

SGI **U** **S** **A** MEMMO

DATE

June 5, 2002

MEMO NO.

OGD-001

TO: All Region and Zone Leaders and Office Managers

DISTRIBUTE TO: All Region and Zone leaders

FROM: Office of the General Director

SUBJECT: Message for the GLBT Pride Events

There are many GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) Pride Events occurring this month throughout the country with many taking place beginning this weekend.

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima has sent the attached message for these activities. Please feel free to share it at those events.

This message has been faxed to all zone offices and can also be found on our First Class e-mail system.

Thank you very much.



Soka Gakkai International – USA

Message

Congratulations to everyone participating in this year's GLBT Pride events, representing the SGI at these exciting and meaningful celebrations!

Every year, all across America, SGI-USA is joyfully joining more and more community-based Pride celebrations. This is only through the spirit and efforts of our treasured GLBT members. Please continue to have the courage to celebrate your identity and use these events to introduce others to this wonderful and embracing philosophy of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

When we consider the history of violence and exclusion many have had to face, pride becomes an assertion that, "I have a mission!" Please be confident in the tremendous value that each of your lives holds. The celebrations of GLBT pride are consistent with our belief in the SGI that the life of each individual is infinitely precious. With that belief we are able to actively seek to cultivate each person's unique and beautiful potential – using that diversity to create a warm-hearted organization that both welcomes and represents many different people.

In his message to the 2003 GLBT conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, SGI President Ikeda said, "It is also my hope that you, showing splendid actual proof of the power of faith, will expand the circles of trust and friendship toward the SGI in your respective communities. Why don't we build together the world's greatest SGI-USA that will lead the world kosen-rufu movement in the 21st century?"

As we enter our communities to share the profound and empowering philosophy we embrace, let us also commit to uniting together, 'transcending our differences,' and utilizing all of our unique perspectives and contributions to build the most beautiful movement of human history.

June 2003
Danny Nagashima
SGI-USA General Director