

Leadership Council Meeting, BTT
Nov. 30, 2014

Present: Rinsen; Do'on; Myoho Deborah Ayres Budd: Marketing and Outreach;
Jun'nyo Rachel Johnson: Membership; Shugetsu David McDonald: Operations;
Chuso Mike Zickar: FellowshipOne; Ryudan Chris Collins: Policy and Procedures.
Absent: Hoshi Michael Leizerman: Finance; Kyojo Jennifer DeRaad: Fundraising

Rinsen started off with a recap of the Boundless Way discussions as reflected in the previously distributed letter to the Sangha.

Rinsen disclosed that a resolution has been reached with the Swanton zoning commission. There had been complaints that the use of the farm for sesshin violated zoning for the township. A formal letter researched and written by Rena Leizerman to the Swanton zoning commission successfully argued that the Sangha's religious freedom to assemble falls squarely under precedents influenced by RLUIPA, a federal statute. Council gratefully thanks Rena for her expeditious action on this matter.

Rinsen hopes to develop a regular column that may appear in the Toledo Free Press. Rinsen and Myoho will be the contact with the Publisher; the format will be Q and A; all crowd-sourced questions are welcome!

Rinsen and Do'on suggested a major change to the Sangha's workshop/education efforts. The Reverends proposed all workshops and classes be subsumed into a series of Buddhist classes to be held before Sunday service during both Ango seasons. They envision a "Stages of the Path" curriculum that progresses for each Sangha member from Ango to Ango. After discussion, Council enthusiastically endorsed. The new Sunday class structure will not affect the BTT intro/orientation sessions, the monthly Sesshin schedule, or Zazenkai during Ango periods.

Speaking for Hoshi, Rinsen let Council know that contribution/pledges had significantly slowed in October/November and that the Temple was short on November rent by \$500.00. It's unclear whether a proportion of Sangha members have already met their annual pledge amounts. A breakdown of pledges versus contributions-to-date will be prepared for the December council meeting.

There will be an additional appeal for pledges targeting two urgent needs: quiet space heaters for the Temple and a sound/video system that will allow for better quality pod casts and simulcasts designed to connect with remote Sangha members. Shugetsu provided Council with a number of logistical solutions.

Myoho's marketing issues included:

- 1) Opening the Temple space to outside groups, e.g. a venue for jazz combos, private gatherings, and other performances was approved. All building scheduling (including Aikido activities) will be coordinated through Myoho and a master calendar. Conversations regarding these activities are ongoing between Myoho, Stephanie Saba, and Jenn McCullough regarding details such as pricing at similar local venues.
- 2) Under community outreach, marketing raised the question of joining other groups in NW Ohio in their efforts to address social needs. After discussion, Council resolved to survey how other U.S. Buddhist communities with similar resources have typically taken on social action commitments.
- 3) Myoho and Jun'nyo will coordinate a print materials campaign, including note cards/brochures, for community dissemination in coffee shops, etc. Other ideas to extend community awareness of BTT included adopting a segment of I-75 in exchange for signage hat-tipping BTT.

In light of BTT's new unaffiliated status, Rinsen and Ryudan will prepare a draft policy/procedure document for December's LC meeting. From there, all interested members of the Sangha will be invited to review and comment.

Jun'nyo will take on enlarging the "secret" Facebook group of Jukai members to include all active Sangha members.

Building/operations will store the old "Open" sign and replace the Aikido sign floods. Install a temporary camera owned by Shugetsu. Install the NAS/video server and configure it. Investigate sound system at the local music store. Investigate pod casting via the new cam and server. Investigate simulcasting via the various Sangha computing devices.

We discussed raising money for heating of the Temple as well as additional money to install video and audio to help connect with many of our members who do not live close.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Ryudan Collins