eddy Fernando, Eiko Bleicher, Eithne O'Brien, Eka Setiawan Lim, Elisabeth Meehan, Elizabeth Rose Cook, Ella Tan, Eric Van Horn, Erlend Neergaard, Esther Kit Lin Liu, Eugene Pottenger, Eunice Loke, Euy Luciana Prawiro, Eva Yuen, Evans Senator the Hon Chris, Eve Hget Hah Yap, Felix Audrey Adekie, Foong Wah Wong, Frank Sattler, Gabor Stefan, Gareth Mervyn Williams, Gayathri Wijesinghe, Geetha Mendis, Gek Ping Ang, Gem Cheung, Gerald Lee Hon Jing, Geraldine Lorraine Scott, Gerhard Hohensinn, Grace Chow Ah Lan, Graham Barnes, Graham Bond, Guat Wah Ng, Ha Phuong Nguyen, Hannah Faye Chua, Hans G Valerius, Haris Suwando, Hau Mei Chin, Heidi Leigh Waldron, Helena Song, Hendy Harianto, Hin Lan Wong, Ho Che Tong, Hoang An Nguyen, Hong Koon Andrew Ang, Hong Lim Lee, Hue My Tran, Hugh Charlesworth Sykes, Hui Sia Lim, Hui Tong Chua, Hwee Cheng Tan, Hwee Kng Thoi, HyunKyung Kim, Ida Chew, Ilja Heckmann, Irawan Susanto, J.A.Syntyasari Soetrisno, Jacek Peter Panas, Jack Lee, Jackie Yee Mun Kong, Jaipal Singh, James Russell Taeza, Janaka David Salgado, Jasmine Oh, Jason Charles Price, Jaturao - Pat Wanchai, Jee Too Foo, Jeffery Tan, Jenny Wai Ying Ha, Jesper Hansen, Jessica Walton, Jihyeon Kim, Jing Han Ng, Joanne Louise Beer, Joanne Tan, John Chan, John James Attard, John Kennedy, Jose Fernando Saavedra-Rosas, Joycelyn Yeo, Ju Lee Ong, Julie Kesry Kift, Julie Tan, Jun Pan, Kam Peng Szeto, Kamajit Rohantha Kumar S Rodrigo, Kamal Weeratunga, Kanchanamala Mudannayake, Karen Callaghan, Karen Poon, Karu Gunathilake, Kathryn Jane Choules, Kathy Fung, Kei Cheung, Keith Gunasekara, Kelly Banz, Kelly Chooi Har Choo, Keranmoy Chakma, Kevin Barry Fox, Kevin Law Smith, Key Seng Tan, Khanh Nguyen, Kia Joo Puan, Kim Meyung Nguyen, Kimberly Christa Steimer, Kirsten Schwedersky, Kit Har Chan, Kitty Fraser, Koh Kiong Tiong, Kosum Beyfus, Kristy Salgado, Kushlani Nimalka Gooneratne, Kwok Wai Yeung, Kwong Ng, Lai Ching Wong (Lee Chan), Lai Kuen Chong, Lakhbinder Kang, Lalani Udalamatta, Lalith Gunathilake, Lan Mai Bui, Larry Parikh, Lee Foong Chung, Lee Lim Elaine Low, Leena Niikkula, Lei Claire Fowler, Lenny Herawaty, Liam William Lavelle, Lien Nguyen, Lillian Uttam, Lin Pik Ki Rebecca Rudgard, Linda Larson, Linda Pasada Ee, Ling Heang, Ling Tee Teh, Lip Yang Ng, Lisa Bee Gek Tee, Lisa Taylor, Liza To, Lorraine Hemley, Lucia Rigo, Luckmani Alles, Lucky Kodituwakku, Lusiana Sisca Muklis, Lynn Karen Walters, M.Hasanthi.C Rodrigo, Mahes Panduka Rajakaruna, Margo Ogledzka, Maria Backes Sabbamitta Anagarika, Marie Easton, Marisa Koo, Marius Slabu, Maryann Athaide, Melissa Marshall, Melody Watson Eggleston, Michael Beisert, Michael Dodds, Michael Dove, Michael Loh, Michael Roe, Michelle Djaja, Michelle Lohanta Foo, Mimi Tantono, Min Thu Aung, Ming Shang Cassim, Minh Nguyen, Mirjam Karin (Cara) Meyr, Miwako Hamamura, Mohandas Perera, Moo Liew Foo, Morris Jette, Naga Prakash Reddy Bolla, Nalin Gunasekera, Nandana Athukorala Perera, Napaporn Nilapornkul, Natalie Mar,

