

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

Vol. 11 No. 1
January 1, 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008!!!

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 2008!!!

Greetings to all members and their families of the All United States Kendo Federation {"AUSKF"}; I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and happy holiday season.

As I reflect on the various AUSKF events and activities held in 2007; I believe that in addition to other achievements, the AUSKF has made much progress towards achieving one of the goals that I set early at the start of my term of office: this was to increase the AUSKF membership. To achieve this goal has required careful review of the past AUSKF policies and procedures; and where needed, updating has been recommended and approved by the 2006-2008 AUSKF board of directors.

Now, as we prepare for a new year in 2008; I hope that the AUSKF will warmly welcome the new members and work harmoniously together to provide support and assistance when needed.

Concurrently with the AUSKF efforts to increase its membership; I have been working closely with Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition and the competition committee members, to prepare and schedule the several events that will lead up to the selection of the 2009 14th WKC-Team USA members.

The 1st Tryouts to begin the selection process for the 2009 14th WKC-Team USA was completed in October/November 2007 and took place in two separate venues which was

divided into a Western and Eastern Region.

Now, planning is taking place to finalize the details for the 2nd Tryout event to take place on March 2, 2008 in Long Beach, California.

This will be followed by the 2008 AUSKF Championships to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 3-5, 2008.

Please extend your congratulations and support to the 2009 14th WKC-Team USA Manager: Charlie Tanaka 7 Dan, Kyoshi; Men's Team Coach: Yuji Onitsuka 6 Dan, Renshi; and, Women's Team Coach: Spencer Hosokawa 6 Dan.

I am looking forward to another very busy and productive year of AUSKF events and activities in 2008; your support and encouragement to continue building upon the combined past and present efforts to develop a world class kendo federation is appreciated.

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..

Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year 2008!!!

Sincerely,

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President
3041 S. Bristol
Santa Ana, CA. 92704
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Reported by AUSKF Executive VP
Norman K. Otani

[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 10 & 11, 2007, 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.

A report was submitted by committee chairman Norman K. Otani and committee member Walter Hashimoto, indicating that significant research had been undertaken and completed of various organization mission statements.

It was the committee recommendation that the following AUSKF Mission Statement be approved:

“Kendo is a martial art that fosters the building of physical, mental, spiritual and moral values through diligent, persistent, disciplined practice done with courtesy and respect.

“In addition, the goal of the All United States Kendo Federation is to develop a social and humanistic consciousness that will enhance the values of family, community, society, and our nation.”

The AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved the above Mission Statement.

B. 13th WKC-Team U.S.A Results: Press Release and DVD of 13th WKC Match Between Team U.S.A. and Japan to Major U.S.A. Newspaper & Television Sports Editors [update]..

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP previously 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-Taipai, Taiwan, and also using this occasion as a means to promote kendo in

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the United States.

An update was provided as to the progress of this project; it was reported that Chris Yang had recently received approval from Kendo Nippon to edit the 13th WKC DVD and as long as credit was given to Kendo Nippon, an edited copy of the Kendo Nippon DVD which features only the team match between Team USA and Japan, was approved to be made by AUSKF, and distributed as previously proposed.

The AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved the previously described proposal noted above.

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C. AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Cards.

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Card, Chairperson, reported that he has distributed the 2007 AUSKF ID cards to each AUSKF Member Federation.

All AUSKF member federations and their members are requested to use the individual AUSKF ID number when submitting requests for a menjo certificate, applications to participate in the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, and other AUSKF events.

D. 2007 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education reported that the 2007 AUSKF Summer Camp was successfully held on June 29th - July 1st, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Guest AJKF instructors were:
Hideo Kobayashi, 8th Dan Hanshi
Yoshiyuki Ohta, 8th Dan Kyoshi

A total of 163 participants attended the 2007 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp; including 29 individuals that had NOT paid the 2007 AUSKF membership dues. It was recommended that a policy be implemented beginning with the 2008 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, requiring 11, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle, Washington:

that all participants must submit their AUSKF ID card number with their application, and if the individual has NOT paid their 2007 AUSKF membership dues, then this fee must be paid to be eligible to participate in the 2008 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp [Note: The annual AUSKF membership fee not only supports the AUSKF programs, but also provides liability insurance coverage for each member].

It was also mentioned by one of the AUSKF board of directors, that the AUSKF conducts a promotion examination in conjunction with the annual AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp; during this process several AUSKF kodansha kendo instructors in attendance for the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp are generally requested to be promotion examination examiners. It was suggested that those kodansha kendo instructors requested to serve as examiners for the AUSKF promotion examination, be reimbursed for any additional hotel expense incurred. This matter was recommended to be reviewed by the AUSKF Promotion Examination Committee for further followup action if needed.

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E 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman presented a written report prepared by the hosting event chairman, Steven Sasaki, for the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp which was successfully held on July 26th through July 29th, 2007, at the Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Guest AJKF instructors were:
Masahiro Yamazaki, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi
Tomoharu Ito, Iaido 8 Dan Kyoshi.

A total of 93 participants attended the 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

A question was raised by Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, as to the use of the two AJKF iaido sensei to conduct the

E 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.
[continued]

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AUSKF iaido promotion examinations.

Takeshi Yamaguchi explained that after the AUSKF received special permission from the AJKF Iaido section chairman/ Uyeno sensei to use the two AJKF iaido sensei to conduct the 6 Dan AUSKF promotion examination; then, Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotions and Examinations authorized this procedure.

Atsushi Hori agreed that as long as the AUSKF VP-Promotions and Examinations approved the above described use of the two AJKF iaido sensei for the AUSKF Iaido 6 Dan promotion examination; this was an acceptable procedure. However, in the future, it was recommended that the AUSKF President be notified of this type of special permission received from the AJKF in this type of unusual situation, as a matter of protocol.

A separate letter dated 9/30/07 from Steven Sasaki addressed to the Officers and Board Members of the AUSKF was reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors. After a brief discussion, it appeared that there was a general misunderstanding regarding the current AUSKF financial policy and procedure as to how the financial bills can be paid for the AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp. Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President explained that the AUSKF treasurer must receive authorization from the AUSKF Iaido committee chairman or authorized iaido committee member, to make a payment or to provide advance funding for the payment of budgeted expenses for the hosting dojo/member federation of the AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

One additional matter was brought up by Takeshi Yamaguchi; this was an individual bill submitted by Dennis Ralutin for payment of expenditures as the designated 2007 AUSKF Iaido Taikai coordinator and 2007 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp Assistant. As the AUSKF Iaido Committee approved the expenditures of Dennis Ralutin as described; this bill was authorized to be paid by the AUSKF Treasurer.

