

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

Historic Win at 13th WKC-Taipei, Taiwan!!!

2006-2008

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Atsushi Hori

EXECUTIVE VP:

Norman K. Otani, Esq.

VP-PROM & EXAMS:

Ichiro Murakami

VP-COMPETITION:

Koki Ariga

VP-EDUCATION:

Yoshiteru Tagawa

TREASURER:

Tomoji Kato

SEC-HISTORIAN:

Yoshinobu Yonekawa

AUDITOR:

Masaharu Makino

DIRECTORS:

*Arnold Matsuda**Yuji Onitsuka**Masashi Shikai**Shozo Kato**Shinichi Koike**Maki Miyahara**Shinobu Maeda**Takeshi Yamaguchi**Charlie Tanaka*

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by Atsushi Hori.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The first thing I would like to say on behalf of the members of the All United States Kendo Federation is: **Congratulations to the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Men's Team members on their historic win in the semi-final match with the Japan team;** and, their overall 2nd Place finish in the Men's Team Competition resulting from a hard fought Final Match with the Korea team.

The 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Men's Team consisted of: Captain: Christopher Yang, Brandon Harada, Marvin Kawabata, Sandy Maruyama, Daniel Yang, Fumihide Itokazu, Kunito Hashimoto, Simon Yoo and Jason Brown.

Also, congratulations are extended to the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A.: Manager Masashi Shikai, Men's Team Coach Yuji Onitsuka, and Trainer Attila Nemeti for their expert guidance and team management skills.

In addition, I want to thank all of the many individuals, family members and friends who assisted and supported the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. members during the almost year long preparation leading up to the event; it is through these close supportive relationships that provided an important building of good morale throughout the difficult times of training for the participation in a world kendo championships.

As a result of the historic results noted above, I believe that the members of the All United

States Kendo Federation have been given a strong motivating boost to continue with their kendo training at their local dojos, located throughout the current fourteen AUSKF Member Federations in the United States. By doing so, the momentum from the results of the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Men's Team, can be carried forward to hopefully achieve equally good if not better results at the 14th WKC-Sao Paolo, Brazil in 2009.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the AUSKF members who were selected to be referees at the 13th WKC: Yoshiteru Tagawa, Koki Ariga, Masaharu Makino, and Shozo Kato. Each of these gentlemen performed their duties in a diligent manner and we are proud of their outstanding efforts.

In closing, I am looking forward to the continued expansion of the AUSKF kendo development programs, including the provision of instructional resources that we have recently implemented in the past year to provide regional referee seminars on a yearly basis, educational tours by an invited kendo sensei from Japan, and the regular yearly summer camp seminars.

I appreciate the full support of each of you to help make all of the efforts by AUSKF a success for all concerned.

Sincerely,

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President
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Page two:

Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Los Angeles, California:

Reported by AUSKF Executive VP Norman K. Otani

*[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 11 & 12, 2006, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]*

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Mission Statement.

Due to the importance of this matter, committee chairman Norman Otani requested additional time to research further ideas for the proposed AUSKF Mission Statement. Matter was tabled to the next meeting.

B. 13th WKC-Team U.S.A.

(1.) Masashi Shikai reported that the previous approved 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. budget did not include some additional items, including transportation expenses in Taiwan from the hotel to the training site, etc.

Masashi Shikai also reported that the recent 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. fundraising booklet was successful and received \$40,241.00 in donations, not including the expenses and costs for publication and distribution of the booklet, etc.; which resulted in the net amount of about \$19,000.00.

The 13th WKC-Farewell Party policy was determined to be an individual expense of the AUSKF members who want to attend; however, due to the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. fundraising efforts noted above, it was agreed that the Team U.S.A. representatives can pay for the Farewell Party from this fund.

After further discussion, Masashi Shikai agreed that with the additional 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. fundraising and donations totalling about \$20,000.00, the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. budget is now proposed for the amount of: \$110,000.00.

It was agreed by the AUSKF board of directors that the updated proposed 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. budget noted above would be accepted.

(2.) The 13th WKC AUSKF shimpan selected were: Yoshiteru Tagawa, Masaharu Makino, Koki Ariga, and Shozo Kato.

C. AUSKF Official Tie & Polo Shirt.

The AUSKF Official Ties are still available for the cost of \$15.00 per tie plus shipping expense; while supplies last.

Also, the AUSKF Polo Shirt has been upgraded with the AUSKF emblem now added in the color red on the black polo shirts, and in the color black on the white polo shirts.

The available sizes are L, XL, and XXL at the cost of \$29 each or 2 for \$50, plus shipping expense; while the current supplies last.

Orders can be made by contacting:

Ichiro Murakami
4305 Mountain Shadow Dr.
Whittier, CA. 90601
E-mail: ichiro_kendo@earthlink.net

D. AUSKF Data Base & ID Card.

Tomoji Kato reported that he has almost completed the AUSKF membership data base; and after looking into several ID card options, it was recommended that an ID card machine be purchased for the cost of about \$1,200.00.

Then by purchasing the blanks, a permanent ID card can be prepared for

each AUSKF member effective 1/1/07. The purpose of the AUSKF ID card will be to assist the AUSKF to retrieve or verify information regarding membership status, age, promotion rank status, and other designated information stored on the AUSKF data base.

A brief discussion was held about replacement AUSKF ID cards; it was decided that an extra fee will be charged.

The design selected for the AUSKF ID card was prepared by AUSKF member Debi Farmer. A keikogi was presented to Ms. Farmer in appreciation for her assistance with this project.

E. 2006 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education reported that the 2006 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp was held on June 23-24, 2006 in Long Beach, California.

152 participants attended the successful event.

