

Minutes SOA Board meeting 7 September from 11am to 11:40am Pacific time via ZOOM

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

Excused: Jim

Overview of agenda

- I. Membership & financials
- II. Letter to Japan for 60th Anniversary
- III. October Kenjutsu workshop
- IV. 2026 National Gasshuku
- V. SOA Website
- VI. SOA Code of ethics
- VII. Next date: 7 December 2025

I. Membership & Financials

A. Welcome to re-elected SOA Board of Directors: Connie, David P., David F., Laura, and Jim (absent at today's meeting). New term August 2025 to August 2027. Connie presented that the original SOA bylaws of 1976 are on SOA goggle drive, and the most current revisions are on the SOA Website under "who we are – Appendix 1, 2 & 3" (these are not labeled bylaws).

B. Membership

58 paying members for 2025 (plus 4 permanent members). We had six new members, several from Jennifer P's classes. Three are still pending and Connie is in correspondence with them for membership.

Laura would like to have time focused on getting more SOA Members. David would like the SOA to focus on what can be done by volunteers versus paid.

Connie suggested these topics be part of the December meeting focused on 2026 budget.

C. Financials

Connie reviewed the balance sheet for year to date. SOA had a donation of \$5000 after our community meeting in June. The request was to focus on scholarships for instructors and new students, travel stipends, the website, and activities by David F. The income/expense sheet shows the membership sum of \$3,360, which matches last year. Two sources of income, the GTC workshop in July and the upcoming October workshop, will have money disbursed in Sept and October 2025. SOA will receive \$100 from the fiscal

sponsorship with GTC. Connie predicts the October Kenjutsu workshop will break even. Instructor fees and travel from France are added costs.

II. Letter to Japan for 60th Anniversary

Connie presented the pdf of a letter to Taro and Tenshinkai to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Shintaido in Japan. Jim Sterling and Lee Ordeman wrote the letter. Lee Seaman has advised to send the letter in English without a translation into Japanese to avoid potential distortion of the message. Comments were positive about the content of the letter. Motion by Rob G. and seconded by Laura to approve the letter to be sent via email to Taro. No further discussion. Unanimous approval.

Action item: Connie to send letter as pdf to Taro via email.

III. October Kenjutsu workshop

Connie presented registration for October 11, 12 & 13, 2025 Kenjutsu workshop with Pierre Q. as instructor. 15 total, including Pierre. 12 paid participants with communication that three others plan to register. The work group will meet twice with Pierre via ZOOM, and a Keiko plan is developing. Rob G. confirms that Monday the 13th (holiday) along with Saturday and Sunday are now booked with school gym. Thanks to Rob and Lee O. for their work on the facility and upcoming work on service teams. Thank you to Sarah Baker for doing the video recording and post workshop editing of the videos.

IV. 2026 National Gasshuku

Rob G. presented that the first choice for location was San Dominico, who has informed him that in 2026 the August dates will not be available as they are doing staff training. Rob now has an application in Sonoma State U. They have informed him that current staff is involved with student enrollment and will be focused on community events later in September. Rob will follow up with a target date of 1 October 2025 to hear from them. Dates requested are 12 August to 16 August 2026. 13 August is potentially an ITEC day. Rob reports that if we are unable to confirm a location by December 2025, that hosting ITEC day and a national Gasshuku will not be possible.

Rob reminds us that Sonoma State University was the site for 2012 and works well for gyms, fields, lodging, and meals. Laura has suggested some other sites to Rob.

V. SOA Website

A. Website. David Palmer presented that on 13 August 2025 he and Rob Kedoin had a good conversation. They have developed a migration plan. David now has administrative access to Dream host and the passwords for the SOA website. These have been stored on the SOA Google drive in a secure document similar to the financial passwords for essential financial tools (Xero, PayPal, Bank of America & Fidelity).

Rob K. reported to David he has renewed the SOA domain name for 5 years. Dream host is a platform that is at no cost to nonprofits and completed paperwork in June 2021.

Rob K. reported that he migrated the Pacshin and SNE websites.

During this meeting, Rob K. texted David P. saying that he will be finished migrating the SOA website by 20 September 2025. This is the date of the next publication of Body Dialogue.

Connie asked two questions that she has received: will Word Press still be the set up? – answer is Yes. Will new logins be needed – answer is most likely yes. The group discussed a thank you to Rob Kedoin. Connie suggested the provision of permanent SOA membership as was done with Stephen Billias and Bela Breslau. Overall, the group liked this idea as well as doing a recognition to make 30 years of work by Rob Kedoin. Motion by Rob and seconded by David F. to give Rob Kedoin permanent SOA membership starting with 2025. Unanimous approval.

Action item: Connie and David P. to coordinate when notifying Rob Kedoin of his having permanent SOA membership. Connie also suggested an article in Body Dialogue to acknowledge the work by Rob Kedoin on the SOA website.

B. New webmaster

Connie and David P. presented the need for a new webmaster. Connie has made one contact with the person suggested by David P and will reach out again. David F. said he would also give Connie some leads on contacts from the Czech Republic. Connie gave a personal request that the new webmaster can fulfill the need for timely communication and give clear means for communication.

Action item: Connie to inform SOA Board with resumes of new webmaster's and their costs as she gets the information. Deadline is by December 2025 meeting.

VI. SOA Code of Ethics

Connie confirmed that no further changes since the last ethics working group meeting have been made to the SOA Code of ethics handbook. None mentioned. Group agree to share it with SOA NTC as a work draft.

Next meeting of Ethics work group is Friday, 31 October 2025 at 10am Pacific, 1pm eastern and connie to confirm the European. Goal is to have “ a good enough” version to be confirmed at the December SOA meeting.

VII. Next date: 7 December 2025. 11am Pacific, 2pm Eastern, 8pm Europe

Agenda:

2026 SOA Budget (including review of volunteer work versus paid work).

Also to include ideas on increasing membership and new students.

SOA website and SOA webmaster

2026 SOA National Gasshuku

SOA Code of Ethics and Handbook.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

September 7, 2025