

Minutes 19 May SOA Board meeting via ZOOM.

11am West Coast, 2pm East Coast; 7pm UK and 8pm Europe.

Present: Connie, Jim, David P., Nancy B. and Michael T.

Excused: Rob G. and David Franklin (teaching workshops)

Executive Overview of Agenda

- I. Talking with Jim and David
- II. Business Updates
- III. Preliminary Strategic Planning

I. Talking with Jim and David

Jim shared his interest in defining the Advisory Board expectations and membership. He has reviewed the SOA Board meeting minutes and likes to see the scholarships being offered for teaching and attending workshops.

David states that following his mother's death two years ago that he is returning to his roots and Shintaido is one of those roots.

II. Updates - Connie

A. Membership

2024: 56 members; 50 continuing, 4 from prior years, 2 new members. 2023 had 54 members with 3 from prior years and 1 new member; 2022 had 53 members with 4 from prior years and 3 new members. The drop in new members from 3 to 1 to 2 is most notable. Growth/gains of members are those with prior connections to Shintaido and rejoining after absences of multiple years.

B. Webmaster/website

Report from Rob. K in early April:

Recently, I've been working on creating new daily habits and this has been helping me to make sure that I get things done rather than fritter away the time of the day. For the last 10 days, one my new habits has been to sit at the computer and do something towards the website. The something is intentionally vague and for now kept to be very bite-sized. But I have been successful. Examples of these simple somethings that are baby steps forward include:

- *logging into the current website and getting rid of spam comments*
- *logging into the current website and updating plugins*
- *logging into the current website and looking for unwanted traffic*
- *creating one mailing alias on Dreamhost to see how they work*
- *setting up tools to login to the old site and the new sites so it is easier to get to the command line*
- *setting up tools to transfer files to and from the old and new sites so it can be done easily*

I just wanted to let you know that something is happening. They're baby steps, but they're in the right direction.

- Rob

Prior set Board priorities: having SSL certificate in place so website is determined to be secure; to complete process started in June 2021 of moving the SOA website onto the Dreamhost platform.

Discussion: David asked about where website is hosted, use of WordPress and plans about Dreamhost. David is willing to liaison with Robert Kedoin on the SOA website and get the SSL Certificate and onto the Dreamhost platform. David is also familiar with Mailchimp and getting more people to sign up for the mailing list.

Action item: Connie to share Rob K's contact information with David P.

C. Dokan '24

Currently 44 people registered to attend, with 16 exams for Sr. Instructor/Sandan and above exams. (SOA -12; Japan -1 ,UK - 16; and ESC - 15). One person registered to take SOA Graduate exam (3 pm Friday afternoon). Eight people from SOA received partial financial scholarships to attend Dokan '24. Two people declined scholarships and 1 person was not eligible as not a SOA member.

Discussion: Nancy B. reports she is the ITEC liaison. She will be landing at Gatwick, renting a mini-van, and providing transportation to Worth Abbey. Also to take the group to a pub before the start of ITEC. MT and Margaret G. flying into Heathrow. Heather coming from Greece. Connie, Rob, and Sally will already be in England and arriving by train.

Action item: Connie to share the preliminary ITEC day plans with Nancy.

D.HF Ito Memorial Fund

The HF Ito Memorial fund was created as a last wish of Ito Sensei. He wishes his cremated remains to be scattered in France, on Mt. Tam, on Ocean Beach and at Asama - all places that held significance to Ito. As a result, SOA has received \$2500 in donations, being held in a restricted fund. Nicole B. reports she will travel to Japan in early October and hopefully to the SF Bay Area in the Spring of 2025, perhaps with a stop in Quebec/the northeast. \$1345.40 has been dispersed to Nicole for Japan, leaving \$1154 for the SF/US trip.

E. Update on the SOA financials.

Balance Sheet and income/expense report. SOA budgeted to spend up to \$11,000 in scholarships for Dokan'24 and \$8,000 has been spent to date. Funds for Dokan '24 come from restricted funds international funds (\$3000) and Joe Z. restricted funds (3,000) and \$2000 from general funds. SOA budgeted an operating loss of (\$10,213) for 2024.

III. Preliminary discussions on strategic plan for 2025 -2026; will determine how to delegate the resources of time, people, and/or money. (20 minutes)

A. Infrastructure items

Board membership August 2025; Website and webstore; membership

B. Possible new activities

Proposal to host semi-international 2026; Incorporate Taimyo Network into SOA nonprofit structure; develop an intentional donation strategy.

Jim suggested Connie update David P. on changes since the International Shintaido group dissolved. Connie reports that SOA and ESC as the two principal groups working under an

MOU on international funding and activities. International Technical and Examination Committee (ITEC) does high level exams and teaches at international events.

David suggests the SOA webstore could have fine tuning. For example, the kenko taiso material is now free. Also to provide pdf's of some of the printed materials. David is interested in talking more with Tereza S. on promotion of Shintaido via social media.

Action item: Connie to provide David and Tereza an introduction. Also, introduction with Sarah and Shin regarding the website.

David and Jim expressed interest in including the Global Taimyo Community. David would see it as one concrete step towards increasing practitioners and members.

David would like to develop a more step-by-step plan for gaining more practitioners and be an agenda item in September. This would include having a bigger social media footprint.

Next meetings:

29 September - Further develop strategic plan/strategic objectives for 2025

15 December - Discuss and approve budget for 2025

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

May 19, 2024