

# AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 2  
October 31, 2014

KENDO

## Congratulations to 11/14-11/17 New Board of Directors

### 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.

Congratulations to the newly elected AUSKF board of directors, as announced by AUSKF Executive VP-Jeff Marsten on September 9, 2014, as follows:

1. Brandon Harada
2. Tsuyoshi Inoshita
3. Michio Kajitani
4. Shozo Kato
5. Tomoji Kato
6. Jean Kodama
7. Shinichi Koike
8. Shinobu Maeda
9. Jeffrey Marsten
10. Yuji Onitsuka
11. Norman Otani
12. Shuntaro Shinada
13. Yoshiteru Tagawa
14. Court Tanouye
15. Chris Yang
16. Kotaro Yoshida
17. Tim Yuge

On November 8, 2014, these seventeen (17) newly elected AUSKF board of directors, will begin their three (3) year term of office, at the AUSKF board of directors meeting to be held in Chicago, Illinois, hosted by the Midwest Kendo Federation.

After the selection of the AUSKF officers for the new three (3) year term of office, effective November 2014 through November 2017; the AUSKF will begin to once again review the priorities and needs of the AUSKF and embark on the proposed directions and projects to continue the efforts to maintain the

AUSKF as a world class national kendo federation.

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

After serving two full terms of office as the President of the All United States Kendo Federation ["AUSKF"]; I am very grateful for all of the support that each of the AUSKF members has given to both me and the past AUSKF officers and board of directors elected during my two full terms in the office of AUSKF president. I hope that the AUSKF under my leadership has kept the promise to develop progressive kendo programs so that the children and youth who practice kendo in different parts of the United States, will have an opportunity to learn the competitive elements of what is required to be selected to be a member of the Team USA for the respective World Kendo Championship event that is held every three years, through the AUSKF Junior National Championships event, etc.

As the 2014 AUSKF Championships was successfully held on June 27, 28 & 29, 2014 in San Diego, California; we are now continuing our steadfast efforts to support the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA members in their rigorous training and practices for the upcoming event in May 2015, Tokyo, Japan.

I will continue my support as the ex-officio, AUSKF past-president, to share the wisdom and knowledge gained in my kendo lifetime, with the AUSKF in future years to come.

Sincerely,  
Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

Reported by Norman K. Otani, Esq.

[Note: this report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 12 & 13, 2014, 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 the cost of the 2013-2014 AUSKF liability insurance policy was about \$50,000 and it is anticipated the renewal 2014-2015 AUSKF liability insurance policy will be about the same; even with some of the broader coverages approved for the AUSKF dojos, AUSKF member federations, etc.

T. Yuge distributed a handout:

**AUSKF Liability Insurance Certificate Request Procedure**, which will be posted on the AUSKF website, with a list of the 2014 AUSKF dojos, and AUSKF member federations that are currently provided AUSKF Liability Insurance coverage. **By being listed on this AUSKF website list; this is verification that the AUSKF dojo and AUSKF member federations are covered under the 2014 AUSKF liability insurance policy.** This new AUSKF liability insurance

procedure is implemented to reduce the actual number of AUSKF liability insurance certificates that need to be issued. However, if an AUSKF liability insurance certificate is requested by a AUSKF member federation dojo; the procedure to be followed is described on the handout, which again, is to be posted on the AUSKF website. The time required from the time of request of the AUSKF liability insurance certificate, until its issuance, is between ten days to two weeks.

Several matters on the handout titled: ***Due Diligence (Things we need to do):***

A. Emphasized the importance of the AUSKF membership dues being collected by each AUSKF member federation and dojo, and submitted to the AUSKF treasurer, in a timely manner, because the AUSKF liability insurance policy provides coverage only to a AUSKF dojo member ***on the roster at the time of occurrence.*** Discussion held by T. Yuge and other directors regarding guest kendoists from Canada and how to ensure AUSKF liability insurance coverage, if any incidents occur involving the guest kendoists from Canada. It was suggested that the AUSKF dojo have these guests kendoists from Canada sign a AUSKF waiver of liability form, then put the names of the guests from Canada on the AUSKF dojo roster; also, the guests kendoists should be encouraged to have their own countries national kendo federation liability insurance coverage.

In addition, it was discussed that if an AUSKF dojo wants liability insurance coverage for a visting AJKF kendo/iaido instructor; there is a \$75 per independent contractor coverage available, and the AUSKF dojo can list their dojo address, when taking out this type of independent contractor coverage.

