

# AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

2009-2011

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*Shinichi Koike*

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*\*Yuji Onitsuka*

**VP-EDUCATION:**

*Yoshiteru Tagawa*

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\* = non-elected 2009-2011

*AUSKF director*

**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT:**

Report submitted by Arthur I. Murakami.

To the members and families of the All United States Kendo Federation [hereafter, "AUSKF"]; I am happy to report that with the help and cooperation of the AUSKF officers and board of directors, we have been working very hard to develop and implement a progressive agenda that is aimed to move the AUSKF further forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will hopefully serve to maintain the AUSKF's status as a world class national kendo federation.

One of the "new" progressive ideas that was recommended by Yuji Onitsuka, AUSKF VP-Competition and the AUSKF Competition Committee, then recently approved by the AUSKF board of directors is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual AUSKF Junior Open National Championships to be held on July 25, 2010 in San Jose, California.

Yuji Onitsuka was the 14<sup>th</sup> WKC Team USA-Men's Team coach and together with his prior experiences as a Team USA men's team member, is a fine example of one of the younger AUSKF kenshi who has started to get involved in the national kendo activities and is helping to move us forward with the proposed 1<sup>st</sup> Annual AUSKF Junior Open National Championships.

I would like to thank Yuji and the AUSKF Competition Committee members and the many younger kenshi assistants from

throughout the AUSKF for helping and working together to make this "new" progressive idea of the 1<sup>st</sup> AUSKF Junior Open National Championships possible.

Although not a new idea; plans are now underway to finalize the details of the 2011 AUSKF National Championships, proposed to be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Some additional "new" ideas that have recently been introduced by Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Education, include the invitation of the All Japan Kendo Federation [hereafter, "AJKF"] National Champion to come to the United States each year after becoming the AJKF national champion at the annual event held in Japan.

Also, for the first time, there was a 2010 All Japan Junior High School Kendo Overseas Training Tour that took place on March 20-28, 2010 at several venues in the United States. This was a wonderful opportunity for the AUSKF younger kenshi to practice with the younger kenshi from Japan; through this experience, they were able to learn more about the training needed to compete with this level of world class kendo individuals.

I hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming 2010 AUSKF Kendo and Iaido Summer Camps; some additional training experiences are planned to improve the participants kendo and iaido skills.

Lastly, it has been announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> WKC scheduled for 2012, will be held in Novara, Italy.

Sincerely,  
Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President

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**Highlights from the April 10 & 11, 2010 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando, Florida.:**

Report by Norman K. Otani, Esq.

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*[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 10 & 11, 2010, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification; in addition, per agreement by the AUSKF Newsletter Editor and the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors; beginning with the Volume 12 No. 2 edition of the AUSKF Newsletter, the Highlights Column will no longer cite to specific speakers, in response to concerns that previous reported matters resulted in allegations of slander and/or libel to affected individuals.*

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I. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of the November 7 & 8, 2009 AUSKF board of directors meeting were not available for review; this matter was tabled.

A. Promotional DVD for 14<sup>th</sup> WKC

[Final Report]. Due to the poor response to the previously announced selling of the remaining limited supply of the promotional dvd for 14<sup>th</sup> wkc; it was decided that all remaining copies will be evenly distributed to each of the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations.

Also, due to copyright concerns; it was decided that the AUSKF will make no further promotional efforts utilizing the promotional dvd for 14<sup>th</sup> wkc.

B. AUSKF Liability Insurance Policy

[update]. It was reported that the AUSKF Liability Insurance policy was renewed effective 4/1/10; AUSKF dojos or AUSKF member federations needing liability insurance coverage certificates, should allow two (2) weeks advance notice to the AUSKF Liability Insurance

coordinator: Mark Uchida.

Regarding liability insurance coverage for AUSKF directors and officers; this matter was tabled.

Regarding liability insurance coverage for non-AUSKF members attending AUSKF member federation events; non-U.S. residents [Note: This means Hawaii kendoists are okay; however, kendoists from Canada cannot be covered unless they have U.S. resident status] cannot be covered. However, the only benefit for the non-AUSKF member, if interested, would be the secondary medical insurance coverage provided at a additional cost of \$2.50 for a 1-day event or \$2.75 for a 2-day event [Note: The AUSKF member federation hosting the event needs to determine how to pay for this rider].