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

Masashi Shikai provided a copy of the Waiver of Liability form [prepared by Yuriko Shikai, Esq.]; Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP, explained that this was previously recommended to be implemented by the current AUSKF liability insurance carrier. After review by the AUSKF board of directors; the Waiver of Liability form was unanimously approved for use by the AUSKF dojos/member federations.

Copies of the approved Waiver of Liability form will be provided to all AUSKF dojos/member federations; to be completed by each AUSKF individual member and kept on file with each AUSKF dojo.

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

G. 2007 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition, reported that the AUSKF Shimpan Seminars conducted in 2007 to date were satisfactory.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President explained that because the role of the AUSKF shimpan is very important for each dojo/member federations/AUSKF, there must be an ongoing discussion and review of how to improve the AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminar programs, where needed.

Masashi Shikai emphasized that after an AUSKF dojo kendo instructor attends a **11, 2007, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle,**

shimpan seminar, this person must practice the shimpan lessons taught on a regular basis, at every possible opportunity.

In addition, both Masashi Shikai and Shozo Kato agreed that even though many AUSKF kendo instructors attend the AUSKF regional shimpan seminars, there are many instances when these same AUSKF kendo instructors who are the shimpan at a kendo tournament, do not acknowledge a yuko datotsu in a kendo match; this is possibly due to not having sufficient kendo practice and training in using a kendo technique that was done by the kendoist in the match being judged.

Atsushi Hori acknowledged that the discussion on this topic could continue for an extended period of time due to the many different viewpoints on this very important topic; however, due to the limited meeting time, it was recommended that further review should be made by the AUSKF competition committee members. Also any suggestions by the other AUSKF board of directors or other AUSKF member federations, etc., can be forwarded to Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition.

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

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP requested that the AUSKF board of directors review the Western Kendo Federation/AUSKF Member Association Committee Report letter summarizing the status of the Western Kendo Federation application to become the 15th AUSKF Member Federation.

The Western Kendo Federation [formerly: Korean Kumdo Association, U.S.A.] application to become a New Member Association was received by Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President effective 6/15/07; however, due to a technical

Washington:

H. Korean Kumdo Association, U.S.A.:

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Proposal To Join AUSKF. [continued]

problem with the name of the new member association, the applicant was requested to review the concern. Subsequently, the Western Kendo Federation [hereafter "WKF"] made the suggested change in name.

Pursuant to AUSKF PPG 4.00.00 through 4.06.00, Atsushi Hori selected the AUSKF Member Association Committee members: Norman K. Otani/Chairman, Yoshiteru Tagawa, and Koki Ariga to review the WKF application; the committee recommended to accept the WKF Application to become a New Member Association. Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President followed this recommendation and set June 15, 2007 as the effective date of the one (1) year qualification period, which will be completed on June 16, 2008.

A separate related matter was then reviewed: Letter dated 9/30/07, from Curtis Martsten/PNKF President and James Yamasaki/SCKF President, titled: "Position Paper on Western Kendo Federation Application," was sent to the AUSKF Board of Directors and AUSKF Membership["AUSKF member federations"].

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP presented a "draft" reply letter to the "Position Paper on Western Kendo Federation Application," from Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President.

Following discussion and review of the proposed "draft" reply letter from Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President; it was decided by the AUSKF board of directors that Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP will update the "draft" reply letter with the various points brought out in the discussion. If there are no further suggested changes to the reply letter from Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, following review by the AUSKF board of directors; the final draft of the reply letter will be sent to Mr. Curtis Marsten, Mr. James Yamasaki, and AUSKF board of directors with a cc copy to the other
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AUSKF member federations.

The additional discussion and review conducted by the AUSKF board of directors regarding the five (5) points outlined in the 9/30/07 letter titled: "Position Paper on Western Kendo Federation Application," and related matters are noted as follows:

1. Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President and Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition both raised the concern that the current AUSKF PPG 4.00 through 4.06.00 is ambiguous as to exactly when a new member association applicant, such as the WKF, are eligible to receive the benefits of a AUSKF member federation, e.g. liability insurance coverage, participation in AUSKF events and programs both as individual kendoists and as a federation.

2. Masashi Shikai agreed that new member applicants such as the WKF should be eligible to receive the benefits of a AUSKF member federation, as noted in #1 above, at the time that the application is accepted; however, during the one-year review period, the AUSKF can still deny the applicant the final approval as a AUSKF member federation if the minimum requirements of having 5 dojos and 100 members, and compliance with other AUSKF kendo standards are not maintained.

3. Shozo Kato commented that the new members of the WKF will need to also receive education as to the AUSKF kendo standards that must be accepted and developed as a new member federation of the AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori agreed that the AUSKF must provide its strong support and assistance to the members of WKF, by providing the education needed regarding the AUSKF standards of kendo terminology, etc.; this is one of the areas that the AUSKF must follow through with, as its responsibility to assist new member associations, such as WKF.

In regards to the viewpoints noted in #1 & #2 above; these areas of concern
11, 2007, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle,

reflected the need for further clarification of the AUSKF PPG 4.00.00 through 4.06.00; Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP, agreed to review the noted concerns and prepare a proposed update of AUSKF PPG 4.00.00 through 4.06.00 for consideration at the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April, 2008.

Also, as there were some additional inquiries made by Yoshinobu Yonekawa and Shozo Kato; a suggestion was made by Shozo Kato that it would be helpful to invite Mr. Peter Kim, WKF President and Mr. Bruce Partlow, WKF Acting VP to the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April, 2008, to both have an opportunity to meet with them and to be able to receive first-hand information as to any additional questions or concerns regarding the WKF, prior to the completion of the one (1) year qualification period. Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP and the AUSKF board of directors agreed that this was a very good suggestion, and this invitation will be extended to Mr. Peter Kim and Mr. Bruce Partlow.

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I. Proposed New AUSKF Tournament Every 3-Years.