Also, a report was made by Tagawa sensei regarding the **2006 Inaugural AUSKF Education Tour** that was initiated for the first time.

The selected kendo sensei invited by AUSKF for the 2006 Inaugural AUSKF Education Tour was Toru Kamei sensei; it was reported that the kendo instruction seminars and training were very well received throughout the areas that Kamei sensei visited in the Southern, Eastern and Southern California regions.

A plaque will be presented to Kamei sensei from the AUSKF in appreciation for his participation in the 2006 Inaugural AUSKF Education Tour .

It is proposed that beginning with the 2007 AUSKF Education Tour , that the tour take place in the Spring/Autumn months in alternating years, and will will strive to visit regions not previously toured in 2006.

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting:[continued]

F. 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairperson reported that the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp was held on September 28 through October 1, 2006 at the Corryville Recreation Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A total of 94 participants attended the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp. There were two full days of iaido instructional seminars, followed by the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Tournament, and concluding with the AUSKF Iaido Promotion Examination.

The 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp was conducted solely by the AUSKF Iaido sensei and with the cooperation and hard work by the hosting group led by Jim Atkins (ECUSKF) and support persons Dennis Ralutin, and Isabella Church, the event was an overall success.

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****G. AUSKF Liability Insurance Report.**

Masaharu Makino, AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator reported that he would like to ask each of the AUSKF dojos who need a liability insurance certificate to use the requested procedure as follows:

NOTICE---NOTICE---NOTICE
AUSKF Procedure For Liability Insurance Certificate Requests.

To request a liability insurance certificate from the AUSKF, the **requesting dojo** is requested to use the following procedure:

1. Requesting Dojo sends the request for a liability insurance certificate to the AUSKF Member Federation President or designated Liability

Insurance Representative.

2. The AUSKF Member Federation President/Liability Insurance Representative verifies that this dojo has paid their membership dues to BOTH the member federation and to the AUSKF, for the year requested; then notify the AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator, Masaharu Makino, to recommend issuance of the AUSKF Liability Insurance Certificate, and provide the following information:

- A. Dojo Name.
- B. Facility Address.
- C. Contact Person name, e-mail address and FAX number.

Send all requests recommending issuance of a liability insurance certificate to:

AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator
Masaharu Makino
19753 Alpine Crest Road
Walnut, California 91789
E-mail: makinomasaharu@gmail.com

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H. Disney Martial Arts Festival-AUSKF Kendo Demonstration October 28, 2006.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition reported that he recommended that AUSKF SEUSKF President James Parker and AUSKF director Shinobu Maeda select a couple of kendoists to travel to Orlando, Florida on October 28, 2006 to conduct a kendo demonstration for the Disney Martial Arts Festival.

Ariga sensei reported that there were two kendo demonstrations conducted on October 28, 2006, led by Mr. Parker and Mr. Maeda; the kendo demonstrations were successfully completed.

Atsushi Hori commented that the continued AUSKF participation at the Disney Martial Arts Festival could be beneficial for a possible future venue for a FIK World Kendo Championships if the selected zone is the America Zone, and the United States is recommended to be the hosting country.

I. 2006 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition reported that of the fourteen AUSKF Member Federations, only seven federations submitted reports to the AUSKF on the results of the Shimpan Seminars held in their areas.

Atsushi Hori commented on the importance of encouraging all shimpan candidates who want to be considered as shimpan for the AUSKF Championships and at the WKC events, to diligently continue to study and train to be a qualified shimpan by participating in the AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

The format proposed for the 2007 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars will be reviewed and possible changes may be recommended by the members of the AUSKF Competition Committee.

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J. FIK [IKF] General Assembly Meeting, December 7, 2006, Taipei, Taiwan.

Atsushi Hori reported that he will be attending the FIK General Assembly Meeting on December 7, 2006 to be held in Taipei, Taiwan, in conjunction with the 13th WKC.

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K. Korean Kumbo Association, U.S.A.: Proposal to Join AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori reported that a preliminary informal meeting was held recently with KKA-USA officials: President Peter Kim, Pil Soo Kim, and Bruce Paltrow, to review several areas of concern.

It appears that all of the concerns raised by KKA-USA were satisfactorily resolved after further review and discussion with the AUSKF.

A formal review of the proposal to join the AUSKF will take place by the KKA-USA board of directors at a January 2007 meeting.

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: [continued]

L. Boston Kendo Kyokai.

Atsushi Hori reported that he recently donated 10-shinai to the Boston Kendo Kyokai c/o: David Harrison, in support of the request for kendo equipment to assist in the development of their recent kendo program for children in the Boston Community Center.

In addition, Arnold Matsuda reported that he would ask the Northern California Kendo Dojos for used kendo bogu that could be sent to the Boston Kendo Kyokai.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. AUSKF President Proposed Goals.

Atsushi Hori presented a document titled: *The Directions for AUSKF's Further Development*: this document stated:

“Our circumstances are changing every day. We can no longer simply continue with our past systems and policies. We need to reexamine and evaluate our past and work toward the reform of our systems and policies through new ways of thinking and wisdom as well as through our accumulated experiences. In short, we need a paradigm shift.”

The following proposed goals were reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors:

1) Finance:

Goal: We need to increase revenues and better control our expenses.

Discussion: How to increase our current revenues?

Ideas suggested:

1. Currently the AUSKF membership dues are \$40 for adult members [18yrs and older] and \$25 youth & children

[17yrs and under]. This has been the approved AUSKF membership dues amounts for about ten years.

Is an increase in the AUSKF membership dues needed at this time?

