

# AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

## Updated Mentor Program and New Proposal for AUSKF!!!

**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.

Greetings to all members and their families of the All United States Kendo Federation [“AUSKF”]; I hope that everyone has returned to their regular kendo training after the recent successful results at the 13th WKC-Taipei, Taiwan, to begin another period of hard kendo practices and training, as we look forward to the 14th WKC in Sao Paolo, Brazil in 2009.

At the recent AUSKF board of directors meeting held on April 14 & 15, 2007, in Denver, Colorado; I am happy to report that approval was given to update the **AUSKF Mentor Program**. The prior policy and procedure guide covering the AUSKF Mentor Program has been clarified as to how an individual dojo can request support and assistance to build-up their kendo and iaido programs, by having experienced AUSKF instructors sent to their areas. [see the *Highlights of the AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting April 14 & 15, 2007, section of this newsletter for details*].

In addition, the AUSKF board of directors approved the appointment of a committee chaired by Charlie Tanaka, to study a **new proposal to have an AUSKF International Kendo Tournament**, to be held every three years, in the year prior to the AUSKF Championships.

Previously, there was discussion raised at the AUSKF board of directors meeting to consider having an annual AUSKF Championship tournament to help AUSKF member

federations sustain a high level of motivation and activity for the selection of the Team USA members following the completion of each of the World Kendo Championship events, etc.; however, this suggestion was deemed to be impractical due to the current limited resources both within the AUSKF member federations and for the AUSKF to manage this type of annual schedule, that would require a yearly effort to locate facilities and resources, and which the AUSKF administration and available support persons would not be able to coordinate successfully. For these reasons, the alternative idea for the AUSKF International Kendo Tournament was deemed to be more feasible and it is anticipated there would be support from the AJKF and other international entities.

Again, as in the past, if you have any questions or concerns about the day-to-day operations of the AUSKF or any of its several programs; please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience..

Thank you very much for your continued support of the AUSKF.

Sincerely,

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President  
3041 S. Bristol  
Santa Ana, CA. 92704  
Tel. (H): (714) 994-6344  
Tel.(W): (714) 557-3282  
FAX: (714) 557-1920  
**[Note: New e-mail address!]**  
**e-mail: horichu@ca.rr.com**

Page two

**Highlights from the April 14 & 15, 2007**  
**AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,**  
**Denver, Colorado:**

Reported by AUSKF Executive VP  
Norman K. Otani

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[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 14 & 15, 2007, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]  
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I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Mission Statement.

Committee chairman Norman K. Otani requested additional time to complete the necessary research and to draft the proposed AUSKF Mission Statement. Matter was tabled to the next meeting

[Note: It is anticipated that this matter will be ready to be addressed at the next meeting]

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B. 13th WKC-Team U.S.A Results & Report:

13th WKC Team U.S.A. Manager Masashi Shikai reported on the results of the 13th WKC Team U.S.A. efforts in December 2006; he also expressed appreciation to the AUSKF board of directors, officers, members/families and volunteers for the support given to the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A., so that they could obtain maximum benefit from a long training period, and the overall preparations provided at a world-class level that helped them compete at the 13th WKC-Taipei, Taiwan.

Discussion was held about the 13th WKC 2nd Place Team Award Certificate presently held by Team U.S.A. Manager Masashi Shikai. The AUSKF board of directors approved the motion to have two (2) additional copies of the 13th WKC 2nd Place Team Award Certificate, and provided to the AUSKF President Atsushi Hori, and Team U.S.A. Men's Coach Yuji Onitsuka.

Team U.S.A. Men's Team Coach, Yuji Onitsuka also expressed his appreciation to all for the support given. Tomoji Kato submitted a report from

Saeko Tew, 13th WKC, Team U.S.A. Women's Team Captain; this report was received as an information only item

Chris Yang also submitted a report on behalf of the 13th WKC, Team U.S.A. Men's Team. This report will be forwarded to the AUSKF VP-Competition, Koki Ariga, for review and followup if deemed necessary.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP proposed the distribution of a DVD featuring the 13th WKC-Men's Team U.S.A. v. Japan results, to all major news organizations, in the major cities in the United States where kendo is currently practiced, to promote the recent historic achievement at the 13th WKC-Taipei, Taiwan, and also using this occasion as a means to promote kendo in the United States. The AUSKF board of directors approved this course of action.

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C. AUSKF Official Tie and Polo Shirt. Ichiro Murakami reported that the remaining inventory of the AUSKF Official Tie and Polo Shirt is as follows:

- A. AUSKF Official Ties= 24 [\$15 each].
- B. AUSKF Polo Shirts: L, XL and XXL.

It was decided to continue with the sales of the remaining AUSKF ties and polo shirts.

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D. AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Cards.

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Card, Chairperson, reported that he has distributed the initial AUSKF ID cards to each AUSKF Member Federation.

Additionally, following review of the 2007 AUSKF paid membership rolls, any new members in each of the AUSKF Member Federations will be sent AUSKF ID cards.

