

**ZOOM MEETING MINUTES for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Chicago Chapter
Thursday, November 10, 2022**

Present: Taigen, Jack, Alex, Kevin

Facilitated by Jack, minutes by Kevin

Venezuela Project:

Alex reports on the Venezuelan Family Donations Drive, and says that it was a great success, with 7 co-sponsors, and having receiving many donations. The donations will be distributed soon. Alex suggests that this can be a template for future similar efforts. Jack notes that this type of activity is very worthwhile, and also free of ideological baggage.

CAPA, BPF Chicago Future Efforts, and Politics:

Jack does not have a new CAPA report at this time. Taigen asks what we can do in the new year. Perhaps a university talk about bullying and how to counter it; or perhaps a talk about what clerics can do to tone down angry (societal) messaging in their congregations. In general, when talking about politics or hot-button issues with someone from a very different ideological background, Jack notes that the way you present an idea, is super critical. The ego must be left out completely, and your words must be chosen carefully to avoid “triggers” that will cause an instant bad reaction. It is definitely a discipline, requiring a lot of self-awareness and concentration. A wide-ranging discussion about the recent national election, ensues.

Upcoming Actions:

- The Parliament of World Religions will be held in Chicago in August 2023. The last one was 10 years ago. See <<https://parliamentofreligions.org/>> for more information. Alex mentions that Asayo requests our participation.
- ADZG has a new (temporary) Zendo in Lincoln Square, check their website.

NEXT ZOOM MEETING:

2nd Thursday (due to holiday), December 8, 2022: 7:30pm; reminder and link to be emailed.

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