

**Men on the Move**  
**By JIM DREISBACH**  
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**At a Florida conference celebrating Men's Division Day**, men share how they strive to set an example.

The pulsing beat of the rock group Weeds mirrored the spirit that already rocked the room during a celebration of Men's Division Day at the Florida Nature and Culture Center today. On the final day of a weekend conference that marked the 50th anniversary of SGI President Ikeda taking faith in the Daishonin's Buddhism, local Florida men joined the nationwide participants for a special meeting.

During and after the meeting, and throughout the weekend, the men shared how they put Buddhism into action. "I feel that I must set the example," Al Magee of Orange County, Calif., said. "By *set the example*, I mean I can't sit by and wait for anyone else to introduce people to the practice. So I've introduced a friend and am teaching him gongyo. Since then, my members have gotten the spirit. Now I've realized how much my actions influence them. I've invited other members to come to my house to chant. First it was only two, then three, then five people attending. Now I try to have two or three of these activities at my house a week."

Ray Petty of New York is not only involved in his district but in the community. "I've been working with young people in the community. I coordinate my company's large public works projects worth millions of dollars, so I have the expertise on how to put together these activities." He recently helped coordinate an African festival at the New York Culture Center that attracted 1,500 people, some 500 of whom were guests.

"I'm trying to encourage the young people in my community, the black community, because there is a crisis there," Mr. Petty says. "I'm trying to be a father and teach them things."

Ferris Jackson of Houston believes in the importance of being active within the men's division. "Whenever I have a chance, I go to men's division meetings," he says. "There is so much experience and wisdom accumulated in the room. Just listening to the men talk, I gain so much. Though I have been practicing for 11 years, I feel that I can learn a lot more. Together, we gain so much more than we can individually. That's why I'm here."

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