

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 1
January 27, 2014

KENDO

VERY BELATEDLY: "Happy New Year 2014"

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. (Interim)

Tim Yuge

IAIDO:

Shozo Kato

DIRECTORS:

Atsushi Hori

Christopher Yang, Esq.

Mark Uchida

Robert Souder

Shinobu Maeda

Tomoji Kato

Yuji Onitsuka

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by Arthur I. Murakami.

VERY BELATEDLY:
"HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014!"

To the members and families of the All United States Kendo Federation.

Very Belatedly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and thank all of you for your cooperation and help you have given us.. I have had the privilege of serving you for the past 5 years, and this will be my last year as AUSKF President. I was able to serve you because of the AUSKF Board of Directors & Officers who work very hard to make the AUSKF a better national kendo federation each year. Also, I very much appreciate that there are now several young sensei who have committed to develop our young kenshi through the recently established AUSKF Youth Development Committee and new programs. I believe that with the help of the young sensei training our youth, kendo in the United States will continue to have a bright future.

As we begin the new year 2014; it is clear that this will again be a busy year for the AUSKF. On February 8-9, the 2014 AUSKF Iaido Education Tour will be held in Seattle, Washington; then, on February 22-23, the FIK America Zone Referee Seminar will be held in Vancouver, Canada. On April 13, the spring AUSKF Kodansha promotion examination will be conducted; followed by two events in June: June 12-16 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp in New York City, and June 27-29 AUSKF

Championships to be held in San Diego, California. The AUSKF kendo summer camp will be held in August in Seattle, with the year ending with the fall AUSKF Kodansha shinsa promotion examination in November.

There will also be an elimination tournament this year to select the men & women that will go as Team USA to the 2015 World Kendo Championships in Tokyo, Japan. I extend my best wishes to those who are going to participate, and encourage everyone to do their best.

I hope many sensei and kenshi will attend the AUSKF and FIK (IKF) seminars and events. It is important for our AUSKF referees to understand and perform good judging. Our AUSKF kenshi will try harder and have more confidence when they know that our referees are fair and can identify good kendo and proper strikes.

As this is my last year as your AUSKF President, I hope that your will support the next AUSKF President as you have helped and supported me to make my duties easier. Kendo is a budo for all ages - age does not mean anything. We must do keiko as our age allows, even though we many not be able to move as well, this will promote good health. Please continue to enjoy a lifetime of kendo and help us to share the art with the next generation.

Sincerely,
Arthur I. Murakamii, AUSKF President
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**Highlights from the November 9 & 10
2013 AUSKF Board of Directors
Meeting, Houston, Texas.:**

Reported by Norman K. Otani, Esq.

*[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 9 & 10, 2013, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]*

I. Old Business:

A. AUSKF Liability Insurance [Update] It was reported that following the resignation of AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator, Mark Uchida, effective April 2013; an emergency AUSKF meeting was held on April 20, 2013. In attendance was A. Murakami, Y. Tagawa, C. Yang, Y. Onitsuka, C. Tanouye and J. Marsten appeared telephonically.

The results of the 4/21/13 AUSKF emergency meeting was that the AUSKF President would send a letter to the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations to provide a NOTICE letter:

1.).Explaining that the AUSKF did not have liability insurance coverage, until further notice.
2.) Each AUSKF member federation was advised that if separate liability insurance was purchased; AUSKF would reimburse the AUSKF member federation based on a \$10 per member reimbursement rate; as long as the recommended coverages were included in the policy purchased.

As C. Tanouye had obtained a separate liability insurance coverage through Francis L. Dean for the 2013 North-South Kendo Tournament; an inquiry was made about the prior AUSKF liability insurance policy that AUSKF cancelled in 2013.

C. Tanouye was informed that Francis L. Dean was interested to reinstate the prior AUSKF liability insurance policy. It was then agreed that T. Yuge would be the lead person to contact and renegotiate with Francis L. Dean (liability insurance company), to reinstate the prior AUSKF liability insurance policy; with some

modifications: (1.) Increase per occurrence liability insurance coverage to \$3 million dollars; (2.) Add: Sexual abuse and molestation coverage; (3.) Extend coverage for individual dojos [Note: Prior coverage of dojo facilities, instructors and members only] to include: individual dojo organizations. [Note: It was indicated that there would NOT be added cost, for the coverage of the individual dojo organizations] (4.) Also, it was confirmed that the current coverage includes each of the AUSKF member federations.