Atsushi Hori commented on the change in the AUSKF financial status since the election of past-president Charlie Tanaka, and how during his tenure, raised the AUSKF treasury balance to \$400,000.00, through the implementation of conservative fiscal policies. As a result, this strong financial base has allowed for the recent implementation of new kendo programs to promote the development of kendo in the United States, and will be required for the future as well.

Notwithstanding the above comment, Atsushi Hori also noted that keeping the current level of AUSKF membership dues may be beneficial for the goal of maintaining the current AUSKF membership and for the future goal of increasing the AUSKF membership. This idea was supported by the AUSKF board of directors at this time.

2) Membership:

Goal: We need to double our membership.

In order to increase the AUSKF membership, the other listed goals #3, #4, and #5, must also be reviewed, to consider what is currently offered to the AUSKF member who joins, and whether or not other ideas may be beneficial to AUSKF to consider.

3) Tournament:

Goal: We need to educate tournament judges (shinpan) and reexamine the matches and improve the level and content of matches.

4) Promotion Exams:

Goals: We need to ensure fairness amid the diversity of candidates.

5) Education:

Goal: How can we raise the awareness of AUSKF members towards Kendo?

Atsushi Hori noted that more discussions are needed regarding items #3, #4, and #5; any AUSKF director who has ideas to contribute to the respective AUSKF committees: Competition, Education, Promotion, etc., should submit them for consideration.

Takeshi Yamaguchi mentioned having a AUSKF Youth Kendo Championships to attract more children/youth members to join the AUSKF.

Yoshiteru Tagawa mentioned that when he served as the AUSKF VP-Competition, he learned that the current AUSKF Championships format that includes men's, women's and youth categories is very difficult to manage in a two-day tournament, and securing a gymnasium large enough for six courts is very difficult to locate within a reasonable/affordable rental cost.

Yuji Onitsuka suggested that in order to increase the membership in the AUSKF, a public relations-media campaign of some type needs to be considered, so that the public at-large is more aware of what is KENDO, just like the current common awareness of sports such as judo, karate and tae kwon do. In addition to supporting the suggestion of having a AUSKF Youth Kendo Championships, it was also suggested to have the AUSKF Championships on an ANNUAL basis.

During the discussion about having an ANNUAL AUSKF Championships, it was mentioned that in the past the AUSKF has had to subsidize the cost of conducting this tournament; suggestions of how to make the AUSKF Championships at least self-supporting, if not profitable were discussed.

One of the cost-savings suggestions was to **NOT pay for the referees expenses at the AUSKF Championships**; and for the selected referees to consider their participation as a gesture of support and contribution towards the future development of kendo in the United States.

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: [continued]

A. AUSKF President Proposed Goals [continued]

An additional benefit mentioned for the AUSKF members to have an ANNUAL AUSKF Championships, is to have an incentive to maintain one's kendo training throughout each year, in anticipation that there is an opportunity each year to challenge the competitors for an opportunity to be selected for the Team U.S.A. to attend the World Kendo Championships.

Tagawa sensei stated that in the current format used by the AUSKF for the AUSKF Championships having individual and team competition for the men's, women's and youth divisions, **would be very difficult to successfully conduct on a yearly basis.**

Yuji Onitsuka then suggested that the AUSKF consider having an ANNUAL AUSKF Individual Championships for a one day tournament.

Atsushi Hori supported having a change in the type of AUSKF Championships and the format used and that further thoughts and ideas should be considered for the near future.

In considering the planning for the **2008 AUSKF Championships**, under the present format; Atsushi Hori stated that a gymnasium that will allow for six courts is needed. The location of this type of gymnasium is first of all difficult, and secondly, the cost is very high.

Further discussion about the above ideas was referred to the appropriate AUSKF Committees: Competition, Education, Development, etc.; and further review will take place upon reports by these respective committees, and continued review by the AUSKF board of directors, by keeping these ideas on the agenda for future meetings until a resolution is

reached.

B. Committee Reports:

Competition:

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition reported on the following:

1) 2007 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars will be held but the format will be changed somewhat; some regional federations will be assigned to conduct their own seminar and in other cases, groups of regions will be combined and one regional federation will be selected to host the seminar on an agreed upon date and location. For some regions, joining the nearest group of regions will be recommended.

A letter notice will be sent to each of the fourteen AUSKF Member Federations announcing the above format.

2) Proposed New Format for ANNUAL AUSKF Championships. The earlier discussion about an ANNUAL AUSKF Individual Championships was reviewed, and found to be feasible; however, **further followup letter inquiry will be made to each of the fourteen AUSKF member federations** for their input as to how this idea would fit into the current member federations events/activity schedules, etc.

A further review of this idea will then take place at a later date by the AUSKF board of directors, for determination as to how this could be best implemented.

Promotion:

Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotion reported on the following:

1) An individual AUSKF kendoist has submitted AUSKF membership documentation to the AUSKF indicating the kendo rank of 7 Dan; however, the AUSKF does NOT have any record or information confirming when this individual received the 7 Dan promotion rank. An initial letter was written to this kendoist in July 2006, to inquire about this matter; however, no reply has been received to date.
Atsushi Hori recommended that the

AUSKF send a formal letter to this individual kendoist to request a reply and explanation as to the above concern.

2) An updated AUSKF Menjo Certificate Request form has been developed, and requested to be used by all AUSKF member federations.

3) Promotion Examiners Guide was prepared by the AUSKF Promotion committee, and will be provided to all new 5 Dan and 6 Dan AUSKF Examiners in the fourteen AUSKF member federations, to assist in developing more consistent decisions by the examiners in the recommendation for 6 kyu to 4 Dan.

It was suggested that this document be placed onto the AUSKF website.

4) Murakami sensei reported that effective 9/15/06, the AJKF changed its rule and no longer requires a written examination for candidates requesting promotion to kendo rank of 6 Dan and 7 Dan.

