



## Organization Dept

**DATE: August 3, 2010**

**MEMO NO: ORG—026**

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DISTRIBUTE TO: All Members  
FROM: Men's Division Leader—Tariq Hasan  
SUBJECT: August 24th Men's Month

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On Tuesday, August 24th, we are asking men throughout SGI-USA to gather together to do gongyo and commemorate this important date as a starting point to create a new history together as a response to our mentor. SGI-USA facilities will be made available for these meetings and every effort should be made to accommodate the diverse schedules of the men in our organization. For example, additional daytime meetings can be scheduled in communities where a number of men work in the evening. In communities without an SGI-USA center, other local meeting places such as members' homes can be used.

### ***Simple Meeting Plan***

There is no need to have an elaborate plan for these meetings; the focus should be on holding a simple, meaningful event. The content of the meeting should include gongyo, one or two experiences and a presentation on the significance of August 24th.

August 24th is Soka Gakkai "Men's Division Day." This is the date when President Ikeda joined the Soka Gakkai in 1947. August 24th was also the date in 1950 when his mentor, Josei Toda, announced his intention to resign his position as general director of the Soka Gakkai. President Ikeda resolved on that day that President Toda would be his mentor for life and that he would protect him forever. With the profound significance of the oneness of mentor and disciple, August 24th was designated as "Men's Division Day" in 1976.

### ***Opportunity for Gohonzon Conferrals***

August 24th this year is at the start of the week following discussion meeting week, so these meetings would also be an ideal time to have Gohonzon conferrals for new members of all divisions. Literally thousands of people were introduced to Nichiren Buddhism through the Rock the Era festivals. Let's do everything we can to help these new friends begin their practice during the historic propagation month of August. Specifically, let's enable the youth division to take the lead in creating unprecedented victories in propagation and participation in the August discussion meetings, which also serve as the SGI-USA men's



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division general meeting.

### ***Signature Sheets to Commemorate the Occasion***

Every man who participates in these meetings will have an opportunity to sign his name on a special signature sheet to mark his participation and express appreciation to his mentor at this historic time. The sheets will be collected and bound into a book to be sent to President Ikeda.

### ***Recent Guidance for Men's Division***

We are very fortunate to have recently received an essay to the men's division from President Ikeda entitled "The Courageous Champions of the Men's Division." In it, President Ikeda writes:

*True champions not only rally others but also put themselves in the heart of the struggle and fight harder than anyone.*

[Thomas] Paine wrote, "It is not in numbers, but in unity, that our great strength lies." When he made his solitary stand, both young and old alike followed. Together they broke through what once prevailed as common sense and made the impossible possible.

*The courage and actions of men can create a solidarity that leads to a resounding victory.*

*"World Tribune, July 9, 2010 Insert Page F"*

Let's hold gatherings of genuine champions everywhere in the country on August 24th and based on the solidarity of our shared commitment with our mentor, fill the rest of this year with resounding victories.