It was reported the total AUSKF liability insurance premium for 2013-2014 was \$49,000 [Prior 2012-2013 premium was \$47,000]. AUSKF will review the terms of the 2013-2014 AUSKF liability insurance policy and determine if any changes will be recommended, for the next period of coverage [2014-2015]. At this time, it was determined that the increase in the annual AUSKF liability insurance cost, would not require any further increase of the AUSKF membership dues.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Coverage: It was reported that the 2013-2014 AUSKF liability insurance policy includes coverage of the AUSKF board of directors and the AUSKF member federations board of directors.

General discussion was held about the “due diligence” duties of the AUSKF to inform each dojo about the past informal conduct and behavior by instructors in various situations such as: (a.) Assisting young girls and female kendoists to adjust their hakamas; (b.) Striking a kendoist with a shinai to get their attention; (c.) Pushing a kendoist down with a shinai, to demonstrate poor shisei, footwork and balance; or, (d.) Kendoists with no undergarment undressing inside a dojo, with other non-kendoists observing on the outside of the dojo. It was agreed that the AUSKF will need to develop a Dojo Instructors Handbook on Proper dojo conduct and examples of unacceptable conduct in modern day kendo instruction in the United States.

REMINDER: To ensure that a dojo liability insurance claim is covered by the AUSKF liability insurance policy; each dojo must make sure to submit the names and payment of AUSKF membership dues collected throughout each calendar year. If a dojo member is NOT listed on the current year AUSKF membership roster; this could result in NO coverage by the Francis L. Dean liability insurance company, for a claim submitted by the dojo for an unlisted member.

Liability Insurance Certificate Request Procedure:

1. Indicate name of the dojo, and dojo facility address.
2. Requests must be submitted by the AUSKF member federation president to: AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator.
3. Any ADDITIONAL INSURED coverage must state specific entity to be added to the liability insurance certificate.

It was confirmed by the AUSKF board of directors that Tim Yuge, will continue to serve as the Interim AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator.

B. Committee Action Items:

i. **BUDGET-FINANCE:**

A financial report was provided; after review there was discussion about several bounced checks received from both the Kodansha promotion examinations and for AUSKF seminar events. If the issue of bounced checks continues; the AUSKF will need to develop a clear policy on how to resolve this concern.

The AUSKF ID cards are now being prepared through a “new” vendor. The 1,500 new AUSKF members who joined in 2013, should receive their AUSKF ID cards in November 2013.

A subject matter related to the AUSKF ID number is the database for AUSKF promotion records

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B. Committee Action Items:

BUDGET-FINANCE: (continued)

It was reported that the AUSKF promotion records for 2002 to the present are now completed. In the future, the AUSKF promotion records for 1992 to 2000, will be updated also.

ii. EDUCATION:

Iaido:

A report was made regarding the 2013 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp held on June 27-July 1. The guest AJKF Iaido instructors were: Yasuo Sakono sensei 8dan Hanshi and Teruo Mitani sensei 8 dan Hanshi. There were 92 registered participants.

There were three ***new*** perpetual trophy's for the 16th AUSKF Iaido Championships:

Murakami Cup = 1kyu - 1 dan

Murosako Cup = 1 dan - 2 dan

Yamaguchi Cup= 3dan and above

Also, there was a Jodo workshop conducted by Mr. Meik Skoss and Mr. Thomas Groendal.

The 2014 AUSKF Iaido Education Tour is proposed for January 31-February 10, 2014. The guest instructors will be Chihiro Kishimoto sensei 8dan Hanshi (Iaido), and Kazuma Okuda sensei 8dan Kyoshi (Iaido).

The **2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp** is proposed to be held in New York City [**At the time of the newsletter publication; the confirmed dates are June 12-16, 2014.**]

Kendo:

The 2013 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp was held on August 30 to September 1, in Cleveland, Ohio and hosted by the GNEUSKF. The guest AJKF instructors were: Tatsuaki Kosaka sensei 8 dan Hanshi, and Masateru Ogata sensei 8 dan Hanshi.

The 2012 AJKF Champion Daiki Kiwada sensei, 6 dan Renshi, will conduct the 2013 AJKF Champion Education Tour from

November 15-November 25. The tour will be hosted by PNKF, NCKF/CCKF, SWKIF, SUSKIF, SCKF/SCKO/WKF.