Atsushi Hori reported that the feasibility of the previous proposal to have a New AUSKF Tournament Every 3-Years, was reviewed by the appointed committee consisting of: Charlie Tanaka/Chairman, and committee members: Yoshiteru Tagawa, Masaharu Makino, Chris Yang, and Spencer Hosokawa.

It was the recommendation of the reviewing committee group noted above, that due to the fiscal costs and other requirements to have a New AUSKF Tournament Every 3-Years, this was not a practical concept to continue pursuing. Based on this recommendation, no further efforts will be made as to this matter.

Washington:

J. AUSKF Mentor Program.

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Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that since the approval of the update to the AUSKF PPG 10.00.00 through 10.06.01 at the 4/15/07 AUSKF board of directors meeting; there have been two requests for mentor assistance.

Both of the dojo representatives requesting mentor assistance have been provided the updated AUSKF PPG 10.00.00 through 10.06.01, and their respective AUSKF member federation presidents have been notified.

After the proposals are recommended for approval by the respective AUSKF member federation presidents; then, the proposal is reviewed by Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President for final approval and recommendation to Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education, to assign the mentors for each of the proposals.

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K. 2008 AUSKF Championships: Las Vegas, Nevada: July 3,4, 5, 2008.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition provided an updated report on the location/venue, hotel accommodations, and tournament program for the 2008 AUSKF Championships as follows:

Location/Venue:

Canyon Springs High School
350 E. Alexander Rd.
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89032

Hotel:

Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel
3400 Paradise Rd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169
\$109/night room rate.

Tournament Program:

Day One:

Jr. Youth Individual-Male & Female.
Jr. Youth Team-Male & Female.
Sr. Youth Individual-Male.
Sr. Youth Team-Male.
Women's Adult Mudansha Individual.

Day Two:

Men's Adult-Mudansha Individual.

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Men's Individual.

Women's Individual.

Senior Individual-Qualifications: 50 years or older/3-Dan & up.

Day Three:

Men's Team.

Women's Team.

Also, it was reported that the 2008 AUSKF Championships will be conducted in four (4) courts; a total of about 48 volunteers [12 per court] will be requested from the SCKO, SCKF, NCKF and CCKF to provide assistance with timekeeping, scorekeeping, and other shiai sho duties. The tournament coordinators have not been selected as of this date.

In addition, it was reported that a Program Booklet Committee has been selected, and information will be sent to each AUSKF member federation requesting advertisements, etc.

Entry Forms and other details will also be sent out to each of the AUSKF member federations.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President inquired about the planning for transportation from the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel to the Canyon Springs High School for the participants, etc.; Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition indicated that this matter will need to be reviewed and a report will be made at a later date.

It was also noted by Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, that the 2008 AUSKF Championships is one of the most important events for the national kendo federation; as such, the participation of ALL of the 17-AUSKF board of directors at the 2008 AUSKF Championships was recommended to provide additional supporting assistance where needed [Note: Koki Ariga will make a list of the areas where supporting assistance is needed].

As the AUSKF board of directors agreed with the comments of Atsushi Hori noted above; a motion was passed to provide **11, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle, Washington:**

financial support to each of the 17-AUSKF board of directors for a maximum of \$800.00 to cover round-trip transportation and hotel expenses.

Discussion was then held about the awards/medals for the 2008 AUSKF Championships. One suggestion was to have a large quantity made, e.g. 3000 for a lower cost of \$3.00 per medal [Note: About 128 medals are needed for each AUSKF Championship event]; however, this idea did not seem feasible due to several concerns. Alternatively, it was mentioned that the previous awards/medals made cost \$20.00 per medal; or, in the past a donation was received from a donor for the cost of the medals. The final decision as to how to make the awards/medals will be recommended by the Competition committee.

The next discussion was held regarding the making of a 2008 AUSKF Championships t-shirt and tenegui; due to the past experience regarding the AUSKF making of t-shirts to sell at the 2005 AUSKF Championships which was not successful, a suggestion was made to have the t-shirts made by Eguchi and ebogu and sold at their vendor location, and the tenegui [1000] to be sold to AUSKF at cost, and any additional tenegui can be sold at their vendor location.

The suggested designs for the t-shirt and tenegui was to have the kanji for Ken and Kokoro with the English words for same, as the two options; with the words: 2008 AUSKF Championships.

Brief discussion was held and agreement reached that due to the format changes; the AUSKF PPG sections for Goodwill Matches need to be deleted; and the Men & Women Adult Mu Dan Individual Matches need to be added.

Lastly, it was agreed that there will not be a Kodansha Shinsa following the 2008 AUSKF Championships event.

L. 2007 Foreign Kendo Leader Summer Seminar.

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Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that the AUSKF participants attending the 2007 Foreign Kendo Leader Summer Seminar were:

MKF: Yutaro Matsuura
NCKF: George Nishiura

It was reported that both AUSKF participants were very appreciative to have the excellent kendo training experience.

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M. 2007 Disney Martial Arts Festival- Orlando, FL

Shinobu Maeda reported that the October 27, 2007 AUSKF Kendo Demonstration was successfully held at the 2007 Disney Martial Arts Festival; the group leader was Philip Panteloukas and five(5) kenshi assisted him.

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N. 14th WKC-Sao Paolo, Brazil.-Team USA [Update].

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President requested nominations for the selection of the 14th WKC-Team USA Manager; Charlie Tanaka was nominated, and there being no other nominations, was unaimously approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

The recommendations by Charlie Tanaka for the 14th WKC-Team USA: Men's Team Coach=Yuji Onitsuka, and Women's Team Coach=Spencer Hosokawa, were unanimously approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

Masashi Shikai requested that the AUSKF consider utilizing Mr. Attila Nemeti as the 14th WKC-Team USA Trainer for purposes of building up the physical conditioning of the Team USA members.

Atsushi Hori reported that the dates of the 14th WKC [pending FIK approval] is August 28, 29 & 30, 2009 in Sao Paolo, Brazil.

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The AUSKF previous approved financial support of \$30,000.00 for the 14th WKC will be made available for disbursement when the formal request is made to the AUSKF.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition reported that the 14th WKC-Team USA 1st Tryouts was completed in October/November 2007, at two venues which was divided into a Western and Eastern Region. .

