

Minutes SOA Board meeting via ZOOM on 16 March 11am West Coast, 2pm East Coast, **7pm Europe.**

Present: Connie, Jim, Rob G., Laura, David P., David F. Guest: Sandra

Overview of Agenda

- I. Treasurer's report
- II. Membership letter
- III. May 17 & 18 Event
- IV. October 11, 12 & 13 Kenjutsu workshop
- V. 2026 plans
- VI. SOA membership meeting on 15 June and next meeting 15 June

Welcome everyone and welcome to Sandra, Treasurer.

I. Treasurer's report

Sandra reviewed the attached Treasurer's report. SOA has 4 sources of income: book sales, donations, exam diploma fees and SOA membership. The main expense for 2024 was \$8000 in travel stipends for 8 SOA members. This resulted in a net income of (\$7,911.43). When expenses were adjusted for this one-time expense, the operational expenses for 2024 were \$3,535.19. With an income of \$5,615.39, SOA is meeting its ongoing funding needs.

Discussion followed. One was request for the Balance Sheet and P&L . Connie to send (done). The CD's listed below were discussed. Sandra reports that with the maturity of the CD this month, she will log the interest into the SOA account as income. Laura asked about raising membership fees to \$80. David presented a fundraising goal to determine if any SOA members had included SOA in their wills/trusts. As David P. mentioned, other organizations often have a development person handling this type of future planning. Knowing the potential of bequests could help the SOA Board know about future financial stability.

Agreement by Board to have a larger/longer SOA Board meeting, perhaps Sept, to focus on fundraising.

Action item: Robert moved and requested the SOA Board meeting include a thank you to Sandra for resuming the SOA Treasurer position. **Connie agreed and thanked Sandra with an acknowledgement to be placed in the minutes. Rob moved and Laura seconded to approve Treasurer's report. Unanimous approval.**

The following is the CD report. CD report with Fidelity. Three CD's totaling \$5000 are with the Fixed Income Team. The March 2025 CD has rolled over and all three CD's are on automatic rollover.

CD for \$1000 21 March 2026 at 4.15% (prior rate was 5.05%)

CD for \$2000 24 March 2026 at 4.95%

CD for \$2000 18 March 2027 at 4%

Interest in money market account - \$452.91 - at 3.98% (prior rate was 4.97%).

Recommend Board discussion in DECEMBER 2025 if wish to continue automatic rollovers as action needs to be taken BEFORE March 2026. **Action Item: Connie to place on Dec agenda.**

Total in Fidelity account as of 14 March 2025 is \$5,452.91.

II. Membership letter -

Laura presented the SOA 2025 membership letter. One edit to include the SOA website link in the first item.

Action item: Rob moved to Approval of Membership letter with edit included, seconded by Jim. Unanimous approval.

Laura asked: Shall SOA consider raising membership dues to \$80? Discussion followed: the additional \$20 per member could be used to increase outreach efforts. Pros and cons of doing this in 2025 versus 2026 followed. Connie presented she is unable to predict the impact of potential loss of renewal of membership with an increase. Jim mentioned that 12 people have already paid membership for 2025. **Action Item: David P. proposed to keep as \$60 for 2025 and then in the fall announce the increase to \$80. Also proposed to have the fundraising discussion in the fall. Unanimous**

II. May event/ budget using HF Ito Memorial fund

Connie presented that on 17 & 18 May there will be memorial Keiko for HF Ito. A morning Keiko on Mt Tam and a morning Keiko on Ocean Beach. Also, dinner and music at Jennifer and Martha's and a morning brunch at Connie & Mike's. Nicole B. reports being able to use miles to travel to SF. Jim proposed giving \$500 from the HF Memorial Fund to Nicole B. for travel and other needs while in the SF Bay area. Connie reports the fund has \$1254.60.

Action item: Jim moved, and Rob seconded to approval \$500 from the HF Ito Memorial Fund to support Nicole B. during her May trip to SF. Connie to provide the cash while Nicole is in SF to avoid currency exchange fees as well as Nicole does not have PayPal.

Unanimous approval.

III. October Kenjutsu workshop/budget as SOA workshop

Connie presented the plan to have a three day/6 Keiko workshop with Pierre Q., a 5th dan Kenjutsu, on 11, 12 & 13 October. Rob G. and Lee O. will help plan and organize along with Connie. The first request is for the SOA to determine if they wish to host this workshop. David F. asked if PacShin is interested and Connie reports confirmation (via email) from Shin that PacShin does not wish to host this event. **Rob proposed and David seconded that SOA should be the host for the October Kenjutsu workshop. Unanimous approval.**

Connie presented the budget. She is proposing to pay \$250/keiko to Pierre for a total \$1500. She has compared with Pacshin on Kangeiko and Charles on the upcoming Daienshu and both events paid \$250/Keiko (Shin is 5th Dan Karate). Other items are dojo fees, sensei care and \$1000 for travel support to Pierre. While Connie has several people interested in attending (up to 7 from the East Coast and another 7 in the Bay Area) the actual number of attendees is fluid. The range could be a negative \$1250 to a positive \$750. **Connie asked the SOA Board to accept funding for this workshop up to \$1250. Rob proposed and David Seconded. Unanimous.**

Connie presented the approved budget in Dec 2024 has the line item of \$1000 for SOA NTC. She proposed this item be increased to a total of \$2000 to provide 4 travel stipends of \$500 for this event. Connie proposed, Rob seconded. **Unanimous approval.**

Jim supports the efforts of Pierre Q. to develop kyu curriculum to support beginners studying Kenjutsu.

IV. 2026

Rob G. presented that 2026 will be the 50th anniversary of SOA. He proposed a National Gasshuku to be hosted by SOA. He will be speaking further with the NTC. Currently the most likely venue will be in the SF Bay Area in the month of August 2026. Rob hopes to invite Masashi Minagawa.

David P. sees this event as the opportunity for a new beginning with new members where the new vision of Shintaido for the future can be introduced.

Proposal: The SOA board will agree to be host for a 2026 National Gasshuku. Proposed by Rob and seconded by David. Unanimous.

Rob reports he plans to have a budget after contact with the facility and bring it to the SOA Board in September.

V. 15 June – Connie proposed this date be expanded to have a general SOA membership meeting via ZOOM. The timeline would be 9am to 10:30am,

followed by the SOA Board meeting from 11am to 12noon. The board agreed and requests SNE and Pacshin be notified to be sure they are included. Connie agrees (emails sent after meeting). Connie believes an open membership could also foster interest in SOA Board membership. The June board meeting includes July/August SOA board nominations and elections & discussion on SOA Website. September board meeting to include a fundraising discussion/plan as well as the announcement for \$80 in SOA dues in 2026. September 2025 will also have the 2026 Gasshuku budget. December board meeting to include review of CD's and if to continue with CD rollovers in March 2026.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden

March 16, 2025