B. AUSKF member federations are reminded that each AUSKF dojo must have a AUSKF waiver of liability form completed by each AUSKF dojo member, and kept in a AUSKF dojo file; to be provided to the AUSKF liability insurance company, if requested. [Note: In the state of Washington, the waiver of liability form is only needed in public school programs used for kendo classes; a city Parks & Recreation facility does not require a signed waiver of liability form] Due to head concussion injuries, some individual states are requiring a specific waiver of liability form; each AUSKF member federation/dojos in different states, are requested to review the state requirements for completion of any head concussion injury waiver of liability form needed, etc.

C. Further, it was explained that the AUSKF liability insurance policy provides two other limited types of coverage:

(1.) A limited secondary accidental injury insurance coverage for an injury related to a kendo activity; as this is **NOT** a general health care insurance coverage, the AUSKF dojos are reminded to

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

**I. Old Business:**

**A.. AUSKF Liability Insurance [Cont'd]**

explain to each AUSKF dojo member that each individual should also obtain their own separate general health care insurance coverage, and not rely on this limited secondary accidental injury insurance coverage for their general health care insurance needs.

(2.) Sexual abuse and molestation coverage. Each AUSKF dojo is recommended to be careful when children/youth have a loose kendo hakama, to be cautious of how this is corrected, if available, the child/youth's parent should be asked to assist. When, any type of touching/moving of the children/youth/female adult members is necessary, this should be done in a manner so that the kendoist understands why the kendo instructor is making this type of physical contact with the kendoist, to teach a kendo lesson, etc.

**D.**

**Separate Directors & Officers Policy [update]:**

T. Yuge provided an update on the previous inquiry regarding a separate AUSKF liability insurance coverage of directors and officers. The AUSKF liability insurance coordinator, has confirmed that the current AUSKF liability insurance

policy includes coverage for the AUSKF officers and directors; however, as there is interest in having a separate liability insurance policy coverage for the AUSKF officers and directors, the current AUSKF liability insurance company has been requested to provide additional information and the cost of having a separate Directors & Officers liability insurance coverage.

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**B. Committee Action Items:**

**i. BUDGET-FINANCE:**

The end of year 2013 information was provided, regarding the 2013 financial status of the AUSKF as of 12/31/13.. A copy of the AUSKF IRS Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax as of 12/31/13, was distributed; also, the 2013 AUSKF Final Financial Report was provided [Note: It was explained by T. Inoshita, that some of the income and expenditures on the 2013 AUSKF financial report did not match the 2013 AUSKF IRS Form 990, because e.g. if some of the AUSKF income revenue was received in 2014, this would not be reflected on the 2013 AUSKF IRS form] If any further review of the AUSKF financial records are required by the AUSKF board of directors, etc.; all of the recent AUSKF financial records are being put on the AUSKF virtual office, for this purpose.

It was also reported that in 2014, the AUSKF financial expenditures will significantly increase, as the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA will be incurring a significant portion of their training expenses, etc.; a copy of the Team

USA 2013-2015 Budget-April 2014 Board Meeting was distributed. It was explained that there was some recent Team USA expenditures issues. In one instance, an individual Team USA member was reimbursed \$926 in December 2013, for a meal stipend; as this type of request for reimbursement was a little confusing, the Team USA members agreed to provide receipts in the future, for these types of request for reimbursement.

One of the AUSKF board of directors made an inquiry regarding a request for a more detailed AUSKF financial report in the future; which could include subcategories, e.g. Competition: US Championship subcategory, Referee seminar subcategory, etc. It was agreed that that this type of AUSKF financial report could be done, as suggested. It was also agreed that it would be helpful to all of the AUSKF board of directors, to have future AUSKF financial reports with the general categories, e.g. Competition, Promotion, Iaido, etc., and also, subcategories: Kendo Summer Camp, Iaido Summer Camp, etc., so that if there is a financial loss in any particular category, the additional information in the subcategory, as to what the expenditures consisted of, would be useful information.

It was recommended that each of the AUSKF committee members, who incur expenditures for AUSKF events, be required to provide the request for reimbursement of expenses directly to e.g. AUSKF VP-

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13,  
2014 AUSKF Board of Directors  
Meeting, San Diego, California:**

I. Old Business:

B. Committee Action Items:

i. Budget/Finance (continued)

Competition, AUSKF VP-Education, etc., so that each of the general categories of expenses on the AUSKF financial reports are more accurate in the future.