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Nathan Waters, Naveen Mirihagalla, Nayanthi Perera, Neil David Proudfoot, Nget Fah Lee, Ngoc Phuong Thi Le, Nguyen Thai Thi, Nicholas John Allott, Nicholas Waldron, Nicola Le Couteur, Nihal Kodituwakku, Nina Ee, Nipaporn Small, Norbert Hummer, Novita Santoso Tanujaya, Nunamaker Claralynn, Nuttaya Laonayor, Oliver Silvan Ackermann, Parichat Hunt, Pascal Vennemann, Patricia Yih Tan, Pattana Thaivanich, Peggy Chan, Peijing Teh, Peng Siah, Peter DamjanovichNapoleon, Phaik Suan Tan, Philip Ku Jit Hon, Phuong Thi Chuc Truong, Poh Lian Suan, Prasenajit Gunasekera, Prashanth S., Priya Barnes, Pubudu Nuwan Dharmakirti, Rachel Green, Radan Kuca, Ralf Enders, Ramani Visakha Gunasekera, Ranjinee Gunatilleke, Rathna Raju, Ravindra Karunaratne, Rehan Hasitha Abeyakoon, Richard Lai, Rifai Su, Robert Fraser, Robert Grosch, Rochelle Fernandes, Rohan Bandarage, Roy Felix Adekie, Rupika Deepani Abeyakoon, Ruth Abberley, Ruwani Gilmour, Salim Vivian, Saliya Mudannayake, Samanmalith de Silva Delpa Chitra, Samath Indula Perera, Santy Citra, Sarah Ellem, Sarah Long, Sathyajith Thiranagama, Say Moy Liew, Scott Bazely, Scott Ermer, Selina Lai, Semeng Ndhlovu, Seng Watt Ong, Sevng Woo Joung, Sharie Ng, Sharmila Peiris, Shashini Kumari Dissanayake, Shirley Kwok, Shiu Man Ling, Shri Maine, Siam Hong Tan, Siaw Fong Chong, Siew Bee Tan, Siew Peng Neo, Siew Vei Ho, Siew Wan Fong, Simon Blanchard, Sofia Fisher, Solokara M Thushara L Karunarathne, Song Ja Lee, Sophia Ojha Ensslin, Stanely Rajapakse, Stanislaw Paul Maj, Steven Joseph Guidera, Stuart Newby, Stuart Walter Amoore, Su Riwan, Sui Ling Ng, Sumana Peram, Sumith Praveen Kulatileka, Sunil Choudhary, Suramya Anoma Rajapakse, Susan Chia Loke, Susan Lee, Susana Tjong, Susila Malkanthi Tennakoon, T A Burgess, Tai Nin Cheng, Tamara Surya Tjhang, Tan Shally Marvieto, Tasfan Sadikin, Tat Soon Png, Tehani Nimesha Kaluarachchi, Teng Choon Ku, Tero Nikulainen, Than Than Setz, Thao Le, Tholla Meung Chan, Thomas Hoyer, Thong Kwang Han, Tian Lim, Tikka Wickramasinghe, Timothy Mai, Tinh Vuong., Tipawan Jeamteerasakul, Tom Green, Tom Ogledzki, Tong Yng Lee, Tonglor Thom Prins, Tony Foo, Tracy Lau, Tracy Simmons, Trinood Brown, Troung Minh Chau Pham, Tu Jung Man, Udaya Amaratunge, Upul Rodrigo, Van Hoa Le, Van Nguyen, Vaneta Huynh, Veinesca Chandra, Venkata Prasanth Kakaraparthi, Victor Alexander Thomas, Victor EL Wee, Wai Fan Hah, Wai Sam Hoong, Wai Yin Chow, Wan Mei Ang, Wayne Roy Finn, Wei Yu Chong, Weng Nie Peng, Wenny Chuarsa, Wijewickrema Perera, Willem Herman Prins, Winsome Jackson, Wong Jin Lee, Yasmin Moore, Yausan Cheung, Yen Yoong Teoh, Yen-Lin Chee, Yeow Seang Beh, Yesslyn Noviany, Yifan Yu, Yim Mei Rebecca Chu, Ying Della Chiu, Yong Kooi Kuo, YongHee Kwon, Yulianti Himan, Yupa Anson, Zhinan Gong

The Membership report submitted today is for the period March 2020 to March 2021. The Covid pandemic made 2020 a difficult year for many. Given the impact, BSWA made the decision to postpone our Annual General Meeting from March 2020 to September 2020.