Charlie Tanaka, 14th WKC-Team USA Manager recommended that the 2nd Tryouts be held on Sunday, March 2, 2008, in the Los Angeles area. **A change in the format beginning with the 2nd Tryouts, to select the 14th WKC-Team USA was proposed;** in lieu of having a Final Selection Elimination event, at the 14th WKC-Team USA: 2nd Tryouts: Men's Team: 15 finalists and 5 will be selected by the 14th WKC -Team USA manager and men's team coach; and, Women's Team: 10-finalists and 5 will be selected by the 14th WKC-Team USA manager and women's team coach.

Following the completion of the 14th WKC-Team USA: 2nd Tryouts, there will be kyoka renshu practices with both the 14th WKC-Team USA-Men's and Women's 2nd Tryouts finalists/selected individuals, for several weeks [weekends] up until May 2008. At the end of the kyoka renshu practice process; the 14th WKC-Team USA manager and coaches will select the 8-9 members of the Men's Team and 8-9 members of the Women's Team.

A financial stipend of \$200 per kyoka renshu practice, is recommended to be paid to each of the 14th WKC-Team USA 2nd Tryouts men's/women's finalists/selected for those who have to travel from out of town, to participate in the kyoka renshu practices.

The above change in the format for the 14th WKC Team USA-2nd Tryouts was reviewed and approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

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Charlie Tanaka also stated that another suggestion he recommends is to include 2-3 men/women kendoists who show potential to become future Team USA competitors, and to bring them to the WKC venues to observe the world class level of competition that takes place.

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II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Budget-Finance/Treasurer's Report. Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Treasurer, submitted a treasurer's report as of 10/31/07 showing a balance of \$624, 195.44.

Due to a previously approved change of the AUSKF financial report to be done on a calendar year; the AUSKF Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/07, will not be available until the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April 2008.

2. Competition Committee.

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition, reported that there was discussion about the 2008 AUSKF Championships: Demonstrations of Kendo Kata, Iaido and Kobudo are being considered; this is pending the approval of the AJKF sending two sensei, and a possible kobudo group attending on a volunteer basis from Japan.

The proposed Entry fee for the 2008 AUSKF Championships is \$50.00 per participant.

Other 2008 AUSKF Championships matters such as the budget, etc., will be worked on in the next few months, and proposed for approval at the April 2008 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

3. Promotion Committee.

Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotions and Examinations reported that the previously approved program to review the AUSKF Member Federations Promotion Examinations Grading Procedures will require full cooperation

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Meeting, Seattle, Washington:

3. Promotion Committee. [continued]
of each AUSKF Member Federation.

An e-mail request will be sent to each of the AUSKF Member Federations to provide the dates of the 2008 Member Federation Promotion Examinations.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President inquired if the AUSKF has provided the AUSKF Promotion Examination Grading Criteria information to each of the AUSKF Member Federations; the reply was that this is in the process of being distributed to each AUSKF Member Federation at the time of the AUSKF reviews of the member federations promotion examinations. Currently, AUSKF has an FIK document: Criteria for Awarding Dan Grades, and another document: Guidelines for Assessing Pass or Fail in Promotion Examinations.

As Ichiro Murakami had a limited number of the above noted documents; Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, requested the following AUSKF board of directors: Takeshi Yamaguchi, Shozo Kato, Shinobu Maeda, and Koki Ariga to review the documents prior to the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April 2008, for further review and discussion.

Atsushi Hori advised that the AUSKF will need to develop its own: "**AUSKF Promotion Examination Grading Criteria for Dan and Kyu Manual**," prior to implementing the review of the AUSKF Member Federation Promotion Examinations to standardize the grading process.

Ichiro Murakami also reported that the previous discussion regarding the request for kendo instructors attending the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp to serve as examiners for the AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa was reviewed; the committee members proposed that these instructors be reimbursed for any extra hotel expense incurred and for a bento.

] This matter will be reviewed for followup action at the April 2008 AUSKF board of
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directors meeting.

4. Education Committee:
Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education reported that the 2007 AUSKF Education Tour Schedule has been finalized to include: Seattle, San Jose, Denver, and Los Angeles.

Discussion was held regarding the AUSKF Education Tour's limited schedule available for weekend days during the tour; this matter is to be referred to the Education Committee for further review.

Furukawa Kazuo sensei, 8 Dan [53 yrs old], from Hokkaido, Japan was invited to be the Head Instructor of the 2007 AUSKF Education Tour; which will begin in Seattle, Washington on Sunday, November 11, 2007.

Also, it was reported that the AUSKF has accepted an invitation to have a 2008 Kendo Exchange Tour in Taraki (Kumamoto) City, Japan for Jr. High & High School [14yrs-17yrs of age] students. This is an 8-day tour from August 4 through August 11, 2008.

A separate letter will be sent by Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education, to each AUSKF member federation to submit applications for review and selection of 15-youth and 2-chaperones.

As the selected 15-youth and 2-chaperones will be representing the AUSKF; a proposal for \$3,000 financial support was requested to cover expenses for an official flag, gifts, etc. This requested amount was approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

In addition, it was reported that there is a new recommendation being discussed with the AUSKF to invite the 2007 AJKF Champion to provide an education seminar for 10-days in 2008; this would be a separate program from the 2008 AUSKF Education Tour.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, indicated that the planning of the above
Highlights from the November 10 &

described new education tour should consider a rotation of which AUSKF member federation location is visited on the weekend part of the schedule; as this new education seminar is still pending AJKF approval, further information will be provided as an update to this matter at a later date.

5. Iaido Committee.
Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman reported that the mentor request from James Atkins has been approved for implementation; Shozo Kato will select 3-instructors to provide the requested iaido seminar/promotion examination.

The mentor request from Harry Dach for a kendo and iaido seminar has been approved for implementation; the recommended instructor is Shozo Kato.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP requested that the Iaido Committee prepare a list of the AUSKF iaido dojos, the affiliated AUSKF member federation, and a contact person name/contact information. Takeshi Yamaguchi and Shozo Kato agreed to prepare and provide this requested information as requested by the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April 2008.

6. Development Committee:
Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported on the following programs:

A. AUSKF Newsletter.
There was one issue published on May 15, 2007: Vol. 10 No.2.

B. AUSKF Archives, Hall of Fame, and Oral History Project.
Individual oral history projects are in progress; currently reviewing copyright laws, etc., to determine the feasibility of posting this information on the AUSKF website.
Plan is to expand the committee members to assist in moving these projects further forward.