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E. Associate Member P-P-G Review and Recommendation for Approval.

Atsushi Hori previously proposed at the November 11 & 12, 2006 AUSKF board of directors meeting, to consider approval

of a policy and procedure guide to allow an associate membership category for AUSKF membership, in cases where individuals want to practice kendo, but due to either being an isolated group or not having an ability to join one of the AUSKF member federations, cannot be involved in AUSKF activities; initially, additional time was requested to allow the AUSKF board of directors to consider this proposal.

After review of the proposed AUSKF Policy and Procedure Guide 4.10.00-4.10.01: Associate Membership; this matter was unanimously approved.

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F. 2007 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, 2006-2008 AUSKF VP- Education reported that the 2007 AUSKF Summer Camp will be held on June 29th - July 1st, 2007, at the Swanee Sports Academy, Swanee, Georgia [near Atlanta, Georgia].

Guest AJKF instructors will be:

Hideo Kobayashi, 8th Dan Hanshi  
Yoshiyuki Ohta, 8th Dan Kyoshi

Schedule will be:

June 29th, 2007: Practice with AJKF sensei.

June 30th, 2007: Seminar & Farewell Party.

July 1st, 2007 Seminar & AUSKF Promotion Examination.

Seminar fee is:\$65.00. Application DEADLINE is: June 15th, 2007. No late applications will be accepted.

Registration packets and information were previously mailed to the AUSKF Member Federations.

For additional information contact:

Yoshiteru Tagawa  
41444 FawnTrail  
Novi, MI 48375-4813  
**E-mail: duke@twmi.rr.com**

**15 May 2007**  
**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**

Page three

**Highlights from the April 14 & 15, 2007**  
**AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,**  
**Denver, Colorado:[continued]**

G. 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp. Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman provided a written report [including a proposed budget] for the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp which will be held on July 26th through July 29th, 2007, at the Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, Iowa [near Omaha, Nebraska].

AJKF instructors will be: Masahiro Yamazaki, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi, and, Tomoharu Ito, Iaido 8 Dan Kyoshi.

Schedule will be:

July 26th: : Seminar.  
July 27th: Seminar.  
July 28th: Taikai & Sayonara Party.  
July 29th: Shinsa.

The AUSKF board of directors approved the proposed budget for the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Registration packets and information for the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp have been sent to the AUSKF Member Federations; information will also be posted on the AUSKF website.

For additional information contact:

Steven Sasaki,  
Omaha Kendo & Iaido Kyokai  
ssasaki@cox.net  
PH: (402) 968-0615

H. AUSKF Liability Insurance Report:  
Review Draft of Waiver of Liability.

This matter was tabled, to receive an updated copy of the Draft of Waiver of Liability form proposed for use by all of the AUSKF dojos.

For additional information regarding AUSKF Liability Insurance matters, contact:

2006-2008 AUSKF Liability Ins.  
Coordinator: Masaharu Makino.  
19753 Alpine Crest Rd.

Walnut, CA. 91789  
Phone: (213) 617-7272  
FAX: (213) 617-9494

E-mail:  
**makinomasaharu@gmail.com**

I. 2007 Disneyland Martial Arts Festival.

Masashi Shikai reported that he led a group of AUSKF kendoists for a kendo demonstration on February 4th, 2007, to showcase kendo to the audience of various martial arts practitioners at the Disneyland Hotel venue.

Due to being limited to only a three (3) minute time period; it was recommended to request that kendo be given a minimum of 20-minutes to demonstrate kendo at the next Disneyland Martial Arts Festival.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP, reported that the Disney Wide World of Sports venue in Orlando, Florida, is expanding its facilities in 2008 to build a separate 8,000 sq. ft. facility.

It was agreed to continue having kendo demonstrations at the Disney/Disneyland Martial Arts Festivals so that this resource can be considered as a possible venue for future AUSKF or FIK kendo events.

J. 2007 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition, reported that the AUSKF Competition Committee had reviewed the proposed groups of regional member federations previously designated to have AUSKF Shimpan Seminars in 2007, and an initial designation of AUSKF shimpan seminar instructors was selected.

However, upon further discussion and review by the AUSKF board of directors, a broader and more diverse designation of AUSKF instructors was recommended and approved for the AUSKF Shimpan Seminars as follows:

PNKF= Charlie Tanaka  
MWKF=Shozo Kato

SCKF, RMKF, SCKO=Masashi Shikai & Masaharu Makino

ECKF & SEUSKF=Koki Ariga  
EUSKF & GNEUSKF=Y. Tagawa  
SUSKIF & SWUSKIF=S. Koike

Koki Ariga, VP-Competition will notify the respective member federations to implement the above approved plans for the 2007 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

K. FIK [IKF] General Assembly Meeting, 12/7/06- Taipei, Taiwan: RE: FIK 2007 Annual Membership Dues.

Atsushi Hori, FIK Director, America Zone reported that the FIK formula to determine the annual FIK membership dues was CHANGED at its recent 12/7/06 General Assembly Meeting, and is now based on the membership of each member country.