With all the challenges of 2020, BSWA and our Sangha continued their invaluable services. Special focus was on our online platform as this was often the only way to access BSWA and the teachings and talks. Our resources and teachings were much sought after, especially in times of isolation and lockdown, where many were seeking strength, solace and comfort. This focus resulted in more supporters subscribing as members. The success of our online offerings is largely due to our dedicated IT and Online Services team, all who are volunteers. For this, we express our immense gratitude.

BSWA expects an increase in member numbers this year, to coincide with Ajahn Brahm's 70th birthday on 7th August 2021, given the respect and reverence by which he is held.

BSWA is grateful for all the understanding and support shown by members. According to the Treasury, our valued members continued their financial support by contributing much needed revenue of $67,195 over this period. March 2020 to March 2021.

We are glad to report the financial membership for the 12 months to March 2021 at 1,526 members including youth.

1076 are Full Members and 408 Associate Members. It is very pleasing to note that we have 42 Youth Members, given they are the future of BSWA. Honorary Members number 6,. Members Paid for Lifetime stand at 415.

Our overseas member numbers are 411 encompassing 45 countries. We are proud to have spread the Dhamma across the globe from Asia, Europe, the Middle East,to North and Latin America.

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It is with great sorrow we remember our valued long-term members who passed away during this period. Special mention goes to Hugh Sykes who passed away in January this year.

We wish to thank each and every member for their continued support of the BSWA with membership. We also thank the team of volunteers whose generous contribution in terms of time and effort have been invaluable. Nick Allott's role, especially during the time of lock-down, is much appreciated.

Dhamma discussion sessions conducted by Senior lay Buddhist members are a recent addition to the volunteer programs. Two such courses that have been well received are the monthly Q & A and the basic teachings of Buddhism to new preceptors.

BSWA depends on your generous contributions to continue spreading the teaching of the Buddha and support the good work of the Sangha led by Ajahn Brahm. On behalf of BSWA, we thank you for the support shown in these especially difficult times.

The President called for questions about the Membership report. No questions.

Moved by: Bill Prins
Seconded by: Doria Guiffre
Agreed by: Spiritual Director
Unanimously Accepted.

The President advised that the following reports can be viewed online and can also be sent out on request:

Dhammasara Nuns Monastery – Venerable Hasapanna

Broadcasting Management Group – Sol Hanna

Information Technology Report – Tonny Wijaya

Armadale Meditation Group – Marlene Gerritson

BSWA Operations Manager – Stephen Connell

Dhammaloka Sub-Committee – Bill Prins

4.0 Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

There has been only one nomination for each of the following positions, so the nominees are elected unopposed: The new President will be Hock Chin Tee. Applause. Wonderful that we've had Hock Chin put his hand up to do this job and we look forward to great things from him and wish him well.

The Vice President is Kseniya Abusaif, remaining in the position.

The Secretary is Linda McGuire.

The Treasurer is Peter Hong.

A balanced executive there now with Peter.

The Assistant Secretary is Gah Siong Lam. He has been a wonderful member, a prodigious worker and has done some wonderful things, setting out very good report that sets out ways and strategies around the Dhammaloka centre. The report is very interesting to look at. Stephen can let you know about this report.

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Ordinary members: IT-Tonny Wijaya, Events-Bill Prins, Memberships- Lucky Kodituwakku, Paul Firth, Phuong Truong (absent due to work).

Elected Unopposed:

Position	Type	Delegated Duty	Nominee's Name
President	Office Holder - Executive	Chairperson	Hock Chin Tee
Vice President	Office Holder - Executive	Deputy Chairperson	Kseniya Abusaif
Secretary	Office Holder - Executive		Linda McGuire
Treasurer	Office Holder - Executive		Peter Hong
Assistant Secretary	Office Holder		Gah Siong Lam
Ordinary Member	Non-Office Holder	IT services	Tonny Wijaya
Ordinary Member	Non-Office Holder	Events	Bill Prins
Ordinary Member	Non-Office Holder	Membership	Lucky Kodituwakku
Ordinary Member	Non-Office Holder		Paul Firth
Ordinary Member	Non-Office Holder		Phuong Truong

To be Voted on at AGM

Position	Type	Delegated Duty	Nominee's Name
Assistant Treasurer	Office Holder		1) Moi Tjin Tjihn 2) Vivara Kunabutr

Just one item we need to vote on, for the position of Assistant Treasurer. Both contenders would be fine but we're hoping to co-opt the other person to assist in the role. The BSWA is a large organisation and the Treasury is an enormous task.