The 2013 AUSKF Western Region Education Tour will be held from December 6-December 16. The guest AJKF instructor will be Mitsuru Hamasaki sensei, 8 dan Hanshi, former Chief Instructor of Tokyo Police Department. The host federations will include: PNKF, NCKF/CCKF, SWKIF, SUSKIF, SCKF/SCKO/WKF.

The 2014 AUSKF Eastern Region Education Tour will be held from March 28-April 8. The AJKF guest instructor will be Waichiro Kurita sensei, 8 dan Kyoshi. The proposed areas are New York, Boston, Atlanta, Cleveland, and Chicago.

The proposed 2014 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp is proposed to be held in either PNKF or Las Vegas; the tentative date is in August 2014.

iii. COMPETITION:

16th WKC: 2015 Team USA:

A preliminary report was made for the 16th WKC-Team USA budget proposed for 2013 - 2015 [covers approximately 20 month training period]. Team USA began training with a gasshuku in September 2013; and this is the earliest that the Team USA has started its training for the WKC. The Team USA members will be selected by December 2013; this will include future prospective Team USA members to train and travel with Team USA to the 16th WKC.

A comment was made that the 16th WKC-Team USA members have undertaken to have fundraising efforts to contribute additional funds to the AUSKF, in appreciation for the support approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

A discussion was held regarding having a designated person to assist AUSKF officials [referees, etc.] and other AUSKF members planning to attend the 16th WKC event with logistical matters, e.g. obtaining tickets for the event, etc. Tim

Yuge volunteered and was approved to be the designated AUSKF person for this responsibility.

It was also reported that *Phiten* has agreed to be the official 16th WKC-Team USA sponsor; as a result, *Phiten* is designated a Brand Ambassador on their company home page, Facebook, and Instagrams. In exchange for the sponsorship of Team USA [Note: The content will be controlled by Team USA]; an ad will be placed in the program book of the 2014 AUSKF Championships for *Phiten*.

After discussion of the total projected preliminary budget for the 16th WKC-Team USA; an initial \$100,000 for the general budget items was approved, and this matter will be reviewed for further approval of additional funding at the April 2014 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

**2013 AUSKF Jr. Open National
Championships:**

A report was made, including a financial summary.

Also, discussion was raised regarding the 2013 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships reimbursement policy for the shinpan selected for this event.

It was explained that for the past several AUSKF Jr. Open National Championship events, the initial shinpan reimbursement plans included: 1. Reimbursement for Honorary Shinpan for round-trip travel, meals, and hotel. 2. Hotel rooms and meals were provided to the other selected shinpan; and in 2013, a round-trip bus transportation was available for Southern California shinpan.

Also, the AUSKF board of directors were reminded that in 2012 the AUSKF also, provided a \$250 per shinpan travel reimbursement for

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**2013 AUSKF Jr. Open National
Championships:** (continued)

non-local shinpan; it was explained that this was done, to ensure representation of AUSKF shinpan from as many of the AUSKF member federations as possible.

In addition, it was explained that in 2012 the AUSKF Competition Committee managed the 2012, AUSKF Open National Championships; whereas, in 2013, the event was managed by a separate AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships committee. As there is currently no AUSKF Policy and Procedure guideline for the AUSKF Jr. Open Championships, it was recommended that this be developed and should include a shinpan reimbursement policy.

**2013 AUSKF Jr. Team U.S.A. Training
Camps:**

It was reported that the 1st gasshuku was held on April 27-28, 2013, and was very successful, with over 50 participants from all over the United States. Also, the 2nd gasshuku was held on September 27-29, 2013.

**2014 AUSKF Jr. Open National
Championships:**

It was reported that the Competition Committee decided that due to the extremely heavy workload and location of suitable facilities needed, the AUSKF would NOT be able to do BOTH the 2014 AUSKF Jr. Open National Tournament COMBINED with the 2014 AUSKF National Championships; the AUSKF Jr. Open National Tournament committee was notified about this decision. The result is

that the AUSKF Jr. Open National Tournament remains a separate event.

Additional discussion was requested to ask how the AUSKF board of directors felt about having a COMBINED 2014 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships with the 2014 AUSKF Championships; the pros of doing so, would be that more youth could participate in a national competition in 2014 vs. just having five (5) youth competitors for each youth division, from each AUSKF member federation at the AUSKF Championships.

