

## What does the phrase 'I am the SGI-USA' mean to you?

*Members from Midwest Joint Territory respond:*

I have the greatest opportunity ever to face humankind, and that's an awesome responsibility. I can achieve anything, and I'm dedicated to realizing my potential and showing the world a brighter future through peace, culture, education and prosperity.

— BILL SCHWEIKERT, Omaha, Neb.

It means that I am a reflection of the future of world peace. Being a young, multiracial, Buddhist woman, I am a minority. However, through my practice, I celebrate these aspects of my life and celebrate being an SGI member in a country of diversity. Our organization's diversity is a reflection of what kosen-rufu means.

— LISA HONN, Rantoul, Kans.

SGI President Ikeda has always gone first in showing us how to apply the Daishonin's Buddhism to ourselves and society. If "I am the SGI-USA," I must absorb his guidance and do my part to make this the model organization for the world, to look for responsibility and be successful in fulfilling it.

— JIM CELER, Omaha, Neb.

It means that when I chant, not only is my life condition getting better, but everyone in the SGI is getting better because we are all united. Also, when I do activities, I am not only creating good karma for myself, but I am also encouraging other members and bettering the organization.

— NIKI JORDAN STEED, Omaha, Neb.

It means that my Buddhist practice impacts all areas of my life. Because of the law of cause and effect, I represent the SGI doing anything and everything. This statement also means that my actions impact the organization and that I have a Buddha nature.

— PATRICIA FORD, Kansas City, Miss.

To me it means that wherever I go, whatever I do, I am an SGI-USA member. And I must always strive to reflect the greatness of the organization in my words, actions and behaviors toward others.

— CHUCK MARTIN, Lee's Summit, Miss.

I have been a member since March 1995. I'm the only Buddhist among my non-practicing family members and my good friends. I have been working hard to live my life as a representative of this practice. I have been given many opportunities to participate in the organization. I have been doing activities and I provide transportation to activities for members. "I am the SGI-USA" means I really feel I am a part of the SGI-USA.

— BOB COSTA, Kansas City, Miss.

"I am the SGI-USA" means that I am part of the cutting edge of the most influential force to affect our society in modern history. It also means that as one of the privileged few who practices the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin in America, I must represent this amazing organization in a manner that will attract, rather than detract, positive attention to what we are trying to accomplish.

— RAY BOSCH, Kansas City, Miss.

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