

Minutes for Joint Informational SOA board members and SOA NTC members

Dec 15, 2019 via SKYPE

Present: Connie, Shin, Jim, Rob G. Mike S. Lee S. Michael T., Nancy, Brad

Absent: HF Ito, David, Byron, Bela, Sandra, Herve

- I. **Ito-sensei's retirement plan over 2020 to 2024** – Reviewed by group in Ito's absence. *The following is what Ito has planned regarding "Doshu Retirement"/Succession Planning.*
 - A. Will **NOT** get actively involved after the Biwako 2020; at ITEC, SOA TC, & ETC meetings & activities or at any established national group led by Dai-Shihan and/or 4-Dan instructor
 - B. Will make himself available (on call base) for;3-Dan & Sei-Shihan exam at the semi-international event in 2022! 3~5 Dan & Sei-Shihan~Doshu exam at the international event in 2024!
 - C. Ito would like to continue his work by/at attending to any frontier groups he started to develop; such as German Shintaido, KSC, SOS, & Qc. Doshokai leading Life Exercise workshops in Cevenne, France; Taimyo Meditation Network for World Peace activity; teaching Kenjutsu to Karate/Aiki-do Practitioners in Romania; teaching Kenko-Taiso to the On-Site Massage Practitioners in France
 - D. any works via ITO Services; such as Ergonomic Consultation, Intercultural Consultation
The Board and NTC thank Ito-sensei for his work plan for 2020-2024 on his Doshu Retirement plan/Succession Planning and look forward to seeing the new developments on this new journey.

- II. **Biwako 2020 – International 4 November to 8 November 2020** -Connie & Jim
 - A. **Dates:**
 - o Thursday, November 5, 2020 (except for ITEC members and ISP board members who will arrive for dinner on Wednesday). The Gasshuku will end on Sunday, November 8, 2020, after lunch (Approx. 15:00). The general plan is ITEC and ISP board meeting on 5 November, advanced workshops/master classes 6 November; performances/exams on 7 November followed by a general keiko and on 8 November a general keiko with a closing about 1pm.
 - B. **Price of the Gasshuku**
 - o The early-bird price is ¥60,000 (Japanese yen).
 - o At current exchange rates, this is approximately 510 euros and 565 USD.
 - C. **Airport of destination** is Osaka's Kansai International Airport (KIX). Transportation from Kansai International Airport to [Shirahamaso](#), the gasshuku site, is by train. The train station closest to the gasshuku site is Omi-Takashima (Omitakashima). It takes about 2.5 hours from the Osaka Kansai International airport to the Gasshuku site, plus time to get your luggage and buy the train ticket. So, you should book a flight arriving at Kansai International Airport no later than 12:30.

- D. *The core of practice for the Advanced Workshop will be centered on the San-dan and Yon-dan examination programs by the way of master classes, collegial practices and mock exams as mentioned above. The subject matter will mainly be intended for higher rank holders and examinees. However, Sho-dan and Ni-dan holders not preparing for exams will be able to benefit from the process by practicing with their sempai and through mitori geiko.*
- E. *The collegial keikos will be organized according to the examinees, based on their personal needs and preferences. Shodan and Nidan instructors not preparing for exams will be invited to join an appropriate collegial keiko group according to their current grade and the Shintaido discipline they wish to practice with their sempai (Bojutsu, Kenjutsu, Karate or Free hand).*
- F. *Masterclasses, collegial practices and mock exams will alternate according to the needs for those preparing for exams. For everyone and especially for Sho-dan and Nidan instructors not preparing for an exam, these classes will give unique opportunities to experience -- by mitori-geiko -- good and in-depth examples of advanced Kata & Kumite studies by various high-ranking sempai.*

At this time people attending are Jim, Connie, Rob G, Mike S, Lee O and Chris; those probably attending are Lee S., Herve, Bruno, Sarah B, Nicole M. (pending exam in Jan 2020) and Brad. Shin is considering attending.

III. **Joe Z. Scholarship Memorial Fund** (see attached) – Connie

Connie reviewed the anonymous donation that was specific for supporting instructors to attend international events. \$1000 was received for 2019 with a pledge for \$1000 in each of the years – 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 for a total of \$5000.

Connie reports she will ask the board to extend the application deadline to 1 June 2020 as the website and registration for BIWAKO 2020 has not opened.

The group suggested to clarify the items 1 to 5 are to be the criteria for acceptance for a stipend and not a criterion to apply. Connie will update and review with the board.

The group supported a statement of mentorship/guidance from SOA and NTC on supporting development on teaching, writing and overall development of how to develop one's own keiko. The group suggests this mentorship/guidance will support and guide people on teaching and make it more likely someone will apply for the scholarship. (See item #5 with a teacher's group as one way to receive support). At this time Connie estimates there are six people who could be applying for the scholarships. The Scholarships are \$500 each with four scholarships being offered to total \$2000 in 2020.

IV. **Group discussion on funding priorities for SOA** (see attached) – Connie

Connie reviewed the summary on SOA members and possible funding options for the SOA board to review on 22 December to finalize for the 2020 budget.

Suggestions proposed by the group and supported in group discussion are:

- A. Scholarships to attend regional group events for any person regardless of rank as long as they are a paid SOA member. Proposed amount for 2020 is \$400.

- B. Branding and marketing plan – proposed \$2000. Lee S. is willing to share with Connie and others her current efforts on branding her own business.
 - C. Social media announcements – paid stipend for SOA website, MailChimp, Instagram – no amount mentioned
 - D. For 2021 have funds for MM or other instructor from outside USA to teach a West Coast/East Coast event – proposed \$1500 to help with travel costs
 - E. Stipends to support teaching classes to cancer patients, people with chronic disease and/or seniors - \$200. Related to this topic is articles on the health benefits and/or research showing the health benefits
 - F. Fund a video recording. In Europe there is a professional person who does the recording. The post-production time is substantial. A model is the ESC Kenjutsu video from 2018. \$1000 for West Coast Kangeiko 2020.
 - G. Video record all the Boh and Karate Kata. No cost provided.
- V. **Teachers group – interest/need** – Lee Seaman
 Connie presented the prior “Group leaders” meeting lead by Eva T. Connie discussed with the overall purpose of SOA to promote Shintaido Keiko and Shintaido Instructors, a group to support teachers could be an essential activity of SOA. Lee Seaman reports she is interested in developing this concept and seeing if there are people interested in this type of meetings via Zoom. She requests one or two people to meet once over the next week to develop the ideas further. Brad Larson is interested. He affirms that the work to support groups and offer workshops would be benefitted by a structure to get feedback on overcoming barriers. Lee S. and Brad to meet in the next week and develop initial ideas to share further with SOA and SOA NTC.

Meeting adjourned 12noon Pacific time. The next meeting to be scheduled and members notified. Shin to check with Byron and Bela on their plans and interests with SOA NTC.

Respectfully submitted by
 Connie Borden