The President called on each of the nominees to speak to the assembly:

Vivara Kunabutr: Good afternoon everyone. I was born in Perth. Witnessed, associated and encouraged by the sangha led by Ajahn Brahm. Just being asked to nominate was a privilege and I'd be happy to assist the sangha and the committee in another capacity if I was voted. Finished masters of professional accounting last year. Thank you for your time.
Ajahn Brahm noted that Ajahn Jagaro did the marriage service for Vivara's mum and dad.

Moi Tjin Tjihn: Good afternoon everyone my name is Moi. I come from Indonesia, have been in Perth for 7 years. I'm an accountant, working full time in a public service firm. If I get the chance to support BSWA, it will be a lot of reasons to come more often and give good dhamma in my lifetime.

Eddie Khoo: No offense to anyone. Ajahn Brahm can't say it but I can as a layperson. In the past we don't have Thai people in the committee but the Thai community has done tremendous work for BSWA, giving dana to the monks and nuns. And the fund raising has been by the Thai community. We should have a Thai person on the committee.
Ajahn Brahm responded that Indonesians have also given a lot to this monastery. I like them both.

The vote was taken: Moi Tjin Tjihn: 20 votes. Vivara Kunabutr: 35 Abstain: 10

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The President declared that Vivara Kunabutr was elected as the Assistant Treasurer. The Committee have already decided that we would like for Moi to come on as a committee member assisting in the Treasury as well. I can assure you that you'll have plenty of work to do.
Welcome to everybody who has put their hand up to come on to the committee, it's a wonderful thing that you've done.

5.0 Special Business

The President outlined the proposed changes to the BSWA Constitution, Part 4, Rule 9 – Applying for Membership.

President handed over to the Operations Manager, Stephen Connell to provide backgroun information.

Stephen Connell: Thank you Dennis. The Model Rules introduced in the 2019 state that every membership application must have a nomination from an existing member. In theory that idea is to prevent the numbers from being stacked. But there isn't any requirement for us to do that. Having this in place is actully creating quite a barrier for new members, if you look at the financial statement for 2019 we had about 100,000 (looked for figures). But anyway, I'm from the US and I'm used to being on the other side of the camera so it's strange to be sitting here but when I came to Perth the largest reason to be here was because of the BSWA. If it wasn't possible for me to be a member I wouldn't have be here. I'm not alone, we have millions or hundreds of thousands, who want to be part of this society. Making a nomination requirement, there's no way that we can continue to grow memberships. It's going to decline over time. A lot of administrative hours go in to trying to verify the nomination. Amanda, Lucky, myself, Nick have to call up members, prospective members, verify their status because there's no good way to verify that they're a genuine member at that point.

What the proposal does is remove the wording in Part 4, Rule 9 that the application must be include a member's nomination for the applicant for membership. It adds digital signatures, and it includes an Online Application Form. The intention here is to allow more people globally to become members. As far as the Model Rules go, they prescribe a Schedule 1 in the Associations Act. That requires for us to prescribe when and how someone becomes a member. It's completely silent as to whether you have to have a nominations process. There's often an argument that you need to continue to have the Model Rules in place and not make any modificaitons to them. However, we actually aren't using the Model Rules as it is, what we're using is our own modified set of rules based on a number of edits that have happened over the years. I believe those came in at 2019 and in my view there's no reason why we cannot go forward with this change. So, if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

The President asked if anyone wanted further clarification.

Dennis – does anyone have questions.

Question: How do we know that the person is legitimate?

Stephen answered: Sometimes you have to take it on trust. There's no way to determine with a nomination that the person is legitimate either. You can spend 5 minutes trying to get to know if they're geniune but shoret of having them scan ID like a passport, but people just aren't going to do that.
What we have now is that we need a signature from the Membership Secretary and the Nominator. That does nothing to determine if it's a legitimate application, it just adds an administrative burden.
Yes, there is a risk that someone could sign up for a fraudulent membership but you could add a form that asks Are you a genuine person? Are you trying to join the BSWA for nefarious intent.. and so on. It's a sticky situation, those memberships would be thrown out regardless.

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Question: Do online members have full voting rights?

Stephen answered: Yes. And currently all Full members have voting rights regardless of whether they live in WA or not. Whether you live in the US, Saudi Arabia etc you actually already can vote at AGMs.