It was suggested that if the AUSKF committee members submit requests for reimbursements directly to the AUSKF treasurer; then, a cc copy should be provided to the e.g. AUSKF VP-Competition, AUSKF VP-Education, etc., so that these subcategory of expenses can be reflected more accurately for each AUSKF event, etc., in the general categories, in the future.

It was agreed to develop a code system for AUSKF committee member reimbursement requests, to be submitted according to a general category of expense for each AUSKF event, to the AUSKF treasurer. In order to know what subcategories of expenses to be given a specific code; each general category: e.g. AUSKF Competition, AUSKF Promotion, AUSKF Iaido Committee, is requested to provide information to the AUSKF treasurer, as to what subcategories of expenses need a separate code number, etc. It was also suggested that this code system can be part of the AUSKF treasurer reimbursement form [list of codes for

subcategories, on back of the reimbursement form].

Additional discussion held regarding how to calculate more accurately, e.g. the expenses for the AUSKF kendo promotion examinations, AUSKF Iaido promotion examinations, etc. It was suggested that the calculation of the AUSKF promotion exam expenses for the facility rental costs, etc., can be done by a percentage of the total facility cost; this would be helpful to more accurately reflect the expenses by each of the general categories, e.g. AUSKF Competition, AUSKF Promotion.

ii. Dues revision proposal [update]

After further review of the previous proposal made to reduce the AUSKF membership for college students from \$40 to \$25; due to very little response to the previous proposal, except for an inquiry for clarification, a revised proposal was made by: "The AUSKF college student membership dues shall be \$25 for full-time college students who are actively practicing kendo at an affiliate university or college; or, actively practicing at an affiliate club or dojo."

When asked what would be the AUSKF financial effect, if the AUSKF board of directors approved the revised dues revision proposal noted above; it was reported that based on the 2013 AUSKF membership records information, there would be a loss of about \$5, 130 in AUSKF revenue, if the revised dues revision proposal was approved.

After further discussion, regarding the various AUSKF member federations current experiences regarding the number of adult/college kendo club members, and whether or not the revised dues proposal noted above, would result in an increase in AUSKF and AUSKF member federation members. It was suggested that the AUSKF may not need to change the current \$40 AUSKF dues for adult/college kendo club members, if the AUSKF can provide information for the adult/college kendo club members regarding the benefits to become an AUSKF member, e.g. AUSKF sponsored national collegiate kendo tournament could be developed, AUSKF would sanction kendo promotion ranks for college kendo club members who take the promotion examination conducted by their affiliate AUSKF member federation/AUSKF, etc.

Based on a past AUSKF effort to organize college kendo clubs at Yale, Harvard, etc.; it was also reported that at that time, the college kendo club members did not want to be under the umbrella of the AUSKF organization's policies, procedures, etc., and instead wanted their independence from the AUSKF's decision making authority for college kendo club events and activities.

In addition, there was a concern that the implementation of the revised dues revision for the college kendo club members proposed would cause AUSKF administrative verification

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

**I. Old Business:**

**B. Committee Action Items:**

- ii. Dues revision proposed [update]  
(continued)

problems; it was explained that if the revised dues revision for the college kendo club members was approved, the AUSKF member federations would be required to submit a photocopy of the student identification for their college kendo club members.

After full discussion regarding the revised dues revision proposal; due to lack of a consensus, there was no action taken as to this matter.

**iii. Education**

A. 2013 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp budget report provided for review.

B. 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp to be held on June 12-15, 2014 in New York City; the proposed budget was provided for review. Discussion held requesting to reduce the iaido summer camp seminar registration fee from current budget amount \$140 to \$110; after further discussion the 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp budget, with the adjusted reduced seminar fee amount of \$110 was approved.

The guest AJKF iaido instructors will be: Yasuo Sakono sensei Iaido 8 dan Hanshi, Masato Nakamura sensei Iaido 8 dan Kyoshi. The

2014 AUSKF Iaido Promotion exam will be conducted for iaido ranks up to 6 dan. In order to have the required number of examiners for up to 6 dan, the AUSKF has requested FIK approval for (1 )Canadian Iaido sensei, 7 dan Iaido rank, to be examiner. The 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will include a Jodo workshop; there are currently two (2) 5 dan Jodo sensei in the AUSKF [1-PNKF, 1-AEUSKF]; both of the AUSKF 5 dan Jodo sensei attended the 2014 AUSKF Iaido Education Tour held in Seattle, Washington, and guest instructor, Kazuma Okuda sensei 7 dan Renshi Jodo, conducted a Jodo workshop.

