

Association of Soto Zen Buddhists

ASZB Newsletter June 2018



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Soto Zen Buddhism North America Office

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ASZB Monthly Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism North America Office has launched a project to release the latest news and information concerning the members and the organizational development as we took our first step to accomplish the aim defined by the membership of ASZB during the most recent conference on May 30th, 2018.

Note: This newsletter is intended solely to provide the members of ASZB and the officials of affiliated organizations with the latest news and event information to support their mutual understanding and friendship. Please feel free to send us back your comments and suggestions to improve the contents of the newsletter.

ASZB NEWS



ASZB annual conference and workshop was held at Zenshuji Soto Mission in Los Angeles, CA, May 30th through June 1st.

ASZB Membership voted and approved the following resolution.

We recommend to the board (of ASZB) adoption of these standards as the first step in accomplishing our aim to:

- 1) support the development of priest formation by articulating standards;**
- 2) deepen the relationship with Japanese Soto-shu; and**
- 3) include priests who have met these standards but have not been able to join ASZB.**

ASZB Board and the Roadmap committee will reflect the comments and suggestions from the membership to further develop the standards maintaining the maximum transparency of the process.

We are grateful for the effort made by the ASZB board and the Roadmap committee. Finally, we'd like extend our special thanks to Rev. Ejo McMullen for facilitating the discussion.

Workshop organized by Soto Zen Buddhism International Center



Lecture on "Sanmotsu" and "Denkaishiki" and "Denposhiki"



Rev. Kenshu Sugawara from the Institute for Zen Studies Aichi Gakuin University explained the history of Sanmotsu and Denposhiki. Rev. Ejo McMullen translated the whole lecture, Revs. Shumyo Kojima, Daiki Toho, Koshi Kurotaki and Ryoko Miyazaki demonstrated the denkaishiki and denposhiki in front of the audience.



Rev. Kenshu Sugawara

(Institute for Zen Studies Aichi Gakuin University)

We'd like to extend our special thanks to Rev. Kenshu Kuwahara and also the Japanese Kokusaifukoshi for spending hours for the preparation and practice for this workshop.

Also, we'd like to thank Rev. Ejo McMullen for translating the whole lecture for the English speaking members.

ASZB Board of Directors

Rev. Zuiko Redding's term to serve as one of the 6 directors of the ASZB board expired. Through voting, Rev. Doyo Kinst was selected as the new director.

The board now consists of Revs. Gengo Akiba, Ejo McMullen, Shinshu Roberts, Koun Franz, Doyo Kinst and Gyokei Yokoyama.



From the left: Revs. Gengo Akiba, Ejo McMullen, Shinshu Roberts, Koun Franz, Doyo Kinst, and Gyokei Yokoyama



Special thanks to Rev. Zuiko Redding for serving ASZB board for years.

Rev. Redding has been taking minutes, which allowed us to follow the discussion from the previous meetings. Thank you for all your hard work, Zuiko san.

Roadmap Committee

Roadmap committee members are appointed to review, discuss and update the roadmap aimed to found the North American Soto Zen Organization run by priests in North America.

Currently, the committee consists of the ASZB Board, the staff of Soto Zen Buddhism International Center, 2 representatives from Kokusaifukyoshi, and representative (s) from SZBA.



Rev. Taiga Ito
Administrative Secretary



Revs. Konjin Godwin and Eido Carney
Representatives from Kokusaifukyoshi



Revs. Tenku Ruff and Chimyo Atkinson
Representative(s) from SZBA

Special thanks to Rev. Daigaku Rumme

Rev. Rumme was involved as Sokan in the initial formation of the roadmap and has been one of the key members ever since then.

He has now given his seat to Rev. Eido Carney.

We'd like to extend our deep appreciation to Rev. Rumme for his contribution.



New Members



From the left: Revs. Eido Espe (Des Moines Zen Center), Eido Reinhart (Minnesota), Genmyo Zeedyk (Anchorage Zen Community), Kenzan Seidenberg (Shao Shan Temple), Ryuzen Pellett

We welcomed 4 new ASZB members joining our conference and workshop this year. Thank you for joining us!



We also have a couple of new members who have joined ASZB recently.

From the left: Rev. Jisho Siebert and Rev. Kaikyo Roby

Director of Soto Zen Buddhism International Center

Soto Zen Buddhism International Center requested "recommendation" of the candidate for the director from the Kokusaifukyoshi who has Itto-kyoshi status or willing to apply for Itto-kyoshi status.

A candidate's name can be sent to Rev. Taiga Ito at taiga@sotozen.com.

Please be aware that the director of Soto Zen Buddhism International Center is appointed by Shumuchō.



Previous directors
Revs. Shohaku Okumura and Issho Fujita

Jukai-e Committee for the 100th Anniversary of Soto Zen Mission in North America

During the annual conference on May 30th, the ASZB board proposed that the ASZB form a group of 8 to 12 Kokusai fukyoshi, among whom at least 2 members speak Japanese.

4 to 6 of these priests would travel to Japan in April 2019, 2020 and 2021 to learn about a jukai-e ceremony. They would be responsible for continuing to learn more deeply about jukai-e and for disseminating Jukai rituals and conducting inmyaku-e ceremonies (abbreviated Jukai-e) in 2021 in several temples and Zen centers across North America.

They would be supported by 4 to 6 priests who would not go to Japan and would be able to help with logistics and organizational matters. These priests will also help the jukai-e ceremony for the 100th anniversary at Zenshuji.

The proposal was approved by the membership and Soto Zen Buddhism North America Office is now accepting volunteers.

You can read an article about Jukai e ceremony in Europe .



Please contact aszb.sotozen@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Jukai-e committee.

Announcements from Shumucho Audio Dharma Message Project

ASZB office would like to ask Kokusaifukyoshi to volunteer to share their Dharma message to have them posted on the website of Soto Zen Net. Please let us know if you can share your Dharma message with the rest of the Soto Zen community through the website.



So far, Rev. Hoko Karnegis, Rev. Daishin McCabe, and Rev. Gyoeki Yokoyama have shared their dharma messages. Thank you for your participation.

All we need to submit are:

- 1) Your short Dharma message (3-7 minutes) recorded in a quiet room
- 2) The script of the Dharma message
- 3) Profile Photo
- 4) Short Bio

Annual Soto Zen Photo Contest

We accept entry from anyone!

Due by June 25th

We received an entry for the photo contest from Mr. Brandon Perry from Houston, TX.



Title: Wild Zazen

Message: Taken during Crestone Mountain Zen Center's semiannual Wild Dharma trip, 2017

Location: Sangre de Cristo mountains, Colorado, USA

Anyone can participate (regardless of the status or lineages) by taking photos of:

(1) Temple buildings, activities, ceremonies, or any moment captured by a camera in a temple and a zen center.

AND/OR

(2) Tradition, culture, nature, Furusato (home sweet home)

You can submit data (color/monochrome)

You can also combine up to four different photos in one image

Please send the following information

1) Title of the Photo

2) Your message about the photo

3) Location where the photo is taken

4) Your name, age, address, and phone number

Award Winning Photos [2017](#) [2016](#) [2015](#)

Please submit the data to aszb.sotozen@gmail.com **by June 25.**

Sotoshu Regulations

Proof Photo during the Shukke-Tokudo ceremony

ASZB members now need to make sure that their students wear Hakue (white kimono) when a proof photo is taken for their priest registration.

During the Shukke-tokudo ceremony, please make sure that:

1) your student is wearing White Kimono (Hakue) when the photo is taken

2) your face and the face of your student(s) can be recognized in the photo

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