Regarding the inquiry about whether or not AUSKF should consider changing the current liability insurance carrier; after discussion, the biggest concern was that the current medical coverage portion was not very good. It was agreed that the AUSKF members should be informed that the current AUSKF liability insurance policy does not provide primary medical insurance coverage, and was not intended to do so when originally purchased by AUSKF.

C. AUSKF Tenegui [update]. It was reported that the AUSKF tenegui is still available for sale at the price of \$7; a minimum order of ten (10) or more by the AUSKF member federation is required.

Orders should be sent with the payment by the AUSKF member federations to Arthur I. Murakami.

The matter of a AUSKF lapel pin was discussed; due to lack of interest this topic will be no longer be placed on the agenda.

D. 14<sup>th</sup> WKC-FIK Directors & General Assembly meeting minutes. This matter

was reviewed at the request of the AUSKF Anti-Doping Committee- Administrative DCO, to determine what exactly was decided regarding the FIK Anti-Doping program.

Copies of the 2009 FIK Board of Directors Meeting and General Assembly were provided and reviewed; the specific area of concern was reported in the Minutes of the General Assembly, under the topic of "Revising FIK Anti-Doping Rules," stated in relevant part: ..."New FIK Anti-Doping rules were approved, and became effective as of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Sato SG requested that all Kendo players and Affiliated Kendo organizations should understand "New FIK Anti-Doping Rules" which were already up loaded on the FIK website.

After discussion of the above information by the AUSKF board of directors, there were many inquiries as to what steps the AUSKF needs to take at this time. It was agreed that an AUSKF anti-doping program policy will need to be developed after further review by both the AUSKF administration and the AUSKF ADC.

E. 2008 AJKF Champion Education Tour.

It was reported that the 2008 AJKF Champion Kenji Shodai visited and successfully conducted kendo seminars in Santa Clara, Seattle, Houston, and Los Angeles; this unique education tour took place from November 15-23, 2009.

F. Spring 2010 AUSKF Education Tour.

It was reported that two kendo instructors from Japan: Toru Kamei from Kumamoto, Japan and Shinji Funatsu from Osaka, Japan have been invited by the AUSKF to conduct the Spring 2010 AUSKF Education Tour.

Beginning in the middle of February 2010; the above named two kendo sensei from Japan will travel to Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta and New York to conduct AUSKF kendo seminars.

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**Highlights from the April 10 & 11, 2010 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando, Florida:**

I. OLD BUSINESS: [continued]

G. 2010 All Japan Jr. High School Kendo Overseas Training Tour. It was reported that for the first time, a kendo group from Japan led by Tadanori Ota, 8 Dan Hanshi, specifically included Japanese Jr. High School kendo champions to visit several AUSKF venues to provide a unique opportunity to practice kendo with these younger kendoists from Japan.

It is hoped that these new experiences will inspire the younger AUSKF kendoists who practice with Japan's Jr. high school champions will gain more insight and understanding about the high level of training that a world class kendoist must have and experience beginning as young as these Jr. high school kendoists from Japan.

H. 2010 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

It was reported that this event will be held on June 9-13, 2010, at the Trinity University campus in San Antonio, Texas.

The AJKF iaido instructors approved to attend the 2010 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp are: Chihiro Kishimoto Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi and Masahiro Yamasaki Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi.

It was also announced that the 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is proposed to be held in Cleveland, Ohio; and the 2012 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is proposed to be held in Seattle, Washington.

I. March 27-28, 2010 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar. It was reported that this event was held in Vancouver, Canada.

The AJKF instructors were: Group leader: Masaharu Kakehashi 8 Dan Hanshi, Osamu Asano 8 Dan Hanshi, and Shigeki Yamanaka 8 Dan Hanshi.

One of the kendo regulations clarified at the 2010 FIK America Zone Referee seminar was that foot supporters can be used by the kendoists if approved by the shimpancho or shimpan shunin at kendo tournaments and in promotion examinations.

J. 2010 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships. It was reported that initial invitation and entry materials were sent to each of the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations with the deadline to submit the names of participants by May 1, 2010. Also, it was reported that many of the 14<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA members and other younger experienced kenshi are involved and assisting the AUSKF Competition committee to conduct this event.

A shimpan seminar will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2010, prior to the 2010 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships that will be held in San Jose, California on Sunday, July 25, 2010.

