



Ikebana International

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Dear Chapter Presidents,

In just a few short weeks, everyday life in the world has changed dramatically. We all feel the profound impact of coronavirus not just on ourselves, but on our families, friends and those overseas.

There have been some enquiries about the payment deadline for the coming year 2020-2021. Basically, we should follow our Bylaws, the Dues Regulation Article VI-4, which says "Members whose dues are not received by International Headquarters by July 1 shall be considered delinquent and dropped from the membership list."

However, at a time like this when we are facing something we have never experienced before, it does not sound humane to strictly follow the regulation.

Therefore, the board confirmed that the renewal deadline is extended until **September 30, 2020 at the latest**. This alteration only affects the year 2020-2021.

It was not an easy decision considering the process for issuing member cards and the first Ikebana International Magazine 65-1.

It is impossible for the membership staff to register approximately 7,000 members, then arrange the delivery of the magazine as usual.

Therefore, the Headquarters board decided that **the first Magazine 65-1** will be sent to all the current members **based on the year 2019-2020 list, irrespective of whether they have renewed**. Unfortunately, the new deadline does not provide enough time for the membership staff to arrange delivery to new members based on the year 2020-2021. We believe one of our responsibilities is to plan the best way to send the magazine to our members without interruption in this difficult situation.

The coming year's schedule (2020-2021) is as follows:

- Members data for the current year will be provided by Headquarters to chapters in Excel form by **middle of April**.
- The finalized data should be emailed back to Headquarters by **September 30, 2020**.
Of course, **earlier replies would be more than welcome**.
- Payment of the membership dues should also be made by **September 30, 2020**.

We always appreciate your great help, needed even more under the unprecedented conditions now prevailing in many parts of the world. We hope all current members stay with us another year. Let's all work together to overcome this difficult situation and so ensure the continuing prosperity of Ikebana International.

In friendship through flowers

Miho Okawara
International President