C. 2014 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, July 11-13, 2014, to be held in Tacoma, Washington; there was no final budget proposal available for review.

D. 2014 AUSKF Eastern Region Education Tour held on March 28 –April 8, 2014 (update). It was reported that Waichiro Kurita sensei, 8 dan Kyoshi, was the guest instructor, and he taught very good basics of kendo.

E. 2014 AUSKF Western Region Education Tour (update). It was requested that the date of this event be held earlier than December 2014, if possible. Discussion held regarding the AUSKF arrangements to assist the guest Japan instructors, when travelling between each segment of the AUSKF education tours; it was suggested to try and provide an AUSKF sensei to maybe travel with

the guest instructor, between each segment of the AUSKF education tours, if this will be helpful to the guest instructors from Japan, to navigate through the airports upon arrival, to ensure a timely process for the guest instructors.

**F. 2014 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar** (update).

It was reported that this event was held on February 22 & 23, 2014 in Vancouver, Canada; there were 26 participants from the United States, 2 participants from Brazil, 30 participants from Canada, and 1 participant from Hawaii. The FIK instructors were: Masaharu Kakehashi sensei 8 dan Hanshi, Noriyasu Makise sensei, and Koji Kasamura sensei.

Question was asked if there were any changes discussed during the 2014 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar. It was reported that there is one matter under discussion by the FIK regarding how many steps are taken by the kendoist to begin a shiai and sonkyo, and then, how many steps are taken at the end of the shiai to leave the shiai-jo. It was the recommendation of Kakehashi sensei that in general, for a kendo match [versus kendo kata], the kendoists should take three steps to begin the kendo match and sonkyo, and at the end of the kendo match, take the same three steps to leave the kendo match area. Further discussion was held regarding this matter, but there was no clear resolution of how to resolve this matter.

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

**I. Old Business:**

B. Committee Action Items: iii.

Education (continued):

A second change was reported regarding the vocalization of kote, men, do and tsuki was recommended by the FIK instructors, by kenshi of all countries. Y. Tagawa explained that this is the current FIK referee rule, to vocalize kote, men, do and tsuki in a kendo match. As there are some Korean kendo dojos who are affiliated with the AUSKF, who do NOT currently vocalize kote, men, do and tsuki; it was recommended that this rule be made clear beginning with the 2017 AUSKF Championships. **Effective January 1, 2015, AUSKF is recommended to give NOTICE to all of the AUSKF member federations of this FIK referee kendo match rule, to be enforced by the AUSKF referees.**

**iv. COMPETITION:**

A. AUSKF Zone shinpan seminars (update): Zone 1, held in January 2013 in Los Angeles, had about 100 participants. Zone 2, held in Fall 2013 in Atlanta, had about 60 participants. NCKF/CCKF shinpan seminar was held in Winter 2013, had about 50 participants. Zone 5, held in Spring 2014, PNKF had about 40 participants. Zone 4, held in March 2014 in Chicago, had about 40 participants. In December 2013, a 1-day refresher AUSKF shinpan seminar was held in southern

California, and there were about 90 participants. It was recommended to have 1-day refresher AUSKF shinpan seminars for all of the AUSKF zones, every other year; which can be held in a different place and location than the initial AUSKF Zone shinpan seminars, if necessary. Zone 6 AUSKF shinpan seminar will be held May 3 & 4, 2014, in Dallas, Texas; this AUSKF shinpan seminar is open to all AUSKF member federation members who may be interested to attend. The New York area AUSKF shinpan seminar was scheduled for May 31-June 1, 2014; it was reported that this time period is at the end of the school year, graduation events, the current venue located is limited to one 9 meter by 9 meter court, and due to the closeness in time to the 2014 AUSKF Championships, it was recommended to cancel this AUSKF shinpan seminar and requested that it be rescheduled in the Fall, 2014 [TBA]. Question requesting information regarding how the AUSKF Zone shinpan seminar grading results will be made available and if the AUSKF will be issuing any certification card/certificate; it was reported that this is being reviewed, and one suggestion is to use the AUSKF database for this purpose.

B. 2014 AUSKF Championships. It was reported that the venue and practice gyms to be used will be reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors. The number of participants will be about 400; the teams will include: Jr. Youth Boys= 12, Sr. Youth Boys= 9, Girls Jr. Youth & Sr. Youth= 7, Mudansha=9, Women=11, Senior= 12, and Men=15. Also it was reported that currently there is not a AUSKF Championships perpetual trophy

for the Mudansha Division, and Senior Division; the NCKF will propose making a donation to have a Miyata Cup and SCKF will propose making a donation for a Miyahara cup, for these respective divisions.

