

THE FINE PRINT

To East Bay Capital Area Youth Division: The March 16th packet you put together was fantastic! Thank you so much. We learned so much and were so inspired by your efforts. With deepest admiration and respect from Washington Area Youth Division.

“Keeping a Promise”: I never used to really stop and think about saying things like “I can or I will.” They were just words. I never stopped and counted the times that I said these words to my wife. Not to mention how many times that I didn’t follow through. Doris had made a promise a long time ago to a friend of ours who was also my women’s division group chief. She promised that she would make sure that I continued my practice as long as she was alive. You see, Doris was the kick start to my engine, the boot on my butt. She is the reason that I am still practicing. For that reason alone I owe her more than I could ever repay. Just before Doris passed away in Feb. I made her a promise and this one I am going to keep NO MATTER WHAT! I made a determination by her bedside that I would never again waver in my practice and that I would stand tall and fight for kosen-rufu for both of us. — Bill Smiley, Winnemucca, Nev. (dbsmiley@the-onramp.net)