



## **Anime Forum Report NCAR Advocate Committee**

19<sup>th</sup> North and Central American Regional Conference, Philadelphia  
October 14, 2024

### **Blooming Membership Attracting Anime Youth to Ikebana**

During the Anime Forum, 120 NCAR registrants gathered to learn and discuss an innovative approach to introducing a younger audience to Ikebana by participating in Anime Conventions. This was proposed as a viable and novel opportunity worthy of exploration by all I.I. chapters.

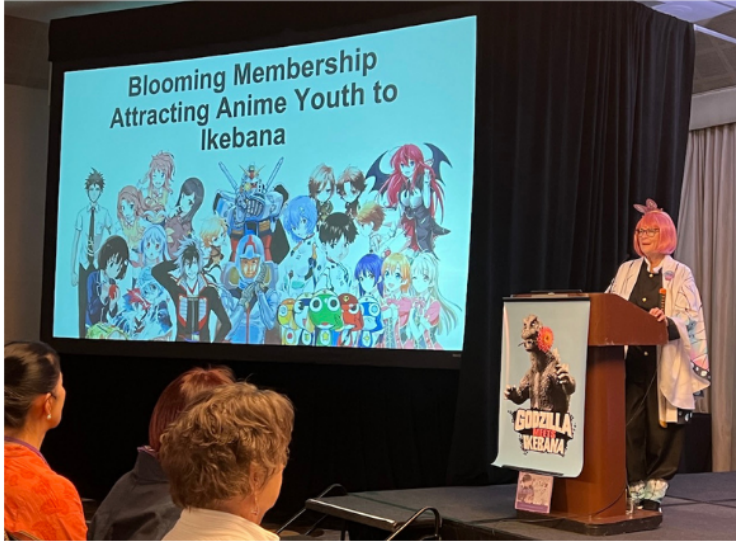
NCAR advocate Elizabeth Biddle (Washington DC #1), in honor of Patricia O'Reilly, led a presentation highlighting the expansive reach and potential of anime conventions. She was joined by a panel of experienced members, including Valerie Eccleston (Washington D.C. #1), Teresa Kennedy (Chicago #27), Shelley Galloway (Chicago #27), and Biddle herself, who shared insights from their experiences at anime cons. Each panelist offered practical advice, along with "dos and don'ts," to help chapters make the most of these events.

The NCAR's featured demonstrator, Iemoto Kasuya, joined the forum to comment and answer questions about the importance of spreading Ikebana. He had understood the value of an Anime Con and had participated in Washington DC's Otakon in 2023. He encouraged all attending to use every opportunity to present Ikebana to others wherever possible as the Anime Con was an excellent way to reach the younger generation.

It was stressed during the presentation that this is a "long term" strategy which will not lead immediately to new members but one in which to disseminate the art. Anime script writers may then take note and start to weave Ikebana into their story lines.

All information presented during the forum and additional information on attending a Con will be sent to chapters and be available on the website.

Organized by: NCAR Advocate Elizabeth Biddle (Washington DC #1)



# Anime Forum