Question from Ananda: Does the full membership still need approval from the spiritual director? And what about the approval process for full members?

Stephen answered: This motion is not changing the Spiritual Directors role, it's only about the nomination for membership. Currently Full Memberships are approved by the full committee as a list presented at the committee meeting. The committee votes whether or not to accept them. There's no change proposed for this.

Question from Ananda: Previous person raised the element of risk and there can be fraudulent members. Just trying to highlight the possible risk.

Stephen answered: I appreciate that. I could say that we can distrust the outside world and close off memberships. Globally there's a lot of people that don't have a sangha, they don't have a local monk but they do have, like me in America, have the BSWA online. Isn't it the charities purpose to spread Buddhism, so if we're trying to be motivated by distrust that we might have a fraudulent member 10 years down the line,
Instead of trusting that people are joining genuinely to become Buddhists, I'd say that risk is worth it. And having the nomination in place does not remove any risks.

Question from Nick Allot: Checking on whether we accept Overseas proxy votes?
Lucky replied Yes, we do.

Question: Wondering about the relevance of people living in foreign countries having voting on the BSWA. The current numbers don't pose a problem but if it becomes that we have more and more overseas members, shouldn't they be Associate member and not full members?

Stephen answered: It hasn't been a problem. Concede the point that your interest in the society might be different if you're online and not living here. But personally speaking the connection to Buddhism is the same whether you're online or offline.

Question from Peter Smith: Are there other ways that people can support the BSWA, such as financially as well as offers of support apart from actually being members. Why should we focus on signing up people to become members when we could have other ways for people to support the society? Particularly overseas members.

Stephen answered: Absolutely. Sol Hanna has done an amazing job of increased revenue, such Patreon support for YouTube videos. Memberships are recurring, a guaranteed form of income. With the introduction of nomination requirement we've seen a decrease of $40k in membership revenue. Is that the cause?
Well, correlation leads to causation. But it does coincide with the signature requirement of the nomination part.

Comment from Ananda Thilakasiri: Associate membership is a better way to go. The impact is less than 3% so I think it's not worth considering. This is a Theravadin Forest Tradition, so we should not expose it to undue risk. Recommend that the AGM does not vote for this.

Comment from Ajahn Brahm: There is an advantage in that full members from overseas can come to our retreats. For associate members it's almost impossible to get in.

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Comment from Stephen Connell: Spreading the Buddha's teachings is what we're here for.

Comment from Cecilia Mitra: Outlined that foreign influence is a big concern. Without the means of verifying that particular member. There's a bit of a concern

Stephen replied: The current process doesn't offer any protection though. In reality a signature happens after a 2 minute phone call. If someone turns out to be a foreign agent, the form has someone like Lucky's signature saying they put them forward as a member..

Comment from Paul Firth: Agree that online membership is the way it works now. I only join things online. I can't see hoards of people wanting to join and bring the BSWA down, it's a pretty ordinary thing for nowadays. It should be done.

Comment from Nick Allot: In favour. I don't think changing this will affect how much we can control who comes in or out anyway. The committee has the option to accept or reject a proposal. The same thing twice. The current process doesn't provide too much protection.

Comment from Stephen: Other organisations in WA have made the same choice ie adopted the Model Rules but chose to drop nominations.

Question: I've been in a lot of committees, it does happen that there are power groups who want to take over. I think there's an element of needing to keep control. I think an overall view should be keeping some kind of control over memberships. What happens overseas we don't know. It has the potential to get out of hand. You can see we might be able to manage it a bit more wisely and not set a precedent we regret later. Should be another way for people from overseas to be able to attend retreats without being a Full members. Possibly this needs more thought.

Stephen answered: Before 2019 this nomination requirement wasn't in place. All someone does is submit a form online and it gets emailed to the Membership secretary who puts their name to someone they don't know.
I do see your point and your concerns.

Comment from Lucky (membership Admin): Approval is done at the committee meetings, full members take the 5 precepts, the application is endorsed by Ajahn Brahm or they take the commitment, submit to committee for approval. It's not based on one person. During the Covid pandemic, USA 200 members has come down to 98. There are a lot of people who are joining as new members and they want the Dhamma, want to be part of this great community, and how it has helped at this time during the pandemic. In support of what Stephen is bringing up for the resolution.

