

Betsuin Board Bullets
March 01, 2012 Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting
by Joyce Iwasaki

The intent of the Betsuin Board Bullets is to highlight Board actions, decisions, special events and projects. Please contact the Betsuin board officers, directors, or the ministers for more details on any item.

Guest attending the Board Meeting: Mary Jo Gleaves
VP of Regional Operations
The J. Morey Company, inc.

o **Presentations**

Mary Jo Gleaves, VP of Regional Operations at The J. Morey Company, Inc., presented a summary of the Betsuin insurance coverage. Mary Jo handed out a written summary and answered questions from the Board members.

Al Hironaga, on behalf of the Sangha Support Committee, presented a powerpoint presentation of the need to upgrade existing or buy new video projector and screen for the annex. Al brought forth possible options. The Board requested Al and the Sangha Support Committee research an additional option prior to making a decision.

o **Motions**

It was moved/seconded/passed to accept the February 02, 2012 Board of Directors' Meeting as corrected.

It was moved/seconded/passed to pay for Dr. Kenji Akahoshi's registration fees (\$202.50) for the March 22 – 25, 2012 Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) Ministers' Assistant Program Tokudo Training. The funds will come from the Education budget.

It was moved/seconded/passed to earmark the offerings collected at the March 25, 2012 One Year Memorial Services for the Japan Tsunami/Earthquake victims.

o **Ministers' Report**

Hanamatsuri is scheduled for April 08, 2012 in the annex. There will be one combined service. Dharma School and DSPO should plan the program and lunch accordingly. Jr YBA should note that there is a need for only one hanamido this year.

One Year Memorial Services for the victims of the Japan Tsunami/Earthquake victims will be held on March 25, 2012. All offerings collected that day will be earmarked for the disaster relief effort.

o **2012 Priority Setting Committees**

Infrastructure Committee

The Committee met with Russell Imoto who was involved in building the Fresno Betsuin Dharma Center. The committee continues to study options and is obtaining estimates for various options. The Committee's goal is to present a recommendation at the April Board meeting.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has begun a dialogue with the Betsuin Office Staff to learn what the process is when one applies for membership to the temple. The Committee will be obtaining Dharma School application information regarding membership status.

The Committee welcomes the implementation of PayPal as a vehicle for pledges and donations.

An on-going Committee discussion of the definition of "membership" may help the balance of goods and services in relationship to operations.

o **Budget and Finance Report**

A Finance Committee is being formed. Thus far, three people, Janice Doi, Dan Sueyoshi and Tom Nishikawa, agreed to serve as committee members. Others who are interested in serving on this committee and who have financial skills are encouraged to contact Janice Doi.

o **Jr. YBA**

Jr. YBA thanks all attendees and supporters for the successful Annual Spaghetti Dinner which was held on February 04, 2012.

Seven of our Jr YBA members attended the Mountain View Jr YBA Spaghetti Dinner on February 11, 2012.

The Coast District Ski trip was held on February 18, 2012. The group took the Bay Area Ski Bus to Alpine Meadows and hit the slopes for a fun adventure. Participating in this one day trip were 3 San Jose Jr YBA members, 1 Mountain View JR YBA member, 6 parents and Reverend Koyama from the Mountain View Temple.

Some San Jose JR YBA members are attending the Bay District Jr YBA Conference on March 10, 2012 in Palo Alto.

o **EcoSangha Committee**

The EcoSangha Committee is pleased to present an exciting Betsuin 2012 Earth Day on April 01. Speaker for the services is Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. Activities include a demonstration of a device that converts plastics into combustible fuel by Henry Sato, new videos, crafts using recycled material, worm composting, art contest displays, athletic shoe recycling (Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program), raffle and refreshments.

o **Buddhist Women's Association (BWA)**

The Annual Chirashi and Bota Mochi fundraiser was held on February 18, 2012. Appreciation is extended to the Boy Scouts for helping with curbside distribution, to the rice cookers, to the BWA members, friends and family of the BWA members who volunteered as the workforce and especially for everyone who supported this annual fundraiser by with their purchases and donations.

o **Adult Buddhist Association (ABA)**

On February 04, 2012, ABA held its annual installation luncheon at the Bold Knight Bistro. Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda was the guest speaker.