The 2007 FIK Membership Dues for the AUSKF is \$1,160.00. Although this annual FIK membership dues could be paid for three (3) years in advance, the AUSKF board of directors agreed to pay the FIK dues on a yearly basis.

L. FIK Anti-Doping Committee Meeting - 13th WKC, Taipei, Taiwan.

Norman K. Otani, FIK Anti-Doping Committee member from the America Zone, reported that he attended the 13th WKC-Anti Doping Committee Meeting on 12/7/06, Taipei, Taiwan.

The FIK Anti-Doping Committee consists of Dr. Masayuki Miyasaka, Facilitator and members: Takeshi Masago, Byung Yoon, Dieter Hauk, Gabriel Weitzner and Norman K. Otani.

As the FIK Anti-Doping Committee presently does NOT have any operating budget; the committee agreed to proceed to take initial steps to do the following:

1. Adopt WADA standards and draft FIK anti-doping policy similar to

**15 May 2007**  
**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**

Page four

**Highlights from the April 14 & 15, 2007**  
**AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,**  
**Denver, Colorado:** [continued]

L. FIK Anti-Doping Committee Meeting:  
13th WKC, Taipei, Taiwan [continued]:

Japan Sports Association.

2. Post the Draft FIK Anti-Doping  
Policy on the FIK website.

3. Provide a link from the FIK website  
to the WADA: Prohibited Substance List  
2006, 2007.

If there are any questions regarding the  
work and activities of the FIK Anti-  
Doping Committee, please contact:

Norman K. Otani  
E-mail: norm\_otani@auskf.info

M. Korean Kumdo Association, U.S.A.:  
Proposal To Join AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori reported that there have  
been preliminary meetings held by the  
AUSKF officers: Atsushi Hori and  
Norman K. Otani with KKA- U.S.A.  
officials: Peter Kim [KKA, U.S.A.  
President] and Bruce Partlow.

After negotiations between the AUSKF  
and KKA-U.S.A regarding the AUSKF  
policies in regards to promotion  
examinations and other AUSKF policies  
and procedures; it appears there is now  
agreement that will result in the KKA-  
U.S.A. submitting an application to be  
considered as a New Member  
Association of the AUSKF.

Ichiro Murakami read a letter to the  
AUSKF board of directors that was  
received regarding the KKA-U.S.A.  
A discussion followed regarding the  
current geographical areas covered by the  
dojos affiliated with the KKA-U.S.A

Atsushi Hori reported that the dojos  
affiliated with the KKA-U.S.A. currently  
are located in Seattle, Washington and in  
Northern California, Southern California.  
Takeshi Yamaguchi noted that based on  
the current broad and diverse

geographical distribution of dojos that  
makeup the current AUSKF member  
federations; and, similarly, the proposed  
New Member Association being  
considered [KKA-U.S.A.] raises an  
important point as to the use of the term  
“regional” as it refers to the AUSKF  
member federations in the AUSKF by-  
laws and other AUSKF documents.

After further discussion, it was agreed to  
review the suggestion made by Takeshi  
Yamaguchi described above at the next  
November, 2007 AUSKF board of  
directors meeting.

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N. 2007 FIK America Zone Referee  
Seminar.

Atsushi Hori reported that AJKF sent  
three (3) instructors for the 2007 FIK  
America Zone Referee Seminar: 1. Shuji  
Fukumoto, 8 Dan, FIK Exec VP., 2.  
Minoru Fujii, 8 Dan Hanshi, and, 3.  
Kunio Hayashi, 8 Dan Hanshi, which  
was successfully completed on March 17  
& 18, 2007, in Long Beach, California.

Approximately 90 participants took part in  
the 2007 FIK America Zone Referee  
Seminar, including the AUSKF, Canada,  
Hawaii, Brazil and Argentina.

Due to poor weather conditions in the  
Northeast part of the United States,  
several AUSKF participants were NOT  
able to attend the 2007 FIK America  
Zone Referee Seminar; it was agreed to  
reimburse their advance fees paid for  
lunch(s) and Welcome Party.

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II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Education Committee:  
Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-  
Education reported that in addition to the  
2007 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp  
reported above; the 2007 AUSKF  
Education Tour is proposed to be held in  
October 2007 for about fifteen (15) days.

The AUSKF will privately invite  
Furukawa sensei, 8 Dan [53 yrs old],

from Hokkaido, Japan to be the Head  
Instructor of the 2007 AUSKF Education  
Tour.

The 2007 AUSKF Education Tour will be  
offered to the AUSKF member  
federations located in the Colorado area  
and Northern part of the United States.

The AUSKF is responsible for the  
payment of the air travel expenses from  
Japan to and within the United States for  
Furukawa sensei; and the member  
federations that would like Furukawa  
sensei to visit their area will be  
responsible to pay for the hotel/housing  
accommodations, meals and local travel  
expenses during his visit.