K. 2010 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp. It was reported that this event will be held in Seattle, Washington on July 2-4, 2010; the deadline to submit the registration applications is June 12, 2010.

It was also reported that in conjunction with this event, there will be a AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa on July 4, 2010.

L. 2010 [GAISF] Sport Accord Combat Games: Beijing, China.

It was reported that this event will take place on September 3-4, 2010; the AUSKF has submitted the names recommended for the different divisions to the FIK administration: Men and Women Individual Matches, and Men and Women Special Invitation.

M. Proposal for AUSKF Jodo Program.

A proposal from Rick Poland was reviewed by the AUSKF board of

directors to develop a Jodo program.

It was agreed to table this matter; and to have the above described proposal reviewed by the AJKF for additional suggestions and recommendations.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 12/31/09 End of Year Financial Report. The 12/31/09 end of year financial report was reviewed and approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

To assist the AUSKF treasurer in determining the coverage of expenses for the recently implemented AJKF Championship event attended by AUSKF officials to present a perpetual trophy from the AUSKF and to invite the AJKF Champion to visit the United States the following year; a clear protocol was recommended. After discussion; it was agreed to provide the AUSKF official attending the annual AJKF Championship event for the purpose described above with full payment for round trip air fare and hotel accommodations.

Also, the AUSKF treasurer suggested that due to recent air fare increases by the airlines, the current maximum \$800.00 paid for AUSKF officers and board of directors to attend the semi-annual meetings, to pay for travel expenses may not be sufficient. It was agreed to table this matter for further review; each of the AUSKF officers and board of directors was requested to confirm their air travel plans for the next AUSKF board of directors meeting, at least 90-days in advance to obtain the lowest possible air fares.

In addition, for those AUSKF officers and board of directors who travel by automobile for AUSKF business matters; it was agreed to increase the mileage reimbursement rate in accordance with the IRS 2010 standard of .50 per mile.

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**Highlights from the April 10 & 11, 2010 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando, Florida:**

II. NEW BUSINESS: [continued]

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B. World Kendo Application for i-phones.  
After review of a e-mail sent to the AUSKF President from a individual who was requesting support from the AUSKF to launch a i-phone application; the AUSKF board of directors unanimously agreed this was not something that the AUSKF should become involved with.

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C. 2010 FIK Foreign Kendo Leader Summer Seminar. It was reported that this event has been cancelled by the FIK, due to having the 2010 Sport Accord Combat Games-Beijing, China, which FIK is supporting.

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D. Fall 2010 AUSKF Board of Director Meeting: November 13 & 14, 2010. The recommended meeting venues in order of preference were: 1. Dallas, Texas. 2. Austin, Texas. 3. Los Angeles, California.

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E. Committee Reports:  
#1. Budget Fianance: (a) Auditor: Document Review Committee. This matter was tabled.

#2. Competition:  
A. 2011 AUSKF Championships. It was reported that there are currently two (2) possible venues requesting to host the 2011 AUSKF Championships: Atlanta, Georgia and Los Angeles, California [SCKF]; however, as the 2008 AUSKF Championships were held on the West Coast of the U.S., the venue on the East Coast of the U.S., is currently being given the most serious consideration.

Proposed rule change to make eligibility requirement of being a AUSKF member for three (3) years to participate in the 2011 AUSKF Championships; this rule would only apply to the Men's Individual, Women's Individual, Men's Team and Women's Team divisions.

B. 2010 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars. It was reported that each AUSKF member federation recently received a letter from the AUSKF VP-Competition requesting to conduct 2010 AUSKF shimpan seminars and to utilize the AUSKF evaluation form.

C. 15<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA Selection Procedure.  
Discussion was held regarding the need to have the 1<sup>st</sup> Tryouts in two (2) separate venues: West Coast and East Coast; proposed date was October-November 2010.

The selection of the 15<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA manager and coaches was tabled.

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#3. Promotion:

A. AUSKF member federation seminars on preparation for taking promotion examinations are still being conducted upon request.

B. AUSKF promotion regulations recommended for update by Document Review Committee; this matter was tabled.

C. AUSKF Kodansha Promotion examination held on April 11, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

D. Review current AUSKF promotion regulation for written questions for kendo ranks 5 dan and above; this matter was tabled.