Inquiry was made as to whether or not the AUSKF should change its current rule requiring a written examination for candidates requesting promotion to the kendo rank of 6 Dan or 7 Dan.

After discussion, Atsushi Hori recommended that this matter be reviewed further; and a followup consideration of the matter will take place at a later date.

5) Promotion Committee requested approval for \$7,500 annual budget allocation to visit each of the fourteen AUSKF member federations and check on their promotion examination judging results. The purpose is to try and standardize the AUSKF judging

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: [continued]

B. Committee Reports:[continued]

standards for the kendo ranks of 6-kyu through 4-Dan.

Atsushi Hori recommended that this matter be tabled for further review.

Education:

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP- Education reported on the following:

1) 2007 AUSKF Education Tour is proposed to be scheduled in the Autumn season part of the year. Followed by the 2008 AUSKF Education Tour proposed to be scheduled in the Spring season part of the year.

2) 2007 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp is proposed to be held on June 29-30, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia.

It was noted that the local AUSKF members are still REQUIRED to pay the AUSKF Summer Camp Seminar fees; and in the future, PAID participants will be identified by an adopted procedure.

If an AUSKF Member Federation is interested to invite the AJKF Japan sensei to visit their regional federation immediately following the AUSKF official event; this is allowed, as long as the air fare and accommodations are provided and paid for by the AUSKF Member Federation.

Iaido:

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Chairman, Iaido Committee reported on the following:

1) The 2007 AUSKF Iaido Camp is proposed to be held from July 26-July 29, 2007, in Omaha, Nebraska.

2) AUSKF Member Federations conduct

Iaido Promotional Examinations; however, the AUSKF Treasurer has received individual personal checks payable to the AUSKF for the menjo fees. The current AUSKF policy is that the AUSKF Member Federations submit only ONE (1) check payable to the AUSKF for the total amount of menjo fees.

Development:

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported on the following:

1) AUSKF Newsletter will continue to be published two times per year. Atsushi Hori has approved an application by AUSKF to receive Bulk Rate Postage Rate for mailings of over 200-pieces of mail.

2) AUSKF Archives, Hall of Fame and Oral History Project continues in progress.

3) AUSKF Website. AUSKF Webmaster Jean Kodama presented a report to the AUSKF board of directors. A new domain name was obtained: auskf.org, however, the previous domain name: auskf.info can still be used until further notice.

Dojo information will be updated from the AUSKF membership information submitted each year.

A general inquiry e-mail address will be added: info@auskf.org for general inquiries from the general membership/public. Atsushi Hori requested Norman K. Otani to be responsible to respond to these general inquiries.

Additional e-mail accounts are available for each of the fourteen AUSKF Member Federations, if interested, to be posted on the AUSKF website for questions/inquiries. It is anticipated that the AUSKF Member Federation President/designated representative would be forwarded these questions or inquiries for a reply, if this suggested program is approved by each of the respective fourteen AUSKF Member

Federations.

Also, it was reported that a gradual updating of the current design of the AUSKF website will be taking place in the near future; the emphasis will be to make the AUSKF website user friendly, and one of the suggested improvements is to have a LINKS section for easy connection to other kendo related information which the interested users could locate when visiting the AUSKF website.

In addition, a long range project that is being looked into, is to develop a graphical map for dojo locations, to assist interested persons who want to locate a kendo dojo nearest their hometown. There are existing mapping services similar to the current store locator programs that could be purchased; however, the cost of this type of project appears to be on the expensive side, at least at the current time.

Further, a document section of the website is being looked into to determine if this will be helpful to improve the readability of forms currently submitted in handwritten form, e.g. menjo request form. It was decided that this section of the AUSKF website can be initiated as long as the AUSKF documents are in a pdf format to ensure that there cannot be any modifications of the documents by any outside source.

Special thanks was extended to previous AUSKF webmaster Richard Hill for assisting in the transition process; and to David Kodama for his tireless efforts and assistance to the AUSKF Webmaster, in the initial transition stages, and to begin the updating process of the AUSKF website.

4) The Policy and Procedure Guidelines document has now been updated as of 11/10/06, and hard copies will be provided to all AUSKF Member Federations.

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting. [continued]

B. Committee Reports:[continued]

5) AUSKF Office & Part-time staff is still pending finalization of the Little Tokyo Recreation Center [”LTRC”] project by the City of Los Angeles, California. It is anticipated that construction of the LTRC could be started in late 2007.

Budget-Finance:

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Treasurer reported that due to the change approved to have a calendar fiscal year ending December 31, a formal end of the year financial report would not be prepared and distributed until the next Spring 2007 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

C. 2007 FIK America Zone Seminar.

Atsushi Hori reported that the dates for this event will be March 17 & 18, 2007 and will be held in Long Beach, California. Other details will be provided at a later date to all AUSKF Member Federations.

D. FIK Anti-Doping Committee-America Zone Candidate Norman Otani.

Atsushi Hori reported that per the prerequisite qualifications noted by FIK indicated a medical doctor or lawyer as eligible candidates for recommendation. Based on this criteria, Norman Otani, Esq., was recommended for selection on the FIK Anti-Doping Committee, as an America Zone candidate. This recommendation was approved by the AUSKF board of directors, and will be forwarded to the FIK VP Roy Asa for formal consideration by the FIK.

E. Introduction: AUSKF Jodo Program.

Atsushi Hori reported that this matter is requested to be taken off of the agenda, so that further followup and review of this matter can be completed and reintroduced at a later date.

F. Disneyland Martial Arts Festival, February 2007: AUSKF Kendo Demonstration.

Atsushi Hori reported that in 2006, Masashi Shikai assisted the AUSKF and with the assistance of several AUSKF kenshi did conduct a kendo demonstration at the Disneyland Hotel, for the Disneyland Martial Arts Festival.