2. Competition Committee:  
Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition  
previously reported above regarding the  
2007 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars.

Also, it was reported that the 2008  
AUSKF Championships is proposed to be  
held July 4th [setup] through July 6th ,  
2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The only  
change in the tournament divisions is that  
the Women's Youth Division is being  
eliminated.

The committee decided that the selection  
of the facility for the 2008 AUSKF  
Championships will require an advance  
team to review the available facilities  
prior to selection.

In addition, the 14th WKC-Team U.S.A.  
Seclection Process was outlined as  
follows:

1st Kyoka Senshu = Oct/Nov. 2007  
2nd Kyoka Senshu = Mar/Apr. 2007  
2008 AUSKF Championships = 7/08  
Final Kyoka Senshu = Aug/Sept. 2008

Lastly, it was reported that the 14th  
WKC-Team U.S.A. Manager and  
Coaches will be selected at the November  
2007 AUSKF BOD meeting.

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Page five

**Highlights from the April 14 & 15, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, Colorado:** [continued]

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A.COMMITTEE REPORTS {continued}:

3. Promotion Committee:

Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotions & Examinations reported that to assist many AUSKF member federations to conduct their promotion examinations without having to request outside AUSKF examiners for the kendo rank of 1 kyu and 1 Dan; approval, was requested to amend the AUSKF Promotion Regulations Section III., for 1 kyu and 1 Dan examiners, the criteria will allow 4 Dan and above examiners, and will still require approval of 3 of the 5 examiners. This change is consistent with recent IKF changes in promotion regulations in this area.

The AUSKF board of directors approved the above proposal.

Also, it was reported tha a new AUSKF Promotion Examiners Seminar is proposed to be implemented in all of the fourteen (14) AUSKF member federations.

It is anticipated that the AUSKF Promotion Examiners Seminar will be held in conjunction with the AUSKF Member Federation Promotion Examinations; the goal is use this process to develop consistent grading standards for the kendo ranks of 6 kyu - 4 dan, for the AUSKF member federations.

The AUSKF board of directors approved a budget of \$7,500.00 to implement the new AUSKF Promotion Examiners Seminar program.

4. Iaido Committee:

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman provided the report noted above under Old Business: 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

5. Development Committee:

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

1. AUSKF Newsletter.

Next issue to be published in May 2007: Vol. 10 No.2.

2. AUSKF Archives, Hall of Fame, and Oral History Project.

Plan is to expand the committee members to assist in moving these projects further forward.

3. AUSKF Website.

Jean Kodama, AUSKF Webmaster has notified AUSKF member federations regarding availability of AUSKF website e-mail addresses, to facilitate forwarding of inquiries regarding the respective AUSKF member federations.

4. Marketing and Advertising.

Proposed distribution of DVD from 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. Men-s Team Match with Japan, to major news organizations in the major cities where kendo is practiced in the United States [see report under Old Business: 13th WKC above].

5. AUSKF Policy and Procedure Guidelines.

This document was updated on 11/10/06 and distributed to the AUSKF board of directors and AUSKF member federations.

6. AUSKF Office & Part-time Staff Person.

Ichiro Murakami reported that the Little Tokyo Recreation Center project has been approved by the City of Los Angeles to be built; building location and design is still being finalized.

Due to the many ongoing projects under the direction and supervision of the AUSKF Executive VP; it is strongly recommended that a part-time AUSKF staff person be hired to ensure the continuity of all of the ongoing projects described above, when there is a change in this office in the near future.

B. AUSKF End of Year 2006 Financial Report.

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Treasurer presented the 2006 AUSKF End of Year **Highlights from the April 14 & 15,**

Financial Report effective 12/31/06.

The total ending balance effective 12/31/06 is: \$469,304.62.

The AUSKF board of directors approved the 2006 End of Year Financial Report prepared by Tomoji Kato.

C. Proposed New AUSKF Tournament Every 3-Years.

Atsushi Hori introduced a proposal to have an AUSKF International Kendo Championship tournament in the year following the World Kendo Championships [see President's Message].

In order to determine the feasibility of this proposal, Atsushi Hori appointed Charilie Tanaka as the committee chairman, and committee members recommended were: Yoshiteru Tagawa, Masaharu Makino, Chris Yang, and Spencer Hosokawa.

D. Proposal To Amend P-P-G 4.00.00 - 4.06.00 New Member Association.

Norman K. Otani reported that the current AUSKF PPG 4.00.00 - 4.06.00 language was found to require some modifications to soften the wording from a one (1) year probation period, to use the word: *qualification* period.

Also, the previous provision to not allow a new member association applicant to conduct promotion examinations, did NOT consider an experienced new member association that has prior IKF approved status to conduct promotion examinations..