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Meeting, Seattle, Washington:

C. AUSKF Website.

Jean Kodama, AUSKF Webmaster reports that plans will be put into place in the near future to make the website more user friendly.

Due to non-profit status of the AUSKF, a recent request to have a link to a commercial bogu supplier's website was denied by the AUSKF board of directors.

D. 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].

E 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; a followup update will be made in the near future.

6. AUSKF Office & Part-time Staff Person.

Ichiro Murakami reported that the Little Tokyo Recreation Center project has recently started negotiations to finalize the acquisition of the property on which the facility will be built in the near future.

B. Treasurer's Report [previously reported above] & 2008 AUSKF Membership Dues.

Tomoji Kato reported that the 2008 AUSKF Membership Fees will remain at the same amounts: Adult: \$40.00 Youth: \$25 [17 yrs and under].

AUSKF Membership Fee provides membership from January 1-December 31 of each calendar year. The due date for the 2008 AUSKF Membership Fee is: 3/31/08.

Any payment of the AUSKF Membership Fee after 3/31/08, continues to be at the same amounts noted above, and covers from the date paid to the end of the calendar year.

-
C. FIK Anti-Doping Committee Proposal for AUSKF.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that there will be a Third World Conference on Doping in Sport on November 15-17, 2007 which was planning to consider revision of the World Anti-Doping Code [”Code”]. Due to their being a “draft” revised Code being presented for approval; this matter was requested to be tabled for AUSKF review until the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in April 2008.

D. Review Regulation for Kyu Promotional Examination.

Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotions and Regulations requested approval of proposed change to: Section II. Regulation for kyu promotional examination. Article 4. ***The kyu promotional examination shall be conducted by 4 Dan and above with 5 examiners.***

As there is currently no FIK [IKF] regulations for kyu promotional examinations; the above noted change to the Section II, Article 4, was unanimously approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

E. Proposed AUSKF Membership Dues PPG 1.00.00 [Update].

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that the update of AUSKF Membership Dues, PPG 1.00.00, was needed due to the misunderstandings that AUSKF has experienced over the past several years, in regards to the issue of AUSKF dojos and AUSKF member federations needing to process the receipt of payment of AUSKF membership fees, on a timely basis, to ensure AUSKF liability insurance coverage, eligibility for participation in the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, etc.

The clarifications made in the updated AUSKF Membership Dues PPG 1.00.00 are summarized below:

1.01.01 Effective date of annual

AUSKF membership fee is from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

1.01.02 Collection of annual AUSKF membership fee after March 31 in each calendar year is effective from that date until December 31 of the calendar year paid, regardless of the month of collection.

1.01.02.01 Each dojo that collects the AUSKF membership fee after March 31, must submit the individual(s) AUSKF membership fee(s) to their AUSKF member federation within one month after receipt by the dojo.

1.01.02.02 Each AUSKF member federation must submit the AUSKF membership fees received from their dojo(s) after March 31 of each calendar year, to the AUSKF Treasurer, within one month after receipt from their dojo(s).

The above AUSKF Membership Dues PPG 1.00.00 [update] was unanimously approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

F. 2008 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar: March 29 & 30, 2008-Sao Paolo, Brazil.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President reported that pending formal FIK approval and announcement, information has been received that the 2008 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar will be held on March 29 & 30, 2008 in Sao Paolo, Brazil.

As soon as the FIK issues the formal announcement as to the above noted matter, the AUSKF will send a communication to each AUSKF member federation, to submit the applications for interested AUSKF kendo instructors that meet the eligibility criteria.

The FIK has encouraged the AUSKF to send twenty kendo instructors 6-Dan and above, to the 2008 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar, if possible.

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Highlights from the November 10 & 11, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle, Washington:

F. 2008 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar: March 29 & 30, 2008-Sao Paolo, Brazil. [continued].

The current estimated round-trip air fare from New York to Sao Paolo is about \$1,500; in addition, the participants will need to pay for their own hotel accommodations.

A suggestion was made to provide a financial stipend of \$400 to support the eligible AUSKF kendo instructors who attend the 2008 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar; after discussion of the importance to have as many AUSKF kendo instructors attend this referee seminar as possible, the AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved the proposed financial stipend noted above.

G. 2008 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education reported that the 2008 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp will be held on August 29, 30 & 31, 2008 in either Santa Clara/San Jose, California.

The details, e.g. amount of application fee, etc., will be finalized by the next AUSKF board of directors meeting.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President suggested that the Education Committee review the past topics covered at the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp; if there are other suggested topics that would be beneficial to the participants, this information should be provided to the Education committee members: Yoshiteru Tagawa/Chairman, Masaharu Makino, Yuji Onitsuka and Shinobu Maeda.

H. 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman reported that the 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be held on June 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2008 at the Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr,

Pennsylvania [near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].

The hosting dojo of the 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be the Japanese Swordsmanship Society Dojo, John Prough, President; this dojo is in the Eastern Kendo Federation.

The tentative budget proposed for the 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is \$20,000.

I. Review "Regional Member Federation"
RE: AUSKF : By-laws, PPG, & Promotion Regulations.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP explained that at the previous AUSKF board of directors meeting, it was pointed out that since the AUSKF by-laws and PPG have been amended to remove the limitation of geographical boundaries in the formation of AUSKF member federations, there is no longer a need to continue to use the term: Regional Member Federation. The correct term is: Member Federation.

The AUSKF board of directors unanimously approved to delete the term: Regional Member Federation from the AUSKF by-laws, PPG, and Promotion Regulations documents.

J. Set Record Date for 2009-2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Election:
Suggested Date: 4/15/08.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that the recommended Record Date for the AUSKF Board of Directors Election be set as: 4/15/08; this would allow a limited period of time for a late submission of the 2008 AUSKF Membership Fees by an AUSKF Member Federation.

The AUSKF board of directors unanimously agreed to set April 15, 2008, as the Record Date to be used for the 2009-2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Election Process.

K. AUSKF Menjo Logo Review. Ichiro Murakami, AUSKF VP-Promotions & Examinations reported that the All Japan Kendo Federation ["AJKF"] has lodged a request that the AUSKF change its current logo on the Menjo Certificates issued.