A copy of the updated 2014 AUSKF Championships schedule was distributed and reviewed. There will be a shuttle bus to from from the AUSKF hotels in San Diego to the event venue; the competitors, team managers, guests, etc. can use the shuttle for \$5 round-trip per day. There will be no charge for the shinpan to use the shuttle bus. The high school practice gym will be open from 6am-3pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for use mostly by the competitors.

The bento (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), \$10, is optional for everybody; there will also be available for purchase, a breakfast box (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), \$10, [something like a McMuffin/ Croissant, coffee or juice]. Sayonara Party is \$50 per person, \$25 (10yrs and under); at the door will be \$60. AUSKF guests [hotel room will be provided] will be: Charlie Tanaka [Chief Judge], Fukumoto sensei, Kamei sensei. Hotel rooms are 88% reserved; AUSKF referees hotel rooms are reserved. Referees to be selected very soon; will need 36 referees and 6/7 court judges [AUSKF will provide bento]. Vendors: 7/8 registered: Tozando, e-bogu, Mazukiya, Kendo Style, Phiten [Team USA sponsor, will be provided a booth by AUSKF],

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

I. Old Business: B. Committee Action Items: v. Competition. B. 2014 AUSKF Championships (continued): Korean Bogu, etc.

Program booklet: sponsorship package explained [business card=\$75, ½ page=\$150, full page=\$350, division sponsors/perpetual trophy: \$700, Bronze Sponsor=\$250, Silver Circle Sponsor=\$300, Gold Circle Sponsor=\$500, Platinum sponsor=\$1,200, Platinum Plus Sponsor=\$1,500]. AUSKF medals [same medal as AUSKF Iaido is now using]=256 medals will be engraved with e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> place, division, etc. Also, in program booklet: AUSKF board of directors will be recognized with name and photo [to be submitted by AUSKF board of directors].

2014 AUSKF Championships details reported by T. Kato: [Logistics coordinator: Minoru Sakae, Volunteer coordinator: Mr. Yu]

Friday: June 27: Jr. Youth, Sr. Youth, Seniors: 4-minutes, no encho, no hantei; Seeding round: A=1<sup>st</sup>, B=2<sup>nd</sup>. Medal round: 4 minutes; except for finals= 5minutes. Y. Onitsuka asked about rules for **Jr. Youth**= no nito, no jodan and no tsuki; also, **Sr. Youth**: no nito, tsuki okay, and jodan is okay. Youth Girls Team [12yrs-18]=jodan okay, tsuki okay, no nito. Finals on all five (5) courts.

Saturday: June 28: Individual Men, Women, Mudansha and Mudansha Team: [same seeding round, medal round, etc.]. Finals at the end of the day: 1 court.

Sunday: June 29: Men's Team, Women's Team [same seeding round, medal round, etc.]. Medals to be awarded to: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Question: During the 2014 AUSKF Championships; what is the procedure when one or more of the shinpan's dojo/member federation is competing at the same time as the affected shinpan(s). It was agreed, that the procedure is to change the affected shinpan(s), during that one competition; in all competition matches [seeding and medal rounds].

2014 AUSKF Championships: **Tenegui** - AUSKF ordered 800. The AUSKF cost for 800 tenegui is \$5,000; the tenegui sales price will be \$10 each, and souvenir tenegui to be issued to the competitors.

2014 AUSKF Championships: **T-shirt** designs reviewed.

Shinai Regulations: Due to mixed age groups [e.g. 16yrs and up, college age students]; it was decided to allow BOTH size 38 shinai [must meet minimum weight] and size 39 shinai [must meet minimum weight].

C. 16<sup>th</sup> WKC-Team USA [update]. The progress of the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC –Team USA training program was reported to date; Team USA is currently training with Hungary, Italy and Spain, on the date of this AUSKF board of directors meeting.

16<sup>th</sup> WKC –Team USA budget document was distributed and reviewed. A revised

request as of April 2014, was reduced by \$5,000 since the November 2013 AUSKF board of directors

It was suggested that a **budget** will be needed for the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC-AUSKF shinpan travel costs.

