

Great Heartland Sangha Leadership Council Minutes 06/28/15

Members present: Chuso (Chair), Jun'nyo (Membership), Shugetsu (Facilities), Do'on (Reverend) and Rinsen (Abbot). Not present: Hoshi (Finance), Myoho (Marketing), Kyojo (Fundraising) and Ryudan (stepped down from LC).

Jukai Retreat Planning

The Tanto (tanto@buddhisttempleoftoledo.org) for the August 10-16 Jukai Retreat is Zusei. All current Jukai members are encouraged to come for all or part of the retreat to help sew Do'on's Denkai Rakusu and to help support the initiates. Jukai renewal will take place in the evenings. On Saturday, silence will be lifted in the evening for a pizza party and bonfire leading up to Do'on's Denkai ceremony. Plans are also under way for a Dharma School activity on Saturday. Please RSVP as soon as you can on the web site, even if you may need to tweak your dates later. The sooner they have a good headcount the better for planning purposes.

Deep bows to Zusei for serving as Tanto, as well as other retreat leaders: Sho'On (Sewing Master), Yujo (Sewing Master), Kaishin (Tanzo), Myoho (Assistant Tanzo), Fukan (Assistant Tanzo) and Chuso (Jukai Renewal).

Buddhist Teachers' Conference

The Reverends are very energized from the retreat they attended in early June. Big topics that were discussed at the conference included encouraging diversity and helping to stop climate change. There is wide support for the developments of the Great Heartland Sangha in the wider Buddhist community.

Do'on's Denkai Transmission

As was announced in May, Do'on has been offered and has accepted Denkai Transmission from Rinsen. Though the actual ceremony is private only to Dharma Teachers, there will be some kind of vigil arranged while the ceremony takes place at midnight on Saturday, August 15 at Black Oak Farm, which is also the last night of the Jukai Retreat. Chuso and Jun'nyo will also host a party for Do'on in September. More details will be released soon. We are also looking to recruit a college film student to document some of the retreat and transmission.

Finances

We discussed our continued budget shortfall and how we do not have enough regular pledges coming in to cover a minimum budget. We continually rely on a few generous donors stepping up to fill key budget gaps as they occur. With the Jukai retreat and Do'on's transmission, we need to redouble our efforts to collect what has been pledged and continue to seek additional members just to keep the lights on, as well as for the cost of the retreat and needed materials for the Denkai ceremony.

Membership Follow-Up

To fill the "Buddha-Meter" yet this year, we need 30 more members. Jun'nyo will follow up with all members who have made a pledge now that we are halfway through the year. We are beginning to plan a membership book to give members in 2016.

Policy Update

Leadership Council will vote to adopt the inaugural policies at the July meeting. The document will be shared with the Sangha beforehand.

Member Survey

Jun'nyo will send out the annual member survey in July so the results will be ready in time for the August strategic planning session.

Strategic Planning Session

Leadership Council agreed to hold its annual strategic planning session at Hoshi's home on Sunday, August 23 starting at 2 p.m., running until around 8 p.m. We will set the agenda at our July 19 meeting. The plan is to set goals for the coming year. The meeting will be attended by 2014-15 and 2015-16 Leadership Council members.

Leadership Council 2015-16

The group went into Executive Session to discuss next year's Leadership Council.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 19 at 2 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jun'nyo