The current AUSKF Menjo Certificate logo was "borrowed" from the Dai Nihon Renmei logo [AJKF Registered Trademark] and historically was being used by the AUSKF without any concerns. However, as the AJKF has requested that the current AUSKF Menjo Certificate logo be changed, a "new logo" for the AUSKF Menjo Certificate is needed.

There was some discussion that the AUSKF Japanese Language Menjo may be too difficult to continue issuance by the AUSKF; the current AUSKF Japanese Language Menjo is prepared solely by one individual, Morihei Henmi, who cannot do this work indefinitely.

Also, as it is anticipated that in the near future, some of the new AUSKF members may want to have their name written in the Korean language writing or another similar type of request; this will result in administrative implementation problems.

Therefore, it was suggested that this may now be the best opportunity to make an AUSKF policy decision to issue the AUSKF Menjo Certificates in the English Language Only.

Suggestions for the "new AUSKF logo" for the AUSKF Menjo Certificates, were:
1.) To have the current AUSKF Logo used on the official letterhead stationary, in the "gold color."

2.) Upon review of the the current English language wording on the AUSKF Menjo Certificates, it was suggested that this needs to be updated to reflect similar terminology/stronger English language wording similar to the current wording of the AUSKF Japanese language menjo certificates.

As there are several suggested designs for

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the "new AUSKF logo," e.g. American Page ten

Highlights from the November 10 & 11, 2007 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Seattle, Washington:

K. AUSKF Menjo Logo Review.
[continued]

AUSKF Menjo Certificate, etc., it was decided by the AUSKF board of directors to have an Open Design Contest for the "NEW: AUSKF Menjo Certificate," that includes the criteria suggested above: 1.) Current AUSKF Letterhead Logo in the gold color; 2.) Update the English language terminology on the menjo; 3.) Consider different ways to use the American Flag as a theme for the menjo certificate.

DEADLINE DUE DATE: 3/15/08, for the Open Design Contest: "New AUSKF Menjo Certificate." To be submitted to:

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

The various designs submitted will be reviewed for approval at the April 2008 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

Also, it was decided that the person who submits the selected design for the New AUSKF Menjo Certificate, will receive an appreciation gift, and those submitting designs should understand that the copyrights for any selected design will belong to the AUSKF.

L. Disneyland Martial Arts Festival/Anaheim, California: 2/16/08.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive VP reported that the Disneyland Martial Arts Festival/Anaheim, California, to be held on February 16, 2008, is requested to be supported by the AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President suggested a change in the demonstration format to an AUSKF Iaido Demonstration: including about 3-iaidoka. Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman, agreed to accept the responsibility to organize this

Flag set into the background of the AUSKF Iaido Demonstration for the 2/16/08 Disneyland Martial Arts Festival.

M. Spring, 2008 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting.

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, requested suggestions for the location of the Spring, 2008 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting: April 12 & 13, 2008.

It was suggested and approved to have the April 12 & 13, 2008 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting in Detroit, Michigan.

N. Other:

(1.) All Japan Kendo Federation: On-Line Shop was recently announced to be open.

Anyone can buy the books, videos or DVDS published by AJKF through the internet at the following website:

www.kendo-fik.org/english-page/english-top-page.html

Payment method for orders from foreign countries can now be made by credit cards only and the goods are sent by EMS (express international post) only as it is traceable.

It was suggested that the above information can be placed on the AUSKF Website.

(2.) Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President, indicated that at this time, due to the past conservative fiscal policies of the current and immediate past-AUSKF president, there is a sufficient financial reserve now available, so that if there are some ideas to have new AUSKF programs that will benefit the AUSKF general membership, these ideas should be submitted for consideration to the AUSKF board of directors.

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

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

On September 2, 2007, the Central California Kendo Federation hosted the 2007 All California Open Kendo Tournament held at the California State University, Fresno; the results are as follows:

13yrs old and under:

1st - Haruka Komiyama [SCKF]
2nd- Hasoi Oh [SCKF]
3rd- Mkota Konopka [NCKF]
3rd- Akira Minamithani [SCKF]
Kantoshō: Aimi Shibata [SCKF]

14-17rs old:

1st- Adam Eitoku [NCKF]
2nd- Shintaro Takahashi [SCKO]
3rd- Hiroyuki Ogikubo [SCKO]
3rd- Daniel Dim [SCKF]
Kantoshō: Hansoi Oh [SCKF]

Women's:

1st- Reika Mikuni [NCKF]
2nd- Sumi Domen [SCKF]
3rd- Naomi Nishimoto [NCKF]
3rd- Ryoko Sato [SCKO]
Kantoshō: Emi Anderson [SCKF]

Adult Kyu:

1st- Christopher Han [SCKF]
2nd- Joshua Paursen [SCKF]
3rd- Daniel Van Beek [NCKF]
3rd- H. Ito [NCKF]
Kantoshō: Moto Hayashi [NCKF]

1 dan-3 dan:

1st- R. Kitagaito [SCKO]
2nd- M. Fukuno [SCKO]
3rd- Yoshijiro Kariya [SCKF]
3rd- J. Brown [SCKF]
Kantoshō: Sammy Kim [NCKF]

4 dan and above:

1st- Shuntaro Shinada [SCKF]
2nd- Hayato Okawa [SCKO]
3rd- Kevin Huh [SCKF]
3rd- Kohjiro Kinno [SCKF]
Kantoshō: Alan Phelps [NCKF]

Senior:

1st- J. Park [SCKF]
2nd- Masami Yamaguchi [NCKF]
3rd- Hatakeyama [NCKF]
3rd- Ken Ching [NCKF]
Kantoshō: George Sakazaki

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Team:

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REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

[continued]

2. Midwest Kendo Federation.

Report submitted by Les Wilson and Yoshiteru Tagawa.

