

Minutes SOA NTC 10 February 2019 12noon West Coast Time

Present: Shin (chair), Connie, Rob G., Mike S., Chris, HF Ito and Michael Thompson

Absent: Sandra, Jim, David, Bela and Lee S.

Agenda

I. **SOA NTC work on Karate curriculum revision/refinements – Shin**

Shin reports this work group of three people: himself, David and Gianni are in the initial stages with an idea that was developed two years ago and then recently with Pierre Q,'s suggestion to be more formal. There are three areas of interest:

1a. Reviewing the current curriculum and look at the flow between curriculum of various levels to judge the preparation provided for the next level of study

1b. Connect Shintaido Karate to other Shintaido areas such as Bohjutsu and Open Hand Shintaido to promote continuity of study

1c. Make Karate curriculum accessible to people of different physical abilities.

The group of three is reviewing the curriculum through private lessons – David and Gianni with Ito and Shin with Minagawa. This group has had no financial involvement or expectations. Right now the group is doing this project because of personal interest. At this time there is no budget request of SOA for 2018. So far this group has been of personal interest with no promise of a result.

Discussion followed with comments these three goals are good. The next steps for these 3 people to think about a more official involvement and result. One suggestion is to integrate Minagawa's Tenshingoso and Karate into the curriculum to allow more non-Karate practitioners to study. This would provide a way to cross pollinate with other styles of Karate and introduce them to the essence of Shintaido. The group is interested in keeping Shintaido Karate as one of the three pillars & as a way to have a younger group of participants. Ito suggests considering modifying Shintaido Karate without losing the essence of karate so could replace the nagewaza with the Tenshingoso application.

Action Item: Shin to give update at the June 2019 meeting on the progress of the group.

II. **Shodan Shintaido Kenjutsu eligibility and examiners**

The NTC group agreed with the items of the agenda 2a to 2d that state: the purpose of Shintaido Kenjutsu is to a) enhance the practice of current Shintaido students for the study of flow, managing techniques and the study of time and b) offer a curriculum that can appeal/be accessible to individuals without the physical demands of knee walking, rolling etc. That now in 2019 the examiners for Shodan Kenjutsu are either one Yondan or two Sandan's, the current eligibility is to be Shintaido Assistant and that the oversight for Shodan and Nidan Kenjutsu is with the TC's of SOA, ESC and Japan.

2e) Ito proposes that the eligibility to take the ShoDan exam be opened as of 2019 to other professionals, experts and instructors from other disciplines. Ito presented in his work as emissary for Shintaido he has several individuals who would like to take ShoDan Kenjutsu exam. The group discussed and reviewed Connie's proposal to have the eligibility be either Shintaido Assistant OR a written letter of recommendation from a SOA instructor with Ito's proposal.

The proposal was made to say: *Anyone can APPLY to take Shintaido Kenjutsu Shodan exam if recommended by HF Ito or Minagawa as well as by a SOA NiDan Kenjutsu Instructor.* When a SOA NiDan Kenjutsu instructor makes the recommendation, the criteria of what should be included in the letter of recommendation is to be developed.

Discussion followed. Shin made the point to avoid having future examiners be forced to fail unqualified examinees and appear to the 'bad guys'. Shin separated the ability to encourage people to study Kenjutsu and take advance classes from the exam.

The group agree with having a letter of recommendation and potential pre-exam interview with the examinee, that there would be away to suggest a person study for an additional period of time before taking the examination. Ito sensei does something similar with 'mock' examinations in Quebec during each keiko and then only having people who can improve their techniques actually take the examination.

Proposal as written above passed unanimously. Michael Thompson abstained as he is in the role as consultant to the NTC.

Action Item: The group asked to revisit Kenjutsu examiner qualifications at the next meeting.

Development of criteria to be addressed for what would be included in recommendations to be presented for discussion at the June meeting.

III. Action items for June Meeting

3a) Update from Shin on the group working on the Shintaido Karate curriculum

3b) Proposed criteria for recommendation to take Shintaido Kenjutsu ShoDan exam

3c) Proposed criteria and recognition of Shintaido Kenjutsu examiners

3d) Present the modification to the NiDan Shintaido Kenjutsu examiners from the current requirement of two Yondans to state EITHER one Master OR two Yondans.

Conclusion: HF Ito presented his calendar and planning for 2019 and 2020. He will be in SF the summer of 2019 and the winter of 2020. He will be at the international in November 2020. He is not certain about his planning and if he will be in SF for the summer of 2020.

He plans to be in SF only once a year after November of 2020 and become a consultant to ITEC after November 2020. He would be available for Doshu examinations in 2024 and then become a consultant full time after that international. He plans to return to SF each Jan/Feb of each year starting 2021. Ito sensei was thanked for his 45+ years of work to spread Shintaido

Meeting adjourned at 1pm West Coast Time

Next meeting Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 11am West Coast Time

Respectfully submitted by:

Connie (2/10/19)