At the request of Atsushi Hori, Masashi Shikai agreed to again assist the AUSKF with the request to have a kendo demonstration at the 2007 Disneyland Martial Arts Festival; as soon as the specific date is received, this will be provided to Mr. Shikai.

G. Florida Dojo in SEUSKF Letter From James Parker: Review of Current Geographical Distribution of Dojos in the AUSKF Member Federations.

Norman Otani reported that James Parker, SEUSKF President, sent an e-mail to the AUSKF on 10/13/06 stating that the Gator Kendo Club on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville, Florida, was listed as a dojo in the All Eastern U.S. Kendo Federation.

The inquiry to the AUSKF by Mr. Parker was whether or not the fact that the Gator Kendo Club was in the State of Florida, was contrary to the current AUSKF geographical boundaries for the current AUSKF Member Federations.

Norman Otani provided a document that showed the geographical distribution of dojos by states in the United States that were members in the fourteen AUSKF Member Federations as of 2005. Within eight of the fourteen kendo federations, there were dojos in the SAME STATES; including the SEUSKF that has dojos in Virginia [GNEUSKF has a dojo in

Virginia], and Tennessee [SWUSKIF has a dojo in Tennessee].

Mr. Otani also reported that as of 11/12/05, the AUSKF board of directors amended the AUSKF By-laws and Policy and Procedures Guidelines to indicate that AUSKF member federations can have dojos without regard to geographical location.

In this specific case, Atsushi Hori reported that the reason that the Gator Kendo Club joined the AEUSKF was due to the head instructor being a former student of Noboru Kataoka, AESKF President; notwithstanding this teacher-student relationship, Mr. Kataoka agreed that he did not object to asking the Gator Kendo Club to join the SEUSKF.

Also, Mr. Otani stated that in the future, AUSKF development of kendo dojos and new member associations in the United States will be without regard to geographical boundaries. The purpose of this change in policy by the AUSKF was to allow like-minded kendo members to form associations, and, if the minimum criteria for New AUSKF Member Associations is met, the AUSKF will be reviewing these proposed new member federations for approval, following a one-year probation period.

In addition, Atsushi Hori stated that one of the long-range goals for the future is for the AUSKF board of directors to consider having only one (1) AUSKF Member Federation for each of the fifty (5) states in the United States.

H. Copyright Permission Requested by Keiko Sasaki.

Norman Otani reported that J. Marsten sent an e-mail to the AUSKF on behalf of Keiko Sasaki, a former kendo member in his dojo that is now residing in Japan and attending Keio University.

Ms. Sasaki requested copyright permission to use the 2005 AUSKF Championships information to promote the education of the international community regarding Japanese cultural

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Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: [continued]

II. NEW BUSINESS: [continued]

H. Copyright Permission Requested by Keiko Sasaki.[continued]
arts such as kendo, as part of her Keio University English class project.

After some discussion, the AUSKF board of directors approved the copyright permission for Keiko Sasaki to use the 2005 AUSKF Championship information as requested.

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I. Spring, 2006-AUSKF Board of Directors meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the location of the Spring, 2007-AUSKF Board of Directors meeting to be held on April 14 & 15, 2007 [pursuant to the AUSKF by-laws Article VII, Section 2].

The location of Denver, Colorado, was approved for the April 14 & 15, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting. Mr. Hideki Iwakabe, Rocky Mountain Kendo Federation President, will be contacted to request assistance to make arrangements for the hotel accommodations, meeting room, godokeiko, and AUSKF Promotion Examination to be held on Sunday, April 15, 2007.

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J. Other:

(1.) The Exception to AUSKF Membership.

Atsushi Hori reported that there are many individual cases of kendoists in Las Vegas, Oklahoma, PNKF region, and South Dakota who are interested in practicing kendo, but do not have enough members to form a New Member Association.

It was mentioned that in the history of the United States National Kendo Federation, there at one time did exist a membership

status for Associate members; this was for individuals who were not able to form a regional member federation, but wanted to participate in the U.S. National Kendo organization programs.

Masashi Shikai stated that this agenda item needs to have further review by the fourteen AUSKF member federations and the AUSKF board of directors.

Atsushi Hori agreed to table this matter until the next AUSKF board of directors meeting.

(2) Draft of Proposed Updated Agreement and Release from Liability form was submitted for review; by Masashi Shikai [prepared by Yuriko Shikai, Esq.] this matter was tabled for further review at the next AUSKF board of director's meeting.

(3) The Southern California Kendo Federation requested to submit a document for Information Purpose Only. This document was received.

From VP-Competition:

Report submitted by Koki Ariga, and Arnold Matsuda, Competition Committee Member.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition sent a letter dated January 8, 2007 to all of the fourteen AUSKF Member Federations to announce the format of the 2007 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars.

A change in the format initiated in 2007 is that there will be groupings of AUSKF Member Federations based on geographic locations, and in one case, due to being centrally located, a choice of which group to participate in has been requested.

It is believed that the grouping of AUSKF Member Federations will provide a high level of instruction and maximize participation.

Any additional questions can be made by contacting:

Koki Ariga
223 S. Plum
Troy, OH. 45373
E-mail: kariga@fandp.com

From VP-Prom & Exam.

Report submitted by Ichiro Murakami.

If there are any questions about the AUSKF Promotion and Examination matters, please contact:

Ichiro Murakami
4305 Mountain Shadow Dr.
Whittier, CA. 90601
Tel. (562) 692-4943
FAX: (562) 463-3604
E-mail: ichiro_kendo@earthlink.net

From VP-Education:

Report submitted by Yoshiteru Tagawa.