2007 MWKF Tournament Results

Jr. Youth:

1st - Mei Arai [DKD]

2nd- Jack Ponchart [UM]

3rd- Ayaka Hanaki [DKD]

Aoi Suzuki [DKD]

Fighting Spirit: Momoka Suzuki [DKD]

Sr. Youth:

1st- Daisuki Tanabe [DKD]

2nd- Susunu Iiyoshi [Moline KC]

3rd- Alex Hendricks [Minnehaha KC]

Satoshi Yamauchi [DKD]

Fighting Spirit: Mikuni Mishina [DKD]

Women's:

1st- Toshimi Yoshida [Boston KC]

2nd- Ayako Kobayashi [Choyokan KD]

3rd- Shiho Miyamoto [Chicago KD]

Satoi Takasaki [Choyokan KD]

Fighting Spirit Peggy Ho [Choyokan KD]

Mudansha:

1st- Terumune Tagawa [DKD]

2nd- Brian Berry [UIUC KC]

3rd- Daniel Chang [UIUC KC]

Leo Kim [Choyokan KD]

Fighting Spirit: Aaron Hernandez

[Minnehaha KC]

1dan-2dan:

1st- Travis Hill [BCKK]

2nd- Kenichi Okada [Choyokan KD]

3rd- Harley Roberts [Toronto KC]

Atsushi Kurita [DKD]

Fighting Spirit: Bo-kyu Kim [PKC]

3dan & up:

1st- Keiishiro Narumoto [Minnehaha KC]

2nd- Ryota Takahashi [DKD]

3rd- Hajime Sugawara [CIKC]

Daniel Joo [Moline KC]

Fighting Spirit: Keisuki Hori [CKD]

Team:

1st- Detroit

2nd- Chicago Kendo A

3rd- Battle Creek A

Chicago Kendo B

1st: NCKF

10th Annual Detroit Open Kendo

Seminar & Tournament: February 16 & 2008

Saturday: 2/16/08:4pm-8pm

Seminar and Practice with 2007 All Japan Kendo Champion Shoji Teramoto 6 Dan.

Sunday: 2/17/08: 8am-6pm

Tournament Divisions:

Mudansha Jr. Youth [11yrs and under]

Mudansha Sr. Youth [12-15yrs]

Mudansha Adult [16yrs and up]

Women's

1-Dan

2-Dan

3-Dan

4-Dan and up.

Team

For more information contact:

Yoshiteru Tagawa, Detroit Kendo Dojo
e-mail: detroitkendodojo@hotmail.com

3. Northern California Kendo Federation.

Please refer to the NCKF website:

www.nckf.org

-

4. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation.

Please refer to PNKF's *Kenyu* online at:

http://www.kendo-

pnkf.org/news/kenyu.phtml

-

5. Southern California Kendo Federation
["SCKF"].

Report submitted by Jamie Inouye.

Three members of the SCKF passed their
5-Dan test at the AUSKF Kodansha
Shinsa on November 11, 2007:

Judy Abe [Chuo Dojo]

Emi Anderson [Sho-Tokyo]

Shuntaro Shinada [Sho-Tokyo]

For more SCKF information contact:

Jamie Inouye

E-mail: jamieinouye@sbcglobal.net

-

6. Southern California Kendo
Organization ["SCKO"].

2nd: SCKF

Report submitted by Masaharu Makino.

The newly elected 2008 SCKO President
is Masaharu Makino.

IN MEMORIAM:

AKUNE, SABURO sensei, 7 Dan

Kyoshi, passed away September 13, 2007
at the age of 81 yrs old.

Akune sensei is remembered as a great
supporter of kendo and had dedicated
many years of his life to help the All
United States Kendo Federation in the
beginning years of its development and
up until about two years ago prior to his
passing away, when he became ill.

-

6. Southeastern United States Kendo
Federation.

Report submitted by Mike Watson.

2007 SEUSKF Championship

On 10/6/07, the 2007 SEUSKF
Championships was held at Berkmar
High School in Lilburn, Georgia; hosted
by the Georgia Kendo Alliance, the
results are as follows:

Youth [A] Division:

1st- Richard fYoon [IKK]

2nd- Jinu Kim [IKK]

3rd- Keichi Iguchi [GJLS]

William Thornton-Leonard

[Memphis]

Youth [B] Division:

1st- Masumi Kamimura [Memphis]

2nd- Kevin Lee [IKK]

3rd- Michael Park [IKK]

Hayato Desouza [GKA]

Youth [C] Division:

1st- Yuki Desouza [GKA]

2nd- Wataru Ishii [UK]

3rd- Daniel Park [IKK]

Andrew Lee [IKK]

Women Division:

1st- Satomi Kitabayashi [Charlotte]

2nd- Yoshimi Desouza [GKA]

3rd- Yatsuki Hoang [Koryo]

Ryoko Barr [GKA]

Mudansha Division:

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1st- Andrew Lee [IKK]
2nd- Jeong Kang [IKK]

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REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

6. Southeastern United States Kendo Federation [continued].

2007 SEUSKF Championship [Results]

Senior Division:

1st- Shinobu Maeda [Summerlin]
2nd- Jin-Kee Hyun [Knoxville]
3rd- Phuong Hoang [Koryo]
Spencer Wong [NYC]

1dan-2dan:

1st- Jason Lane [Charlotte]
2nd- Haru Koike [S.FL]
3rd- Shigatoshi Eda [Knoxville]
Stephen Kang [GKA]

3dan & above:

1st- Tomoya Tanaka [GKA]
2nd- Jin-Kee Hyun [Knoxville]
3rd- Sakae Imai [Nashville]
Ryoko Barr [GKA]

Team:

1st- GKA [A]
2nd- Charlotte [A]
3rd- Memphis [A]
NYC

For more SEUSKF news, please refer to the website located at:

<http://www.seuskf.org>

7. Southwest Kendo & Iaido Federation [“SWKIF”].

Report submitted by Steven Sasaki.

Newly elected SWKIF officers on 10/19/07, as follows:

Steven Sasaki - President
Mark Uchida - Executive VP
Russell Ichimura - VP-Education
Mark Porter - VP-Promotions
Charlie Howell - Treasurer
Joe Hrdy - Secretary
Howard Fuerst - Historian

AUSKF WEBSITE:

Report submitted by Jean Kodama ,
AUSKF Webmaster.

All this was long AFTER the incident on October 16, 1982, when he broke his

3rd- Jonathan Oliver [GKA]
Peter Park [GKA]

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

Jean Kodama, AUSKF Webmaster :

E-Mail: 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.

[Note: This is the final concluding segment: Part seven]

Part seven::

KENDO IS RELATIONSHIP

“Kendo is two people. Your brainwave has to synchronize with your partner’s on the other end, and with breath control you will be itchi.”