E. Review AUSKF Promotion Regulation Article 9: Procedure for Promotion Exams Outside of the U.S. It was recommended to post this information on the AUSKF website, as there are many instances when this procedure is not correctly followed.

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#4. Education:

A. Team USA Mentoring Program. The proposed AUSKF PPG for the Team USA Mentoring program will be the same as the proposal previously submitted.

B. 2009 AJKF Champion Education Tour. It was reported that the 2009 AJKF Champion Uchimura sensei conducted seminars for AUSKF venues held in the New York and Boston areas.

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#5. Iaido: No further updates than previously reported.

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#6. Development:

A. Proposal for AUSKF Headquarters Office [update]: It was reported that several venues are being reviewed for locating a suitable site for the AUSKF Headquarters office.

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#6. Development:

A. Proposal for AUSKF Headquarters Office [continued]:  
Also, after discussion, it was made clear that

the financial costs to support having an AUSKF Headquarters office [approximately \$20, 000 per year] are very feasible considering the current financial status of the AUSKF.

The benefits to the AUSKF of putting into place the AUSKF Headquarters Office, is that this will allow the AUSKF to begin addressing the current increasing unmet demands placed on the current 2009-2011 AUSKF officers and board of directors.

In addition, a proposal was made and approved to begin searching for a part-time [20 hours per week] paid AUSKF staff person who meets the following criteria:

1. Bilingual [Japanese and English language.
2. Good computer skills.

B. AUSKF Newsletter. It was reported that this continues to be a semi-annual publication.

C. AUSKF Archives and Oral History Project. No further update.

D. AUSKF Website. It was reported that a notification will be sent to each of the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations outlining the procedures to update dojo information and to report news and events.

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#7. Anti-Doping: It was reported that WADA currently offers 100 free copies of the 2010 Current List of Prohibited Substances and Methods; it was approved to place an order for the AUSKF and distribution will be made to each of the AUSKF member federations, AUSKF officers and board of directors, and ADC members.

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**REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:**

1. Central California Kendo Federation.  
Submitted by Toshio Livingston.

2010 All California Open Kendo Tournament will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2010 in Fresno, California. This tri-annual event will bring together kendoists from the five (5) California AUSKF member federations: CCKF, NCKF, SCKF, SCKO and WKF, for an exciting day of individual and team kendo matches.

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

2. Northern California Kendo Federation.  
Submitted by Court Tanouye and David Nakanishi.

In Memoriam:

Ogawa, Ken sensei passed away on April 1, 2010 in Mt. Shasta, California. Ogawa sensei was the Head Instructor of the San Francisco Kendo Dojo.

3. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation.  
Submitted by Jeff Marsten and Tom Bolling.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, PNKF will hold the 4<sup>th</sup> PNKF North American Women's Kendo Taikai with competitors from not only all around the U.S., but Canada as well; there will be both individual divisions and a women's team tournament. This tournament is held only once every 3 years and will be bringing in special guest instructor Mayumi Katsura (6 D) who will be conducting special women's only seminars during the week preceding the tournament and serving as a guest judge at the tournament as well. Katsura sensei is an accomplished player, earning top spots from junior high through college, All Japan tournaments, and continuing her success on the floor at prefecture and company tournament levels as well. Currently, Katsura sensei lives in Mexico; the tri-lingual instructor will be conducting the seminar with an emphasis on shia and shiai preparation. For more information visit:

<http://www.womenskendo.com>

Additional PNKF Kendo News is available in the *Kenyu*-Monthly Newsletter found online at:

<http://www.kendo-pnkf.org/news/kenyu.php>

4. Southern California Kendo Federation.  
Submitted by Jamie Inouye.

Past Events:

April 24, 2010: SCKF held its Spring Shinsa, held at the Pasadena Buddhist Church. Congratulations to Hideki Imai from Sho Tokyo Kendo Dojo on passing his 4 dan test.

May 23, 2010: SCKF held its Shimpan Seminar at Covina Dojo, many 3 dan and up participated in the seminar. Big thanks to Yuge sensei of Torrance Dojo for conducting this seminar.

Upcoming Events:

June 27, 2010: SCKF Championships will be held in Torrance at the Wilson Park Gym. Last year's winner Katsushi Chinen sensei will be looking to defend his previous year's individual championship trophy.