See Highlights from the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Education Committee report.

If there are any questions about the AUSKF Education matters, please contact:

Yoshiteru Tagawa
41444 Fawn Trail
Novi, MI 48375-4813
Tel. (248) 349-5377
FAX: (248) 349-9718
E-mail: detroitkendodojo@hotmail.com

From Treasurer:

Report submitted by Tomoji Kato.

A letter was recently sent to the AUSKF Member Federations dated January 6, 2007, informing that the 2007 AUSKF Dues should be collected and submitted to the AUSKF Treasurer by no later than March 31, 2007.

There are two categories of AUSKF membership fees:

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From Treasurer: [continued]

All Adults = \$40.00

All Youth (17 & under) = \$25.00

Effective 1/1/07, Due to the initiation of an AUSKF Data Base for the purpose of maintaining individual members kendo records; the AUSKF Membership Form is requested to be completed by all AUSKF Member Federations on a **CD in the Excel format** and **NOT** on handwritten forms.

If there are any questions regarding the 2007 AUSKF Membership Dues please contact:

Tomoji Kato
35402 Wyse Rd.
Agua Dulce, CA. 91390

**2007:
REGIONAL MEMBER'S
NEWS:**

1. All Eastern United States KendoFed.

President: Noboru Kataoka
35-30 32nd Street
Long Island City, NY 11106
E-mail: KataokaKen@earthlink.net

2. Central California Kendo Fed.

President: Toshio Livingston
2273 Aspen Court
Hanford, CA. 93230
(559) 584-5697
E-mail c/o: norm_otani@auskf.info

3. Eastern U.S. Kendo Federation.

President: Mozart Ishizuka
445 Fifth Avenue-Ste. 24-C
New York, NY 10016
E-mail: haruishi@nyc.rr.com

4. East Central U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Koki Ariga
223 S. Plum
Troy, OH. 45373
E-mail: kariga@fandp.com

5. Greater Northeast U.S. Kendo Fed.

President: Dr. Tsuyoshi Inoshita
916 11th Street
Portsmouth, OH. 45662
E-mail: pancer@zoomnet.net

-6. Midwest Kendo Federation.

President: Dave T. Christman
111 Cherry Lane
Battle Creek, MI. 49015
E-mail: dtc12@comcast.net

Report submitted by Yoshiteru Tagawa:

Detroit Kendo Dojo Tournament

Sunday, February 18th, 2007
7:30am-6:00pm
Seaholm High School Gym
2436 West Lincoln
Birmingham, MI. 48009

Promotional Examination:
Saturday, February 17th, 2007
4:40pm-6:00pm
Seaholm High School Gym
2436 West Lincoln
Birmingham, MI. 48009

Godō Keiko:
Saturday, February 17th, 2007
6:00pm-9:00pm
Seaholm High School Gym
2436 West Lincoln
Birmingham, MI. 48009

For further details contact:
Yoshiteru Tagawa
41444 Fawn Trail
Novi, MI 48375-4813
Tel. (248) 349-5377
FAX: (248) 349-9718
E-mail: detroitkendodojo@hotmail.com

7. Northern California Kendo Fed.

President: George Nishiura
2063 Admiral Place
San Jose, CA. 95133
E-mail: g_nishiura@yahoo.com

Report submitted by: Ken Ogawa

2007-2008 NCKF Officers
President: G. Nishiura
1st Vp: Y. Onitsuka

2nd Vp. G. Harada
3rd Vp. M. Yamaguchi
Exec. Sec. B. Shimbo
Treasurer R. Tanaka
Recorder D.Mita-Juanitas
Auditor C. Tanouye
Historian R. Hill
Public Re. K. Ogawa
Rec. Sec. D. Nakanishi

8. Pacific Northwest Kendo Fed.

President: Curtis Marsten
20825 6th Ave. S
Des Moines, WA. 98198
E-Mail: cvmarsten@w-link.net

1. Report submitted by: Jeffrey Marsten

**PNKF North American Women's
Invitational Kendo Championship.**

Date: Saturday, July 21st, 2007
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Place: Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway
Renton, Washington.

Both team and individual competition.

For more information contact:

Jeffrey Marsten
616 SW 135th St.
Burien, WA. 98146
Tel. (206) 246-2239
E-mail: jmarsten@comcast.net

2. For additional PNKF news contact:

Tom Bolling
7318 23rd Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA. 98115.

See PNKF's *Kenyu* online at:
<http://www.kendo-pnkf.org/news/kenyu.phtml>

9. Rocky Mountain Kendo Federation

President: Hideki Iwakabe
3427 So. Broadway
Englewood, CO. 80110
E-mail: Hiwakabe@aol.com

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**2007:
REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:
[continued]**

10. **Southern California Kendo Federation**
President: James Yamasaki
1725 Wagner Street
Pasadena, CA. 91106
E-mail: jmyamasaki@yahoo.com

11. **Southern California Kendo Organizaition**
President: Michihiro Nakashima
3921 Laurel Cyn. Rd.
Studio City, CA. 91064
E-mail: nakashima@osula.com

12. **South Eastern U.S. Kendo Fed.**
President James Parker
2030 Rushing Street
Richmond Hills, GA.. 31324
E-mail: jamesparker@coastalnow.net

13. **Southern U.S. Kendo Federation**
President: Darrell Craig
E-mail: budokan@wt.net

14. **South West U.S. Kendo & Iaido Fed.**
President: Carl West
111 E. Dale Street
Colorado Springs, CO. 80903
E-mail: westcarl@qwest.net

IAIDO NEWS:

Reports submitted by Takeshi Yamaguchi, Dennis Ralutin, and Norman Otani.

