

Minutes 3 March 2019 SOA Board Meeting

2pm West Coast Time via SKYPE

Present: Connie (President), Michael T., Shin, David, Brad, Rob K.

Excused: Nancy B, HF Ito

I. **Welcome and review of Agenda**

Connie reviewed the agenda; no updates or changes

II. **Updates on SOA Website**

- A. Website Summary for Nov 2019 to Feb 2019; Rob K. reports one article on the Semi-international was the only article. Rob K believes only one article is the reason for the drop from 2,291 unique pageviews to this quarter with 2,108 unique pageviews. The news articles on Anne-Marie Grandtner and ISP had viewers.
- B. Rob reports because of family needs he has not done major new improvements. The hosting company is now offering support for PHP 7 so there is not a need to change hosting companies. Goal to work next on the Instructor's page and goal is to have pages to review by 2 June.
- C. Articles; Rob will have Stephen B. review the submission by Derk and Shin so this will be next on the SOA website. Connie reviewed the assigned monthly topics, and all agree.
- D. Requests: Brad asks Rob to be sure the PayPal changes he has made are connected. Rob will be sure the Bookstore is connected. Connie requests that by 30 June the PayPal tests be completed so the SOA membership drive can start. Rob and Brad discussed security features and back up for data on the website.
- E. Kenjutsu curriculum on website: Rob asked for clarity on what is posted versus the Kyukajo curriculum. Action item: Shin to work with Rob on the curriculum and categories.

III. **Overview of January 2019 Kangeiko**

Shin reports 20 participants at the two events this January. There was an advanced workshop on one weekend and the general Kangeiko the next weekend with Minagawa sensei as guest instructor. One person took an evaluation and one person took & passed Shintaido Kenjutsu Nidan. The theme was 'Sword that gives life'. Derk has submitted a report to Rob K. for the SOA website.

Suggestions for the future: have category for SOA scholarship that allows an SOA member to apply for financial support without requirement to teach or give a report. Also suggested was to have a formal role of recorder of the keiko and video recordings of the keiko.

IV. **Scholarship report**

Connie reports two recipients: Brad and Lee. Both are requested to submit a written report on their teaching activities since Kangeiko. 1 July for Brad and 1 August for Lee O.

V. **Overview of SOA NTC activities from meeting February 2019**

Shin reports that he, David and Gianni are personally interested in reviewing the Karate curriculum and had their first meeting last week.

Shin reports SOA NTC broadened the criteria beyond Assistant to taking the Shintaido Kenjutsu Shodan exam to anyone can APPLY by having a letter from their Nidan Kenjutsu instructor or by recommendation from HF Ito or Minagawa.

VI. Approval of budget for 2019 and 2020

Connie presented the budgets for 2019 and 2020 based on membership numbers of 35 members for 2019 and 40 for 2020. SOA and ESC will alternate years of paying the ISP dues for MT and ITO. The financial picture is projected to be stable at \$11,000 over the next two years. A vote was called, and the budgets passed without any changes or disagreements.

VII. Approval of business report for 2018

Connie reviewed the business report for 2018 without any changes suggested by the board. David reports Gianni has worked with an international sports insurance company; he will give this information to Stephen Billias to review/research. Should Stephen determine either a financial advantage or better coverage, he will let the board know of his recommendation to consider changing companies.

VIII. Financial report

- A. Brad reports a new PayPal account that is now a generic SOA account (i.e. not a personal account in Byron's name). This will give SOA better access to PayPal funds, including refunds. There is about \$1300 to transfer to the SOA bank account from PayPal.
- B. Bookstore: Connie request Brad work with Rob K. to be sure there is a smooth transition. Shin and Connie report one PayPal purchase that required Rob K. to investigate what had been ordered so that Shin could ship these items. Connie asked Brad to be sure that Shin is a CC on PayPal purchases to continue with shipping bookstore items.
- C. Brad will provide the year end financial report for 2018 to the board on 2 June and will work with Chris to ensure the 2018 tax report is completed this spring.

IX. SOA membership drive July 2019

Connie discussed the membership drive and asking Nancy to do the 2019 membership letter. Brad reports MailChimp is ready to the membership letter.

X. 2019 – 2021 SOA board membership terms

Connie asked about current board member's interest in continuing on the SOA board. Both David and Brad are interested. Nancy is absent with excuse from this meeting. Connie asked about asking Herve, a SOA member in Canada and the board agreed.

XI. Future Dates

2 June SOA board meeting; 23 June SOA NTC; 1 July SOA membership drive; 15 August SOA board election; 22 September SOA board meeting; 8 December SOA board meeting; 15 Dec joint SOA and NTC meeting.

XII. Updates from board members

David reports for Czech Shintaido there will be a workshop the end of March. He is using a variable payment plan for keiko and also targeting audiences with mutual interests such as body workers and actors. He has 5 people for regular keiko. Brad reports one class once a month with Matt, Roger, Mary and himself as well as a once a month class at the Unitarian Church where Joe Z. had class. Brad also plans 4 workshops this spring near a lake where he lives. Connie is teaching 4 classes this March and then presenting Shintaido in April in Bruges, Belgium. Shin continues with Saturday class; Connie/Rob/Sandra co-lead a class on Sunday; Rob G. is teaching Boh on Saturday and Mike continues with Tues/Fri 7am classes.

Shin plans a spring event, although MT will not be attending. Connie updated that Ito will be in SF the summer of 2019 and winter of 2020. Shin report Ito will be teaching Kangeiko January 2020. Ito will then be in Japan in November of 2020, but not in SF the summer of 2020. Ito will be a consultant/examiner/guest starting the winter of 2021 and only be in SF each winter and not during the summer months. Michael reports they visited James Cummings in Vermont and Bela led a seated keiko with the group. Michael projects that he will not be in Europe in the fall of 2019 nor in Japan in November 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Next meeting 2 June 2019

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie Borden