

Leadership Council Notes for 3/13/2017

Present: Reverend Rinsen, Reverend Do'on, Zusei, Jigen, Sho'on, Jodon, Kinko, Hoshi (remote online) and visitors Daijin and Julia Caldwell.

Membership & Canvass Report:

- After ending 2016 with 110 individual adult members, we now have 130 individual adult members. 89 are renewing members from 2016, 35 are new members, and 6 are Daishin Koku-Ji Jukai who have a long-standing connection with the temple but were not previously official members.
- At present \$90,495 have been pledged. We are aiming to reach pledges of \$100,000. If we meet the \$100,000 goal, we will begin building a small operating cushion of one month's expenses to help even out cash-flow throughout the year and to serve as the beginning of a rainy day fund. Best practice for stable non-profits is to aim for 6-18 months' cushion.
- LC extends deep gratitude to Jukai Class Representatives who volunteered to help out with the annual canvass by reaching out to encourage their Jukai Siblings to renew. We credit much of the great success of this year's canvass to your efforts. _^_
- 2016 tax letters and the 2016 Annual Newsletter were sent together at the end of February.
- LC will send a paper membership form and reminder note to 2016 members who have not yet renewed and that will conclude the active canvass.
- The 2017 canvass was extremely successful but also rushed for those involved in managing it. To manage it more smoothly and effectively in 2018, we will kick-off in early December 2017 rather than January 2018.
- 2-3 times during 2017, LC will send emails to members letting them know how much they pledged and how much they have given so far so they can plan out the rest of the year and get in touch if circumstances have changed.

Building Community

- LC will organize a bagel breakfast with the Reverends for Jukai students discerning Shoken, whether for 2017 or the future, to be held in June. This event will give those interested in Shoken an opportunity to ask questions and discuss with the teachers.
- Beginning instruction will be offered at 10:15 and will conclude at 10:50 every Sunday. Already printed promotional literature will eventually be replaced or corrected with stickers to reflect the new time.

Guardian Council Updates

- Guardian Council would like to create more bunk space at sesshin due to increasing attendance, however we do not have budget to purchase more bunks and mattresses at this time and no obvious path forward. Zusei proposed we postpone a decision until we reach our pledge goal.
- April 1st from 2-5pm there will be a Beginning Instruction training for Shoken students. The class will be documented and archived.

Temple Store

Shogen has ordered 20 oryoki sets for sale in the temple store at \$40 each. We hope this quantity will keep us stocked for 1 year when we can order in bulk again.

Sangha Circles

We are encouraging folks to sign up by the end of the day next Friday, March 17. We especially want to encourage new members to join in the Sangha Circles. Rinsen will be choosing the discussion topics for Sangha Circles soon.

Temple Cleaning Day was a good Samu experience and well-attended. We would like to establish a tradition of 4 temple cleaning samu days per year, one per season, corresponding to the beginning and ending of each Ango.

The Bagel Breakfast for new members went well. Many of the folks who attended the breakfast stayed for the Samu Temple Cleaning; we may combine these events again in future.

Jukai

There are 19 people interested in Jukai this year. As with last year, there will be an element of individual fundraising from each initiate, supplemental funding from initiates who are able to give more, and then a general appeal to the sangha if needed to raise \$350 per initiate.

Affinity and Support Groups

- There have been some recent scheduling issues with meetings and events organized by Affinity and Support Groups.
 - Miscommunication with the venue led to uncertainty about whether a bowling event could proceed, and confusion amongst organizers about what to do and amongst attendees about whether it had been cancelled. Jigen will work with Group Leaders to make sure all at least one Group Leader is on site during any event.
 - At the Friday volunteering event, work finished very early and the crew headed out for social time; there was some confusion about the start time and late arrivers did not know what had happened or where to connect with the group. Jigen will give guidance to Groups about managing communications with event participants.
- Dharma Camp will be July 29th at the farm. Amy Gill has volunteered to lead the event.
- The Dungeons and Dragons became an official Affinity Group, continuing on with its existing meeting time and mission.
- We are still awaiting paperwork to make the Recovery and Meditation Group official.

Facebook Group Mindful Monday Discussions

LC decided to bring our Mindful Monday social media conversation starter experiment to a close after weak enthusiasm. Finding suitable questions and posting them was a significant amount of work, and we noted that the community is thriving even without that kind of steering. We will re-evaluate after Ango and potentially bring Mindful Monday or something similar back in the future.

Website

LC continues to have a website redesign and technology migration project on the backburner awaiting a tenacious volunteer or a change in priority; most of our new visitors come in through Facebook advertising, friend referrals, and community events, so our website is not the highest priority. In the meantime, Zusei is working on making the site more mobile friendly (within the constraints of the current vendor), streamlining content, and keeping information and photos current. We would also love to have a temple archive of photos, fliers, programs and similar – a sort of sangha genealogy starter scrap-book – but this kind of effort takes a lot of time and enthusiasm. From experience as a professional Archivist, Zusei advises that for our size organization this kind of project is normally carried out by an enthusiastic volunteer as a labor of love over many years, and so the project awaits a very enthusiastic volunteer or growing to a size and budget where other approaches are feasible.

Ango Home Liturgy for far flung Sangha members. We will be sending Ango care packets to far-flung members containing a red thread, the Ango text, and the Daily Home Liturgy. We intend to make this a regular practice to stay connected with distance members. Many bows to Jigen and Kodo for helping to assemble and ship the packages this time.