The AUSKF board of directors was reminded that a motion was approved in November 2013, to authorize Team USA to spend up to \$100,000 of the general budget items approved for the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC – Team USA expenditures from November 2013 to April 2014. It was reported that the total Team USA expenditures through November 2014, is estimated to be \$112,000; a motion was passed to increase the original Team USA authorized expenditures amount to \$150,000.

D. 2014 Jr. Team USA Training Seminar [update]. It was requested to table this matter to the next AUSKF board of directors meeting in November 2014.

v. **PROMOTION:**

a) Letter to AUSKF member federations regarding private invitations.

It was reported that a request from the Confederation Latin American Kendo ["CLAK"] President, Ciutoco Kojima, requested the AUSKF President's approval to send five (5) 6 dan and above examiners for a Santo Domingo promotion examination. Discussion was held whether or not the two (2) Japan sensei who are currently in Santo Domingo are officially approved

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

I. Old Business: B. Committee Action Items: v. Promotion (continued):

to be promotion examiners, by the FIK/AJKF. Inquiry whether there was any official communication with FIK/AJKF regarding this matter; the AUSKF requested that CLAK send a letter requesting AUSKF examiners to FIK/AJKF. Also FIK stated that if there is agreement between the two FIK countries for promotion examination examiners, this is okay. Domingo; then, the AUSKF will send examiners. AUSKF will followup on this matter with the CLAK officials, to determine if the AUSKF will send the requested examiners.

A request was made to clarify the AUSKF rule regarding the private request by a FIK country or AUSKF member federations for kendo or iaido examiners. It was explained that the AUSKF rule is that if there is no specific names requested for kendo or iaido examiners; the AUSKF will select and send the number of examiners requested.

2. SCKO Request to Review “Hanshigo” (update): It was reported that there is no request from the SCKO for awarding “Hanshigo” at this time; if there is a future request, there is a AUSKF procedure to be followed.

3. “new” Menjo Request form

(update): It was reported that the AUSKF menjo request form has been updated and now requires a AUSKF ID number for the AUSKF member to be issued a menjo [Note: The “new” Menjo Request form will be uploaded to the AUSKF website].

4. 2013 AUSKF Promotion report was reviewed.

**vi. Developement.**

1. College Liason Committee [update]:

1. College Liason Committee [Update]:

J. Marsten reported that there is now a **website**: [www.collegekendo.com](http://www.collegekendo.com)

The criteria to be listed on the website, is that the college kendo dojo must be contacted by the AUSKF.

The committee will be developing a WHY LIST, as to why a college kendo dojo should belong to the AUSKF; e.g. What can the AUSKF do for you? How the AUSKF can help the college kendo dojo to be organized/establish a kendo club, for affiliation with a AUSKF member federation, expected outcomes, proposed fee structure, etc.?

Information will also be placed into the 2014 AUSKF Championships program booklet.

**vii. Other:**

1. Update job descriptions in AUSKF by-laws to reflect statement of work of each officer: President, Executive VP, VP-Education, VP-Promotion, VP-Competition, Secretary-Historian, Treasurer, Auditor, and Recorder. J. Martsten distributed proposed revisions to the officer job descriptions. **Tabled.**

It was requested to **ADD**: AUSKF Insurance Coordinator; after discussion, it was decided that the AUSKF will “draft” a proposed PPG AUSKF Insurance Coordinator.

Proposed: **PPG 25.00.00**

**Development:** The AUSKF will, through the office of the Executive Vice President, maintain a policy to increase the membership of the organization. This policy will be implemented by the following means:

**25.01.00** Establish and chair the development committee.

**25.02.00** Maintain and direct the AUSKF web site, college liason committee and other means to assist the member federations.

**25.03.00** Develop guidelines and suggestions on how to develop and form a Kendo organization.

**25.04.00** Target specific markets of opportunity and develop a schedule for implementation of a campaign to start Kendo in the targeted areas.

**25.05.00** Use the AUSKF web site for listing our members and their affiliates, the area they serve and a contact person.

PPG 25.00.00 through 25.05.00 was approved.

2. Establish clearer definitions of areas of concern between Education/Promotion/Competition: e.g. seminars (update). **Tabled.**



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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:**

I. Old Business: B. Committee Action Items: vii. Other: (continued):

3. How to manuals [Need national tournament manual developed] (update): The Competition Committee was requested to “draft” this How to manual, after the completion of the 2014 AUSKF Championships. **Tabled.**

4. 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election. Review 2014 Election Process.

Review of AUSKF 2014 Election Process document; updates made include:

Nominations Due: June 7, 2014.

Special Election if Required: September 23, 2014.

