

**Minutes SOA Board meeting 25 February.
11am to 12noon West Coast Time via ZOOM.**

Present: Connie B., Michael T., Nancy B., and Rob G. Absent: David F.

Overview of agenda:

- I. Treasurer's report
- II. Membership letter
- III. Teaching Grant
- IV. HF Ito Memorial Fund
- V. Brad Larson family donation
- VI. New Board members
- VII. Next date: 19 May

Agenda:

I. Check in and sharing. A moment of silence for HF Ito. Nancy B. is now living in Inverness, Scotland. David is traveling by train and cannot join today.

II. Treasurer's report for 2023

Review of report from Sandra B. Expenses and income as expected.

Action Item: Rob moved to acceptance of report as written with second by Nancy.

Unanimous approval. Connie stated report to be posted to SOA website with board minutes.

Action Item: Connie reported first of 3 CD's with Fidelity matures March 22, 2024. Connie reported SOA has two other CD's each for \$2000 with maturity dates of March 2025 and March 2026. Board discussed reinvestment or not. Proposal to reinvest \$1000 as a three-year CD (i.e., mature in 2027) with Fidelity. Unanimous approval.

III. 2024 Membership letter

Nancy presented 2024 membership letter. Praise given for a well written letter. A request was made to be sure when published that #4 the "list here" goes to a link. Connie will check with Tereza that this "list here" link goes to the SOA multi-platform podcast listing.

Action item: Proposal to accept letter as written. Unanimous approval. Connie reports the start of the SOA membership drive is 5 March with Mailchimp distribution. Will be posted on SOA website in News section.

IV. Teaching Grant request

Connie reports SOA approved \$1500 in the 2024 budget for teaching grants. Tomi Nagai-Rothe submitted a written proposal for \$750 to teach a 5-day program in June/July 2024 at the Quaker friends annual conference, being held in Haverford Pennsylvania this year. Tomi requested a grant last year and was approved for a similar program. Discussion followed to clarify – is Tomi paid -no Tomi has to pay to attend and travel to conference; how will SOA recognized – with SOA logo on handouts. (Connie reminded group that attempts last year by Tomi to have the SOA website included in conference material was not successful as the SOA website carries a "not secure" warning). Discussion included the question if anyone joined SOA – Connie does not believe anyone did. Board appreciated the outreach to new groups.

Motion by Rob and seconded by Nancy to approve \$750 teaching grant to Tomi. Unanimous approval. Connie will notify Tomi and request she submit a written report after the conference and article for Body Dialogue.

V. HF Ito Memorial Fund

Connie reports \$2500 as of 23 February 2024. This fund is per Ito's last wishes, he wanted SOA to establish a Memorial Fund. Fund to support scattering of cremated remains, including at Mt. Tam and Ocean Beach as well as Mt. Asama. Major expense is travel expense for Nicole B. to bring cremains. Estimate goal of \$4000 needed. No date given for Nicole's travel; might be spring 2024 or fall of 2024. Request made to not use word of cremains and discussion followed between 'ashes' and 'cremains' with agreement to say, 'cremated remains.'

VI. Brad Larson family donation to SOA

Connie asked does SOA board wish to have designated fund or keep funds for general use? Family gave donation for general use in appreciation of Brad's involvement with Shintaido. \$500 given by parents and his sisters on 15 January. SOA Board was included in the thank you letter. Nancy proposed \$500 be used towards a Shintaido program focused on mental health difficulties. Heather Kuhn was suggested as one person who could have a program to offer. Board was favorable with concept. Connie requested Nancy write a short note on this type of grant. It can be included on the SOA website as well as other promotions for teaching programs.

VII. Possible new board members (terms until August 2025)

Connie reported she spoke with Matt Shorten who declined this suggestion as he has church related board commitments, and he might consider next year. Connie asked for other suggestions. Eva Thaddeus and Jim Sterling were two people suggested. Connie will follow up. Nancy Billius reports that June 2025 will be her last Board meeting as she plans to remain in the UK/ Scotland. She is joining the British Shintaido management team as of March 2024. Michael Thompson reports his last board meeting is December 2024.

VIII. Dokan Scholarships

Connie asked about the review process for scholarships given Brad's death. In his absence from this meeting, David was suggested to be the third person. Board does not wish to review the list of approved individuals at the 19 May meeting and authorizes these three people – Connie, Rob G., and David F. to make the decisions by 1 May.

IX. Next meeting dates

19 May 2024 - Membership updates; Dokan '24 updates including scholarship applications.

29 September 2024 - Results of Dokan '24; consideration about SOA hosting 2026

15 December – Discussion and approval of budget for 2025. Michael T's last meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Connie Borden
Feb 25, 2024