The proposed amended AUSKF P-P-G 4.00.00 - 4.06.00 was approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

**2007 AUSKF Board of Directors**

**Meeting, Denver, Colorado:** [continued]

II. NEW BUSINESS: [continued]

**E. Proposed Amended P-P-G 10.00.00 Mentor Program.**

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP informed the AUSKF board of directors that there have been recent requests for a AUSKF mentor to assist kendo/iaido dojos to help develop and buildup their programs.

However, due to the previous AUSKF PPG 10.00.00 NOT having clear guidelines as to how the REQUEST FOR A MENTOR is reviewed, approved and implemented, a proposed amended AUSKF PPG 10.00.00 was recommended.

**After further discussion, the following AUSKF PPG 10.00.00 - 10.08.01, was approved by the AUSKF board of directors:**

**10.00.00**

The purpose of this procedure is to help insure that the AUSKF provides quality assistance to those members whose population is lacking in experienced sensei in the development of either or both their kendo or iaido program. Great care should be taken in appointing individuals to the position of mentor. It is the professed goal of this corporation to continuously improve the quality of Kendo and Iaido throughout the United States.

**10.01.00** A mentor must have the minimum rank of 5 Dan in Kendo or Iaido.

**10.02.00** A mentor must have demonstrated a broad knowledge of both technical and philosophical aspects of Kendo or Iaido.

**10.03.00** A mentor should have solid people skills in order to build good will towards the AUSKF and its members.

**10.04.00** The mentor should help in making recommendations to the member regarding promotional examinations for

Kendo or Iaido.

**10.05.00** The dojo interested in having a mentor for Kendo or Iaido, must make a written request to the member federation president.

**10.05.01** The member federation president must review the dojo request for a mentor for Kendo or Iaido, within 30-days after receipt of the written request; a recommendation is then made to the AUSKF President, to approve or deny the request for a mentor.

**10.05.02** The AUSKF President must review the member federation request for a mentor for Kendo or Iaido, within 30-days after receipt of the written request.

**10.05.03** If the request for mentor for Kendo or Iaido is approved by the AUSKF President; the AUSKF VP-Education will contact the member federation or dojo to negotiate a proposed date and/or event that can be utilized by the assigned mentor for Kendo or Iaido.

**10.06.00** Upon approval of the AUSKF President to send a mentor for Kendo or Iaido to the requesting dojo; the AUSKF will be responsible for payment of the cost of reasonable round-trip air fare/automobile travel plan for the assigned mentor.

**10.06.01** The requesting dojo is responsible for payment of the cost to provide the assigned mentor for Kendo or Iaido with meals, hotel/accommodations, and local transportation during the time period negotiated by the AUSKF VP-Education with the member federation or dojo.

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F. Review AUSKF Policy RE: Payment of Airport Parking/Airport Limousine Service Fees.

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Treasurer requested clarification regarding reimbursement of payment for airport parking/airport limousine service for non-AUSKF board of director meeting related matters.

The AUSKF board of directors clarified that the current AUSKF policy for reimbursement of airport parking/parking fees is limited to the previous AUSKF resolution setting a maximum of \$800.00 per board of director for air/automobile round -trip travel, and hotel accommodation expenses, as related to attending the b-annual AUSKF board of directors meetings.

Also, Atsushi Hori suggested that the AUSKF board of directors can include breakfast expenses for the AUSKF board of directors meeting, as long as the total expenditures does not exceed the \$800.00 maximum currently allowed. The AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved this matter.

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G. FIK: Standard Guideline for Dan/Kyu Examination [Rev. 12/7/06].

Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotion and Examinations previously reported on this matter [see AUSKF Committee Reports: Promotion Committee above].

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H. 2008 AUSKF Championships: Proposed Location: Las Vegas, Nevada. Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition previously reported on this matter [see AUSKF Committee Reports: Competition Committee above].

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I. 2008 Pan American Kendo Championships.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President suggested that the previous AUSKF policy approved regarding this event be continued.

The AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved that interested AUSKF member federations are able to send participants to the 2008 Pan American Kendo Championships; however, there is no additional fiscal support provided to participating AUSKF member federations from the AUSKF for this matter.

**15 May 2007**  
**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**

Page seven

**Highlights from the April 14 & 15, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, Colorado:** [continued]

J. 2007 Foreign Kendo Leader Summer Seminar.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President reported that in order of priority established by the AUSKF Policy and Procedure Guide 24.00.00 [Appendix], the names of four (4) AUSKF candidates was submitted to AJKF for consideration.

In the past, each participating FIK country has been allowed a minimum of two (2) candidates; unless, there are no candidates submitted from some FIK countries, and then additional candidates are approved on a country by country basis.

K. 2007 Disney Martial Arts Festival-Orlando, Florida: Kendo Demonstration, October 27th, 2007.

As discussed earlier [see Old Business: I. Disneyland Martial Arts Festival: Kendo Demonstration February 2007], the AUSKF board of directors approved to continue participating at the 2007 Disney Martial Arts Festival: AUSKF Kendo Demonstration.