Motion made and passed to adopt AUSKF 2014 Election Process with noted updates above..

II. Committee Meetings: a. Committees meet for planning strategy.

b. Committee reports.

**i. Budget.** No report.

**ii. Education.** It was reported no further updates regarding the 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Also, it was reported that there are 150 AUSKF Iaido medals that need

storage. Motion approved to use SCKF storage locker and AUSKF to pay ¼ of monthly fee [\$140] plus shipping costs.

In addition, it was reported that the 2014 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, did not have a budget proposed at this time.

**iii. Promotion.**

It was reported that for the next AUSKF Kodansha shinsa, AUSKF recommends that the Kodansha shinsa applicants attend the 2014 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp; J. Marsten suggested that if this is the AUSKF expectation for the Kodansha shinsa applicants, then there needs to be a Kodansha shinsa training workshop included in the 2014 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp. A comment was made that since the AUSKF conducts a Kodansha shinsa at two other different times per year, it would be reasonable to request that the Kodansha shinsa applicants attend the 2014 AUSKF Summer Camp; however, for those who do NOT want to attend the 2014 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp, they can take the Kodansha shinsa given in either November or April. It was also suggested that the AUSKF could consider conducting a Kodansha shinsa seminar prior to the November or April AUSKF Kodansha shinsas. In addition, it was reported that there will be “new” application forms for the Iaido Shogo promotion examination, and for kyu to 3 dan.

Lastly, regarding the CLAK request for AUSKF promotion examiners; Y. Tagawa will write a letter to Ms. Kodato/CLAK, to request clarification if the two Japan sensei are officially approved to be promotion examiners.

**iv. Competition.**

It was reported that the 2014 AUSKF Championships updates for the shina regulations will be sent out in writing; also, the selected referee list, will be sent to the AUSKF member federations by April 20, 2014. Regarding the selected referees, who will be attending the 2014 AUSKF Championships with their spouses; the AUSKF will pay for ½ of hotel room cost and round-trip airfare for the selected referees. Court coordinators will be selected for each court; and will be responsible for their assigned courts during the entire three-days of the 2014 AUSKF Championships.

**v. Iaido**

It was reported that there will be engraving costs for the 2014 AUSKF Iaido Championship medals; as this item was not previously budgeted by the Iaido committee, it was suggested to just ADD this item to the Iaido Committee budget, and understanding this will be a new budgeted expense.

**vi. Anti-Doping.**

A Anti-Doping report update was distributed regarding the AUSKF anti-doping program; it was recommended to defer implementing OOC and ICT for the AUSKF until after the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC, to review the FIK recommendations for affiliate countries implementation of OOC and ICT. A question was asked regarding what is the eligibility criteria for anti-doping

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**Highlights from the April 12 & 13, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, San Diego, California:II.**

Committee Meetings: (continued)

recommended for AUSKF; it was recommended that the age criteria will be 18yrs old and older. Another question was asked regarding what are the related anti-doping costs; the AUSKF previously received information and at that time the cost was \$600 per ICT test. When asked who pays for the FIK selected OOC, if an anti-doping test is requested for a selected AUSKF kendoist; it was explained that the FIK pays for these anti-doping tests.

If the AUSKF is going to begin anti-doping testing; it was suggested that those selected to do OOC for FIK [e.g. Team USA members], then the AUSKF should NOT select the same AUSKF kendoists.

A copy of the 2014 Prohibited Substance List, and a copy of the "new" FIK Anti-Doping Manual for Kensei, was distributed; it was proposed to make copies of these documents for the 16<sup>th</sup> WKC – Team USA members, and review them at a proposed meeting with Team USA members, in early 2015.

**III. New Business:**

1. CLAK [Confederation Latin American Kendo].

It was reported that CLAK sent a letter to A. Murakami requesting that Puerto Rico [Territory of the United

States] be allowed to join CLAK; the AUSKF notified CLAK that this matter would be reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors.

After review of this matter; the AUSKF confirmed that Puerto Rico has joined the SEUSKF, and has paid AUSKF membership dues for several years. Also, the current AUSKF policy and procedure rule is that a AUSKF member is NOT able to belong to two (2) national kendo federations at the same time.

Based on the above information; the AUSKF notified CLAK, that the AUSKF does not approve the request that Puerto Rico be allowed to join CLAK.