1. The AUSKF 2007 Iaido Camp will be held on July 26-29, 2007 in Omaha, Nebraska. The head organizer is Steven Sasaki from Omaha Kendo and Iaido Kyokai of the Southwest Kendo and Iaido Federation (SWKIF). More details and information will be released shortly. If you have questions, please contact:

Steven Sasaki
E-mail: ssasaki@cox.net

2. The Southern California Iaido Association announced the results of the electon of new officers effective 1/1/07:

President: Emil Nguyen
Treasurer: Philip Ma

3. **SPECIAL REVIEW:**
2005 AUSKF IAIDO TAIKAI DVD :
Report by Norman Otani.

As a participant in the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp; I have always experienced a significant amount of anxiety preparing for the AUSKF Iaido Taikai, held each year at the AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

I agreed to review the 2005 AUSKF Iaido Taikai, filmed by AUSKF member John Prough, which consists of a 2-DVD set titled as follows:

1. **Yamaguchi Cup: Shodan & Nidan.**
2. **Iaido Demonstrations & Semi-final and Final Matches for Mudansha Cup, Yamaguchi Cup and Nakanishi Cup.**

Each of the DVD's is a high quality product, with excellent filming of the high points of the competitors in the 2005 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp: Taikai.

For those iaidoka looking for a visual tool to help prepare for the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp: Taikai, this 2-DVD set of the 2005 AUSKF Iaido Taikai is a **MUST PURCHASE**; as, this will help the iaidoka to reduce the level of one's anxiety by observing the successful iaidoka who achieved medal finishes.

The per DVD cost is \$25.00 plus shipping and handling; however, if both DVD's are purchased, the cost per 2-DVD set can be negotiated [as well as the shipping and handling costs].

To purchase 1-DVD or the 2-DVD set described above, please contact:

John Prough
Japanese Swordsmanship Society
275 8th Street-#3
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Tel. (201) 839-5062
E-mail: jprony-jss.org

4. **IN MEMORIAM:**
SIMMONS, BOB
[1937-2006]

Simmons sensei, one of the founders of the Southern California Iaido Association and it's President from 1991 through 1998, passed away on January 16, 2006 of a heart attack. He was 69 years old.

For any additional questions regarding AUSKF Iaido matters contact:

Takeshi Yamaguchi, Iaido Comm. Chr.
13434 E. Reis
Whittier, CA. 90605
PH: (562) 693-0088

International Kendo Federation [FIK]
News:

Report submitted by Atsushi Hori.

2007 FIK North America Zone Referee Seminar will be held on March 17 & 18, 2007 in Long Beach, California.

A letter was sent on 12/24/06, to the fourteen AUSKF Member Federation Presidents, to submit the names of participants to Atsushi Hori, by the DEADLINE DATE: February 1, 2007.

AUSKF WEBSITE:

Jean Kodamal, AUSKF Webmaster.

AUSKF website can be located at:
www.auskf.info OR www.auskf.org

See Highlights of November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: II. New Business, Development Committee.: (3) AUSKF Website.

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**OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:**

I. GUEST AUTHOR:

Tom Bolling, PNKF Recording Secretary and Editor of Kenyu, recently authored an article about AUSKF sensei, Rod Omoto, 7 Dan. This article was featured in the November-December, 2004 Issue of Kendo Nippon Monthly Magazine, and with permission of the author will be reprinted in the AUSKF Newsletter, in several parts.

Part five:

HIROSHIMA SURVIVOR

He arrived in his grandparent's place in Kure and got a job at the city hall, working for one yen a day. One day just below his house he encountered an American and said "Hi" to him. The American said, "Hey, you speak English," and ended up asking Omoto Sensei to come and work for them. So he became an interpreter for the U.S. Army CIC or Counterintelligence Corps. This appointment eventually led to further positions with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, and U.S. Army/Air Force Counterintelligence.

In 1948 at the Matsue City police station in Shimane-ken, he was interpreting for his commander Captain Parker when he noticed that the police had Kendo equipment there, and he asked them if they would keiko with him. They were afraid to do it and said no, because Kendo had been forbidden, but Omoto Sensei asked the commander, and he said go ahead. Thus they started practicing again.

Matsue City is the place where he encountered Ono Soichiro Sensei. They had a tournament of Shimane-ken vs. Tottori-ken. Ogawa Sensei was there too. Ono Sensei was Mori Torao Sensei's sensei. When Ono Sensei died, his wife sent Omoto Sensei a calligraphy of "Sei Shin" or "Quiet Mind." That "Quiet

Mind" sums up Ono Sensei's Kendo, and Mori Sensei had the same "Quiet Mind" as well.

Mori Torao Sensei is legendary in both Kendo and western fencing. Omoto Sensei encountered him in Wahiawa, in Japan, and again back in North America. He always seemed calm and cool, and his attacks, especially from jodan-no-kamae, were leisurely, but so perfectly timed there was nothing you could do. Omoto Sensei regards him as "...the world's best.

I had a very special opportunity to meet Mori Sensei three different times. First in Hawaii, in the 30's, when he first visited Hawaii...long time ago. Then Steveston...when I used to go to Steveston Kendo Taikai, and the last one is here in California, when he was the president of U.S. Kendo Federation. But he had to die early of heart attack...while doing keiko in California."

KENDO IS TRADITION

"You got to get the Kendo habit!"

RE-EMERGENCE OF KENDO

Kendo was underground, but Omoto Sensei pro-actively sought out places to do Kendo and people to practice with. Gradually, Kendo rose back to the surface. Omoto Sensei was active in the "Shinai Kyogi" movement, a version of Kendo practiced in western athletic clothes and de-emphasizing some of the more combative dimensions.

