

Minutes SOA Board meeting September 22, 2019

2pm to 3pm West Coast time via SKYPE

Present: Connie (chair), Nancy, Hervé, David and HF Ito

Absent: Brad Excused: Michael, Shin and Rob

I. **Welcome and additions to agenda**

- A. Welcome to Hervé as new SOA board members and congratulations to re-elected and returning SOA board members: Nancy, David, Brad and Connie
- B. Overview of SOA and SOA board
 Connie reviewed the job of SOA as administering the national level certification programs, handling relations with the International Shintaido, and producing education and teaching materials. The SOA board has 3 to 5 voting members selected by the membership for terms of two years as well as two permanent members: HF Ito and Michael Thompson. The SOA board makes decisions on broad SOA policy, appoints SOA officers and articulates vision and direction for SOA. Connie spoke to the role of SOA board as administrative: budget, membership, SOA website, SOA bookstore, SOA national liability insurance and PO mailbox. The role of the SOA National Technical committee with Shin as chair are members who are San-Dan and above SOA members who focus on examinations, curriculum and support to teachers. Connie discussed there are generally 1 -2 joint SOA and NTC meetings per year to increase communication between the two groups. Connie discussed the officers: Web Master – Rob K; Body dialogue – Stephen B. and CPA – Chris I-N. Shin is a member of the SOA as he is chair of the NTC. Connie also adds that SOA does keep track of SOA members as well as rankings to share with International Shintaido.

II. **Election of board positions**

- A. Connie presented the position of board chair is open for nominations: Nancy nominated, and David seconded Connie for the position of board chair/SOA President. The nomination passed with 4 yes votes (Connie excused herself from voting).
 Connie nominated Brad for treasurer (who confirmed his interest to her early in the month) and all 5 voted yes.
 Connie requested Hervé consider the position of Mailing list/MailChimp coordinator. David explained that MailChimp is a web-based program for mailing list that is easy to learn with a HTML template that can have material copied and pasted into the program. People can be added or deleted to the mailing list, as well as people can remove themselves from this list. Connie suggested that Brad would spend the next 3 months helping to orient Hervé to this role. Hervé accepted the nomination. All 4 voted yes.
 Connie suggested that Nancy continue with her role as author of the annual membership letter and she agreed. All 4 voted yes.
 Congratulations to all!
- B. Connie announced that Stephen Billias has informed her that of January 2020 he will be stepping down as Body Dialogue editor and manager of the national liability insurance. Connie reports she will manage the national liability insurance, learning what is needed

this fall with the annual renewal. Connie reviewed for the group the importance of this coverage for student, instructors and for sites for gasshuku.

Connie reports that pending more chance to review the role, that Sarah Baker and Jim Sterling are willing to co-manage the Body Dialogue editor role. Sarah could do the technical portion and Jim Sterling would do the editing. Pending an opportunity for Sarah to work with Stephen, the target is for this to happen early January 2020.

Connie discussed the many (too numerous to count) roles that Stephen Billias has held including SOA President, SOA Special Projects and SOA Body Dialogue Editor. She suggests that a certification of recognition be given to Stephen with the honor of becoming a lifetime SOA member. This was amended to have both Stephen and Bela be lifetime SOA members for their joint contributions. This amendment passed unanimously. Connie will send certification and letter to Rob K. to present in October. Nancy reports this would be a good opportunity as 19 people are currently registered for the October SNE event.

Action item: Connie to FedEx certification and letter to Rob Kedoin, for him to present in October 2019 to Stephen Billias.

III. SOA Website

Connie gave Rob K.'s written report he previously submitted, and board members received. Rob has created a page for Kenjutsu Curriculum, Jissen Kunitachi, created an Instagram account on June 10th and has installed translation support to allow translation of articles into French for the Quebec practitioners.

Connie reviewed next changes with Bruno and Hervé translating the August HF Ito workshop report by Derk, a 'places to practice' page, a listing of current and past NTC members and pending the next action item on new documents – putting them on the website.

Connie reviewed the update on 18% increase in use and 5 new Facebook users. The board was impressed to hear of the response on both Facebook and Instagram to HF Ito's demonstration of Naked Blade Chuden no Kata. The board supports the inclusion of an Instagram account. The board thanks Bruno and Hervé for the efforts to reach the French speaking practitioners.

The SOA board continued to thank Rob for his efforts as Webmaster and the key role of social media to reach out to members and other interested people.