One of the AUSKF board of directors recalled that when he was the AUSKF VP-Competition, the idea behind having the yearly AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships was that the age groups: 9 yrs and under, 10yrs-11yrs, 12yrs-15yrs, and 16yrs-18yrs, would promote the yearly development of the youth to gain more experiences in a national competition level event, and would provide a stronger pool of future Team USA members.

There was a motion to have an advisory vote on conducting the 2014 AUSKF Jr. Open National Tournament; the motion failed. The next AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships will be held in 2015.

AUSKF Zone Shinpan Seminars:

It was reported that the AUSKF Zone 2 [SEUSKF, AEUSKF, ECUSKF] seminar was held on October 12 & 13, 2013 in Atlanta; there were 60 participants and the seminar consisted of a Saturday AM: Instruction only; Saturday PM: Practicum, and Sunday AM: Practicum. The shinpan participants were evaluated by assigned 7 Dan sensei; the evaluators were told to be honest about the seminar participants

ability to move correctly and to make correct yuko datotsu judgments.

The AUSKF Zone 3 [NCKF, CCKF] seminar was held on November 16 & 17, 2013 in San Jose, California.

The AUSKF Zone 5 [PNKF] seminar will be held on March 14 & 15, 2014.

The AUSKF Zone 4 [MWKF, GNEUSKF, EUSKF] seminar will be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The AUSKF Zone 6 [SWUSKIF, SUSKIF, RMKIF] will be held on May 3 & 4, 2014, in Dallas, Texas.

2014 AUSKF Championships:

It was reported that the Competition committee has determined that the PNKF area was not able to locate a suitable facility to host the 2014 AUSKF Championships. As a result; the Competition committee has approved the SCKF proposal to host the 2014 AUSKF Championships, in San Diego, California, and to be held on June 27, 28 and 29, 2014.

It was explained that the current AUSKF Competition committee is in need of another member; Tomoji Kato, was recommended and approved.

A preliminary budget for the 2014 AUSKF Championships was presented for review. The proposed venue for the 2014 AUSKF Championships is the San Diego City College gymnasium; current recommendation is to have five courts [gymnasium is large enough for six courts, if needed] for a three-day event. There is free parking at the San Diego City College during the event; however, the participants will need to walk from the parking lot to the gymnasium;

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2014 AUSKF Championships:

(continued)

AUSKF is considering arranging for shuttle buses paid for by AUSKF. Also, the AUSKF has made arrangements to use the San Diego High School gymnasium as a warm-up gym; which is in close proximity to the San Diego City College gymnasium.

The hotel accommodations are being negotiated with the San Diego Sheraton Hotel; there is shuttle bus service from the airport to the hotel. The San Diego Sheraton Hotel will allow up to four persons per room; and the negotiated room rate will be available both a few days before the 2014 AUSKF Championship event, and a few days after the event. Also, the AUSKF Competition committee determined that the San Diego Sheraton hotel restaurant breakfast meals was cost prohibitive [\$20 per person]; however, a **take-out breakfast meal** [\$6-\$7 per person] is still being considered, but participants would have to eat their take-out breakfast meal, in their hotel rooms or at the San Diego City College gymnasium.

The tournament bento lunches are being negotiated with Mitsuwa Market in San Diego. The Sayonara Party is to be held on Sunday night [June 29, 2014] and is being negotiated to be held at the Sheraton Hotel for a cost of \$50 per person [including tax and tip]. Each federation to request ALL participants to sign up for Sayonara Party.

The proposed shinpan expenses to be covered by the AUSKF will include: 50% of the hotel room rate [if no shinpan

roommate, e.g. wife]; or, if two shinpan share a room [100% paid by AUSKF]. Also, it is proposed that the AUSKF will pay round-trip air fare or round trip automobile transportation expense.

The 2014 AUSKF Championships schedule will begin on Friday: June 27, 2014 with the Youth competition events. Then, on Saturday: June 28, 2014, the Men's and Women's Individual match competition [includes Senior and Mudansha] will be held. The final day of competition on Sunday, June 29, 2014, will be the Men's & Women's Team matches.

Preliminary meetings to be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 for volunteers, manager meeting and shinpan meeting.

Volunteers will be limited to fifty two (2) persons selected from the list submitted by the AUSKF member federations; the majority selected will be from California, to reduce AUSKF expenses.

Reimbursement proposed is: 50% of the hotel room rate per volunteer. Travel reimbursement proposed is maximum \$100 per volunteer.

