

Minutes SOA Board Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 2017

1pm to 2pm PST via SKYPE

Present: Connie, Nancy, Brad, Ito

Absent: David, Michael, Shin

- I. SOA website
Brad reports the next step is to confirm with Rob about moving to a new SOA website using similar format as the SNE website. The benefits will be that the public can use the website via cellphones as well as the ability to interface with social media such as Twitter and Blogs. Updates to the current website have been done to standardize the \$60 membership, update the hardcopy membership form, and update the address to the new PO box.
Action Item: Brad to discuss with Rob the transition of the website. Target Date: Sept 2017
- II. Pay Pal
Brad reports Pay Pal has been linked to a personal account for Byron. SOA is able to collect membership dues with Pay Pal and transfer money from Pay Pal to the SOA bank account. However, SOA cannot deposit money into Pay Pal such as might be needed to do a refund. Connie requests that Brad and Rob include Connie in the Pay Pal notices so that Connie can send a thank you to those who have paid membership dues.
Action Item: Brad to ask Rob to include Connie in the Pay Pal payment notice. Moving to a SOA account will occur later this year.
- III. Membership letter
Connie distributed a membership letter. Brad would like the letter to include a statement that welcomes those who wish to stay informed about Shintaido without being members. Discussion followed on having two lists – one for SOA eligible members and the general public. The decision is to send one letter that encourages paying membership dues and allows others to follow Shintaido without feeling obligated to pay dues.
Action Item: Nancy to give updated phrasing to Brad. Target date to distribute membership letter is 1 June.
- IV. Updates
Nancy reports SNE will have a 2017 Fall workshop but might not have a Kangeiko as finding sites that meet both keiko needs and accommodation's needs is difficult. There has not been any update about SNE hosting a national gasshuku.
Action Item: Connie to follow up with Bela and Joe about SNE interest in a 2018 gasshuku that offers exams, including the new Shintaido Kenjutsu curriculum.
Ito reports he will be in Germany and Romania before coming to the USA this summer and in September he will be in Quebec followed by Prague in October. Ito discussed how ESC videotapes workshops and places them in Dropbox. Ito encouraged videos, materials from Taimyo and SOA as ways to encourage people to stay interested in Shintaido. Discussion followed about using archived materials to distribute on a regular basis via blogs, twitter and email.
Nancy reports her book is due out soon and would be interested to have the topics from her book interface with Shintaido discussions. Connie discussed if having an SOA book club might interest members. Ito's book will now be in French. Brad's book is also due out soon.

Next meeting: end of August/early September – Connie to send date via email.