Shinobu Maeda agreed to be responsible to select kendoists to assist him for an AUSKF kendo demonstration at the 2007 Disney Martial Arts Festival.

L. Item Deleted from the Agenda.

M. Letter to Board of Directors from Brian Olson.

A letter sent to the AUSKF board of directors from Brian Olson, was received as an information item only.

N. 14th WKC-Sao Paolo, Brazil.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President and the AUSKF board of directors requested that Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP send a communication to the Brazil

Kendo Federation President for an update on the progress of the plans for the 14th WKC-Sao Paolo, Brazil; e.g. proposed dates of 14th WKC, location, etc.

O. The Fall 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting to be held on November 10 & 11, 2007, was proposed to be held in:

- 1st. Choice: Seattle, Washington.
- 2nd Choice: San Francisco, CA.
- 3rd Choice: Los Angeles, CA.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP will contact the respective AUSKF member federation presidents in the above listed priority list, to determine the decision of the location of the Fall 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting.

P. Other:

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Treasurer:  
2007 AUSKF Membership Dues as of 3/31/07:

- AEUSKF = 566 members
- CCKF= 70 members
- EUSKF=106 members
- GNEUSKF=225 members
- NCKF=475 members
- PNKF=424 members
- RMKF=100 members
- SEUSKF=298 members
- SUSKIF=98 members
- SWKIF=133 members

2007 AUSKF Membership Dues NOT received as of 3/31/07:

- ECUSKF
- MWKF
- SCKF
- SCKO

**REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:**

1. Central California Kendo Federation. Report submitted by Norman K. Otani.

*2007 All California Open KendoTny.*  
Sunday, September 2, 2007  
Fresno, California.

After an initial planning meeting with

representatives from the Northern California Kendo Federation, Southern California Kendo Federation, Southern California Kendo Organization and Central California Kendo Federation, the tri-annual All California Open Kendo Tournament plans have been reviewed and approved.

Invitation and other tournament related materials are due to be sent to the four (4) California kendo federation representatives by June 1, 2007.

2. Northern California Kendo Federation. Report submitted by Glenn Harada, NCKF VP-Competition.

*49th North-South Kendo Tournament*  
Sunday, April 1st, 2007  
San Jose, California

Results:

10 yrs and under:

- 1st. M. Uto.
- 2nd. M. Cabral
- 3rd: T. Ito
- 3rd. Y. Mizushima

11-13yrs:

- 1st. R. Choi
- 2nd. K. Kobayashi
- 3rd. A. Kim
- 3rd. A. Minamitani

14-17yrs:

- 1st. R. Eguchi
- 2nd. K. Yokota.
- 3rd. M. Kim
- 3rd. A. Eitoku

Seniors:

- 1st. T. Shoraku
- 2nd. M. Koga
- 3rd. G.Nishiura
- 3rd. M. Shikai

Women:

- 1st. S. Tamura
- 2nd. S. Mikuni
- 3rd. E. Anderson
- 3rd. M. Cabral

Adult Kyu:

- 1st. D. Chesterton
- 2nd. V. Kii

**15 May 2007**  
**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**

Page eight

**REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:**

[continued]

*49th North-South Kendo Tournament*

Sunday, April 1st, 2007

San Jose, California

Results: [continued]

Adult Kyu [continued]

3rd. M. Hayashi

3rd. Y. Maekawa

1-2 Dan:

1st. T. Hori

2nd. T. Shima

3rd. E. Kim

3rd. K. Umeda

3-4 Dan

1st. R. Tominaga

2nd. A. Okuma

3rd. J. Brown

3rd. S. Yoo

5-Dan above

1st. B. Harada

2nd. Y. Onitsuka

3rd. J. Eitoku

3rd. Y. Hosokawa

Youth Team: SCKF

Women's Team: SCKF

Kodansha Team: NCKF

Yudansha Team: SCKF

Kantosho:

Youth: K. Nakazawa

Women: A. Aono

Senior: D. Hatakeyama

Adult: V. Lee

Yudansha: C. Inada

3. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation.

Report submitted by Jeffrey Marsten.

*PNKF: North American Women's Inv.*

*Kendo Championship.*

Saturday, July 21st, 2007

Renton, Community Center

Renton, Washington

In 1973, Omoto Sensei took part in the

This event will be a team tournament followed by an individual competition.

All participants must be 16 years of age or older.

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per person.

For further information contact:

Jeffrey Marsten

616 SW 135th St.

Burien, WA. 98146

Tel. (206) 246-2239

E-mail: [jmarsten@comcast.net](mailto:jmarsten@comcast.net)

4. Southern California Kendo Federation.

Report submitted by Jamie Inouye.

*31st SCKF Individual Kendo*

*Championships.*

Sunday, June 24th, 2007

Wilson Park

Torrance, California

For further information contact:

Jamie Inouye

E-mail: [jamiereinouye@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamiereinouye@sbcglobal.net)

5. Southeastern United States Kendo Federation.

Report submitted by Ken Strawn.

