

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 No. 1
April 1, 2015

KENDO

IN MEMORIAM: Arthur Ichiro Murakami [1929-2015]

2015-2017

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In Memoriam:

[Note: As the President's Message from Yoshiteru Tagawa, was posted on the AUSKF website in January 2015; due to the sudden passing away of the immediate-past AUSKF president, Arthur I. Murakami, the traditional space reserved for the President's Message, will be omitted, to pay our deepest respect to the late, Arthur I. Murakami sensei]

It was with disbelief when the initial e-mail from Tom Tew was sent on January 15, 2015, informing the All United States Kendo Federation ("AUSKF") board of directors and AUSKF member federation presidents that Murakami sensei had passed away peacefully in his sleep on the evening of January 14, 2015.

About two weeks later on January 27, 2015, a funeral service was held at the Pavilion at Industry Hills Expo Center; attended by several hundred family members and friends, to say farewell to their husband, father, grandfather and friend.

During the funeral service, Murakami sensei's Industry Sheriff's Kendo Dojo member, Thomas Tew, shared the Personal History of the late, Arthur Ichiro Murakami. [Note: As Murakami sensei was known for his

extreme high level of organization of documents for the various kendo organizations when he held either a elected official position/advisor during his lifetime; about two years ago, I received a copy of Murakami sensei's personal history he had prepared himself, that assisted in the recalling of this information in this In Memoriam news article].

Arthur Ichiro Murakami was born on December 23, 1929, in Long Beach, California. From 1935-1936 he lived with his grandparents in Florin, California, on a grape farm. Then, from 1937-1940, he lived with his mother's uncle in Lomita, California, on a celery and lima bean farm.

Murakami sensei started to learn kendo in 1937 from Takeno sensei, when he attended the Lomita Japanese School, held in Huntington Beach, California.

In 1941, after graduating from the 6th grade at Walteria Grammar School, Murakami sensei left for Hiroshima, Japan with his grandparents to study in Japan.

During the World War II years, Murakami sensei went to Noboricho Sho-gakko (Grammar School) and went to Koryo-chu Gakko (Middle School).

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In Memoriam: (continued)

On August 6, 1945, Murakami sensei had suffered a foot injury, and as a result was not able to travel to the inner-city area of Hiroshima, with his classmates. As everyone knows, this was the fateful day, that the United States dropped an atomic bomb in the center of Hiroshima City, Hiroshima, killing thousands of innocent men, women and children; from this date forward, Murakami sensei believed that he was a very lucky person to have survived the terrible ordeal of that infamous day.

Murakami sensei returned to live in the United States in 1947; he subsequently volunteered to serve in the United States Army from June 1949, during the Korean War; and at the end of the Korean War, he was stationed in the Yokohama 155th United States Army Hospital.

Then, after having returned to the United States, as a civilian; in 1960, Murakami sensei started to practice kendo with the late Torao Mori and other kendo senseis, at Denker Playground.

Beginning in 1967, when he was elected to serve as a board member of the Southern California Kendo Federation ("SCKF"); Murakami sensei's kendo career included the following offices and positions, up until the time of his passing away:

- Vice-President FIK ("International Kendo Federation")

- President -All United States Kendo Federation.
- Senior Advisor-Southern California Kendo Federation.
- Founder & Chief Instructor-Industry Sheriff's Kendo Dojo.
- Instructor-All Nations Church Kendo Dojo.
- Advisor-Sho Tokyo Kendo Dojo.
- Advisor-Southern California Iaido Association.

At the time of his passing away on January 14, 2015; Murakami sensei had achieved the kendo rank of 7 Dan Kyoshi, and the iaido rank of 6 Dan.

He is survived by his wife: HisakoTakahashi (Lena HisakoMurakami), daughter: Julia Mitsuko Murakami, son: Timothy Kazuo Murakami [Chief of Police - City of Rosemead, Lieutenant - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department], two grandsons, two granddaughters and four great-grandsons.

All who knew him, will miss the late, Arthur Ichiro Murakami, as he was one individual kendo sensei who made kendo friendships wherever he travelled in the United States, Japan, and other parts of the world, most recently in Latin America.

Farewell Murakami sensei. May you eternally rest in peace. We will miss you very much.

Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:

Reported by Norman K. Otani, Esq.

[Note: this report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the November 8 & 9, 2014, AUSKF board of directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]

I. Election of 11/2014-11/2017 Officers:

After the making of the nominations, seconded, and receiving a simple majority vote, the following Officers were elected:

President: Yoshiteru Tagawa
Executive VP: Tim Yuge
VP-Education: Chris Yang
VP-Promotion: Shinobu Maeda
VP-Competition: Yuji Onitsuka
Secretary-Historian: Norman Otani
Treasurer: Kotaro Yoshida
Auditor: Court Tanouye

In addition, the following, were appointed by Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF President:

AUSKF Liability Insurance
Coordinator: Susan Zau

Iaido Committee Chair: Shozo Kato

Anti-Doping Committee Chair: Norman Otani

II. Minutes of April 12 & 13, 2014 meeting. Approved.

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Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:

(continued)

III. Old Business:

A. AUSKF Liability Insurance [Update]
Previously, a handout was received: AUSKF Liability Insurance Certificate Request Procedure, which is 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.

