

Minutes Joint SOA Board and SOA NTC

18 October 2020 11am to 12:30pm West Coast Time via ZOOM

Present: Shin, Connie, Jim, Rob G., Chris, Nancy B., Lee S., Mike S., HF Ito, Michael Thompson, David F.

Absent: Sandra, Byron, Brad, Bela

Overview of Agenda

- 1) Sharing of Soft Hand Shintaido Curriculum by Lee Seaman and Nancy Billias
- 2) Discussion on jurisdiction of Shodan and Nidan Exam Curriculum – led by Shin Aoki
- 3) PacShin and SNE Kangeiko

Agenda:

- I. **Sharing of Soft Hand Shintaido Curriculum by Lee Seaman and Nancy Billias**
 - A. Lee S. reviewed the 10-week program that she and Nancy developed. Lee was inspired after the branding initiative and she and Nancy have brought multiple years of teaching experience into developing this resource.
 - B. Nancy plans to teach this program in the spring of 2021. Classes will be 2.5 hours long with 45 minutes using the Shintaido curriculum. The course is 'Mindfulness in the Workplace'. Nancy will be reaching out to Stephen B. for more on the program that Jim and Stephen developed. Connie suggested she also reach out to Tomi on programs she developed.
 - C. **Next steps.** Lee and Nancy plan to start teaching and seek feedback. Connie plans to ask Lee S. to teach the Sunday keiko group if timing works. Connie suggested an article be developed for SOA Body Dialogue. The group praised both Lee and Nancy on their efforts.
- II. **Discussion on jurisdiction of Shodan and Nidan Exam Curriculum – led by Shin Aoki**
 - A. Shin introduced the topic of jurisdiction for exam curriculum for Shodan and Nidan. Currently this is the jurisdiction of SOA NTC and SOA. ITEC is discussing a proposal to have these be jurisdiction of ITEC/IS. Shin wishes to include SOA board and SOA NTC in this discussion. This is a good opportunity to talk about whether proposal will help us grow, be a benefit or impede us or be neutral. There are many levels of implication with issuing of diplomas, diploma fees and IS membership. Shin reviewed the original proposal that was attached. Connie reviewed the current proposal is the general principle that "Some part of the exam program for 1 and 2 -dan will be decided by ITEC. Some parts of the exam program for 1 -2 dan will be decided by continental/national TC's."
 - B. The group was asked for input. Chris likes the current structure. Mike S. spoke of his recent exams in 2018 and 2016 where some parts of the exam curriculum varied with some regional variation. Jim spoke of the joint efforts on exam curriculum. David spoke of the need to have ITEC leave some exam curriculum for national/continental groups to add. Discussion included that it is important for national TC's to also be able to teach how to be an exam goriesha and to be an examiner. Rob G. wondered about why now for the proposal. Rob G. also wants to a clear process and implementation process as well. Lee S. reports she has little input for examinations as her students are not likely to take exams. Lee

S. stressed it is important to be clear about hierarchy, not to “sandbag’ teachers and not to have students perceive their teachers are not qualified. Lee S. also feels it is important to protect beginners from organizational negativity. Nancy B. did not see an impact. Ito spoke of his changing role with his current view that Shintaido does not do ‘mass production’ but rather is it a craft art (i.e. artisanal). Rather than speak of organizational structure, HF Ito spoke to the examiner criteria (i.e. General Instructor and 2 Yondans). MT gave a quote and spoke to the need to have any proposal ratified by the continental/national TC’s. David spoke to ETC from November 2019 when this was agreed with the ETC. David wonders if different disciplines could have different jurisdictions. Rob G. spoke to the need for implementation of any changes so regional and national TC members would be current. Rob G. believes this would be a cost for IS to pay any training/travel needs. Ito spoke to the difference between teaching program and exam curriculum and Gianni as an example. Connie spoke of three levels of needs: local with teaching keiko; national with resources for keiko and instructors and international with common ground in the exam curriculum.

C. Feedback to ITEC: There are a variety of opinions. Some members prefer no change; some agree to a change; some see no impact in their current teaching from the changes. Should change occur suggestions include: a clear process; a clear implementation process for change; financial support from IS for any teaching or training that must occur. To have a clear process that addresses retroactive diplomas and teaching status. To not ‘shame’ local teachers; and support local teachers without confusing beginners. ITEC next meets 24 October.

III. PacShin and SNE Kangeiko – Michael Thompson

Michael suggested after a conversation with Margaret Guay that SNE consider joining Pacshin for their Kangeiko. PacShin Kangeiko is 16 & 17 January and 23 January 2021 via ZOOM. Nancy Billias is also interested as a SNE Board member on SNE Kangeiko and will discuss more with SNE members; there might be a February SNE Kangeiko.

Closing comments by members. HF Ito mentioned the recent death of the Japanese Trumpeter Toshinori Kondo, 71, who died 17 October 2020. He is survived by Kuta, oldest son, and Yota, younger son. His obituary mentions recordings “Love the Earth” and “Typhoon 19”. Also “Born of the Blue Planet”.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Connie Borden
18 October 2020