

SOA Board Meeting Notes

Sunday, April 15, 2012

Skype Phone Meeting

Present: Michael Thompson, Shin Aoki, Nancy Billias, Rob Gaston, Rob Kedoin, Byron Russell, Sandra Bengtsson (Treasurer), Cheryl Williams (International Gasshuku Manager)

Not Present: Ito Sensei, David Franklin

1) Topic: Approval of minutes for last meeting (3/18/2012). Approved without objection.

2) Topic: International Gasshuku Update from Cheryl Williams. Currently, 81 paying participants are registered for the event, with a total of 95 attending. Cheryl is continuing to do outreach nationally and internationally to encourage further registration and expects over 100 by May 31st. Registration will close on 5/31/12 in order to render final numbers and payment to the Sonoma State hosting site. There may be some flexibility for last-minute registration, but this will depend on conditions at Sonoma State and cannot be guaranteed.

Team leaders for the event determined so far are:

Hakama Team: Rob Gaston

Exam Coordinator: Shin Aoki

Housing and Transportation: Steven Billias

A draft of keiko times has been made and Cheryl is beginning to fill in times for various meetings and other events, including ISC meetings. Registration is scheduled to begin Tuesday at 10:30am, with the first keiko at 2pm. The gasshuku ends after lunch on Friday. Cheryl was not sure of the deadline Friday for having everyone offsite (probably 3pm or 3:30pm). The schedule will be finalized and posted in June. Michael Thompson suggested the board meet informally during the event for one hour.

Action Item: Byron will follow up with Cheryl to request a one-hour time slot for board members to meet. This is an informal board meeting, not a community meeting.

The website is continuing to be updated with the list of Instructors, Exam information, and Housing and Transportation Information. These will be finished by June. Rob K. is commended for his work on the website and the translations. Sandra and Cheryl thanked all those who are participating in the administration work for the event, encouraged all of the board to continue promoting the event, and to appreciate the excitement that is developing around this.

Child Care: may be available depending upon the number of children in attendance. Plans for this have not been finalized, but there is a registration option for children and non-participants.

Aoki Sensei's Schedule: Cheryl has not yet gotten an arrival date/time for Aoki Sensei from his assistant, nor information on his travel plans after the gasshuku.

Translators: A team leader for the translation team has not been determined yet. Cheryl will continue to work on developing a plan for assigning and scheduling translators (French, English, Japanese). Lee Seaman is interested in being involved in this.

Loaner Weapons: At present there is no plan for providing loans of weapons. Exam participants can be expected to bring their own boh and bokutoh. The keiko Jim Sterling has planned will not require the use of a boh.

Action Item: Sandra B. will look into the curriculum of the Advanced Workshop taught by Aoki Sensei to see if weapons will be required, and let registered participants know.

3) Topic: Membership report. Rob Gaston reported that the membership letter went out. The proposed board slate was approved without objection. The Slate:

Permanent Members: Ito Sensei and Michael Thompson Sensei

NTC Chair: Shin Aoki

Elected Members:

Nancy Billias

David Franklin

Rob Gaston

Rob Kedoin

Byron Russell

Officer election: Byron Russell was proposed for President of the Board, Sandra Bengtsson was proposed for Treasurer. The proposal was passed without objection.

Currently we have 26 paid members of SOA. There are many members who have not yet paid, including 15 who have signed up for the International Gasshuku.

Action Item: Rob G will continue following up with previous SOA members who have not yet paid their dues.

Action Item: Sandra B. will look into establishing a recurring automatic payment of SOA dues.

4) Topic: Report from Ito. Ito Sensei reported by email that he has an exciting new project in Quebec with Bruno Brunier (www.le-cercle.ca). He will provide more information on this project at our next board meeting.

5) Topic: Welcome to new members. Nancy Billias was welcomed to the board. She is interested in working on membership, marketing, and outreach to new members. Ideas suggested for this include being clear with students that we want them to learn the forms and then learn to play, that we need to

look at ways to pass Shintaido on to new generations, to teach the foundation and to encourage improvisation, and that we encourage new teachers and exploration of the curriculum.

Action Item: Nancy B will begin developing discussions and plans for membership outreach after the International Gasshuku.

6) Topic: Body Dialogue Newsletter. Byron R. reported that he had discussed ways to reduce the cost of publication of the Body Dialogue with Stephen Billias (Editor). Stephen has proposed that we publish the Body Dialogue online and then send a postcard to the current mailing list telling them that a new issue is available online, and how to find it (reducing the cost from \$250/issue to around \$32/issue). In addition, we could offer paid subscriptions to those who wish to continue receiving it by mail. The next issue is scheduled for late July, after the International Gasshuku. The mailing list is much larger than the current membership.

Action Item: Byron R. will invite Stephen B. to attend the next Board meeting to discuss this further.

Action Item: Nancy B. will work Stephen on increasing the effectiveness of the newsletter as an outreach tool.

7) Topic: Next Meeting. The next SOA Board Meeting will be Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 1PM PST, 4PM EST. The meeting will be by Skype.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron J. Russell, April 15, 2012