



Dear Members of NAOTA,

Sixteen years ago I founded the North American Ohara Association. At that time our organization was excited to share and study the art of ikebana and its related art forms. Today NAOTA still pursues these same principles and has added many new members - all of whom make this a strong, continuing group. Thank you to all of you for helping make this happen. Many of the members who helped even more were those who said yes to serving on the board, on various committee and as chairs of our conferences – all of you were needed and came through.

As we move on there will be changes for all of us. And feedback from the membership has been forthcoming. But we need to know a lot more. Specifically what can we do for all who are not at the conference. Yes, we already send you pictorial reports when a conference is over. We have news about what will be happening and when and where and we keep you apprised of what various chapters and Study Groups are doing. But we want to do more for all the membership. So I am asking for your input.

To get the ball of changes rolling what do you think about having two to three workshops in different regions given by high-ranking Instructors from within our ranks?

Help NAOTA by sending me your ideas. I look forward to receiving any suggestions you have.

The 17th Conference, chaired by **Lorian Roberts**, sold out in 10 days. It will be a privilege to have **Headmaster Hiroki Ohara and Professor Yokohigashi** with us for this conference in Victoria. You may wish to get on the waiting list. The planning for the 18th conference in Chicago in June 2019 will be chaired by **E-Ling Lou** who is working with the NAOTA board to create a new format that will shorten the conference without compromising the benefits of this meeting. The date has not yet been confirmed nor do we know who our instructor from Japan will be. All this information will be sent to you as soon as we have it confirmed by headquarters in Japan.

Yours in friendship and understanding,

Ingrid

Ingrid Luders, President NAOTA

Classes in Japan

The Iemoto Kyojo classes held on Wednesday and Friday are being held as before in the Osaka Headquarters building. Professor Moroshita's Tuesday classes will be held at 2-29-15 Sumiyoshi-honmachi Higashinada-ku, Kobe City

Membership Forms Are Due Reminder Form Attached if Needed

To meet the printer's schedule for the new Membership Book your completed Membership Form and check must be received by May 1. Please mail it today to Alice Buch, NAOTA Treasurer. This will also be appreciated by the Directory chair Saskia Eller who has to get the copy to the printer.

More News Will Be Coming Your Way