

## SOA Board Teleconference Call Minutes

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 4:00pm East Coast, 1:00 pm West Coast, 10:00pm Czech Republic & France

Present: Michael Thompson, Stephen Billias (President), Shin Aoki, Byron Russell, Robert Gaston, Robert Kedoin, Mary Coe Foran  
Not present: Haruyoshi Ito, David Franklin

1. Topic: SOA Board Communication. Stephen suggested that the SOA board continue to meet via teleconference call. He feels that quarterly meetings have worked well and he will provide the set up information to whoever takes over the responsibility of organizing board meetings.  
**Action items: determine subsequent dates of SOA meetings; determine who will set up the next teleconference call.**
2. Topic: 2012 Gasshuku Update. Cheryl Williams has agreed to be the 2012 gasshuku manager for the next international event. The board was very happy to hear this news. Stephen relayed Cheryl's request for support from the SOA board as she undertakes this important job. Stephen has offered to be site liaison and/or to be involved to the extent that is needed by Cheryl. Cheryl will contemplate what she needs. She has asked the question of "who will be the contact person now that Stephen is stepping down as president?" **Action items: Cheryl will need a new SOA contact person for the 2012 event; Cheryl will ask for assistance as needed.**
3. SOA Storage. Last January SOA approved paying for six months of storage for SOA bookstore items (a seventh month is added for free). PacShin graciously paid for the remainder of the year. Stephen proposed SOA pay for the next six months, and Rob G seconded the motion. Discussion: Rob G. indicated that the location is convenient for Cheryl and that he and Sandra have helped Cheryl access the storage items if she needed assistance. Stephen suggested that although he proposes SOA pays for the next six month, that it would be preferable to find another solution. Further discussion: Shin indicated that Ito has removed some archival type items which has reduced the amount in storage. Michael asked how much the monthly fee for rental was, but we did not have access to that information at this time. **Approved by the SOA Board. Action items: Cheryl will investigate the possibility that PacShin will pay the remainder of 2010 rental costs if needed; an alternative to paying for rental needs to be investigated.**
4. \$1,000 Grant NTC Request. Shin submitted a request to the board for \$1,000 from SOA to the National Technical Committee. Several NTC members are flying to attend the National Gasshuku and there will be a NTC meeting at the event. Stephen seconded the motion. Discussion: Last year's amount of \$500 was not used. **Approved by SOA Board. Shin abstained. Action items: None, NTU determines how the grant is distributed.**
5. Finances and Membership. Linda Foss is the new treasurer. Until the transition is made, Sandra indicates that there is approximately \$9,000. In the account, a number that is lower probably because it does not include recent membership fees. Discussion: Stephen indicated that since then Rob G sent out a letter to membership indicating that membership for 2010 was now due and the response was good. He also indicated that the account is now up over \$10,000. **Action items: Treasurer Report & budget for 2010; Membership update.**
6. Request for a "State of the State" at the National Gasshuku in May, 2010. Mary suggested that the National Gasshuku would provide a good opportunity to update membership as to the state

of SOA. The framework of the report would be to use the SOA Mission Statement and to report both activities and expenses/income under each of the bulleted points of the statement. Furthermore, that SOA could suggest that the regions also separately report their activities, needs, finances as they feel appropriate. Other separate reports might include the NTC, ISF and the Shintaido Farm if they so choose. Discussion: Rob K asked what the purpose of the reports is. Mary responded that the purpose is to make all members aware of the activities undertaken on their behalf nationally and to receive an update on what is happening in Shintaido locally. Another purpose is to address the decreased finances of SOA over time (per minutes 8/26/2006 \$19,000, 02/02/2008 minutes \$15,000, 12/08 minutes \$12,000, 12/09 informational email approx \$9,000, now 01/2010 \$10,000+). If a general organizational meeting and/or any fundraising is undertaken, it is important that the general membership understand how monies have been spent in the past, what the organization needs are in order to maintain current services, and also to evaluate if there are needs that we are not currently addressing. Stephen indicated that this proposal did not need a vote. Mary offered to create a framework for the report and to submit to the SOA Board for consideration. In addition, someone on the SOA Board could then share this format with the regions and ISF, NTC, Shintaido Farm, etc. simply for informational purposes in case the regions want to share information and mirror the format. Discussion: Shin asked for clarification that the reports for the various groups would remain separate and would be information purposes. **Action Item: Mary will create a framework for a report; Rob G offered to do an update on membership. The SOA will review the format to determine if a State of the State should be presented and if the format should be given to the regions, NTC, ISF, and the Shintaido Farm as appropriate.**

7. Funding for a Hawaii Scouting Trip. Originally there was an agenda item to discuss the possible funding of a scouting trip to Hawaii, possible location of an international event in 2012. Stephen asked for this item to be tabled because Cheryl would like to think about Hawaii but also other options. She may be returning to the board with this request at a later date. Mary asked if this type of funding is usually a loan that would be repaid through the gasshuku budget. Rob G. suggested that could be. There is no standard practice that we are aware of at this time.
8. SOA Board Slate for 2010-2012 (through summer 2012 event). Stephen Billias, after many years of service including two years as SOA President, is stepping down. The board members expressed thanks to Stephen for his many contributions to the board over time and to his deep commitment. All other current members agreed to serve for an additional term. Mary and Michael suggested that Bill Burtis be asked to join the board, not only as a member, but also as the next SOA President. Discussion: Bill represents the roots of Shintaido and his ability to facilitate a discussion about the future of SOA would be valuable to the organization at this juncture. In addition, Bill leadership going into the 2012 would be an asset to our organization. SOA board members agreed. Bill has informally agreed to consider this request; however, he did have a few questions, such as "how many instructors are currently teaching?" Michael said that he referred Bill to the SOA website. General discussion was that either Stephen or Michael present a formal request to Bill to be placed on the board slate. Michael nominated Rob K and Rob G seconded the idea. Rob K accepted. **Action Items: Rob K will contact Bill Burtis to submit a formal request to be added to the SOA slate for 2010 through summer 2012. In**

**addition, Bill will be asked if he is willing to serve as president. Once word is received, someone needs to prepare a slate to be presented at both the West Coast and East Coast Kangeiko events. This slate is voted upon by current members. In addition, Stephen offered to provide a folder of information that he received from Connie when he became president.**

9. Membership. Rob G asked that the receipt for new and renewed members be sent to him as he currently gets the information indirectly. **Action Item: Rob K will change the website to reflect Rob G's request.**
10. Quick Background on why Hawaii? Rob K asked for background on why Hawaii was being considered as a possible site for the International Gasshuku 2012. Stephen and Michael indicated several reasons, including that David Sullivan (Michael's relative) had indicated a deep interest in Hawaii as a gasshuku location via his contacts, that the Japanese would probably respond positively to Hawaii as it is relatively easy for them to attend and is a popular tourist destination as well. In addition, that many USA practitioners seemed drawn to the idea, and that several European Shintaido people were also interested. It was acknowledged that Hawaii might be harder for some in the USA to attend, but that it may present opportunities. Shin added that Connie felt that Hawaii represents a somewhat neutral location. Cheryl is going to weigh the options. She has experience with the management of events, even at a distance from the event location, and she will be reporting back to the board with her thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Foran 1/10/2010