

# Great Heartland Sangha Leadership Council Minutes 5/17/15

Members present: Chuso (Chair), Jun'nyo (Membership), Hoshi (Finance), Shugetsu (Facilities), Kyoyo (Fundraising), Ryudan (Policy), Do'on (Reverend) and Rinsen (Abbot). Visitor: Kaishin.  
Not present: Myoho (Marketing)

## Mountain Seat Ceremony

The meeting started with an appreciation for the effort that many made, especially Myoho, to make the Mountain Seat Ceremony a huge success. Many, many bows!

We will need to look into how we may order a plaque from *The Toledo Blade* of their article about the ceremony to hang in the Temple.

## Do'on's Denkai Transmission

As was announced at today's service, Do'on has been offered and has accepted Denkai Transmission from Rinsen. (We're so excited! Yay, Do'on!) 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. We have asked Do'on to consider how she would like us to celebrate her transmission. More details will be released soon. We do know Edward Brown will attend the ceremony and that we will need to raise funds to buy Do'on a gold robe, and the sewing masters at the Jukai retreat will sew her a gold raksu.

## Spiritual Structure of the Temple

With Do'on's Denkai Transmission as well as Rinsen's recent Denbo Ceremony where he is now recognized as Abbot, Great Heartland Sangha is able to make its own decisions about the spiritual structure of our Sangha, since we are now a freestanding Temple organization. Most notably moving forward, there will be changes to how one formally asks our reverends to be his/her teacher, which is called Shoken. For those who have already begun Shoken with Rinsen Sensei, there need not be any changes unless both parties agree. Moving forward, the spiritual structure will be as follows. Additional details will be announced about each level soon.

1. Visitor
2. Member
3. Jukai Member
4. Shoken Member
5. Shuso Member

## Still Not Making Rent

We appreciate the patience of Otto Weik, Rinsen's father, each month as we have often not been able to pay the rent over the past several months. Hoshi reported that we have collected about \$24,000 in membership dues payments so far this year, but with our barebones **annual** budget of \$55,000, we are already falling short for the year. Since we're approaching the halfway point for the year, we should really be at least at \$27,500 by now.

Jun'nyo reported she is working on matching up how much each member has pledged compared to the donations made so far in order to send friendly reminder letters. There are over 20 members who pledged financial support who have not yet given this year. Jun'nyo will also

make sure all Jukai initiates have become members. She is also planning a thank-you card to go out to all members near the end of the year.

Chuso asked that we add to our wish list a Legacy Committee, which would help ask members to remember the Sangha in his/her will/estate planning.

### **Policy Update**

Ryudan will meet with Rinsen soon to iron out some modifications to the draft bylaws and policy given Do'on's Transmission and the new spiritual structure of the Temple. They will then share the draft with Leadership Council, and after that review, the draft will be shared with Members.

### **Leadership Council 2015-16**

Rinsen and Do'on asked that all members of Leadership Council please let them know if we are willing to serve again next year.

### **Fundraising**

Kyojo is planning to have Kroger Plus Card Community Rewards signup events at upcoming services. We did some brainstorming on other ways to bring in much-needed funds yet this year since membership pledges are not covering basic expenses. We also discussed the possibility of attracting grant dollars.

### **Administrative Support**

We added to our wish list—once we add enough membership pledges to be sustainable—to offer a stipend to a Sangha Member to handle basic administrative functions for the Temple, such as sending email reminders to those who have registered for a program, making sure supplies are stocked, making deposits and updating membership and visitor information.

### **Year of the Retreat**

Do'on would like to have us focus our efforts in 2016 on retreats, stressing the importance of Sesshin attendance by all members throughout the year.

### **Member Survey**

Jun'nyo circulated a draft membership survey that will be sent out this summer. LC members will provide feedback within the next two weeks. The results will be circulated to all members with an update on the activities of the year around the time of Jukai this summer.

### **Strategic Planning Session**

Leadership Council agreed to hold its annual strategic planning session at Hoshi's home at our regular August meeting date, Sunday, August 30 starting at 2 p.m., running until around 8 p.m.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, June 28.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jun'nyo*