SGI-USA MEN’S DIVISION GUIDELINES 2020

To the men of SGI-USA: In 2020, let’s become the most trusted and respected members of the Soka family! Let’s fully support all SGI activities, accumulate unlimited fortune, excellent health and live with joy and fulfillment like never before!

All Men’s Division activities will be based on the SGI-USA organizational rhythm and direction for 2020 and the 60th anniversary of worldwide kosen-rufu—especially in supporting the SGI-USA goal of introducing 6,000 new youth in 2020.

MONTHLY KINGS OF SOKA MEETINGS
Continue to hold monthly Kings of Soka Meetings on the second or fourth weekend at the Region or Zone level.

WEEKLY SOKA SPIRIT CHANTING SESSIONS
Strive to support and participate in the weekly Soka Spirit chanting sessions. Men’s division who actively participate in Soka Spirit chanting sessions are decidedly more joyful, engage in more shakubuku and are more keen to support the youth.

2020 FNCC CONFERENCES
The theme of the FNCC Men’s Conferences is: “Year of Advancement and Capable People—MD of SGI-USA will Fight All the Way for a Successful November 18, the 90th Anniversary of the Founding of Soka.”

- June 5–8 Men’s #1 (open to all MD)
- August 14–17 Men’s #2 (ages 35–45 only)
- November 6–9 Men’s #3 (open to all MD)

GUIDELINES FOR MEN’S DIVISION LEADERS

COURAGE GROUP
- Graduation and inauguration at March 5th meetings.
- Appoint Courage Group graduates as coordinators to support incoming class.
- Courage Group meetings led by Region/Zone leaders.
- Ensure every Region or Zone has a fully formed Courage Group and is making use of the curriculum and Courage Group Manual.

COURAGE GROUP GRADUATES SUPPORT FOR YMD ACADEMY
Under the direction of the Region MD leaders, Courage Group graduates (any year) will be assigned to YMD Academy participants.

These Courage Group graduates will support the academy members with a) encouragement, b) transportation and c) home visitation.
MEN’S DIVISION RECEPTION/SAFETY GROUP
(New standardized name for men’s division who support and protect the local SGI-USA Buddhist Centers)

In 2020, we will standardize the name of the MD center support to “MD Reception/Safety Group” (RSG) nationwide (eliminating other names such as Vanguard Group, Security, Toban, etc.). MD are being asked to volunteer for an RSG shift at least once a month, and help foster the Gajokai.

SUPPORTING THE YMD
• Achieve one personal YMD shakabuku in 2020.

YMD GRADUATING INTO THE MD
• Work with YMD leaders to create graduation list, and agree on new MD position prior to Jan. 1.
• Emphasize MD leaders’ role, especially at Chapter and Region level, to support the development of YMD leadership at District and Chapter levels.
• Conduct home visits and frontline activities together with YMD counterparts toward July YMD General Meetings once a month.
• YMD & MD friendship gathering by Chapter or Region once in the year.

EXPAND THE IKEDA SUN GROUP —
(Men’s division members ages 60 or older who have retired from work and have weekday daytime hours regularly available.)
• Create new groups in areas where leadership and numbers of retired men can sustain Ikeda Sun Group activities.
• Make strong emphasis to meet with, encourage and visit other Ikeda Sun Group members during weekday daytime hours to encourage them in faith.

MESSAGE

“Men play a vital role in securing the unity of the entire organization. Ultimately, the full responsibility for the chapter rests with the men’s division. Men must have the magnanimity to tell the women and youth, ‘Please carry out your activities freely, to your hearts’ content!’

“The less ability and confidence a man has, the more likely he is to put on airs and behave in an authoritarian and arrogant manner. Others may outwardly appear to follow such a person, but in their hearts, they will despise him. It is also important that men never, under any circumstances, vent their anger on women or shout at them, for it is women who are working the most earnestly for kosen-rufu.” (The New Human Revolution, vol. 1, pp. 305–306)

Kosen-rufu begins and ends with the district. This year—like never before, the focus will be on the battle for kosen-rufu at the front lines. Study will be focused on The New Human Revolution and preparations for the Introductory Exam, Courage Group (for men’s division ages 35-45) and the monthly Gosho study. President Ikeda writes regarding the purpose of study: “Buddhism is a teaching for helping all living beings, and especially the people who are suffering the most. Therefore, study needs to be rooted in daily life and a guide for action.

Study becomes a revitalizing force when it provides assurance and self-confidence in the power to overcome life’s difficulties and tribulations” (The New Human Revolution, vol. 24, pp. 137–138).

On behalf of Rex Taylor, Jason Berg, Josh Joffee, and Mike Bynum, I thank you for the heartfelt efforts you are making on the front lines and for your support of the brilliant achievements in 2019. This year, we will overcome all obstacles, achieve personal breakthroughs and live lives of joy, fulfillment and contributions.

Very Respectfully,
Kevin Moncrief
SGI-USA Men’s Division Leader