

**GREAT LAKES REGION GATHERS
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More than 600 SGI-USA members of Chicago Region No. 3 converged in Lansing, Mich., on May 7 to propose a new name and a unified goal of increasing peace, culture and education from southern Chicago through northern Indiana and up to the tips of Michigan. Many of the members took trips more than five hours long to get to Lansing.

This first-ever region meeting celebrated a member-voted proposal to change the region name to Great Lakes Region. "I think the most significant thing about this change is that the request came from the membership, a sort of grassroots effort," said Region Women's Leader Doris McCloskey. "Personally, I feel a greater sense of connection within the entire region with a geographical name rather than a number designation—it's a little more personal, a little more descriptive, much more humanistic."

Youth division member Cole Beber liked the meeting so much that he saw the entire package as a training session that gave him ideas on how to organize future activities. "If you look at our roots here, we started with pioneer members coming to Michigan, and no one was practicing," he said. "Being able to have this meeting is because of the pioneer members. I am appreciative of them, appreciative because I am able to participate."