

2025 Shintaido of America Business Report

The contributions of 2025 have been made by this community of people:

SOA Board 2025

Rob Gaston, NTC Chair

Laura Sheehan-Barron, Membership

Connie Borden, SOA President

David Franklin, Member-at-large

David Palmer, IT liaison

Jim Sterling, Body Dialogue Editor

Michael Thompson, Co-founder

Officers and contributing volunteers:

Sandra Bengtsson, Treasurer

Rob Kedoin, SOA webmaster

Chris Ikeda-Nash, CPA

Sarah Baker, SOA YouTube & SOA Website Maintenance subcontractor

Tereza Soldatova – Subcontractor for social media coordinator and Mailchimp

The SOA Board has quarterly business meetings, approved a 2026 budget, and filed needed financial reports. The SOA President and TC Chair meet 2 times per year with representatives of ESC on international funds and shared projects.

SOA Membership and all the social media platforms experienced growth in 2025. Here is a chart of growth of members, subscribers, and followers since 2020:

Topic	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Membership	43	51	53	54	57	60
Mailchimp	157	x	151	145	145	152
Facebook	189	x	240	380	489	621
YouTube	36	x	128	218	302	339
Instagram	60	x	117	x	154	175

Visit our media sites: [Media – Shintaido of America](#).

I. Events

A. SOA examinations

With the leadership of Rob Gaston as NTC chair, SOA proactively scheduled SOA examinations for January 2025 and September 2025.

Read the reports here:

[Shintaido of America examination results – Shintaido of America News – Shintaido of America](#)

Following the study of Shosi no Kan in 2024, the SOA National Technical Committee (NTC) voted to make two changes to the Shintaido Bojutsu examinations. The first change was to move Nagare-ichimonji (Kayak) 1 vs. 3 from Bojutsu Shodan to Bojutsu Nidan. This change aligns the Nidan Bojutsu curriculum with other curriculum such as Karate Nidan. The second change is to add a Boh kata to the Shodan Bojutsu curriculum in addition to the existing Jo Kata. Shosi no Kan will be part of the Shodan Bojutsu examination curriculum for 2026.

[Shintaido Bojutsu – Shintaido of America](#)

B. Kangeiko

Under the leadership of Pacshin and SNE, Kangeiko, the traditional ‘cold weather study’ were held in January and February. Read the reports here:

[Pacific Shintaido Kangeiko 2025 – Shintaido of America](#)
[Let’s meet at Ten in Montague – Shintaido of America](#)

C. Weekend to honor HF Ito

Two Keiko and a potluck were held on the 17th and 18th of May to celebrate H.F. Ito. Nicole Beauvois, traveling from France, was present for this weekend. Saturday morning Keiko was on Mount Tam and Sunday morning Keiko was held at Lake Temescal. A potluck held on Saturday evening gave everyone a chance to reminisce and sing songs. Read more here: [Weekend in San Francisco Bay Area to honor HF Ito – Shintaido of America](#)

D. ZOOM SOA General Membership meeting

The Shintaido Board of Directors and the Shintaido National Technical Committee invited SOA members to join in our first ZOOM General Membership meeting on the 15th of June 2025. The board gave updates on activities, and the technical members spoke about their classes and

workshops they are offering in 2025. We concluded with open discussion with our members. Listen to the ZOOM recording here:

<https://youtu.be/CuEVTLfSwZs?si=6zPSUd3Wzwy0wBon>.

E. July Taimyo week

The Global Taimyo Community offered a weeklong study 20-26 July. On the 20th of July, Masashi Minagawa sensei spoke about Aikukan “A space of Love.” Then during the week, 8 sessions were offered on ZOOM with a variety of international times to deepen our study of Taimyo. Tomi Nagai-Rothe closed this global event with her presentation on HF Ito’s peacemaking legacy. Shintaido of America is the fiscal sponsor for GTC. Here is the report on this event: [Highlights from 2025 July Taimyo week – The Space of Love: Aikukan – Shintaido of America](#)

F. October Kenjutsu

SOA held a Kenjutsu workshop in October and invited guest instructor Pierre Quettier, 5th dan Shintaido Kenjutsu instructor. Over three days, from the 11 -13th of October, there were six Keiko to study Kenjutsu. Individuals could practice by their skill level for three Keiko, and we practiced as a large group for three Keiko. Read the report here: <https://www.shintaido.org/article/october-kenjutsu-workshop-2025/>.

II. New Projects

A. SOA Website

Rob Kedoin, Webmaster and David Palmer, a member of the SOA Board partnered to migrate the SOA website (along with PacShin’s and SNE’s websites), to a new platform called Dream host. With this migration, the SOA website obtained security clearance and is no longer flagged “not secure.” With this significant event completed, Rob Kedoin determined that he was concluding his decades of service as Webmaster. The SOA board expressed gratitude for the service of Rob Kedoin – read here: www.shintaido.org/news.

B. SOA Code of Ethics and Handbook

A code of ethics is a set of guidelines that are designed to set out acceptable behaviors for members of a particular group, such as Shintaido of America. Many organizations govern themselves with such a code, especially when

they handle sensitive issues that include but are not limited to personal and interpersonal development and interactions with other cultures. In August of 2025, the SOA Board determined that it was time for SOA to develop a Code of Ethics as a resource for our members and instructors. As of December 2025, the SOA Board concluded their development of the Code of Ethics and is now asking the SOA NTC to review our handbook. We anticipate we will be releasing our Code of Ethics and handbook in the spring of 2026. We recognize that it is an ongoing process to have an active forum for ethical discussions and to provide education on ethical topics.

III. SOA 50th Anniversary 2026

Shintaido of America as a non-profit was founded in 1976, making 2026 the 50th anniversary. Plans are underway to celebrate for the full year.

Respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden, SOA President

December 2025