

**Minutes 29 September 2024 SOA Board meeting via ZOOM  
from 11am to 12noon West Coast time**

Present: Connie, Rob, Jim, David P., David F., Michael Thompson

Guest: Laura

Excused: Nancy B.

**Overview of Agenda**

- I. Welcome to Laura**
  - II. Impressions of Dokan**
  - III. Discussion on request by GTC to affiliate with SOA**
  - IV. Discussion on SOA website**
- Next meeting: 15 December 2024**

**I. Welcome**

Connie welcomed Laura Sheehan Barron. Laura’s background is as an RN and now a Chiropractor. She started Shintaido with Jennifer P. and now studies with Rob G. She is an advanced student.

Laura thanked the group and expressed her interest in developing leadership skills. She has taken a course on leadership and would like to be of service. She and Nancy Billias have spoken.

Connie presented there are 4 scheduled meetings per year plus subcommittee work. Connie presented that Nancy Billias has written the annual membership letter and Laura is agreeable to work on membership. The group spoke more with Laura about their backgrounds and board membership. Connie stated the vote on Laura for board membership would be done via email after the meeting.

**II. Dokan ‘24**

David and Rob both spoke of the strength of community experienced at Dokan ’24. Rob was inspired by the group of women studying Bohjutsu with Alain. They showed positive energy and showed the future of Shintaido.

Michael Thompson spoke of the number of people who passed to Yondan and Godan. He also spoke of Connie’s appointment to Doshu – “Protector/Guardian of the Way.” He encouraged the SOA Board to consider Connie’s commitments with ITEC for the coming 4 years.

**III. Request by GTC to affiliate with SOA**

This topic was the majority of the meeting. Questions were asked about structure and roles.

David P. - Questions were: a merger or an affiliation? Will there be one entity? Are there two boards? Does GTC retain control?

Rob G. mentioned benefits of people interested in Taimyo and the teaching of Taimyo.

David F. spoke to the alignment of goals. He spoke to what is to be shared. Where is there overlap? Is membership merged? Do Identifies merger? He spoke of the benefit to shared communication. The synergy of both organizations can be good.

David P. if SOA is an umbrella organization is there an impact on the 501 c 3 status? Is there a liability to SOA. (Connie noted future issue is getting Board of Director Liability Insurance)

David P. spoke of value to clarify roles prior. MT asked to clarify purpose of merger and impact on GTC post Ito Sensei's death.

**Action item:** Connie B and David P to meet separately to develop worksheet on topics. Worksheet can be presented to GTC at their October 10 meeting. And be discussed further at SOA meeting in December.

**V. SOA website**

David P. reports writing three emails to Rob Kedoin without response. This week he did get a response. David P. spoke of the risk to SOA to not have oversight on the SOA website with access to passwords and access codes.

Group discussed having a password protected google docs such as the is with the financial information post Brad's death.

David F. proposed and Rob G. seconded the motion for the SOA president to write Rob Kedoin to place the SOA website passcodes and access codes on a secure password protected google docs. Approved.

**VI. Next meeting**

15 December

Agenda

This meeting will be the last meeting for Nancy Billias. Michael Thompson announced the December meeting is his last meeting. He is agreeable to the title of Co-founder of SOA and agrees his role moving forward includes the option to attend SOA Board meetings as time allows; to read SOA board minutes and he would be in a nonvoting position.

Follow up on SOA website and board request to Rob Kedoin

Further discussion on GTC affiliation with SOA

Discussion and approval of 2025 SOA Budget

Future dates

16 March 2025 – Membership letter and membership drive

22 June 2025 – Planning August 2025 board member nominations and elections

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

September 29, 2024