The SEUSKF NEWS Winter, 2006 Volume 9, Number 2 was reported to be the LAST printed issue.

All future issues will be posted on the official South Eastern United States Kendo Federation website located at:

<http://www.seuskf.org>

**IAIDO NEWS:**

[See Highlights of April 14 & 15, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting: Old Business: G. 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp]

**AUSKF WEBSITE:**

Report submitted by Jean Kodama , AUSKF Webmaster.

AUSKF website is located at:

**[html://www.auskf.info](http://www.auskf.info)**.

Please send any changes in dojo address, contact person, etc., to::

Jean Kodama, AUSKF Webmaster :

E-Mail: [webmaster@auskf.org](mailto:webmaster@auskf.org)

**OTHER KENDO RELATED NEWS/INFORMATION:**

**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 six:

**KENDO IS AWARENESS**

*"Be cool--don't anticipate."*

The first Washington State Kendo Tournament was held in the early 1970's, before the Washington State Kendo Federation was even organized. The Tournament was actually originally conceived as the first University of Washington Tournament, and was in fact held on the campus, though it grew into the concept of a statewide event. For the event, Tacoma Buddhist Temple Kendo Club invited the Canadian kendo clubs and Obukan Club from Portland. The Japanese Consul Generals from Seattle and Portland and the Canadian Consul General attended this Tournament.

In 1972, Omoto Sensei was elected to the Board of Directors of the Kendo Federation of the USA which had been formed by Mori Torao Sensei and of which Mori Sensei had been President until his death in 1969.



Page nine

**OTHER KENDO RELATED**  
**NEWS/INFORMATION:**

**GUEST AUTHOR:** [continued]  
2nd World Kendo Championship in Los Angeles.

In 1974, Omoto Sensei, together with Yasui Sensei, Dr. Mohri, and Kurose Sensei among others, formed the Washington State Kendo Federation (currently known as the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation), with Omoto Sensei being the Founding Charter President when the official papers were filed in 1975.

Members from Tacoma and Seattle exhibited Kendo at the Expo '74 World's Fair in Spokane. The summer weather was very hot, but the participants endured, with Tanabe Masao Sensei and Omoto Sensei demonstrating Kendo Kata using live blades, since there were no habiki available to them at that time.

**KENDO IS SCIENCE**

*One day a student was keikoing with Omoto Sensei and suddenly said, "I made a mistake." Omoto Sensei immediately took down his shinai and said, "Don't say 'I made a mistake.' Say, 'I did it that way. Now I know what happens when I do it that way. Next time I'll try a different way.'" After practice, he continued on this theme, "Who do you believe more than yourself? If you always tell yourself you made a mistake, you'll program yourself to be a person who makes mistakes. Give yourself credit! You know you are sincerely trying your best. Be objective. Be cool. Be positive."*

Next Omoto Sensei decided to extend Kendo to an academic audience. He had an involvement in teaching Japanese language, literature, and culture in several schools, including Pacific Lutheran University, Pierce College, Tacoma Community College, Charles Wright Academy, and Ford and Keithley Middle School. He began writing essays on Kendo in such journals as *Sempo* and

*Furyu* and for the Hawai'i Kendo Kenkyukai, and in about 1990 began teaching Kendo as a formal classroom subject in the program of Japanese language and culture at Tacoma Community College. The Kendo course was very exciting. He based the curriculum on *A Book of Five Rings* by Miyamoto Musashi, and related each of the five sections to the Nippon Kendo Kata. The "Ground Book" he related to Kata Number 1, the "Water Book" to Kata 1 and 2, the "Fire Book" to Kata 2, 3, and 4, the "Wind Book" to Kata 4 and 5, and the "Void Book" to Kata 5 and 6.

In his lectures, Omoto Sensei conveyed much fascinating lore transmitted directly to him from Ono Soichiro Sensei, Ogawa Kinnosuke Sensei, Miyazaki Mosaburo Sensei, Tsuzaki Kenkei Sensei, Sato Chuzo Sensei, Kurozumi Ryushiro Sensei, Wakabayashi Shinji Sensei, Sato Toyonosuke Sensei, and Shido Taisuke Sensei, among others.

**KENDO AND IAI ARE ONE**

*"Iaido - that's the original! Then comes Kendo Kata... one step away from the original. Lastly there's Shinai Kendo, the furthest removed from shinken shobu."*

*"The UWKC is doing Kendo first, followed by Iaido and Kata. That's excellent, just so the theory portion, which is the Iaido and Kata are done. There might be a reason for this sequence: like, see, you do Shinai Kendo this way, but let's relate Iaido to what we just did, or the Kata. What kind of waza from Iaido or Kata that we use in Shinai Kendo are effective? Just a stimulation of thought."*

In his writings and discourses relating the Kendo Kata with *A Book of Five Rings*, Omoto Sensei stresses the concepts of Sen ("before") and Relationship, explaining that Sen is a state of mind creating a relationship with the opponent before any physical action takes place. The term Sen figures prominently in *A Book of Five Rings*, and Omoto Sensei analyses the ten Kendo Kata and categorizes them in terms of Miyamoto Musashi's three kinds of Sen.

