

## **Minutes SOA Board meeting 15 June 2025 via ZOOM, 10:45am to 11:30am**

Present: Connie, Rob G., David P., Jim, Laura Absent: David F.

### **Executive Overview of Agenda**

- I. Debrief of SOA community meeting
- II. Review of 2025 SOA membership drive and mid-year financials
- III. August 2025 SOA board elections
- IV. October 2025 and August 2026 Gasshuku
- V. Use of SOA teaching documents
- VI. Next meeting: 7 September 2025

#### **I. Debrief of SOA Meeting**

19 SOA members attended the ZOOM meeting held earlier today for 90 minutes. Board members commented that the meeting was wonderful, smoothly done, complete and impressive. Board members appreciated hearing of the teaching plans of members as well as hearing the difficulties in becoming a teacher. Also appreciated was the interest in members to instruct children and young adults. It was agreed that once a year membership meeting should continue. The spread of interest in teaching is positive and to be continued.

#### **II. Review of 2025 SOA membership drive and mid-year financials**

Laura and Connie reviewed the membership. There are still 13 members who have not renewed. Connie will send a final third email to these individuals. Connie reviewed the mid-year balance statement and financials. No specific concerns identified. Finances are stable.

#### **III. August 2025 SOA board elections**

Connie states that August 2025 is the election cycle for SOA board members two-year terms. She thanked David, Jim, and Laura for volunteering to fill vacancies from recent deaths (Ito and Brad) and transitions (Nancy to the UK). Connie reports the usual approach is to request self-nominations in July and then have online elections in August. Our bylaws say 5 -7 elected board members plus the NTC chair (i.e., total 8). David, Laura, and Jim would be willing to be considered for the 2025 – 2027 term. David is interested in the interface of touch and Shintaido, Laura was to continue to grow in leadership skills and Jim wishes to be of support. Connie would like by 2027 that a person is interested in being chairperson and there could be a planned transition in leadership.

#### **IV. October 2025 and August 2026 Gasshuku**

Rob reports writing to Masashi Minagawa to ask him to be the Guest Instructor for August 2026, which is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SOA. While MM has given a verbal acknowledgement of receipt of the invitation, he has not confirmed.

Rob will follow-up by August 2025 with the goal to then confirm dates and make reservations at San Dominico.

Connie reports Pierre Q. has been invited and has agreed to teach the Kenjutsu workshop in October 2025. Registration details should be ready soon with the goal of publishing the announcement by 22 June (i.e., Mailchimp and Body Dialogue). Connie, Rob, and Lee are co-organizing the event. Currently the theme is being discussed with plans to meet with Pierre in July on the teaching curriculum.

Connie and Rob are available to teaching assistants with Pierre.

#### **V. Use of SOA teaching documents**

Connie asked for Board guidance on the use of SOA publications such as the posters of Tenshingoso, Wakame, Eiko and booklets such as Tenshingoso.

Connie reports that Tomi is planned to develop her own website for teaching and wants to include these documents as pdf's.

The board definitely agreed that having our teaching tools in circulation is important and useful. This will also market the name of Shintaido. Board discussed merits of charging a token amount versus no charge. Overall, having a nominal amount charged is important for future situations.

Connie to follow up with Tomi and suggests the SOA website to cross promote Tomi's website when it is ready for use.

#### **VI. Other items**

Connie and David spoke briefly about the SOA website. So far, Rob Kedoin has not paid 2025 SOA dues. This will be a top item for the September meeting.

#### **VII. Next date**

7 September via ZOOM 11am Pacific time. Agenda: SOA Website; October 2025, August 2026 and welcome to possible new SOA Board members.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

15 June 2025