

Present: JoChi, Aiho, Gaisen, Jikei, Korin, Misho, Mushin

After Misho read the minutes of the August 27th meeting, Jikei's letter to Kanro expressing the Committee's thanks for her participation was read and accepted. In reference to the previous week's discussion: the answering service is working well, but the answering machine needs repair.

Roka has returned to New York and would like to stay at the Zendo through December. She will be studying art, but offered to be available for morning service and various Zendo chores in exchange for the opportunity to stay. The Committee agreed that each time someone requests to stay at the Zendo for an extended period, the matter will be taken up with the Committee, as the situation is always different. Right now, it would be helpful to have another person taking care of things, and Roka is quite familiar with all the Zendo procedures and jobs. Aiho related Eido Roshi's brief comment on the matter that as long as Roka felt some commitment to her participation in the Zendo - in other words, as long as she was in spirit an assistant resident - it would be fine. She would not receive a stipend, nor would she pay the Zendo. However, because Roka had some negative feelings about the Zendo when she left as resident, the Committee asked JoChi to speak with her and get a sense whether her attitude has changed to a more positive one, as this has a potential effect on Zendo atmosphere. In the meantime, until the next Committee meeting, Roka is welcome to stay.

Gaisen discussed the fact that keys to the Zendo should always be returned if the person who has been using them moves away or does not need them any more. This is true regardless of who paid to have the keys made.

Korin shared the 1979-80 annual financial report for Shobo-ji with the group. Jikei said there was currently no financial difficulty for NYZ, and Aiho explained in general how expenses, income and financial records are divided among Zen Studies Society, New York Zendo and Dai Bosatsu Zendo. At this point, each Zendo's income is kept and used for its own expenses. The Zen Studies Society does not have income from Zendo activities, though contributions to Eido Roshi as well as book royalties are added to its funds. Zen Studies Society helps in cases where extra funds are needed, and pays bills which cannot be reasonably divided into separate expenses for NYZ and DBZ. Aiho added that if any Zendo members are sincerely interested in the financial situation, she will be glad to share with them pertinent information.

Because NYZ and DBZ have separate financial records, a bill should be sent, for example, to DBZ from NYZ if they ask for incense to be sent up. JoChi pointed out that a clear filing system for bills is needed: one bill for books was paid twice, while another was never paid.

This annual financial report, as well as previous ones, was prepared by Evalyn Talbot, who will not be continuing with it this year. We should find someone soon who would be willing to take over this task which also involves periodic bookkeeping of a few hours a week.

The Art Sale is coming up soon. The Committee discussed whether the sale should be held again this year. The general feeling was that it should, not only for its fundraising aspect, but also because it is an opportunity for Sangha members to actively work together. One problematic aspect is that since so much of the artwork and calligraphy owned by the Zendo has been sold already, there is tremendous pressure on Eido Roshi to contribute more of his own work. The Committee agreed to discuss this again, as well as the matter of Chairman for the Art Sale, at the next meeting, to be held September 17th, Wednesday evening.