The 2014 AUSKF Championships preliminary officials are:

Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President; Tim Yuge, Tournament Chair. Court Tanouye: Finance co-chair; Tomoji Kato, Competition co-chair; Susan Tsou, Logistics co-chair, Tournament Coordinator: SCKF; Charlie Tanaka, Chief Judge; FIK/AJKF Guest Instructor. Tsuyoshi Inoshita, AUSKF Treasurer.

There will be 5/6 court judges, and 30 referees [6dan and above]. 6 shinpan per court; 5 courts.

It was also reported that additional non-kendo volunteers are being considered

from the San Diego City College clubs, to assist with gym-setup, and other duties.

In appreciation for the assistance of these additional volunteers; a donation to the San Diego City College club will be considered by the AUSKF.

A 2014 AUSKF Championships souvenir tenegui and t-shirt design was reviewed, and one design was selected and approved for the tenegui and another design for the t-shirt was selected and approved.

Discussion was held regarding the demonstrations to be performed on Friday [June 27], Saturday [June 28], and Sunday [June 29]. Proposed demonstrations include: Nihon Kendo Kata by two (2) AUSKF 8 dan sensei, Bokuto ni Yoru Kendo Kata, Iaido, Jodo, and Mohan Keiko with AJKF Guest instructor.

Next, discussion was held about the Women, Youth, and Men Team Divisions; as there are not a lot of AUSKF member federations that have teams in some divisions, *it was proposed to have medals for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place* instead of two 3rd place teams. [Note: This will require a change in the current AUSKF PPG for the AUSKF Championships].

Another subject discussed was regarding the age eligibility for the Jr. Youth Division [ages 12yrs-15yrs] in the 2014 AUSKF Championships. Discussion was held about changing the current AUSKF PPG as to having an ANNUAL DATE that eligibility for AUSKF competition events is set for purposes of age determination. Current rule is to determine age as of day of the tournament.

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2014 AUSKF Championships:
(continued)

Alternatively, the date of age eligibility can be effective as of a specific date; it was decided to TABLE the decision until AFTER the 2014 AUSKF Championships.

Additional discussion was held regarding the current LEAGUE ROUNDS for the senior and mudansha three (3) person team divisions. It was suggested to CHANGE this to have a preliminary league round, and that the time period would be 4-minutes, except for the FINALS would be 5-minutes. [Note: This proposal would require amending the current AUSKF PPG]

Discussion held regarding the AUSKF Championships PPG regulation 15-

03.01 Seeding of Federations in League rounds: Choices are A-B and 2 persons move up OR 3-league round per zone. 3-league round per zone approved.

The next area reviewed was **15.05.00**

Proposed to Strike. Approved.

Regarding time limits for all divisions:

15.00.00 regular matches: 4-minutes with no encho, and no hantei; semi-final and finals: 5-minutes [includes: senior and mudansha divisions]. *If

DAIYOSEN; ADD: 1 point match.

The Awards PPG regulation 15.11.01 to remain the same for Individual Championship awards. However, **15.11.02 to be CHANGED to four (4)"Fighting Spirit" awards in all divisions.**

However, for the Team matches:

15.11.02.01 to be changed to: All groups shall have 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place

awards.

15.12.00 Match Regulations for the Mudansha Division, AGREED to DELETE.

iv. PROMOTION:

a) Letter to AUSKF member federations regarding private invitations.

After discussion regarding the underlying background information as to the recent few years in which the Latin American Kendo Federation has made private invitations to AUSKF kendo and iaido sensei to attend kendo and iaido events and requested them to be examiners for kendo and iaido promotion examinations; it was decided to table this matter to allow additional time to review information currently on the AJKF website, and to discuss with FIK officials to clarify this issue.

b) SCKO Request to Review "Hanshigo."

Discussion was held regarding the SCKO request to review "Hanshigo."

The current AUSKF Promotion regulation Section 4. Regulations for Issuance of Shogo Titles. Article 9: Special Condition Shogo Titles states may be awarded as follows: ... (3.) Hanshi: (a.) Kyoshi, 7 dan and 70 years or older.

Additional discussion about the history of United States kendo, includes a period of time when after 5 dan, the person could apply for "renshi," and then after 6 dan, the person could apply for "kyoshi." One SCKF case involved an older 7th dan kyoshi sensei who appeared to be in poor health [and was not expected to be able to request 8 dan]; so, he was granted "hanshi." Later this same 7th dan kyoshi sensei requested to apply for 8

dan, but this was denied by SCKF. Also, the AUSKF granted a 7th dan "honorary hanshi" to NCKF Hazard sensei; at about this same time, the IKF rule was changed and required that only 6 dan could be granted renshi.

