

## Minutes Joint SOA Board and SOA TC meeting, Sunday June 19, 2016 2pm to 3pm PST via SKYPE

Present: Connie (chair SOA Board), Shin (Chair SOA TC), Jim – TC, Sandra – TC, Bela – TC, Rob G. – TC, Joe Z. – TC, Nancy B. – Board, David F. – Board, Michael T. – both Board and TC

Absent: Brad (Board), Byron (TC), Ito-sensei

- I. Topic - the future of the International Shintaido Organization  
Sandra presented the request for this group to have a preference for the structure of an international Shintaido organization. She plans to give the information to the ISC board and the ISC board hopes to have enough information from its membership to begin a process of developing an implementation plan. David states that ISC Board does not wish to make decisions for its members and wants to poll its members and then write the bylaws. Three options presented are:
  - i. Maintain current structure of reporting directly to individual members with responsibilities of international events and exams;
  - ii. A leaner ISC as a credentialing organization that hires examiners to give high level exams at events, including oversight of high level curriculum;
  - iii. Disband the international group and have all activities done at the national/local level.

The following are summaries of individual perspectives:

**Michael T.** – Option two, credentialing

**Nancy B.** – Option two, credentialing

**Jim** – agrees on need to get opinions; he found the survey sent too long at 35 questions. Jim asked to clarify what functions would be included in credentialing;( such as keeping records, recording ranks, doing diplomas) or what would not be included (such as not collecting dues, not running events, not reaching out to members directly).

**David** - presented that one version could have ISC collecting dues, supporting the TC, and if there are funds to provide grants for new groups/publications.

**Jim** – option two credentialing, to be lean and to have a written structure/written roles and responsibilities. He suggests most organizations have a core group of people who do the activities and present clear options to the membership.

**David** - stated that currently the situation is so different with more controversy; there is a desire to give forums for people to be heard with their concerns.

**Jim** – there should be one group/organization that is administrative and TC combined. The roles of administration and roles of TC should be clear; it is not yet clarified who is in the roles and how they would be selected.

**Shin** – option two, credentialing; that the extremes of doing all currently and no having an organization are not the answers. There is no answer yet on the debate of collecting dues.

**Connie** – option two – to be streamlined and have achievable functions

**David** – having ISC provide grants is important to him as he would like to see support given to new groups or for groups to do the work of translating books and publications.

**Bela** – option two, credentialing, simplify. Not aware of grants and ISC financials.

**Joe Z.** – option two, credentialing with exams. There is a need to keep the international thread to connect us.

**Sandra** – clarified that there is currently \$27,000 in the ISC bank account with a commitment of about \$8,000 to the 2016 event. No dues have been collected for the past 18 months. Collecting exam fees would be less complex than collecting individual membership dues.

**Jim** – states the discussions within the TNEC are discussions on the new Kenjutsu program to have people gather more often and implied intention that ISC would provide the financial support

**David** – stated two ways to fund the TNEC – ask members if they wish to fund and someone to collect the funds; or membership fees however members ‘need to know what money is spent on the support given’.

**David** – he would like ISC to continue to collect membership dues so grants could be available to support regions

**Rob** – have one governance group or just have regional groups. Currently there is not clear communication and need to avoid ‘hidden agendas’.

**Jim** – stated one approach from project management is

- a) Itemize the work to be done
- b) Say yes or no to each item
- c) Develop the level of organization needed to do this work
- d) Lastly, who decide does the work.

Sandra – reports the ISC board has struggled the last 6 months to have a way for the membership to have a voice. David – stated that ISC wishes to avoid presenting only one option for a yes or no vote. Sandra – concluded she will give the ISC board the consensus of SOA and that the intent of ISC is to focus on these items in July 2016.

Nancy B. summarized the consensus of this meeting:

**“Keep the international thread” via an organization; this group does not wish ISC to disband.**

**Option two of credentialing/curriculum support; be streamlined, support the ‘TNEC’, not do international events, could include providing grants.**

As there were no objections, this summary passed.

Shin spoke to fees and what is being considered, are membership dues too high? Sandra and David said that it is not believed that membership dues are too high; mostly members are feeling uncertain of “what do I get for my membership?”

Connie adjourned the meeting and will send an email for the next date to follow after July 2016. Meeting adjourned 3pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden