

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 1
January 23, 2012

KENDO

Very Belated Happy New Year 2012!

2012-2014 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Arthur I. Murakami

EXECUTIVE VP:

Jeff Marsten

VP-PROM & EXAMS:

Yoshiteru Tagawa

VP-COMPETITION:

Tim Yuge

VP-EDUCATION:

Shozo Kato

TREASURER:

Tsuyoshi Inoshita

SEC-HISTORIAN:

Norman K. Otani, Esq.

AUDITOR:

Court Tanouye

RECORDER:

Shinichi Koike

LIABILITY INS.

COORD.

Mark Uchida

IAIDO:

Takeshi Yamaguchi

2012-2014

DIRECTORS:

Christopher Yang, Esq.

Yuji Onitsuka

Shinobu Maeda

Atsushi Hori

Tomoji Kato

Robert Souder

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by Arthur I. Murakami

On behalf of the 2012-2014 newly elected AUSKF board of directors and officers [see list in column 1]; we send Very Belated Happy New Year 2012 greetings to all of the kenshi in the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations.

At the November 12 & 13, 2011, AUSKF board of directors meeting, held in Dallas, Texas; I was honored to be re-elected to serve a second term as the AUSKF President, along with the other officers listed in column one of this page of the AUSKF newsletter.

Please join me in thanking all of the 2009-2011 past AUSKF officers and directors for their dedication to do an outstanding job in each of their respective offices which continued to build upon the momentum of the previous AUSKF officers and directors, who have all worked for the betterment of the AUSKF in maintaining the status achieved as a world class national kendo federation.

The 2012-2014 AUSKF board of directors have agreed to consider a plan proposed to establish a two to three year national calendar of events for both the AUSKF and the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations; the events for the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations is proposed to be primarily listed on the

current AUSKF website where each of the respective AUSKF member federations demographic information is currently listed. After further review of this proposed plan by the AUSKF webmaster and other 2012-2014 AUSKF officers and directors, a specific protocol for submitting information for events, etc., will be announced.

One of the major events on the AUSKF calendar for 2012 is the 15th World Kendo Championships (WKC); which has been confirmed to be held on May 25-27, 2012 in Novara, Italy, at the Novara Sporting Village Gym, and is being hosted by the Confederazione Italiana Kendo (CIK).

The AUSKF 15th WKC-Team USA men's and women's kenshi have been training very hard over the past year, and will continue to do so in preparation for this tri-annual WKC event. I strongly encourage each AUSKF member to continue giving your full support of our 15th WKC Team USA members so that they will be encouraged by the combined energy and spirit of the AUSKF to do their best at the 15th WKC in May 2012.

As the 2012-2014 AUSKF President, I need your help and input as AUSKF members to be able to best serve the needs of all kenshi. Please e-mail me your suggestions and ideas and I will present them to the officers and directors on your behalf.

Sincerely,
Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President
4305 Mountain Shadows Dr.
Whittier, CA. 90601
Tel. (H): (562) 692-4943
e-mail: ichiro_kendo@earthlink.net

Page two

Highlights from the November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Dallas, Texas:

Reported by Norman K. Otani, 2012-2014 AUSKF Board of Director.

[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification]

Election of 2012-2014 AUSKF Officers:

Pursuant to the past business practice; the first order of business was the Election of 2012-2014 AUSKF Officers. After being duly nominated, seconded for nomination, and final vote tally; the following were elected: [see cover page of AUSKF Newsletter, Volume 15 No. 1 page 1, column 1]

The 2012-2014 AUSKF officers and board of directors approved a motion to extend special thanks and recognition to the 2009-2011 AUSKF officers and board of directors for their dedication and service to the AUSKF.

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Japan Earthquake Victims Donation to AJKF Update. It was reported that the AUSKF sent a \$10,000 donation to the AJKF for the Japan Earthquake Victims. The AJKF Newsletter *Kenso*, recognized that the AUSKF made the above referenced donation which was 790,000 yen with the exchange rate at that time.

B. AUSKF Liability Insurance Policy[Update].

(1.) The previously approved additional liability insurance coverage for the eighteen (18) AUSKF board of directors and officers at a cost of \$50 per individual director and officer, is pending a followup completion of the application form by the AUSKF President.

(2.) It was reported that in 2011 a New York dojo tournament required a separate rider to be issued for an additional \$2million liability insurance coverage. The AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator will review the current AUSKF Liability Insurance coverage to determine if an increase in the current coverage limits is needed.

(3.) The AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator requests that all AUSKF member

federations and their respective dojos to please submit in advance; especially, if the event or tournament dates are known, to submit as much as 6-months to 1-year prior to the event or tournament, the, **Requests for Liability Insurance Certificates of Coverage of AUSKF events or tournaments**

(4.) REMINDER: Each AUSKF member federation, on behalf of their respective dojos; will be requested to sign a statement that each AUSKF dojo member has a signed WAIVER and RELEASE form on file.

C. AUSKF Tenegui [Update].

It was reported that the current inventory of: 3,042 AUSKF tenegui is available for sale.

The cost is \$7.00 per tenegui, and a minimum order of ten (10) tenegui is required to cover the cost of shipping.

Orders are made by sending the payment for the AUSKF tenegui order to: Arthur I. Murakami [see address on cover page].

In addition, the 15th WKC-Team USA senshu was approved to be given 15 AUSKF tenegui each, to use as gifts; and the coach, managers, and shimpan will be given 10 AUSKF tenegui, to use as gifts.

D. AUSKF 2011 Summer Education Tour.

It was reported that one of the AJKF instructors: Takashi Futagoishi sensei previously announced to attend this event, had to CANCEL his participation due to his election to be a director on the AJKF board of directors, and was required to attend a AJKF special meeting. As a result, the 2011 AUSKF Summer Education tour was conducted by Kojiro Migita sensei, 8 dan Kyoshi.

The kendoists from Seattle, Washington, who hosted Migita sensei, for this part of the 2011 AUSKF Summer Education tour; reported that Migita sensei did a very good job of presenting an interesting and beneficial kendo seminar.

E. 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp. It was reported that there were over 130 participants at the 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp held on June 9-13, 2011, at the MAC Center Annex gym on the campus of Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

The 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp was led by two instructors from the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei [ZNKR], Iaido Section: Chihiro Kishimoto sensei, 8 dan Hanshi Iaido, and Masahiro Yamasaki 8 dan Hanshi Iaido.

The Iaido camp consisted of two days of seminars, the AUSKF 2011 National Iaido Taikai and a promotional examination (shinkyu shinsa).

Lastly, it was reported that the 2012 AUSKF Iaido Camp is tentatively scheduled for June 20-25, 2012 on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington and will be hosted and organized by the Tacoma Kendo and Iaido Club of the PNKF.

F. Jodo Seminar at 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp and Update.

It was reported that the AUSKF Iaido Committee conducted two half days of a Jodo Workshop on the afternoon of Sunday, June 12, 2011, and in the morning of June 13, 2011.

As this was the first AUSKF Jodo Workshop; the purpose was to measure interest, establish contacts, and to develop the groundwork for the future AUSKF Jodo Division.

Chihiro Kishimoto sensei, 7 dan Kyoshi Jodo conducted the workshop; with assistance from Loren Nishimura and Meik Skoss, both 5 dan Jodo.

The AUSKF Iaido Committee is prepared to host the 2nd AUSKF Jodo Workshop in conjunction with the 2012 AUSKF Iaido Camp; pending further information from the AJKF as to approval of instructors.

Page three

Highlights from the November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Dallas, Texas [continued]:

G. AUSKF 2011 Summer Kendo Camp. It was reported that the 2011 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp was very well attended by AUSKF kendoists, which was held on September 2-4, 2011, at the Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale, Virginia.

The summer camp was led by AJKF instructors: Yoshifumi Ishizuka sensei 8 dan Hanshi, and Toru Kamei sensei 8 dan Hanshi.

A special session of the seminar was taught by Ishizuka sensei and Kamei sensei on what the kendoist should know when taking a promotion examination for each of the respective kendo ranks.

H. 2011 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships.

It was reported that although there was an increase in the number of total participants at the 2011 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships; additional support of this event from more of the other fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations not in attendance, was requested.

Discussion held regarding whether there is a financial burden for some AUSKF member federations to send kendoists to the AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships; it was suggested that a Kendo Scholarship Fund be budgeted [e.g. \$10,000] from which designated AUSKF member federations could select a specific number of kendoists to receive a monetary travel stipend to attend the AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships. This matter was referred to the 2012-2014 AUSKF Competition Committee for followup.

The proposed date and location of the 2012 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships is still pending a decision.

I. 2011 AUSKF Championships Report. It was reported that the 2011 AUSKF Championships event held on August 12 & 13, 2011 at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia was successful; special thanks was extended to the volunteers and shimpan for their hard work and efforts which resulted in an efficient

management of the various operational aspects which need to be coordinated and directed throughout the two-days of competition.

It was also reported that the AUSKF Anti-Doping Education Materials Table, was successfully made available at the 2011 AUSKF Championships event, for the distribution of educational materials titled: *At a Glance* brochures, which explain the different aspects of the AUSKF Anti-Doping program currently being implemented as required by the FIK.

The 2012-2014 AUSKF Anti-Doping Committee will be reviewing a proposal to begin an in-competition drug testing program to be implemented at the 2014 AUSKF Championships event.

J. 2011 AJKF Foreign Leaders Summer Seminar [Update].

It was reported that the AJKF approved two (2) AUSKF candidates: Ken Reed, WKF, and Anthony Evan Nava, AEUSKF, to attend the 2011 AJKF Foreign Leader Summer Seminar which was held on July 29-August 5, 2011, at the Gedatsukai Kenshu Center, Kitamoto City, JAPAN.

K. P-P-G 29.00.00 Team USA Giving Back Program.

It was reported that the Team USA Giving Back Program had been approved previously by the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors; however, the implementation P-P-G had never been formally drafted and approved.

After review of the proposed P-P-G 29.00.00 Team USA Giving Back Program, there were a few suggested modifications, which will be submitted in a final draft format for approval at the April 2012 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

L. 15th WKC Event Information Update. It was confirmed that the 15th WKC will be held on May 25-27, 2012 at the Sport Centre in Novara, Italy.

Additional information about the 15th WKC event can be located at the official website: www.15wkc-italy.org

M. A. 15th WKC: Team USA [Update]. It was reported that the transportation costs have increased, since the initial budget was proposed for the 15th WKC-Team USA expenses. Also, it was reported that incidental costs not previously considered, e.g. meals for the senshu during the training time periods was requested to be added to the 15th WKC-Team USA budget.

Based on the above referenced changes in circumstances, an additional amount of \$35,600 was requested and approved for the 15th WKC-Team USA budget.

M. B. Phiten USA-Team USA Sponsor: AUSKF website.

After discussion regarding the request for a small logo/ad space and link space for this sponsor on the AUSKF website; it was decided that approving this request would set a precedent for other business company sponsors of Team USA, and further implications and effect on the AUSKF non-profit status needs to be considered before this type of request can be approved.

N. 2012-2014 AUSKF BOD Election Report.

It was reported that there was one situation involving a request by a AUSKF member federation to "void" a ballot cast by a authorized voting representative, as the recommended vote was not followed. After discussion and review; it was decided that the current AUSKF by-laws voting procedures did not require any amendment, etc.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Select 2012-2014 Standing Committee Chairpersons and members:

1. Budget/Finance/Auditor Committee:
Chairperson: Tsuyoshi Insoshita
Members: Court Tanouye, Tomoji Kato, Robert Souder.

2. Education Committee:
Chairperson: Shozo Kato
Members: Yuji Onitsuka, Chris Yang, Shinobu Maeda.

Page four

Highlights from the November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Dallas, Texas [continued]

A. Select 2012-2014 Standing Committee Chairpersons and members: [continued]

3. Promotion and Examinations Committee:
Chairman: Yoshiteru Tagawa
Members: Shinichi Koike, Shinobu Maeda, Tomoji Kato.

4. Competition Committee:
Chairman: Tim Yuge
Members: Court Tanouye, Robert Souder.
Advisor: Yuji Onitsuka.

5. Iaido Committee:
Chairman: Takeshi Yamaguchi
Members: Shozo Kato, Tatsuhiko Konno, Mark Uchida, Robert Souder.

6. Development Committee:
Chairman: Jeff Marsten
Members: Atsushi Hori, Jean Kodama, David Kodama, Norman Otani.

7. Anti-Doping Committee:
Chairman: Norman Otani
Members: Dr. Sean Shinada, Dr. Steven Roosevelt.

B. Canadian Kendo Federation 100th Year Anniversary Celebration.
At the invitation of the Canadian Kendo Federation ["CKF"] President Hiro Okusa; Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President attended the CKF 100th Year Anniversary event held in Vancouver, Canada on July 1-3, 2011. It was reported that this was a very successful event which held its tri-annual Canada Championships and at the same time, held its 100th year anniversary celebration.

C. Maki Miyahara, 8th Dan Hanshi Decorated with "The Order of the Rising Sun: Gold & Silver Rays."
[see special report under the Regional Member Federation: PNKF: Kenyu. Vol. 25 No. 8, reprinted with permission from editor, Tom Bolling]

D. Committee Meeting Reports:

1. Budget/Finance:

(a.) Discussion was raised about the possibility of the AUSKF seeking funding from the private sector. This matter was referred to the Budget/Finance committee for further discussion and review.

of funding from the private sector; due to what effects this would have on the current AUSKF non-profit organization status; it was suggested to consider the retaining of an outside legal counsel for review of this matter.

(b.) 2009-2011 AUSKF Treasurer Report. AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting Travel Expense; Item #8. Approved change in hotel room to: single or double occupancy upon request.

2. Education:

(a.) February 2012 Education Tour will be held on the East Coast.

(b.) The All Japan Jr. High School Kendo Overseas Training Tour will be held I March 2012.

(c.) Proposed change in AUSKF Education Tour; starting tentative date: Oct/Nov. 2012; 15th WKC: Team USA Education Tour.

3. Promotion:

(a.) Clarification of AUSKF policy regarding eligibility to take AUSKF promotion examinations at both member federation level and national level: Kendoist MUST BE PAID AUSKF member in good standing.

(b.) Clarification of the AUSKF policy to provide examiners to AUSKF member federations for promotion examinations kyu up to 4dan:
1st examiner=AUSKF pays 100% travel costs.
2nd examiner=AUSKF pays 50% travel costs.
3rd examiner=Member Federation pays 100% of the travel costs.

(c.) Clarification of "late" submission of Member Federation promotion exam Request for Menjo. Policy is to submit Request for menjo by Member Federations within 60-days after the promotion examination to: Yoshiteru Tagawa, 2012-2014 VP-AUSKF Promotion Examination.

4. Competition:

(a.) 2012 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships was discussed; there is some question about whether or not this event can be sustained on an annual basis.

(b.) 2012 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars for AUSKF Member Federations.; approximately four (4) times per year with groups of AUSKF Member Federations for each event.

Each shimpan seminar will include two (2) to three (3) instructors, depending on the size of the groups of AUSKF member federations involved.

In consultation with the AUSKF Education Committee; approximately eight (8) instructors will be selected and will be required to participate in a Training for Trainers program, prior to conducting one of the 2012 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars.

The beginning date of the 2012 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars will be after the 15th WKC Championships.

2013 AUSKF Competition events will include: Shimpan seminars, Jr. Open National Championships, and 16th WKC-Team USA Tryouts.

2014 AUSKF Competition events will include: Shimpan seminars, Jr. Open National Championships and National Championships. It was suggested for 2014 only, to combine both the Jr. Open National Championships with the National Championships event.

5. Iaido:

The 2012 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be held in Tacoma, Washington: June 20-24, 2012 at the Pacific Lutheran University.

The 2013 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is proposed to be held in Minnesota; and, if needed Omaha, Nebraska [backup selection].

The 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp is proposed to be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Discussion about needing to upgrade the Iaido Perpetual Trophies and to add a new Team Trophy.

Also, discussion indicated that there is sufficient interest to have continued Jodo workshop combined with the 2012 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

6. Anti-Doping:

A progress report was presented as to the previous approved matters pertaining to the AUSKF Anti-Doping program.

In reference to the discussion about the seeking

Page five

Highlights from the November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Dallas, Texas [continued]

II. New Business:

D. Committee Meeting Reports: [continued]

7. Development:

(a.) Virtual Office Project has identified a need to purchase a laptop computer dedicated to AUSKF business matters, and to purchase hard disk drives as part of the resources needed to begin developing the Virtual Office concepts of collaboration with other AUSKF volunteers to build identified projects e.g. Oral History Project for AUSKF sensei in all fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations, etc.

(b.) AUSKF Newsletter.

To reduce hard copy printing and distribution costs; AUSKF will contact AUSKF member federations to survey interest in receiving an electronic copy of the AUSKF Newsletter, and continue hard copy distribution to AUSKF member federations wanting a hard copy.

(c.) Marketing and Advertising:

Discussion held about contacting a AUSKF member interested in providing ideas for assisting AUSKF member federations to increase membership, etc.

E. Dong Gi Seo: 2011 MWKF Member: Not Paid 2011 AUSKF Member-Request AUSKF Menjo.

After discussion and review; it was decided that if a member federation dojo member did not pay their annual AUSKF membership dues [e.g. in this case 2011 AUSKF membership dues was not paid, at the time, the promotion exam was taken]; then, this member federation dojo member was not eligible to take the promotion examination at that time; therefore, the AUSKF would not be able to issue the requested menjo for Dong Gi Seo.

F. Request to Translate AUSKF webpage to Belorussian language; at no cost to AUSKF except, link to Belorussian blog. After discussion, it was decided that this request will be denied at this time.

G. College/University Kendo Club Policy RE: No Shinai In Dormitory Room Policy. After discussion, it was decided that this request will be denied at this time.

H. Spring, 2012: AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting.. Date: April 14-15, 2012

Location: Suggestion: Washington, D.C., or West Coast area.

After discussion, it was decided that an inquiry will be made to all the AUSKF member federations, and the location to be determined by deadline date: January 30, 2012..

I. 2012 FIK Referee Seminar: January 28 & 29, 2012, in Montreal, Canada.

It was reported that the AUSKF deadline to submit the names of participants is: 11/25/11.

J. Other:

1. Central Latin American Kendo [CLAK] federation kendo tournament and iaido seminar; to be held November 12, 2011 in Mexico City, Mexico.

It was reported that the CLAK officials requested FIK to have two (2) sensei to assist with an iaido seminar. FIK has requested that the AUSKF be contacted to provide the requested assistance. AUSKF has recommended Tatsuhiko Konno and Pam Parker to attend the CLAK event and provide the requested iaido seminar assistance.

2012-2014 AUSKF OFFICERS REPORTS:

#1. Jeff Martsten, AUSKF Executive VP:

THE AUSKF AND YOU

At the November 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; besides electing new officers for the next 3 year term, some very positive actions were proposed to directly benefit the membership. Here is a brief description of those proposals and actions.

The Policy and Procedure Manual has a new section 30.00 The Giving Back Program regarding Team USA members. The current and former members of the U.S. National Kendo Team have developed a Team USA Giving Back Program; the program will consist of the members of Team USA volunteering their time to fly out and offer their specific services a any kendo related events hosted by a AUSKF member federation. Specific team members can be requested to teach, practice or demonstrate at any weekend seminars, camps, joint practices and/or tournaments.

"The Vice President of Competition, Tim Yuge, has proposed forming a group of sensei to give shimpan seminars so that a standardized message will be presented to all of the AUSKF membership. The first step after selecting the

group of instructors will be a "Train the Trainer" class for the teaching team.

The Vice President of Education, Shozo Kato and Vice President of Promotion, Yoshiteru Tagawa have proposed a series of seminars on how to be a shinsa-in (promotion test examiner) which will be given to the membership.

The Executive Vice Presiden, Jeff Marsten, has developed a instruction manual of what is required to host the AUSKF Board of Directors meetings. Part of this package is an application form to be a host. The end plan is to have meetings and kodansha shinsa scheduled for the next 3 year term. In addition, working with the above vice presidents; we are working towards the following How To manuals for hosting the AUSKF tournament and hosting the AUSKF summer camp.

A general calendar for the organization is being looked at as a possible solution to the AUSKF web site. Member federations can submit their tournamnt date as well as shinsa date(s) to help individuals plan travel and vacation as required to participate in activities around the country. This of course will require the member federations to submit their schedules. This will be activities at the federation level not club level activities and the bulk of information will be on the members web site. Also in the works are changes to the AUSKF web site to make it a good resource of information for the membership; but this will require the members to actively submit information.

#2. Tsuyoshi Inoshita, AUSKF Treasurer:

I would like to introduce myself as the new treasurer for AUSKF effective January 2012. I would like to thank Tomoji Kato sensei, who worked diligently and marvelously as the treasurer of the AUSKF in 2005-2011. We owe him greatly for the establishment of the database of the kendo practitioners in the United States and the financial stability of the AUSKF.

Page six

2012-2014 AUSKF OFFICERS REPORTS: [continued]

#2. Tsuyoshi Inoshita, AUSKF Treasurer:
[continued]

I would like to provide you with information
RE: 2012 AUSKF Membership Fee.

1. Membership Fee:

Adult: \$40.00 (18yrs and older)
Youth \$25.00 (17 yrs and under)

2. Due Date: Must be paid by 3/31/12.

3. Payment Address:

Tsuyoshi Inoshita
AUSKF Treasurer
916 11th Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

e-mail: treasurerauskf@gmail.com

2012 AUSKF MEMBER FEDERATIONS REPORTS:

1. All Eastern United States Kendo Federation

President: Noboru Kataoka
e-mail: KataokaKen@earthlink.net

2. Central California Kendo Federation

President: Toshio Livingston
e-mail c/o: norm_otani@auskf.info

3. Eastern United States Kendo Federation

President: Mozart Ishizuka
e-mail: 44524c@gmail.com

4. East Central U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Koki Ariga
e-mail: kariga@fandp.com

5. Greater Northeast U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Tsuyoshi Inoshita
e-mail: pcancer@zoomnet.net

6. Midwest Kendo Federation

President: Steve Voss
e-mail: vossenshu@aol.com

7. Northern California Kendo Federation

President: Court Tanouye
e-mail: ctanouye@hotmail.com

8. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation

President: Curtis Marsten
e-mail: cvmarsten@w-link.net

9. Rocky Mountain Kendo Federation

President: Hideki Iwakabe
e-mail: Hiwakabe@aol.com

10. Southern California Kendo Federation

President: Tim Yuge
e-mail: Yuge.Kendo@gmail.com

11. Southern California Kendo Organization

President: Atsushi Fujimoto
e-mail: president@scko.org

12. South Eastern U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Robert Souder
e-mail: bobsouder@seuskf.org

13. Southern U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Mark Kerstein
e-mail: kersteinlaw@gmail.com

14. Southwest U.S. Kendo Federation

President: Steve Sasaki
e-mail: ssasaki@cox.net

15. Western Kendo Federation

President: Peter Kim
e-mail: peter4989@vahoo.com

IAIDO NEWS AND EVENTS:

Submitted by: Dennis Ralutin and
Thomas Bolling *KENYU*, Vol. 26

IN MEMORIAM:

PROUGH, Sachiko Yamauchi
[1959-2012]

Iaido 4 Dan, Naginata 5 Dan Kyoshi of the Japanese Swordsmanship Society in New York/New Jersey, Eastern United States Kendo Federation, passed away on Thursday, January 5, 2012 after suffering a brain aneurysm on the morning of January 1, 2012. A brief biography on Prough sensei can be found at: <http://www.ny-naginata.org/yamauchi.html>

Mrs. Sachiko Yamauchi Prough, is survived by her husband, John Prough.

Mrs. Prough was President of the United States Naginata Federation and founder of the Nichibukan Naginata School in New York and New Jersey

AUSKF SPECIAL REPORT:

Reprinted with permission from:
Thomas Bolling, editor of *Kenyu*,
Volume 25, No. 8, August 2011.

MIYAHARA SENSEI DECORATED BY THE HEISEI EMPEROR:

Maki Hiroyuki Miyahara, 8th Dan Hanshi

at age 90 years, was decorated with "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" by Consul General Junichi Ihara at the official residence in Los Angeles on July 21, 2011 for contributions to the promotion of Kendo and the enhancement of friendly relations between Japan and the United States. Born May 8, 1921 in Montebello, California, Miyahara sensei started learning Kendo at age 11 from his father, (late) Hiroji Miyahara sensei who was teaching at six dojos and instructed in a strict manner. When World War II broke out, he was interned at Pomona Assembly Center, and Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. From there he went on to serve in the United States Military Intelligence Service, and following the war, Lt. Miyahara worked for GHQ in Japan, where he continued his own Kendo, and influenced the future Kendo development of Benjamin Hazard sensei, among others.

He returned to the United States in 1954. A mechanical engineering graduate of Park College in Mississippi, he resumed his career as an architectural engineer. Active in the Southern California Kendo Federation since its formation in 1962, over the years Miyahara sensei as served as president, executive secretary, representative to the Canadian Kendo Federation, and author of the constitution and by-laws of the KFUSA as he had been of SCKF.

In 1970, his father was the KFUSA representative to the first World Kendo Championships in Tokyo. In 1973 Miyahara sensei was on Team USA at 2nd WKC in Los Angeles. In 1976 he coached Team USA to a 3rd place win at 3rd WKC in England. He was Kendo instructor at Pomona College from 1972-1975.

Page seven

AUSKF SPECIAL REPORT:

Reprinted with permission from:
Thomas Bolling, editor of *Kenyu*,
Volume 25, No. 8, August 2011.
MIYAHARA SENSEI DECORATED BY
THE HEISEI EMPEROR:[continued]

From 1966 to present he has been instructor at the San Fernando Valley Kendo Club, and from 1978 to present instructor of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Kendo Dojo. Heartiest congratulations to the great Miyahara sensei.

OTHER KENDO RELATED NEWS/INFORMATION:

GUEST AUTHOR:

John Prough, was invited by the AUSKF Newsletter editor to share his personal knowledge, and experience regarding *JODO*; as this branch of the Japanese budo group: kendo, iaido and jodo, is currently being pursued for possible adoption into the AUSKF programs provided to its members.

[Note: We would like to express our deepest condolences to John Prough, on the recent loss of his wife, Sachiko Yamauchi Prough, *see* In Memoriam]

“JODO? WHAT IS JODO?”

The All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) has several martial arts that it regulates.

Among these are Kendo, iaido, and Jodo.

The All United States Kendo Federation (AUSKF) has been promoting two of them: Kendo and Iaido. While members of the AUSKF have seen Jodo demonstrations at various Kendo or Iaido events, it was not until recently that the AUSKF sponsored a workshop in Jodo as part

of the 2011 Iaido National Seminar at Kent State University in Ohio.

Led by Kishimoto sensei, the *Jodo* workshop saw nearly 30 participants of various levels. Students trained in the first and second Kihon from the Seitei *Jodo* of AJKF. Hopefully, this is the start of *Jodo* by the AUSKF.

Given the limited exposure to this art in the United States, it occurred to me that many AUSKF members are probably wondering what is *Jodo*? Where does it come from? Who does it in the USA now? I suggested to Mr. Norman Otani, Editor of the AUSKF Newsletter, that an article in the Newsletter might help. He agreed rather quickly, and I found myself with an article to write.

While, I cannot claim any particular abilities in *Jodo*, have been doing it off and on since 1976 and have observed many of the *Jodo* pioneers in the USA. I have written this article as a short history of *Jodo*. It is not intended as a technical *Jodo* article, as a technical survey is way beyond my scope of knowledge or abilities. Any mistakes or lapses or wrong ideas are purely my own, and I beg your indulgence.

“THE BEGINNING OF JODO”

The term *Jodo* is rather new name for what should be called *Jo-jutsu*. When referring to the Seitei gata *Jodo*, they use *Jodo*. When referring to the *Jodo* Ko-Ryu the normal usage is Shindo Muso Ryu *Jo-jutsu*.

Jo-jutsu was originated by Muso Gonnosuke Katsuyoshi, a samurai skilled in Shinto Ryu Kenjutsu. Following a meeting with Miyamoto Musashi, Muso retreated to a temple on Mt. Homan in Kyushu, where he underwent rigorous training to devise a

a method to defeat Musashi's style. On the last day of his training the Kami sent a vision: **“Round stick hold to know the Suigetsu.”** The answer to Muso's question was the *Jo*.

Muso went to work for the Kuroda Han at their Fukuoka Castle in Chikuzen, bringing with him what eventually evolved into Shindo Muso Ryu *Jo-jutsu* (SMR).

There were two SMR schools in Fukuoka. One was located to the west of the Fukuoka castle and the other was located to the east. The initial goal of SMR was to arrest samurai without any permanent damage. SMR was mostly done by Ashigaru with stipend of about 6 koku per year.

Many SMR students were active during the Meiji Restoration (1868), but like many Bushi they had lost their jobs. After the Meiji restoration, the SMR students tried to help each other as the samurai stipends were done away with. The Fukuoka Dojo had closed and there were few places to study SMR *Jo-jutsu*.

In the Meiji era the two schools of SMR were merged into one stream by Shiraishi Hanjiro (1842-1927), who had trained in the Haruyoshi branch. He later received the Jigyō branch. At the beginning of Showa he built a Dojo in Fukuoka and became Shihan of the re-built Dojo.

In 1920, there was a resurgence of interest in SMR *Jo-jutsu* following an important Budo

Page eight

OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:

GUEST AUTHOR: John Prough
"THE BEGINNING OF JODO"

[continued]

demonstration in Tokyo. Among those in attendance was Kano Jogoro, the founder of Kodokan Judo. Kano was so impressed with the SMR *Jo-Jutsu*, he travelled to Fukuoka where he asked Shiraishi Shihan to send a *Jo-jutsu* sensei to Tokyo to teach the high ranking Judo-ka in the Kodokan. Despite the strong interest, there was some delay before a SMR teacher was sent to Tokyo.

In 1927, Nakayama, Hiromichi (Hakudo) sensei arranged for a SMR demonstration as part of a major Budo Taikai in Tokyo. Nakayama might have said it best about the relationship of Kendo and *Jodo*.

"In my youth, I was taught by "Shindo Muso Ryu *Jodo* Shihan, Uchida Ryogoro sensei, and for then first time I understood the other side of Kendo. I learned the special way of handling the *Jo*, the manipulation of the feet, the carriage of the body, and so forth. Even in Kendo practice I cultivated *Jodo* techniques. Thanks to that I learned a great deal. There are no other Kata as well developed as those of Shindo Muso Ryu *Jo-jutsu*. So I understood that Shindo Muso Ryu *Jo-jutsu* was like a national treasure Budo."

A senior member of the police was very impressed with *Jo-jutsu* and suggested it could be useful to police.

End of Part I. [To be continued]

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

[Special Note: This edition of the AUSKF Newsletter was delayed in its completion due to the editor's family and extended family medical emergencies which required a longer than expected time to assist in their recovery in just the past few weeks]

Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about May 2012, 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