Also, discussed alternative ways to recognize kendo sensei, such as: Lifetime Achievement Award, etc.; however, it was acknowledged that such awards are not appreciated by kendo sensei in the same manner as the shogo titles.

In addition, it was reported that there is an additional AUSKF Promotion regulation that states in Section 4. Article 5. The Hanshi Examining Board shall be composed of 10 examiners; 1)... approval of 8 or more of the examiners shall be required to pass the test.

This matter was tabled until the next April 2014 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

v. DEVELOPMENT:

1. Giving Back Program process update:

It was reported that the current AUSKF Giving Back Program policy and procedure 30.00.00, was missing a part necessary for the process to work properly. This missing part had to do with the request procedure. The following updates to the AUSKF Policy and Procedure 30.00.00 were added: "Giving Back request will be sent to the AUSKF president. AUSKF president will coordinate with both the responsible vice-president and manager of Team USA to complete the fulfillment of the request. If the request cannot be processed due to schedule or other impediments the responsible vice-president will contact the requestor for resolution.

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DEVELOPMENT: (continued)

**2. Virtual Office/website: Google
Calendar update.**

It was reported that a lot of the AUSKF member federations do NOT have a Google calendar setup. Also, the AUSKF currently has two (2) websites: auskf.info/auskf.org owned by an NCKF individual. As the current AUSKF website ownership cannot be transferred per the recently renewed contract; it was suggested for purposes of improving the AUSKF communications, to use the AUSKF FACEBOOK page currently setup by an AUSKF member.

3. College Liason Committee update:

It was reported that the UCLA Kendo Club has agreed to setup the AUSKF College website and content is now being put into it, etc. Also, it was reported that the UCLA Kendo Club will be hosting an open college kendo tournament with invitations to all college kendo clubs in the United States.

vi. OTHER:

1. Update job descriptions in AUSKF by-laws to reflect statement of work of each officer. [Tabled]

2. Establish clearer definition of areas of concern between Education/Promotion/Competition [Tabled]

3. How to manuals:

Hosting AUSKF BOD Meeting [update]

Inquiry was made regarding current How to Manual: Hosting AUSKF BOD MTG: RE: Is there is a provision to recommend that AUSKF board of directors make travel arrangements to arrive at a specific airport in the hosting federation area; it appears that this would be helpful for airport pickup and airport departure assistance, if available. This matter will be reviewed.

II. Committee Meeting Reports:

i. Budget:

No report; except, it was suggested that the AUSKF develop a projected budgets [e.g. 2-3years] approach to assist the AUSKF to have additional information to make financial decisions for all areas of the operations of the AUSKF.

ii. Education:

It was reported that the dates for the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp is August 15, 16, 17, 2014.

Also, it was reported that the AUSKF Jr. Team USA Training Camp gasshuku is proposed for the Spring/Summer 2014; it was suggested that the participants may be included with the ongoing 16th WKC- Team USA training program, which would result in significant reduction in expenses. No budget available as of this date.

iii. Promotion:

It was reported that there are a couple of cases where the AUSKF recorded menjo kendo rank for a current AUSKF member is e.g. 4 dan; however, the AUSKF individual has obtained a higher kendo rank e.g. Koryu-6 Dan in Japan. These type of AUSKF individual kendo rank situations causes a problem for the AUSKF administration of events when selection of individuals to be e.g. promotion examiners, etc., is based on

kendo rank. Also, the AUSKF is aware of kendo promotion ranks awarded by the Korea Kumdo Association[“KKA”]; which may not be recognized by the AUSKF. For these types of cases; the AUSKF promotion committee suggests giving notice to all AUSKF member federations to verify the individual kendoist kendo ranks from 4-dan and above and determine if the AUSKF is able to recognize the kendo rank reported or if the kendo rank is granted by a non-FIK member country/koryu kendo dojo, the AUSKF may not be able to recognize these kendo ranks.

Also, it was reported that because the AUSKF promotion kendo rank records have been updated on the Virtual AUSKF office; there is now sufficient information to review the AUSKF Promotion Examiners kendo ranks. A concern was raised in this specific area because of one example given where one of the AUSKF member federations conducted a AUSKF promotion examination in Las Vegas, and the listed AUSKF Promotion Examiners kendo ranks could not be verified. Another example of a similar concern was raised about another AUSKF member federation which has a Korean kendo dojo group in which one of the members states his kendo rank as 7 dan; the question raised was how the AUSKF can verify these types of individual kendo ranks.

