

SOA Board meeting Sunday August 28, 2016 2pm PST via SKYPE

Present: C. Borden, chair, Michael Thompson, Shin Aoki (Chair TC), Nancy, David and Brad

Absent: HF Ito

Welcome and Introductions.

I. SOA Website

Brad presented the current SOA website is about 10 years old. SNE is also looking to update/redo their website. Wordpress is the proposed platform for use. Brad reports being able to have blogs and videos. Group discussed value of a useable website for both new and returning users. Brad has spoken with Rob Kedoin about the SNE and SOA websites, but not recently. Brad recommends including a graphic designer in the process. Members agreed that having a website that allows videos and is easy to use on the mobile phone are important. Next steps: board members to identify features of websites that are valued; such as, useable, powerful visuals and be representative of Shintaido. Brad to speak further with SNE and Rob Kedoin on websites. Brad to give a written proposal to the SOA board. Connie to contact Rob Kedoin to join our next SOA board meeting to discuss this further.

II. Shintaido Kenjutsu

Connie opened discussion with a proposal that SOA ' earmark' \$4000 for Shintaido Kenjutsu proposals. The group echoed Nancy's statement that it is important for SOA to be part of the process and not have just one Shintaido organization making the decisions. Shin states there are two parts: the research on curriculum and then the dissemination of the teachings. David shared with the SOA board the flyer from ESC for the November 25th R&D study followed by two days of general gasshuku. The cost is about \$125 USA. Limited to 30 participants. Connie to clarify the requirements for attendees on Nov 25th. Ito and Minagawa will be teaching the three days. Nancy proposed up to \$1500 per person for 2 people to attend November 25th. Michael seconded the proposal and proposal passed unanimously. Shin as TC chair is to email the SOA TC for nominees/designated attendees for November 25th in Paris.

Nancy proposed and East/Coast gasshuku so SOA and SOA TC can practice together on Martin Luther King weekend – January 14 – 15 – 16. Connie reported that the West coast does have Ito-sensei for that weekend; no fees; no decided structure. Proposals included Ito and Minegawa; Shin and Gianni. Nancy volunteered to co-organize and Connie volunteered to co-organizer. Nancy to poll SNE members about interest in going to California in January 2017. In general the SOA board felt paying for instructors fees/travel would be worthwhile, no specific proposal was decided. David stressed the group process and input into curriculum is a strong value. More to be decided with SOA TC input.

Next meeting: Connie to send a date.

Joint SOA Board and TC December 11, 2017