

Tankokai Board Meeting
6/8/2020
Virtual

Attending: Morgan Beard, Frank Chance, Shoko Kato, Sachiko Houck, Mary Lynn Howard, Keijiroh Yamaguchi; Terry Sherwin via Sachiko's connection

The meeting was called to order at 8:44 p.m.

Upcoming activities

Shofuso has asked Drew and Morgan to do an online lecture in June to take the place of in-person events. The house and garden are still closed to the public, but Frank reported that the Pennsylvania state legislature may pass a bill that will allow public gardens and arboretums to open.

At this stage, nobody knows if a live Obon festival will be possible.

Terry reported that all demonstrations that were on the docket have been cancelled, and nobody has contacted her to reschedule as of yet.

Lessons and reopening

Shoko reported that Urasenke headquarters in Kyoto is not open, but have issued guidance that individual teachers should decide what is best based on local conditions. For those who do reopen, there is a list of protocols that teachers are recommended to follow, in addition to whatever guidelines are in place from local governments.

There was some discussion about lessons, and a consensus that it's too early to restart lessons and gatherings right now. The thought was that we should do what feels comfortable for people as the situations arise. Various people shared thoughts about how gatherings might be arranged or how they have arranged tea for others. It was agreed that each teacher should make their own call about when and how to restart okeiko.

There was also discussion about the possibility of demonstrations, either held outside with people watching in a socially distanced way (no tea and sweets) or online where people can watch. Alternatively, we could offer some kind of cultural lessons/lectures people could join remotely.

Membership

Shoko and Terry are working on a new membership structure; they are currently researching practices among other groups, and will come back with more later.

Their discussion has revolved around what kind of membership benefits make sense and what tiers of membership we might have. Membership benefits could include something like discounts on event tickets (although we already offer that) or a newsletter for the membership.

In terms of tiers, many associations base their fees on license level and whether or not a person is teaching.

New Business

Sachiko has made a card for people to hand out at events. We have 2,000 of them now, ready to give out when we do get back together.

Sachiko has also been putting together a tea discussion group online – please let Sachiko know if you have any topics in mind. The next topic is going to be questions about temae.

The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 3 at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.