It was suggested that if the AUSKF has questions regarding a AUSKF member's prior kendo rank given by the Korean Kendo Federation; a copy of this menjo should be requested from the AUSKF member, and the AUSKF president can e-mail this to the Korea Kendo Federation for verification.

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Meeting, Houston, Texas:**

II. Committee Meeting Reports:

iii. Promotion: [continued]

It was proposed to develop a “new” AUSKF Menjo Request Form which requires the AUSKF member federation to indicate the name of the examiner, AUSKF ID number, kendo rank AND, to provide a copy of the examiner’s menjo with the AUSKF Menjo Request Form.

It was also suggested that the AUSKF Promotion Committee develop a list of approved kendo examiners for each AUSKF member federation.

iv. Competition:

It was reported that the last kyoka renshu will be held on December 13, 2013; and the 16th WKC-Team USA men’s and women’s team members will be decided in January 2014.

Also, it was reported that the 2002 medal replacement will be completed in the very near future by Y. Onitsuka.

In addition, it was reported that the 2014 AUSKF Championships budget has been updated for the additional shinpan and volunteer hotel expenses, and increase for medal costs.

It was proposed that the AUSKF approve “new” medals for the 2014 AUSKF Championships, using the recently approved “new” 2013 AUSKF Iaido medal design : 1st place=Gold, 2nd place=Silver, 3rd place= Bronze, 4th place= **Type of medal to be determined [Team matches only].** [Note: Individual matches will be awarded medals for: 1st, 2nd and two (2) 3rd places]

Lastly it was reported that the previously approved AUSKF Flag design with the AUSKF logo is almost completed. There will be two types of flags to be purchased: one nylon flag for travel to AUSKF events, and one more permanent fabric type flag for AUSKF Championships, etc

v. Iaido: No additional report.

vi. Anti-Doping

Due to one of the AUSKF Anti-Doping committee members recovering from a health problem; this committee has not held a regular annual committee meeting.

III. New Business:

a. 2013 Sports Accord Combat Games report. It was reported that the AUSKF participants did really good kendo; also, a summary of the AUSKF participants results was reviewed.

Discussion was held about reviewing and drafting a AUSKF policy and procedure for the selection of AUSKF participants for the 2016 Sports Accord Combat Games; discussion resulted in a proposal to draft an update to the AUSKF VP-Competition job description to include the selection procedure of the AUSKF participants for international events: e.g. Sports Accord Combat Games.

b. 2015-2017 AUSKF Board of Directors Election.

It was determined that the current AUSKF by-laws, Article VII: Meetings of Members, Section 10. Record Date for Member Notice, Voting, Giving Consents, would result in a “record date” calculated to be June 10, 2014. However, this proposed date (6/10/14), would not allow sufficient time for the AUSKF member federations to make decisions regarding their statements of representation, etc. It was agreed that it may not be prudent to make a change in the current AUSKF by-laws, without further notice to the AUSKF member federations, etc.

Therefore, in order to proceed with the 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election. A motion was passed that the AUSKF member federations must submit their 2014 AUSKF membership dues by March 31, 2014; and that the “record date” will be April 21, 2014, to determine the number of voting representatives for each AUSKF member federation.

The 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election committee was approved to include: J. Marsten/ AUSKF Executive VP and AUSKF dierectors: C. Tanouye and Y. Onitsuka,to be present at the opening and counting of the ballots [AUSKF by-laws: Article VIII, Section 2].

c. 16th WKC Proposal: Program and Regulations.

Discussion held regarding the 16th WKC Proposal: Program & Regulations; specifically page 1 of the document sent to the FIK countries states: “*Drawings shall be conducted after the Final Entry is fixed in the presence of some FIK officials and the applicants who desire to attend[...]” Motion passed approving that T.Yuge will attend the Drawings after the Final Entry for the 16th WKC.

d. Indonesia University Japanese area studies graduate program.

It was agreed that the AUSKF will send a reply to this inquiry and a similar inquiry from Chapman University.

e. 2014 Foreign Kendo Leader Seminar.
A notice will be sent to the AUSKF member federations to submit

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Highlights from the November 9 & 10

2013 AUSKF Board of Directors

Meeting, Houston, Texas:

III. New Business: [continued]

e. 2014 Foreign Kendo Leader Seminar:

[continued]

the names of interested participants by January 31, 2014.

f. The next AUSKF board of directors meeting will be hosted by the SCKF in San Diego, California on April 12 & 13, 2014.

