

New Byakuren Chief Appointed
Irene Wang is appointed the new SGI-USA Byakuren chief, Dec. 4.
By IRENE WANG, SGI-USA Byakuren Chief

In 1986, shortly after my arrival in the United States, I reconnected with the SGI and also started attending high school and participating in the Fife and Drum Corps. Despite my faith in the practice, I did not enjoy the activities, because I was forced by my mother to go. Sometimes we had to get up at 4:00 a.m. so we could do gongyo and be at the meeting site by 7:00, three hours before the meeting started.

But I was so impressed by the people who worked behind the scenes, like the Byakuren members, so I joined Byakuren when I turned 18.

Last year, I supported the 21st SGI General Meeting and other events at the Florida Nature and Culture Center. I was assisting with the translation equipment used for representatives from throughout the world. Before each major meeting, five Byakuren members would spend many hours changing 3,000 batteries in the equipment. Facing mountains of equipment and batteries, I realized how noble the Byakuren mission is. If just one machine lost power, one person from a distant country would leave the meeting feeling discouraged.

As Byakuren chief, I am determined to provide the same opportunities for Byakuren members that my Byakuren big sisters gave to me. I will raise capable young women by supporting and entrusting them with important responsibilities, making sure that the Byakuren organization will provide a warm environment in which all young women can challenge themselves and overcome all obstacles in life. The SGI-USA Byakuren is looking forward to developing into a group that is global and capable of coordinating movements to welcome international members.

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