On March 03, 2012, ABA held a new members and Dharma School Teachers' Appreciation Potluck Dinner.

- **Dharma School**

The Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League (FDSTL) annual teachers conference is scheduled for April 29, 2012 at Thunder Valley Casino. Teachers are encouraged to attend.

- **Betsuin Choir**

The Betsuin Choir will participate in the San Francisco Buddhist Temple Choir Festival on June 09, 2012. Other choir groups include San Francisco, Palo Alto, Fresno, and Sacramento. Our group will charter a bus.

- **Coast District (CD) and Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)**

The BCA National Council Meeting (NCM) and the Ministers' Association Meeting were held at the Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel on February 22 – 26, 2012.

The Betsuin's Official delegates were: Rinban Fujimoto, Reverend Sakamoto, Janice Doi and Roy Yamanouchi.

Betsuin boosters who also attended the business meetings were: Kenji Akahoshi, Joyce Iwasaki, Greer Nishikawa. In addition, two Betsuin members serving in different capacities who are attending the business meetings were: Tom Nishikawa (Director at Large and Parliamentarian) and Sumi Tanabe (FBWA President).

The 2012 – 2013 BCA Cabinet is:

President	Ron Murakami	(White River Buddhist Temple, Northwest District)
President-Elect:	Kent Matsuda	(Enmanji Buddhist Temple, Bay District)
Vice President:	Ken Tanimoto	(Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Coast District)
Vice President:	Susan Bottari	(San Mateo Buddhist Temple, Bay District)
Treasurer:	Alan Kita	(Gardena, Southern)
Secretary:	Pauline Sakuma	(Seattle Betsuin, Northwest District)

Newly elected Directors at Large are:

Calvin Doi	(Central District)
Rich Endo	(Coast District)
Steve Terusaki	(Bay District)

Agenda issues addressed at the NCM include:

The Next BCA Bishop

The BCA National Council Meeting (NCM) delegates ratified the election of Rev Kodo Umezu as the next BCA Bishop.

In his capacity as BCA Bishop, Rev Umezu is assigning Rev Marvin Harada to work 1/3 of his time as the Assistant to the Bishop and 1/3 of his time as Co-Director for CBE and will continue his work at Orange County Buddhist Temple (OCBC) and Vista Temple. Rev Kiyonobu Kuwahara will work 2/3 of his time as Co-Director of the CBE and will be on-site at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC). Rev Michael Endo will remain as Secretary to the Bishop and he will continue with the responsibilities that he currently has. It was noted that the "team approach" of Rev Harada and Rev Kuwahara should result in a budgetary savings to BCA.

Jodo Shinshu Center Debt Relief Project

This project began on May 31, 2011 and will end on May 31, 2012. As of February 17, 2012, \$784K was collected. With donations received through this project, BCA was able to make two \$500K payments for the bank loan making our monthly bank loan payments approximately \$13,000/month. If BCA can collect additional donations by May 31, 2012, one more \$500K payment may be made which would reduce the monthly loan payments to approximately \$10K/month.

During the NCM, the Canada Kyodan donated \$6,500 and the Hawaii Kyodan donated \$5,000 to the JSC Debt Relief Project.

Dharma Offering/Annual Giving Program

A new BCA donation approach was presented and approved. Detailed information is forthcoming from the BCA Executive Board.

BCA Budget for FY 2012 – 2013

The BCA Budget for FY 2012 – 2013 is \$2,656,950.47.

A motion was passed to set the 2012 - 2013 membership assessment at \$99.99 per member.

Accession Service and Ceremony

The service and ceremony for Reverend Kodo Umezu will be on June 02, 2012 from 4:00 pm at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco Hondo.

Congratulation and Testimonial Dinner

The dinner for Reverend Kodo Umezu, Bishop and Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop will take place on June 02, 2012 at the Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco Japantown, from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm at \$65.00 pp.

Accommodations at the rate of \$149.00/night for June 01 – 02, 2012 at Hotel Kabuki and Hotel Tomo are offered. Deadline for room reservations is May 01, 2012. In order to get the \$149.00/night rate, please state "BCA Group" when making reservations.