The key to all of them, according to Omoto Sensei, is the Relationship one actively creates, allowing one have the Sen to win by a slight margin no matter what the opponent does. Relationship is based upon one feeling the opponent's spirit, using a soft gaze, and extending one's sixth sense.

Omoto Sensei asks, "Who creates the relationship and when? If the Teki creates the relationship, I am under his control." He teaches that according to Takano Sasaburo Sensei, the Shitachi is the main character and the Uchitachi has the supporting role. The Shitachi pressures the Uchitachi so that the Uchitachi has to respond to Shitachi's pressure.

Omoto Sensei points out that most of the footwork in present day Kendo is stamping, jumping, kicking, etc., but that the movements in Kata are suri-ashi, all in smooth, gliding ayumi-ashi, or tsumi-ashi, without any abrupt exciting movements. However, because the Kata are a predetermined form, and the Uchitachi is the leader, the Uchitachi must have compassion towards the Shitachi as though saying "Are you ready for the next move?" And because the Shitachi is in a position to pressure the Uchitachi, he would have a bold attitude as if to say, "I am ready anytime you are. Go ahead, make your move and I am with you on the spot."

In Omoto Sensei's analysis of the Kata, he points out that here are two ways to cut: non-blade contact and blade contact. Three of the waza have no blade contact, where our seme is so strong that the Teki freezes, and we simply walk into the Teki and strike. The seme is strong enough that one forces the Teki to make the first move, then uses debana Sen and strikes, or uses nuki waza, and lets the Teki attack first and then make the strike. Kinds of waza using blade contact in the other seven Kata include nayashi, kaeshi, suriage, suri-otoshi, suri-nagasu, and suri-kome waza.

page ten

**OTHER KENDO RELATED**  
**NEWS/INFORMATION:**

**GUEST AUTHOR:** [continued]  
**KENDO AND IAI ARE ONE**  
[continued]

Omoto Sensei notes that in the Kata there are no harai waza, maki-otoshi waza or kiri-otoshi waza. These waza could be interpreted as “The opponent’s sword is in the way and bothering me. Therefore I must first do something with his sword before I execute a waza.” There could be numerous waza with harai, maki-otoshi or kiri-otoshi, like harai-men, harai-kote, etc. However, both harai and maki-otoshi could be a seme having sword contact without datotsu. Therefore, “I must wait for my Teki to respond to my sword contact seme.”

Breath control in relationship is very important. “Can I synchronize my Teki’s breath to my advantage so that I can detect his movement before he makes his move?”

### **KENDO IS SEN**

*“I believe, of course, that there is only one Sen to remember. If I create the relationship, then I am in control; if I am in control, I can create any one of the three Sen. If I am in control, I can win. So, practice Kata to learn relationship, to create Sen, to apply to Shinai Kendo, and win.”*

Omoto Sensei teaches that Sen and relationship are very effectively learned by practicing the Kendo Kata continually, and studying them deeply. At the ultimate level of understanding, the Uchitachi supports the Shitachi so totally and with such compassion that the two become “Itchi” or one and in harmony. According to Omoto Sensei, Iai is an extension of this using a live blade in harmony with an invisible Teki/Sensei.

For over twenty years the present author travelled from Seattle down to Tacoma every week to practice with Omoto Sensei. Omoto Sensei’s preferred curriculum for every practice was first Iai, then Kendo Kata, and then Shinai

Kendo. Every student was required to do all three, and Omoto Sensei would give some kind of lesson out of the Iai or Kendo Kata that he wanted to bring out in the Shinai Kendo keiko that evening. At the end of keiko, he would reiterate the particular lesson from Iai or Kendo Kata that we were supposed to have been gaining.

The author had not been training very long when one day he happened to say to Omoto Sensei that he liked Iai because it was more meditative and not as aggressive as Shinai Kendo. “Hm! Not as aggressive!?” Well, actually, it’s just the opposite,” Omoto Sensei replied. He then went on to explain that in Shinai Kendo, the decision to fight has already been made, and the swords are out, whereas Iai studies the crucial transition from a peaceful situation to an understanding that one is under attack, and the decision to defend against the attack.

In 1999, a colleague opened an Iai class at Everett Community College north of Seattle and asked the author if he would help with this class. At first it was not a conflict, but later the college switched the evening to the same one as Tacoma practice. At that time, the author consulted with Omoto Sensei about the conflict, and was urged in the strongest terms to go and help Everett with their program. Omoto Sensei expressed great satisfaction that Iai was being propagated, and wanted to give it his highest priority.

[The final concluding segment: Part seven, will be continued in next issue; the reader’s patience in following this very interesting interview and article about Omoto sensei, over the past several issues is appreciated]

**Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about December, 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, California 93720

**15 May 2007**  
**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**