Discussion followed on the potential for a section labeled just for members to 1) recognize members with teaching support and to enhance the feeling of community. One idea was for a video to show the opening segment to the general public and then the full video be available to the members. The board wants to explore this concept further.

Action items:

- A. The board supported the need for the SOA website to have places to practice along with instructor's information
- B. See item #4 for items to place into the bookstore, pending Shin as both NTC chair and oversight of the bookstore (at least distribution).
- C. Ongoing board discussion on website section for members such as video clips to the general public with full videos available to members.

IV. SOA Bookstore

With HF Ito's guidance the group reviewed materials submitted by Sarah at the suggestion of Connie for consideration to the SOA bookstore.

- A. Approved for distribution by pdf at no cost: Tenshingosho & Eiko booklet
- B. Approved for inclusion on the bookstore with logo removal the Meditation class booklet
- C. Approved for inclusion with further discussion should Kindle/Amazon be involved to make a print book available: The Shintaido booklet. HF Ito and MM have an agreement to share materials.
- D. NOT APPROVED – the Taimyo booklet.

Action Item: After Shin's review, Item A can be put on the SOA Bookstore. Shin and SOA board to talk further on free or not free for Item B and C as well as the printed book option.

V. Video project

Connie included the video project outline. The next step is for Shin as NTC chair to review and release the current clips. There are now two places: YouTube and Instagram.

VI. Membership and budget

Connie presented the results of the SOA membership drive: 50 SOA members. 13 new members with 3 people not renewing for a net growth of 10. Board members remember Andrew C from 2010 and Ann S as a current SNE member. Hervé asked who is eligible to be a member. The group discussed SOA membership to open to all – students, instructors and general public. Of the 50 members, 31 are ISP members meaning they hold the rank of Graduate/Shodan and above. Connie discussed that the same membership fee of \$60 is for both the general public and instructors. One advantage of membership is the national liability insurance coverage.

Action items

- A. Hervé and Connie to Dany S. to join; Nancy to re-ask Roger S.
- B. News Bulletin to give results of elections, officers and welcome (using first names only to new/returning members. Connie to write and give to Rob K.

Connie Reviewed the budget/income – expense report for 2019 to date. With 50 members, there is 2940 in membership dues. Also, with exams & diplomas there is \$860 in income. Connie asked for board ideas of how to use our funds with the goal of attracting new practitioners and assisting instructors. The board will discuss and return in December with more ideas.

VII. Joe Z. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Connie reviewed the anonymous donation to establish the Joe Z. Memorial Scholarship fund. The benefactor requested the funds be used to support Graduate/Shodan and above attend the international in 2020 and 2024. There will be \$2000 for 2020 with 4 scholarships for \$500 each available.

The board agree on an announcement now with application open January 2020 and results by April of 2020 so that people can plan to attend the international in 2020 in Japan.

The board restated their appreciation for this anonymous donation to support SOA instructors.

VIII. Brainstorming

The board brainstormed for awhile on how best for SOA to use funds to attract new members and support instructors. One idea is to offer an additional 5th scholarship for 2020. Another idea is to use the funds to help develop marketing and branding of Shintaido – for example hiring Robert F. (Shin’s husband). The board will continue to think about what is needed for the next stage of growth of SOA and what is needed financially to achieve those goals.

Action Item: put on agenda for 8 December meeting. Also, Connie to reach out to Mark Bannon about the program: Meetup.

IX. Updates

Hervé announced that Rob Kedoin will be teaching in March in Quebec. More specifics to follow. Hervé announced that Ito sensei will be teaching Sept 11 & 12, 2020.

Nancy reports there will be 19 people attending the SNE event in October on the 5th and 6th. Nancy will be in Scotland May to Dec of 2020 and wishes to connect with Nagako Cooper. Connie to send contact information.

David reports Czech Republic to have two new classes: Shintaido for children and Shintaido for health.

HF Ito reports 50 people are registered for ESC Fall High in Reims with focus on Shintaido applications for health and well-being. Dates are 31 October to 3 November. HF Ito also reports 30 people registered for Taimyo in South of France.

Connie reports Pac Shin will be having HF Ito to instruct for Kangeiko January 18 – 20, 2020 with follow up classes on February 8 & 9, 2020.

The international will be 4 November to 8 November 2020 near Kansai and Lake Biwa in Japan. The theme is “energy of peace and harmony”. The emphasis will be co-existence and interdependence of humans, plants, animals and nature.

X. Next dates:

8 December

15 December joint SOA and Board meeting

22 March 2020

21 June 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Borden

September 22, 2019