

## THE GOLDEN STAGE GROUP FOR MEMBERS OVER 60

The National Preparatory Committee has spent almost two years creating the following guidelines for members over 60. Recently, in response to a request for a name for these members, SGI President Ikeda gave the name the Golden Stage Group. In addition to providing mutual support and encouragement, it is hoped that this new group will give each and every member a place to contribute his or her unique capability and share the precious experience they accumulated over their many years of practice.

President Ikeda gave the following guidance after he met with Mrs. Rosa Parks several years ago. “What is important in life? It is to continue struggling to the end. Those who continue struggling are great. There is no such thing as ‘retiring’ in life. This is all the more true in the world of faith. Our faith should not be affected by our having reached retirement age or having grown advanced in years.”

In creating this group, it is our sincerest desire that each individual will enjoy their life fully while serving others and continuing to be cheerful in their activities for kosen-rufu. This will allow them to take an active role in supporting our successors in any way possible in order to develop our organization for the sake of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism, humanity and the happiness of the people.

### **Motto:**

1. Lifelong seeking spirit
2. Lifelong youthful spirit
3. Lifelong serving spirit.

**Start date:** January 2, 2000

**Age 60 and above.** This group will be part of the men’s and women’s divisions (similar to how the Student Division is included in the youth division.) At the age of 60 every member will be able to participate in this group’s activity but should also continue to participate in other SGI-USA activities and even hold leadership positions within the men’s or women’s divisions.

For example, a 62-year-old may hold the position of vice women’s chapter leader and be a member of this group at the same time.

For example, a 65-year-old Area Guidance Staff may also be a member of this group.

### **Primary Focus:**

1. Every member will maintain good health and longevity.
2. Each member will attend discussion meetings.
3. Each member will create an environment that is filled with mutual support and encouragement among the membership.

**Secondary Focus:** Support the vertical line leaders in their efforts to care for the members through home visits, personal guidance, promoting publications, and if necessary, form specialized group(s) from among the group’s membership. For example, a home visit

group might be appropriate.

**Activity:** We suggest this group meet together once or twice a year at the most appropriate level of the organization, such as area or region. We would like to strongly suggest inviting MD and WD leaders to the meeting. Their active participation such as sharing experiences, etc. in the discussion meeting is an extremely important source of inspiration for the other members and their valuable contribution to kosen-rufu.

**Leadership:** At the onset, please appoint individual(s) region-level coordinators. Their sole purpose will be to communicate to the members. Zone-level leadership is not needed because this group will rarely meet as a zone. Other appointments may be proposed in the future accordingly.

At the recent 'third stage of life' conference held Dec. 9–12 at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, SGI General Director Eiichi Wada announced Kazue Elliot and David Kasahara as nationwide coordinators.