Comment from The President: For Vesak day 2020, we will have a big ceremony here, a very beautiful ceremony where people are accepted as members with Ajahn Brahm's blessing. They all get a certificate, they're read out, what Lucky has in mind is to have a visual image or connection to them while that's going on.

Comment from Lucky: This year the Vesak ceremony is different, we will have online connection led by jake Mitra, each individual will participate with us online, we will see them on screen and it makes them feel they are part of this great community. Which is what they say, we want to share our gratitude with this teacher, Ajahn Brahm, we want to be part of this community, that's how important it is, members from 52 countries...membership expands right across the world. We have a member from Siberia. Thanks to the Dhamma teaching, the IT team and the rest of the volunteers.

Comment from the President: We need to see that these overseas members are wanting to be a part of this organisation. This ceremony each Vesak day, is quite moving, see the people from overseas take the five precepts. You can only vote at an AGM if you're a Full member. Every month we get all the new members,

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they are named, Lucky proposes that they be accepted. If there was a particularly a big group of people we were suspicious about we would see that very easily. For those people who are joining as Full members they are able to get interaction with a senior monk. Doesn't rule out any problem. But the extra work and trouble that we all need to go through is to make sure these nominations are done by the Model Rules.

Question /comment (unclear): Change from written to online application.

Stephen replied: We do have an online application already, has been in place for many years.

Comment from Jake Mitra: Want to share a personal experience. The intention is coming from a good place. It can have disastrous consequences, experienced this myself with the Buddhist council. We welcome them, happy about them, but one person can make a big difference. Taking into account the popularity of Ajahn Brahm, what we have found is that some people are jealous of the success of other monks, and they come in with a vengeance. And once a bad apple comes in it's hard to get rid of them. The two minute interview shouldn't be dispensed with. We should have as many international members as possible, try to bring the dhamma to as many people as possible but we also have to be very careful.

Comment from Boon Tan: Just want to address what Ananda mentioned about having a valid real life person on the other end. On the internet there are tools, website that can check if it's a real person or a machine, that can be done, or a robot or something. Can be done if we need to.

Comment from Ajahn Brahm: Personally, I think it's worth taking the risk in changing this. Our execs are working hard and getting burnt out, the risk is there. We have so many members and the bulk of members that we know and trust, it would be hard to take over an organisation this big. 1500 full members, you'd have to get another 1500 to take over this buddhist society. We want to make it open to everyone from overseas.
But that's personal from me. If you want to vote against it, then vote against it, don't follow me.

Comment from Manel Fernando: This is just reverting back to the old form. Where we signed peoples forms when they come in and don't know them. The committee decides. But Ajahn Brahm still has to sign for the full members, they still have to take the 5 precepts whether they're online or not. So that's not changing, it's only that one clause

The President called for a vote on the Special Resolution. Take time to count, we need to have at least 75% of the voting members. Some members have already left the meeting.

Those in favour:	49
Against:	3
Abstain:	7
Total counts	**59**

Ajahn Brahm questioned whether Hock Chin should make the President's call.
Venerable Mettaji: Confirmed that Dennis is president until the end of the meeting. The president has to make the call.

The President has declared that we have the 75 percent required. The Presidential called that the motion for the Special Resolution is passed.

6.0 Questions with Due Notice: None

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7.0 Questions Without Notice:

Question from Ananda Thilakasiri: Want to check if there is a delegation of Authority in place?

Ajahn Brahm asked: Delegation of authority for what?

Ananda: For spending. Say if someone wants to spend $400,000, I think it's a requirement as the organisation is growing.

Ajahn Brahm and The President replied: Yes, we do, we have all that in place. Ajahn Brahm explained that even for the monastery, he can't spend $400,00. He would have to ask the Committee, even if I raise it, I still have to ask the Committee if I can spend it.

The President replied: All the financial policies are in place, exactly as the ACNC requires them to be.

8.0 General Business:

Stephen Connell: We need approval for Dry Kirkness to be the Auditors for the coming year.
Dennis Sheppard: May make sense to keep the auditor for the coming year. Called for a motion to accept this proposal. If the new committee wish to change to another auditor, they would need to decide before the next AGM.

Moved: Natalie Mar
Seconded: Bill Prins
Approved: Spiritual director.
Accepted unanimously.

Nick requested that the new committee members stay for the photos after the meeting.

9.0 Closure

The President called the meeting to a close at 6.35pm.

Ajahn Brahm led the meeting in paying respects to the Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha

THE BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.) PRESIDENT

21/04/2021.
DENNIS SHEPPARD.
PRESIDENT BSWA.