



IRON IKEBANA PROGRAM FOR NCAR CHAPTERS –

As developed by Susan Cano for the 19th NCAR Conference

Patterned after the Iron Chef and described on Wikipedia as Ironmen of cooking- a 1990's Japanese cooking show, Iron Chef featured guest chefs in a cooking challenge with resident Iron chefs, sometimes with a theme or a surprise ingredient. In the **Ikebana version**, there will be sensei (teachers or advanced students) from the same or different schools arranging ikebana:

- Ikenobo is the history of Ikebana, traditional as well as free-style.
- Ohara School is more landscape oriented.
- The Sogetsu School's philosophy is that anyone can arrange anywhere and with anything. It promotes sculptural, free style and abstract arrangements.
- Ichiyo harmonizes with our living environment and encourages personal interpretation.

Sensei from other schools are also encouraged to participate. Many I.I. Chapters have done programs with sensei from different schools, demonstrating forms and styles to show differences between schools. This program can be an entertaining ikebana learning experience. While multiple schools of ikebana are recommended, if a chapter has only one school, they should consider 2-4 different chapter members to make arrangements all using the same materials which are not known to them until the program and arranging is to begin.

The larger the membership of a given chapter the greater number of participants. Several panels of members from the same or different schools are encouraged, but this program can be successful with only 2-4 different arrangers and they don't have to be sensei! The participants may bring their own containers and mechanics. An audience is essential.

The plant material selection will be the same for each participant on a panel and will be a "surprise" known only to the person or persons choosing the materials. Subsequent panels will have different plant materials. The time limit for arranging will be ten minutes.

Each participant is given the materials and to make an arrangement using only those materials in the span of only ten minutes. The narrator may provide explanation of the material and commentary as the arranging progresses. This is not a contest, but merely a fun way to see how each one of us can create a different design using the same materials! There is no "winner" just a fun program that gives others in the chapter a chance to show their creativity and gain experience in arranging in front of an audience.