

Minutes of SoA Board Meeting Saturday, November 18th, 2006

In attendance:

MT, Connie, Lee, David, Sandra, Stephen, Rob, Shin, Ito

1) Approval of past minutes

Minutes approved.

2) Changes in board membership effective Jan 2007

Welcome to Shin as new NTC chair member of SOA Board. Eva thinking about stepping down in 2008. Also Sandra. This would also mean finding a new Treasurer. Also Connie. This would be a major transition for the SoA Board.

Sandra had the vision to send out the member ship letter that has generated much revenue for SoA. We need to be sure to get the next member letter out in early 2007.

Changes in committees:

3a) Web committee: currently SOA president, NTC Chair, and Webmaster - will this need to change for 2007?

Web committee is task oriented. Lee suggests NTC chair and SoA President should continue to hold that role, as advisors to Rob on what should go on web, oversight, decisions on how to present ourselves on the web, and NTC items that should be on web, such as exam requirements.

3b) DVD committee: subcommittee of Marketing committee: SOA president, project manager, webmaster, NTC chair.

Need involvement of NTC if this requires technical accuracy. Still TBD whether DVD is going to be artistic or technical, or both.

3c) Marketing committee: SOA president, project manager, NTC chair, and webmaster

Lee volunteers to be involved in the committee even though no longer a Board member. Need a wrap-up, summary of activities for this year. Lee is starting a trend; perhaps other people could join committees without joining the board

4) Database for SOA: as part of SOA web site and on SOA server with access as designated by webmaster/board.

Database is nearing completion. Dan is still working on it. No update available before this meeting. We should have something to look at soon, by Thanksgiving. We will pay him a flat fee that includes some training. We can share the Password and others besides Marti can share the DB update work.

5) Henry Kaiser as guest request from Pac Shin Kangeiko Gasshuku Manager

Sandra asks the cost. 40-140 dollars. Henry is planning to come to two keikos, lunch, and dinner. Not staying overnight. Per David, two questions, one is the money, the other is whether someone who is not a graduate or above can attend the workshop and what is the effect, and who makes the decision. Lee offers that Northwest Shintaido is willing to cover Henry's cost.

Who can determine who attends the advanced workshop? If an instructor wants a guest to attend the advanced workshop, who decides? Is this an NTC question? Ito has always had the latitude to invite people to AW's. Are we changing our outlook? We have had AW's where the level was Assistant, not Graduate. We have also asked that upper level practitioners come to at least one AW a year.

Shin: Whether the person's contribution is great or not is a separate issue from which event and what sort of event is appropriate. A lecture is different from an Advanced Workshop, where experience of kumite partner determines one's experience at the event. One could end up being a teacher taking care, and less likely to experiment. Could take some richness away from the event.

If we want NTC to run Advanced Workshops, then NTC would be involved in the decision. MT suggests this could be a format (like Europe) We will make this an item for January agenda.

Rob proposes this is a local matter between invited guest instructor for Advanced Workshop and the region. David says AW's are held under the umbrella of SoA. Per Lee, in principle this is true, but in practice this has not been the case.

We have had an informal process because we haven't had any factions or schisms, but this could be a problem in the future. We will discuss this in January.

Proposal that SoA is not involved in decision making on whom can be invited as a guest to this event, and so does not need to pay for any guests. Passed with one abstention. SoA President will inform the Pac Shin Gasshuku Manager.

Sandra brought up the issue of Senior Instructors attending events at a discount (cost—room and board, no instructional fee). SoA gave NTC a fund. Lee says that the NTC fund was for travel costs, and is separate. Regional policy was adopted by NWSE. SNE has also adopted it. It is a regional choice. SoA cannot mandate discounts by regions.

6) Planning our in person meeting for Thursday January 11 2007 6pm.

Items for January:

Reports:

- Financial report and budget
- Closing NTC report
- Reporting on European Forum

Committee Updates:

Marketing

- Survey results
- Brochure Template

Strategic Initiatives

- Clarifying Advanced Workshop/SoA/NTC roles
- DVD Project from Committee
- Other planning

7) New Item:

Ito has a report from Quebec. The Canadian health department has officially recognized David Palmer's kata. Kenko Taiso may also be recognized in the future.

Meeting started at 5:00pm and ended at 6:01pm EST.