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

1. Northern California Kendo Federation. Submitted by Court Tanouye.

On January 25, 2014, Yoshinari Miyata, 8 dan Hanshi was inducted into the Bunka Hall of Fame for his excellence in and contribution to Japanese Traditional Martial Arts for Kendo. Miyata sensei has enhanced relationships in our community by enlightening all to the culture of Japan through his expert instruction of Kendo which has provided the opportunity to learn kendo in the United States. The Bunka Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Japanese American Association of Northern California; also known as Hokka Nichi Bei Kai, the oldest Japanese

American community organization.

2. East Central United States Kendo Federation. Submitted by Koki Ariga.

After many years as the founder and president of the East Central United Kendo Federation ["ECUSKF"], Koki Ariga announced that he has resigned as the ECUSKF president effective March 22nd, 2014. ECUSKF has requested Ariga sensei to serve as the Honorary ECUSKF president, and he has accepted.

The "new" ECUSKF president is now Mitsuya Koizumi; the contact information is:

Mailing address:
1206 Muirfield Dr.
Findlay, OH 45840

E-mail address:
koizumi358@gmail.com

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3. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation. Submitted by Tom Bolling.

IN MEMORIAM

Rod Nobuto Omoto, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan, a major figure in the

history of American Kendo, died peacefully on June 1, 2013 at the age of 94. He famously always accentuated the positive in everything he did, unfailingly cheerful and optimistic no matter what. Born eldest son of seven children September 9, 1918 in Wahiawa, Hawaii, the happy-go-lucky Hawaii boy started Kendo at age 14 in 1932 with Miura Kenji, and was 2nd Dan when he graduated from Leilehua High School in 1938. On recommendation of Miura sensei, he was sent to Ogawa Kinnosuke's own personal training hall, Kodo Kan, in Kyoto, where he lived and waited on Ogawa Sensei while studying at Ritsumeikan, prior to entering Budo Senmon Gakko. Omoto Sensei was to have graduated in Busen's 31st classs, but the school closed in 1942 and all the teachers, students and Omoto Sensei were drafted into the Japanese army. There he taught Kendo and Jukendo and commanded a transportation unit as second lieutenant in Hiroshima. By good luck he and his four-truck company were out in the country the Monday morning when the atom bomb exploded. He served as translator for various Allied occupation organizations, married Mutsuko Mildred Kawakami, and they had two daughters. For some years banned by the Allied Powers,

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3. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation. Submitted by Tom Bolling. [continued]

IN MEMORIAM (continued)

Kendo gradually rose back to the surface. For example, Omoto Sensei was active in the "Shinai Kyogi" movement, a sportive version of Kendo practiced in western athletic clothes. In Matsue City Omoto Sensei encountered the great Ono Soichiro, whose student, Mori Torao, is another legend of American Kendo. Other teachers in Omoto Sensei's Japan period include Miyazaki Mosaburo, Tsuzaki Kenkei, Sato Chuzo, Kurozumi Ryushiro, Wakabayashi Shinji, Sato Toryonosuke, and Shido Taisuke. In 1960, the family moved to the US, where he earned his BS in Engineering at Oregon State University in 1966. They moved to Tacoma, where Kendo was restarted at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple in 1967 as a Boy Scout activity, and continued from there. In 1972 he began helping the Kendo Club at UW to form, and also was elected to the Board of the Kendo Federation of the USA. In 1973 he competed in the 2WKC at Los Angeles. In 1974/1975 he helped establish the Washington State Kendo Federation (now the PNKF) and

was the Founding Charter President. For a Kendo demonstration at the 1974 Spokane World's Fair he and Tanabe sensei used shinken, as they had no habiki. Some of Omoto Sensei's classic sayings include: "In Kendo, you have to be wide awake." "Don't anticipate. Be cool." "I want to encourage, not discourage." "Whoever holds a shinai is a friend of mine." Our deepest condolences to his daughters Charlotte Kazumi Omoto and Norma Miyuki Wakatsuki, grandson Ryan Wakatsuki, and many nieces and nephews.

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AUSKF NEWSLETTER
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Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about May 2014, can be submitted to my e-mail address:

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