Meantime, Omoto Sensei also had to work out some challenges with regard to his US citizenship status. It took some time before he could return to the United States. When he did come back, it was to Corvallis, Oregon, and his bogu was packed and put away. He thought the most he would be able to do with it was set it up in the livingroom and look at it as a reminder of the past. In 1966 he got a B.S. degree in engineering from Oregon State University, and ended up in Tacoma, Washington.

KENDO IS COMPASSION

"Kendo is a really difficult concept. Even for Japanese it's hard to get the philosophy. I don't care about the skill -- if they use the Kendo to raise their life that's what it's about. In ballroom dancing, the man is the leader, but who looks at the man? The lady who is the shitachi, is the real leader. The uchitachi has compassion to make the lady beautiful."

"I just wonder what our Kendo people think 'Teki' is! I remember very vaguely that Christians say 'Love thy enemy.' In Kendo I interpret 'Teki' in many ways, and finally I end up in defining for myself that 'Teki' is my Sensei forever."

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple brought about the rebirth of the pre-war Tacoma Kendo Club, which had been founded in 1931 by the Rev. Jokatsu Yukawa. In early 1967, the Temple had Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 115. The Scout Master was Tom Masao Tanabe at that time, and asked Omoto Sensei to teach the members of the troop some Kendo so that they could put on a demonstration at the Scout-O-Rama. Omoto Sensei agreed and taught them some simple basics of Kendo. The Scout Troop presentation won a Blue Ribbon. Tanabe Sensei was very happy and asked Omoto Sensei to continue teaching the kids Kendo. With the help of pre-war kenshi including Yoshihiko Tanabe, Del Tanabe, and Yosh Kawabata, plus the background support of other Temple members, the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Kendo Club became very popular. In the beginning there were kids, with a Kendo tournament almost every month in which the kid who won received a small trophy. This trophy was a perpetual trophy that went to the winner of that month. This encouraged people to practice harder, and led to more members, including adults. People from the surrounding area including Federal Way and even Seattle were drawn to join the Club.

While pursuing his engineering career in the firms of Educators Manufacturing

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**OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:**

I. GUEST AUTHOR:

Part five [continued]

Company, Fentron, Lunstead Design, and Washington State Department of Corrections, Omoto Sensei was once again active in Kendo.

In 1967 Omoto Sensei heard that Kendo was being practiced in Seattle, and he visited the Seattle Kendo Kai, but it turned out to be the very day that Umajiro Imanishi Sensei had his stroke, and so he was never able to practice with Imanishi Sensei. However, he began a close association with Kaz Shoji Sensei, Kiyoshi Yasui Sensei, Paul Kurose Sensei and Joe Cuendet Sensei. Omoto Sensei also began helping the Kendo Club which formed in 1972 at the University of Washington, in association with a medical professor at the University, Dr. Hitoshi Mohri. Dr. Mohri was a specialist and pioneer in open heart surgery of infants, using a technique of lowering the temperature of the baby.

[To be continued in next issue]

BOOK REVIEW:

Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps, by Romulus Hillsborough. ISBN: 0-8048--3627-2 \$29.95, Hardcover 230 pages

A. Tuttle Publishing First Published in 2005, and now has published again a book by author Romulus Hillsborough who has created a vivid historical narrative capturing one of the most enthralling and blood-splattered eras in Japanese history.

For two and a half centuries, Japan was ruled by the all-powerful Tokugawa Shogunate under a strict law of isolationism. But on July 8th, 1853, with the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry and his squadron of heavily armed warships from the U.S. Navy, Japan was

forced to open its doors to the "Western barbarians." This pivotal event in Asian and, indeed, world history caused a revolution, known as the Meiji Restoration, and the overthrow of the Tokugawa Shogunate." **Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps** is the first English language narrative of these events and their repercussions.

The willingness of the shogun to "collaborate" with the West provoked an extreme reaction from the large samurai population in Japan. Hordes of ronin renegade samurai-unleashed a wave of terror on Kyoto, and Japan's capital streets were transformed into a sea of blood. By the end of 1862 the situation had become untenable, with murder and assassination a nightly occurrence. In an effort to regain control, the authorities created a band of swordsmen, known as Shinsengumi-Newly Selected Corps-who were essentially given carte blanche in an effort to restore law and order to the Imperial Capital. At once reviled and revered, the Shinsengumi were the most dreaded security force Japan had ever known.

AUSKF readers are referred to the AUSKF Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 2, August 16, 1999: Book Review of **Ryoma-Life of a Renaissance Samurai**, by Romulus Hillsborough.

This reader having read **Ryoma-Life of a Renaissance Samurai**, by Romulus Hillsborough, found that the same author has now written a book, **Shinsengumi: The Shogun's Last Samurai Corps**, that focuses on the initial importance of a select group of samurai that grew to a number of one hundred, who faced down and took the lives of those who were in opposition to the Tokugawa Bakufu, at a time when several opposing powerful groups in Japan would eventually decide the eventual fate and future of Japan.

As the events of this historical period in Japan unfolds, the description of the

individuals whose roles played an important part to try and forestall the eventual result, is fascinating to follow in the interesting narrative style of the author.

It is also interesting to note that the reader in this ongoing saga, can continue to learn more about the seemingly delicate yet riveting role of Sakamoto Ryoma during this entire campaign to find the necessary resolution to a divided nation's troubled system of governance.

A recommended book to read as a followup to the earlier publication: **Ryoma-Life of a Renaissance Samurai**.

AUSKF NEWSLETTER
Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about May, 2007, can be submitted to my e-mail address: norm_otani@auskf.info

*or news items can be sent to:
2338 E. Minarets Avenue,
Fresno, CA. 93720.*