

AGM Chair person's report for 2019-2020

This has been another very busy year for the BTSA.

I would first like to thank all the members and volunteers who the activities at the Temple continue to run smoothly.

There has been a gradual transition of many of the temple leadership roles over the past year. These include:

Toban 4 now headed by Joyce Adachi –Thanks to Jan Okamura for being the leader for the past 10 years.

Toban 3 now headed by Brenda Ikuta. Thanks to Pat Sassa for being the leader for the past 10 years.

There was a change in the board of directors with Jim Tsukishima passing away, David Major resigning and Deanna Jones stepping down for health reasons. Mid term Bob Muskovich agreed to come on the board (November 2019)

The funeral committee members are now Roland, Brenda, Harry Sugimoto, Joyce Adachi and Keiko Gordon. Thanks to Pat Sassa, Akira Ichikawa and Totsi Nishimura for their dedicated work on this committee in the past 10 years.

The AV system is now in full working order thanks to all of the work put in by Ross Jacobs. He has contributed many hours of work. There are now a group of 8 volunteers who can run the system. We will be showcasing the system over the next few months. The AV committee has been very active planning new projects for the next year including updating our web page and brand, starting a new podcast, starting to film a new welcome video for our face book and webpage.

The main new program is a new meditation program that is running every 2nd and 4th Thursday night at the temple. So far there has been excellent attendance (14 people). I would like to invite other members of the temple to come and participate in this rejuvenating activity.

There is a new Lethbridge Interfaith network with participation from several of the BTSA members. Jeff Haines presented at a panel discussion of various religions hosted at our temple in October 2019 and Roland presented at a panel on Death hosted at a local LDS church in Feb of 2020. The BTSA will continue to host some of the meetings for this group.

Calgary Temple has completed the payment of their loan and we currently have around \$500,000 in the investment account with BMO. Please see the Review engagement from our accountants and the report from Kevin Sassa who is our financial advisor.

Two candidates for Tokudo have completed their certification (Roland and Jeff Haines) and are working towards their Kyoshi certification. Thanks to the JSBTC (Living Dharma centre and the BTSA for their sponsorship)

Kai Ichikawa attended the YBISE Japan youth tour this past summer and has presented a report of the activities at the Sunday service in October 2019.

The cost of running the temple continues to increase.

Membership numbers for 2019 is 203, which is an increase from 2018. This is likely due to a few more people remembering to pay their membership donations.

At the last AGM the membership agreed to sponsor the Ripple project being proposed by Kynan Gordon and Arjin Gil. Due to complications related to the national support of the project this project will not be moving forward. The \$30,000 set aside for this project will remain in our general operating account.

In the past year we have lost several dedicated members of our Sangha. We had 16 public funerals and a few additional private funeral services in 2019. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Major events coming up include:

We are hosting the JSBTC AGM in April 2020. There will be a banquet celebrating our 10th anniversary as BTSA.

We are organizing the Human rights conference in Winnipeg for June 2020.