

## Minutes SOA Board Meeting 13 June 2021 11am to 12noon West Coast time via ZOOM

Present: Connie, Shin, MT, Ito, Brad, and David

Absent: Nancy and Herve

Guest: Rob Gaston

### Overview of Agenda:

- I. Proposal for guest instructor for 2022
- II. Website and bookstore updates
- III. Membership update
- IV. Logo subcommittee report
- V. Discussion and approval of 3 MOU's
- VI. Board elections for August 2021
- VII. Audiobook/Podcast
- VIII. Next meeting

#### **I. Proposal for guest instructor for 2022 – Rob Gaston**

Rob presented his proposal to invite Charles Burns as a guest instructor in the summer/fall of 2022. The content would be Boh and Jo. Rob is willing to be the organizer and director of the workshop. Rob would like it to be a large event so people can appreciate Charles as an artist, and someone with special development of teaching approach to kata. Rob has discussed it with Shin (chair of NTC and Pacshin). Shin would support this event and says it is a great idea. Brad is interested and would like to practice. Connie commented that the 2022 SOA budget could include scholarship funding to help support this event for larger attendance. Ito suggested to talk with Charles Burns on a hybrid model of both in person and zoom/live stream. Rob to contact Charles Burns and present a budget as the idea is developed. The SOA board shared appreciation for the proposal with Rob. MT asked more about Rob's visit to the east coast. Rob discussed his visit to Washington DC 6/15 -6/21 to be a kumite partner with Lee O for his exams in Kenjutsu and Shintaido. Connie apologized if SNE was not informed in a timely manner.

#### **II. Website and bookstore updates**

Connie reviewed Rob's submitted report given his absence related to family matters. Connie reviewed the plans to migrate the SOA website to a new platform called Dreamhost, which offers free housing for non-profits. Connie reviewed our current website is secure for the bookstore and credit cards given our use with PayPal. Migrating the SOA website also involved other shintaido websites. Tomi confirms Ito will have a new website; Lee S. confirms the northeast site is not in use. MT reports not using the mt.shintaido.org site and is ok with the site ending. Connie discussed with Shin to talk with Rob K. given the PacShin site is not on word press. Shin to follow up with Rob.

Connie discussed that the conversion to WooCommerce probably would follow after the migration of the website. Shin to also talk with Rob K. on the new look to the bookstore. Target date is perhaps September?

Connie discussed with Brad that given the website changes and bookstore changes, that the plan to have a specific 'button' for high level exam payments can be postponed. Brad agreed that for the limited number of high-level exams, the general donation feature can continue.

Action item: Connie to send payment approach to SOA high level examinee challengers. \$230 US dollars with \$160 as exam fee and \$70 as diploma fee.

Exam fees to be split 50/50 with HF Ito and MM as exam jury. Diploma fee remains with SOA as international exam income.

**III. Membership update**

Connie reported that there are 42 paid members with 2 new members and 2 members from prior years. There are still 8 prior members who have not paid. The updated budget was also presented. Donations are up, sales consistent.

Connie to follow up with the last 8 people one more time at end of June.

**IV. Logo subcommittee report**

Connie reviewed the written subcommittee report with the plans to move the deadline for logo submissions to 31 December 2021. The three people who submitted designs as well as the two expert panel members have been notified of the change in deadline. Logo subcommittee to follow up in fall of 2021.

**V. Discussion and approval of 3 MOU's**

Connie reviewed the purpose of MOUs as a written agreement from the 3 sponsoring organizations to do joint international activities: high level exams, ITEC and IT. The board confirmed having received the 3 MOU's. Shin moved to accept the three MOU's and Brad seconded the proposal; unanimous approval.

Connie to notify Pierre (as IT Manager) and the three organizations of final approval of MOU's.

Brad to notify Connie when transfer of money from the dissolved IS NPO in France is received.

**VI. Board elections for August 2021**

Connie presented the upcoming board elections from August 2021 to August 2023.

Timeline: announce request for nominations 1 July to 31 July. Present slate for election 1 August to 31 August.

Brad reports he is willing to continue, and while he would prefer if someone else had the desire/energy to be a treasurer, he will continue. He plans for 2021/2022 to write the process of being treasurer to systematize the role for future people.

David is willing to continue and contribute to the area of videos/media.

Connie is willing to continue.

Connie to write both Nancy and Herve to determine their desire and ability to continue.

Ito expressed appreciation for Tereza and her expertise.

**VII. Audiobook/Podcast**

David presented the three steps for the audiobook of Shintaido book. Putting the recording of SOA book on Youtube without video as easiest and most direct. Second

finding a way to sell the audio book on Amazon. One option so the sell an audiobook that is linked to a pdf of the SOA book. David sees sales on Amazon as reaching the largest audience. The third step is with a Podcast channel, which SOA does not have at this point.

Brad supports the instructor interview podcasts that the instructor then also shares when SOA has Podcast channels.

Action items:

Connie and David to work with Sarah on getting the audiobook on YouTube.

Connie and David to work with Sarah on combing sales on Amazon of both an audiobook and ebook.

Connie and David to follow up with Tereza on contacts of people who facilitate an organization having podcast channels (an organization can have multiple).

#### **VIII. Next meeting**

Agreement on next date of 19 September.

Agenda: welcome to possible new board members; review of strategic plan.

Discuss ways for creative ways to use Joe Z. funding for instructional videos and printed materials.

Closing:

Shin, David, MT said thank you.

Ito announced 1) Pierre Q. will have the Rakutenki interview in French completed by BIWAKO 2021 with a goal of 2022 for an English version and 2023 for a Japanese version. 2) Ito plans to be teaching in Quebec City Sept 4 &5. Pending the border between US and Canada opening, Mark B., Dan R. and Connie plan to attend.

Respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

June 13, 2021