

Minutes SOA BOARD meeting

December 3, 2107

2pm PST Via SKYPE

Present: Connie, Michael, David, Brad, Nancy, Rob K., Shin Absent: Ito

- I. Welcome to Rob as webmaster to joining meeting. Additional agenda items: ISC board and NTC grant.
- II. **SOA Website**
 - a. Rob asked to clarify why a change was being requested. The main reasons were for being able to use the website on iPhones, iPads and for the upcoming blog newsletter. Rob reports changing the SNE website was easy as it was less than 10 pages. SOA has more pages, photos and a store along with news announcements and archives/niches for things such as SOA minutes.
 - b. Discussion followed on the store. Shin reports 2 national orders per year and 2 international orders per year. Membership dues are an important part of the store. Going to ebooks has been a prior action to be planned.
 - c. Photos. Rob reports many photos on the website and consideration of using a site such as flickr. The reason is photos on current website require maintenance of software so that members can see different sizes of photos. Currently our site does not allow an easy transfer to Facebook or other social media. One disadvantage is that there is no 'automated' way to move photos. David agrees photos for social media is important and are important for community building. If a volunteer was available to help move photos, then it would not be necessary to edit or choose photos. The goal is give users the ability to see and share photos
 - d. Timeline
Rob asked for opinions between doing a complete conversion versus in segments. David believes being done in segments could be a way to engage the audience to keep checking back in to see about new developments. Connie suggested the blog newsletter is an important part of the timeline.
 - e. Next steps
Rob to discuss further with Stephen B. (who was invited to our meeting, but had to decline because of prior commitments). Rob believes first steps could be in the next months. Rob to give updates to Connie with a cc to Brad; and Connie will keep Board updated. Shin would like involvement related to curriculum and Instructors materials.
The SOA Board thanked Rob for joining us and the ongoing work on the website.
- III. **Quebec 2020**

Connie reviewed the letter from Carole and Herve, SOA members in Quebec Shintaido. They are very interested in organizing the 2020 Shintaido International gathering in Quebec. Board members are unanimously in agreement to encourage them and to provide support. Most board members agreed that Gaspesie seems a long distance to travel and that Montreal would be a more central idea given the international airport, trains and transportation in general. The SOA board is open to supporting Quebec, although currently without a ISC board the roles are less clear. David is willing to give Website advice. Connie

suggests Jean-Louie of ESC to help with budget development given his experience with 2016 and 2018. Shin suggests a map of when ISC needs to be included in decisions. It was also suggested that SOA offer a person with prior experience as an advisor. Connie to send letter to Carole and Herve in response to their request.

IV. SOA request to ISC on Kenjutsu funding

Connie reviewed the current proposal for \$8,300. Nancy and Michael suggest to move the \$1000 SNE funding from 2018 to 2019 for when Minagawa Sensei will be invited. Proposal has unanimous approval. Connie to send request to Ula (UK) who will be sending the full request to ISC. Connie reminds the group there is no current ISC Board and at this time it not known how much money is in the ISC bank account.

V. ISC Board

Connie presented the new ISC bylaws would have 7 ISC board members with 4 elected by the full international ISC membership and 3 elected by ISC members within each of the 3 regions of Europe, Americas plus Australia, and Japan. Connie reports Lee O. is talking with Jean-Louis today as 4 people have self-nominated themselves which does not meet the minimum of 7 board members. There has 1 to 1 outreach to many SOA members by Connie, Ito, Jim and Lee O. Connie encouraged board members to promote ISC board membership.

VI. NTC grant

Shin requested SOA fund a \$500 grant for NTC instructors to attend East Coast/West Coast gasshukus in 2018. Nancy seconded the motion. Proposal passed. NTC instructors are to contact Shin to apply for the grant.

VII. SOA financial report and PayPal

Connie requested Brad given a year end financial report at the March meeting. Brad reports there is \$1800 in PayPal and he will transfer it to the SOA bank account. Brad recommends SOA keep \$150 in PayPal in case of need to refund individuals via PayPal. Board agreed.

VIII. Future meeting dates: 3/4/18, 6/3/18, 9/9/18, and 12/2/18

Respectfully submitted by Connie

12/3/17cb