5. Southern California Kendo Organization.  
Submitted by Hajime Mori.

2010 SCKO Memorial Day Kendo

Tournament. The 14<sup>th</sup> SCKO Memorial Day Kendo Tournament was held on Sunday, May 30, 2010 at the Cerritos Regional Park Gym; results are as follows:

13yrs and under:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Torrance A  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gardena A  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sho Tokyo A  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Il Do A

14-17 yrs:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Il Do B  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gardena A  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Torrance B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Butokuden A

Adult Kyu:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: UCLA A  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gedatsu C

Adult Kyu: [continued]

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: San Diego Kendo Dojo B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: W.L.A A

Yudansha:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Torrance A  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Torrance B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Gedatsu D  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Long Beach C

Editor' Note: It was a very bright moment to see that Masaharu Makino has regained his health after an unexpected hospitalization earlier this year; and was present at the 2010 SCKO Memorial Day Kendo Tournament. Best wishes to him for continued good health.

6. South Eastern United States Kendo Federation. Submitted by Ken Strawn.

News items can be viewed online at:  
[www.seuskf.org](http://www.seuskf.org)

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Ken Strawn for passing his 5 Dan examination at the AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa held on April 11,

2010 in Orlando, Florida.

OTHER KENDO RELATED  
NEWS/INFORMATION:

**GUEST AUTHOR:**

Ken Strawn has given permission for the AUSKF to reprint an article that he wrote for the *SEUSKF NEWS* Volume 10 Issue 1.

Part one:

***Heroes of Kendo***

"I very fortunate." These words were spoken to me by Jiro Sakano Sensei on the last time I saw him.

He was discussing the fact that he was still able to practice Kendo at the age of eighty two. He lived another ten years and while I do not know if he continued to practice for those ten years, I will not be surprised to learn he did. Sakano sensei was a humble man from whom I learned a great deal during my nine years of Kendo training in Northern California Kendo Federation. I was a member of San Jose State University Kendo Club but whenever I visited at Mountain View Dojo, he always welcomed me. I too am very fortunate.

The Charlotte Kendo Club was warming up for our Sunday afternoon practice when a pain developed in my right calf. I sat out practice and it seemed to go away. Arriving at the school where I taught the next morning, I had to walk from my car to the Principal's office to sign in. I barely got there, my leg was hurting so bad. A call to my doctor describing my symptoms produced the following comment: "Don't bother coming in here. Go straight to the emergency room." At the emergency room, they found the culprit. I had a large blood clot in the artery that runs through the calf muscle and several enlarged vessels in the ankle that combined with the clot to cut off the flow of blood to my right foot. My foot was dying due to lack of oxygen. I won't tie you up with long descriptions of the things my doctors tried to save my foot.

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OTHER KENDO RELATED  
NEWS/INFORMATION:[cont'd]

**GUEST AUTHOR:**

Ken Strawn has given permission for the AUSKF to reprint an article that he wrote for the *SEUSKF NEWS* Volume 10 Issue 1.

Part one:

*Heroes of Kendo* [continued]

Suffice it to say they failed. I was not that surprised when they came in and told me that the foot must come off. I was surprised when I woke up and most of my right leg below the knee was gone. They discovered the deadening of the tissue had progressed farther than thought when they opened up my leg. I was left with about three inches below the knee.

I can remember long ago getting into a rather morbid conversation with some Kendo friends after practice. The conversation concerned what we would do if we lost an arm or leg. I figured I could lose an arm and still do Kendo by using Jodan. But lose a leg! No more hiking, climbing, dancing! Life would be over. By the time I actually lost a leg, I had gotten a little older and maybe a little wiser. I had heard of Doctor Gordon Warner, who along with my sensei, Doctor Benjamin Hazard had started a kendo club at the University of California in 1952. Warner sensei had begun Kendo training with the late Torao Mori Sensei prior to World War II and lost a leg at the battle of Bouganville. It was an action for which he was nominated for the Medal of Honor. Following the war and at Mori Sensei's urging, he returned to training in Kendo. A nidan at the time of the founding of the University of California kendo club, he eventually rose to shichi dan while using an artificial leg. His example was an inspiration to me.

[to be continued]

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**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**  
Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

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**Future news items for the next  
issue to be published on or about  
December, 2009, can be submitted to  
my e-mail address:**

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or news items can be sent to:  
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