2. Santo Domingo. [see discussion above].

3. CLAK/AUSKF (EKF model). Establish relationship definition.

A letter from the AUSKF to CLAK has been sent, to begin discussing what the definition of the CLAK/AUSKF relationship will be. Motion approved to have the Development Committee review this matter and make a recommendation to the AUSKF board of directors.

4. Request for AUSKF Assistance to start Kendo Club in Reno, Nevada.

It was reported that contact has been made jointly with C. Tanouye and PNKF members who are familiar with the individuals making the request for AUSKF assistance; a kendo seminar is being planned for this group in the near future. At this time; this request will be considered as information only.

5. November 2014 meeting.- Confirm date and location.

It was reported that the next AUSKF board of directors meeting was confirmed for November 8 & 9, 2014, to be held in Chicago, Illinois, and hosted by the Midwest Kendo Federation.

V. Other:

Atsushi Hori sensei announced that this will be his final term as a AUSKF board of director; Hori sensei will not accept a AUSKF board of director position if elected in the 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election. Also, Hori sensei explained that he will continue to support the AUSKF if requested by the future AUSKF board of directors.

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**MEMBER FEDERATION NEWS:**

**1. MIDWEST KENDO FEDERATION.**

**Submitted by: Yoshitera Tagawa**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Detroit Open Kendo Tournament hosted by the Detroit Kendo Dojo will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

I cordially invite you and request for you save this date on your calendar as the tournament weekend.

Details of the exact location, accommodation recommendations, maps., registration procedures, etc., will be sent out to you in the coming months

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**BOOK REVIEW:**

Submitted by: Norman K. Otani,  
Esq.

*Sword Techniques of Musashi and  
the Other Samurai Masters* by:

Fumon Tanaka

Published by Kodansha USA, Inc.  
451 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10016

ISBN 978-1-56836-475-9

Earlier this year, the author of this book review was contacted by Laura Shatzkin, Director of Marketing and Sales, Kodansha USA, Inc., for some general information about the AUSKF. As a result, of the initial inquiry about the All United States Kendo Federation and the AUSKF membership; this book review was accepted to be a part of the AUSKF Newsletter, as the editor believes that there is a mutual benefit to be derived by the AUSKF members and kendo instructors from this endeavor.

The Prologue of this book provides the historical background of Japan that spans 12,000 to 8,000 years, which includes the history of swords. From this starting point, the reader [Note: This book review is written with the AUSKF kendoist, in mind, who is training each day to some day become sufficiently knowledgeable both physically and academically, to achieve the goal of becoming a world class competitor and/or kendo instructor, and will be interested to seek the knowledge discovered from

the expert research completed by Fumon Tanaka and shared in his recent literary achievement, to make this dream a reality], is provided the platform from which a Japanese traditional martial arts practitioner must understand that during the journey at the advanced stages of learning the technical skills, ones "mentality endures internal conflicts between ambivalence and enlightenment, good and evil. Thus, he must also train academically to explore profound philosophy. In due time, he reaches the knowledge of deep psyche; he quests for invincible Budo skills and a peaceful mind. Once he achieves this state--- nirvana-like, invincible, and ideal---he is led to the ultimate honor and harmony of controlling his opponents without killing or hurting them."

Thus, when reading the book: *Sword Techniques of Musashi and the Other Samurai Masters*, the AUSKF members and kendo instructors will learn the inner secrets of kenjutsu training, which can be translated into the kendo training of modern day, and will be enthralled with the stories uncovered about "The Real Miyamoto Musashi," which includes the origins of Enmei-ryu, Muso-ryu, Tori-ryu, and, Kyushin-ryu.

I would encourage all of the AUSKF member federations to make a once in a lifetime book purchase; which I sincerely believe, will be an invaluable literary experience, that will hopefully enhance the readers kendo and iaido knowledge and skills in the many years to come.

**[Note: The Kodansha USA, Ltd. was a Silver Circle Supporter of the 2014 AUSKF Championships]**

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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 January 2015, can be  
submitted to my e-mail address:**

norm\_otani@auskf.info

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or news items can be sent  
to: 2338 E. Minarets Avenue  
Fresno, California 93720

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To the AUSKF Newsletter readers:

I would like to sincerely apologize in advance, for the overdue completion of this issue of the AUSKF Newsletter; from June 30-July 8, 2014, I was faced with a very difficult personal challenge, when my own mother became hospitalized after spending several years in a skilled nursing home, and then the decision was made to place my mother on comfort/hospice care.

The personal loss of my own mother on July 8, 2014; has resulted in a grieving process, that continues to this date.

I hope to regain back my full spiritual self soon.