

Minutes SOA Board meeting 30 June 2019 2pm to 3pm West Coast Time via SKYPE

Present: Connie (chair), Brad, Nancy, David, HF Ito

Excused: Michael Thompson (Italy), Shin Aoki Absent: Rob Kedoin

I. Welcome

Connie welcomed the board members, reviewed the agenda, no additions to the agenda made.

II. SOA Website- Connie for Rob Kedoin

Connie reviewed the written report submitted in advance from Rob Kedoin that covers 1 March 2019 to 30 May 2019 on the SOA website.

- a) Improvements completed: Storage of the NTC minutes and moving the store items to the new PayPal account.
- b) Next changes to be made: Instructors page with location of keiko; page for Kenjutsu Curriculum; page for current and past members of the NTC
- c) Pages visited has increased 48%. Board members were very enthusiastic to hear this news. The board congratulated everyone who made the contributions for 6 articles this quarter. One question is who is doing the viewing? Where are they geographically? Can we tell if they are SOA members or non-SOA members? **ACTION ITEM:** Connie to ask Rob to clarify these questions.
- d) The post clicks, reactions, comments, shares and reach were discussed. Connie encouraged all board members who have Facebook pages to participate in the share when articles are posted to help reach a larger audience. Questions were asked to clarify if the REACH means the number of different people this article touched (rather than one person doing all the clicks). **ACTION Item:** Connie to clarify these terms with Rob.
- e) Upcoming Articles;
 - i. 1 July Brad – report since Kangeiko and the scholarship, he was encouraged to include photos and his haiku in his report
 - ii. 1 August – Lee O. on his activities since Kangeiko and receiving the scholarship
 - iii. 1 September – David offered to write on the applications of Tenshingoso especially as the bridge between Karate and Shintaido as well as the efforts of the group of David, Gianni and Shin who are working on Shintaido Karate. The board agreed this is a worthwhile topic.
 - iv. Mid-September – Connie will ask Mark to write on the SF August Workshop
 - v. 1 October – Connie will ask Rob Kedoin to write about the workshop in Quebec City
 - vi. Mid November – Connie and Mark to co-author about the ESC Fall High in Reims
 - vii. 1 December – Jim Sterling has volunteered to write about a topic of his choosing.

The board members congratulated Rob on the continuing work to manage our website and all agree this type of electronic communication is essential in today's world.

III. **Membership drive**

Connie thanked Nancy for her efforts to produce the 2019 letter. This letter includes quotes from Brad and Lee on their receiving SOA scholarships and how this has helped their Shintaido study.

Brad confirms he is ready 1 July to send this letter on Mailchimp.

ACTION ITEM: Connie to email Brad the most current letter

IV. **Board Elections**

Board members reflect on their interest to continue on the SOA board. Nancy, Brad, David and Connie are interested to be nominated for the 2019 to 2021 board terms. Connie and Ito discussed about inviting Herve to be nominated.

Action Item: Connie to email Herve to determine if he might be interested.

V. **Financial report 2018**

Brad reports being in email communication with Chris Ikeda-Nash to do the SOA tax filing. Connie stressed this is essential business as a nonprofit and a reminder that the SOA board is responsible for this task.

ACTION ITEM: Brad to complete the 2018 financial report and work with Chris to have the tax filing done by 31 July.

VI. **Video project**

Connie reviewed the outline of a volunteer video project by Sarah Baker and the SF Bay Area Instructors. Sarah will be here 23 July to 22 August. Keiko by Rob G., Shin, Mike, and the Sunday keiko with Connie, Sandra and Rob will be videotaped. Goals are 1) Marketing 2) Reference and 3) Technical. Brad shares the current postings from other groups focus on short clips done during a class and posted after a class. David is willing to review the two documents that Connie has developed to date and offer advice on the concepts, use of voice overviews, narration.

Action item: Once this is done in SF, then how to expand it to the East Coast?

VII. **SOA to offer stipend to promote community service to cancer patients and their caregivers**

Connie proposed a \$200 stipend be offered by SOA to anyone who is Assistant and above to develop and implement a Shintaido program for cancer patients and their caregivers. The SOA board was enthusiastic and felt this was important to identify community needs and how Shintaido can help fulfill these needs. The proposal was passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Connie to develop written announcement of proposal and Brad and Rob to post this mid-July.

VIII. **Updates**

SF BAY AREA

30 July to 27 August – HF Ito will be teaching Taimyo from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Day Street Dojo

17 August and 18 August – HF Ito will be teaching a full day workshop open to everyone followed by an NTC keiko and meeting on Sunday. Will be at the Marin Academy in San Rafael.

QUEBEC

6,7 & 8 September – HF Ito will be teaching in Quebec City. Several USA members will be attending including Mark B, Rob K and Gail, Dan, Connie, Sarah. Brad hopes to attend.

EAST COAST

5 & 6 October is the tentative date for the SNE Fall Gasshuku. Roger has located a site in Connecticut. This will be the first overnight gasshuku in recent years for SNE.

EUROPE

31 October to 3 November – ESC is having their Fall High gasshuku with a focus on Gentle Shintaido. Connie and Mark B are attending. David reports that Ula is considering asking Margaret Guay. Connie offers that Margaret can approach SOA for support in funding. Ito suggested that SNE also support funding for Margaret.

INTERNATIONAL 2020

Ito Sensei reports that planning for 2020 is underway.

The dates are 4 November to 8 November, location is near Kansai and Lake Biwa. Here is the announcement from the organizers:

Biwako 2020 international gasshuku

Theme: “和氣藹々/Waki Aiai”.

“和氣藹々/Waki Aiai” describes an atmosphere or a situation where a group of people gather and share joy, laughter, happiness and peace with open-hearts, and its vibrations spread into wider communities, fill and surround the earth and the universe.

“和氣/Waki” literally means “energy of peace and harmony”, and “藹々/Aiai” describes trees and plants growing and spreading their leaves vibrantly. The word also implies the importance of “co-existence” and “inter-dependency”, not only amongst humans but also with animals, plants and the nature.

“和氣藹々/Waki Aiai” reminds us of Fig. 9 of the famous picture “Jyugyuzu” (Ten Ox-herder Pictures] .

The word “Ai” itself is a powerful “KOTODAMA/Word’s Spirit” in Japanese, which means Love, Encounter, Communion, Inter-dependence, Indigo, etc.... If you just sound “Ai Ai Ya-!”, you would naturally feel happier, lighter and open in spirit!

IX. Future dates

1 July SOA membership drive; 15 August SOA Board elections for 2019 to 2021; 22 September SOA board meeting; 8 December SOA board meeting; 15 December joint SOA and NTC meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Connie Borden

June 30, 2019