One day a lady visited the Tacoma Dojo a few minutes before practice began, bringing along a small boy. The lady said, “I’d like my son to learn Kendo.” Omoto Sensei replied, “I’m sorry, we don’t accept children whose mothers want them to do Kendo.” Then he asked the boy, “Are you interested in learning Kendo?” The boy nodded and said “Yes.” “Fine, then. You’ll be very welcome to study Kendo here.”

KENDO IS ENDLESS STUDY

“And also, a never-ending studious Kenshi who always try to increase Kendo knowledge through such phrase like: ‘Sun Shi To Ho’ that I mentioned last Monday night. This is my interpretation on Chiba Shusaku Sensei’s phrase “Sun Shi To Ho.”

‘Sun’= One inch. (pronounced soon, cut short, not like sun or moon, which is a bit

achilles tendon during a demonstration match with All-Japan champion Ogawa

longer than our inch). ‘Shi’=Stop. ‘To’=Sword. ‘Ho’=Style, method, law. In another words, the way to stop my sword one inch from the target. However, what I explained and demonstrated was to let the sword stop, not ME trying to stop the sword. This requires many years of ‘Suburi’ practice. It is not clobbering force and trying to brake the sword to stop at one inch before the target. The demonstration was to stop one inch before the target, right on the target, finally one inch below the target, and the “Teki” is dead. Not he or she, the ‘Teki’ (no gender).”

On Saturday, June 10, 2000, Omoto Sensei participated in a 12 km run. He wrote that “it sprinkled about three times and even had sun coming out during the run. According to the morning Tacoma News/Tribune, there were 12,000 runners. The runner who came in first place was Eric Tollefson of Tacoma, 36 minutes 42 seconds. A lady, Joanne Templemann of Tacoma came in 45 minutes 44 seconds. I thought I would be the last one in, but there were quite a few more behind me. I came at 2 hours 24 minutes 14 seconds. I stopped and took about 16 pictures along the way. Not bad for an 81 year old. And I don’t have any sore legs or anything. I think I’ll continue to participate in the annual event, the Sound to Narrows funrun. I ran the first one 28 years ago.” Shortly after that, he left for Hawai’i to attend the Mililani Taikai and practice in various Dojo there.

One day a visitor remarked to the author, “Oh, is that your Kendo teacher? I know him...he jogs past my house every morning.”

In July of 2000, Omoto Sensei was travelling to Palouse to visit his daughter Charlotte, and to help, stimulate, and encourage the revival of the Kendo Club at Washington State University.

Isamu. The manner in which he convalesced from the subsequent (pre-

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arthroscopic!) surgery was edifying for all kenshi. "Following doctor's orders IS your Kendo practice," he often told students. He was doing all his rehab assignments religiously...DOUBLE. Yes, the doctor gave him permission to do the Page thirteen

OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:
GUEST AUTHOR: [continued]

entire daily routine two times a day, and as soon as the doctor allowed it, Omoto Sensei was back out on the floor again practicing Kendo allout, wearing the special orthopedic boot he'd had prescribed. And soon after that, well, you'd never know he'd ever had any kind of surgery.

For an extended period in the late 1980's Omoto Sensei took a leave of absence to care for and devote himself entirely to the wonderful lady from Kure House, his beautiful wife Mildred, who was in the terminal stages of cancer. Following her passing in April 1990, and after a year of mourning, he reappeared in the Dojo, more awesome than ever.

One Sunday the present author went as usual to Seattle practice, and noticed Omoto Sensei sitting in the spectators' gallery. Omoto Sensei waved the author over, and introduced him to the journalist Bill Escoubas, who was showing Omoto Sensei the draft of an interview he'd written up for the "Compass" magazine section of the *Tacoma News Tribune*. "Please tell Bill about my religion of Kendo," Omoto Sensei said. The two of them were bent over the typescript. Just then, out came Omoto Sensei's ballpoint pen, and he struck out the phrase "Kendo will take a lifetime to learn, and you still won't get it!"...silencing the classic voice of Omoto Sensei in those obviously verbatim words which Bill Escoubas had faithfully transcribed in the earlier interview. Omoto Sensei smiled sheepishly..."I want to encourage, not discourage." The true and authentic words of Omoto Sensei on how long it takes to master Kendo did not appear in the final form of the April 24, 1983 issue, but were permanently engraved in this author's heart.

Now, in August of 2003, though he claims to have "retired" from Kendo, and become nothing but a "Kendo dummy" for students to hit with their shinai, the reality is that in addition to regular Tacoma practice, Omoto Sensei still usually shows up at the Sunday afternoon open keiko at Seattle Kendo Kai, where he stands beside old friends Yasui Sensei and Cuendet Sensei, and where anyone can get in line with him and practice with a living transmission from Ogawa Kinnosuke Sensei and the greats of Busen, one of the very few professionally trained Kendo instructors anywhere in the Western Hemisphere, Rod Nobuto Omoto.

KENDO IS HUMILITY

"I'm not even a 'Has been.' I just want to disappear quietly from this planet."

[Final Note: By a very nice coincidence, the All United States Kendo Federation Board of Directors were warmly greeted at the godokeiko recently held in the Seattle, Washington area on November 10, 2007, by the humble gentleman, Rod Nobuto Omoto Sensei. In addition, to this special opportunity to be in the same kendo practice with Omoto sensei; there was an additional opportunity to share a dinner meal with both him and his old kendo friend from Seattle, Yasui Sensei, that evening. It goes without saying that this one moment in one's kendo lifetime, to be able to be with Rod Nobuto Omoto Sensei, for even this brief period of time, will be an unforgettable experience. Especially, after having just read this seven part series about this special kendo person that has made a major contribution to the development of kendo in the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation area over the past forty plus years. We look forward to hopefully have another opportunity to visit and be at another kendo practice with this wonderful kendo leader; but if it is not meant to be, then this one opportunity will be treasured for all of the special memories it has provided of Rod Nobuto Omoto Sensei, and this has made our appreciation of the many kendo lessons he has shared throughout his lifetime, even more meaningful, as a result of this one news

article about his contributions made in regards to teaching kendo, that has just concluded]

Special thanks are again extended to the author, Tom Bolling, for his kind and generous permission to reprint his original article written for Kendo Nippon and featured in the November-December, 2004 Issue.

AUSKF NEWSLETTER
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