The update indicated that a new liability insurance certificate will be issued for endorsements: e.g. other insured, change/new location of a dojo, tournament event facility. It was explained that if the tournament event is being held at the AUSKF dojo site, a copy of the dojo certificate should suffice.

1. Insurance Provider for Directors & Officers policy [update].

The current insurance carrier, Francis L. Dean, is not interested to provide a separate director/liability insurance coverage.

Discussion held regarding consideration of a different liability insurance carrier, which would provide for a three (3) year liability insurance coverage of a non-profit organization and its seventeen (17)

board of directors. The liability insurance coverage would be for \$3,000,000; and the premium would be approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year. There were questions about whether or not the liability insurance coverage includes legal consultation, etc. After further discussion, it was approved to purchase the Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage, three (3) year policy, for an approximate \$2,000 per year premium.

During the transition of the newly appointed AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator: Susan Zau; the current listed e-mail address on the AUSKF website, will continue to be the contact information.

B. Committee Action Items:

i. Budget/Finance:

The 2014 AUSKF Preliminary Financial Report was reviewed; a final 12-31-14 AUSKF Financial Report will be completed and provided at the next April 2015, board of directors meeting.

Discussion held that the current AUSKF annual income is sufficient to support the 16th WKC-Team USA expenditures [approximately \$300,000], and the next 17th WKC-Team USA expenditures [approximately \$300,000]; however, thereafter, the AUSKF board of directors should plan to consider additional funding sources, to have sufficient financial reserves to support the 18th WKC-Team USA expenditures.

- AUSKF Financial Report-finance

codes. This matter was tabled.

ii. Education:

A. 2014 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp, June 12-16, 2014, held in New York City, reviewed a summary report including that there were 108 participants, etc., and final budget report.

B. 2014 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp, July 11-13, 2014, held in Tacoma, Washington, reviewed a summary report that there were 66 participants. It was suggested that for future AUSKF Kendo Summer Camps, the dates and information for the event should be available six (6) months in advance; also, the AUSKF should develop a "How to host and conduct the AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp manual?"

C. 2014 AUSKF Western Region Education Tour, October 31-November 10, 2014, Takeshi Ishii sensei, 8 dan, Kyoshi, successfully conducted seminars in Los Angeles, San Jose, Dallas, Houston, and Chicago.

iii. Competition:

A. AUSKF Zone shinpan seminars (update):

It was recommended that the AUSKF conduct "refresher" 1-day seminars for each of the six (6) zones, in 2015. The zone covering the New York area has not been rescheduled to date after agreement to cancel the initial date scheduled.

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Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:(continued)

III. Old Business:

B. Committee Action Items:

iii. Competition: (continued)

B. **2014 AUSKF Championships.**

It was explained that the overall report was that the referee seminar held on the Thursday, before the 2014 AUSKF Championships, was very beneficial, for the results of the event; the iaido demonstration was done very well. The final financial report was reviewed. There was discussion about the Farewell Party dinner expense of \$50 per person versus, the actual cost which would have been about \$80 per person; it was decided that the AUSKF would pay for the additional dinner expenses, so that as many AUSKF participants and family members could attend, without causing a financial hardship.

C. **16th WKC-Team USA** (update):

The balance of the 16WKC-Team USA budget was approved.

It was requested to review the two versions of P & P section 17. After further review and discussion, the PPG Section 17 version as follows was approved: [sections marked with * indicate "change"]

● Section 17.01.00 [No change to original language].

●Section 17.02.00 [No change to original language].

●Section 17.03.00 [No change to original language].

●*Section 17.04.00: The AUSKF Board of Directors shall select the Manager of Team USA.

●*Section 17.05.00: Once the Manager of Team USA is selected by the AUSKF Board of Directors, the Manager shall select the coaching staff for Team USA and shall report such selections to the AUSKF Board of Directors.

●*Section 17.06.00: The Manager of Team USA will determine the manner of team selection for the members of the Team USA upon consultation with the Vice President of Competition. The Vice President of Competition or their representative will publish or cause to be published to the members of the AUSKF the timetable and manner of selection. It is the Regional Member's responsibility to disseminate the information to qualified individuals.

●*17.07.00: The level of financial support of all activities for Team USA shall be determined by the AUSKF Board of Directors. Team USA shall submit a line item budget for approval by the AUSKF Board of Directors.

D. **2014 Jr. Team USA Training Seminar** [update]. It was reported that this event was cancelled.

E. **2015 AUSKF Jr. National Tournament.**

This event is under review by the

AUSKF competition committee; tentatively, an East Coast venue is suggested, so that more of the East Coast kendoists and sensei can participate, and assist the AUSKF to achieve the goal of having kendo programs to develop young kendoists throughout the United States, and as a result will have a larger pool of young kendoists for selection as future Team USA members.

iv. Promotion:

1. Letter to AUSKF member federations regarding private invitation (update):

It was requested that this matter be tabled, and a committee appointed to review and make a recommendation to the AUSKF board of directors, regarding how to resolve this matter.

v. Development:

1. College Liason Committee (update)

It was reported that a thank you letter was received from the University of Rochester, for the support of the AUSKF to develop a kendo club.

vi. Documentation updates from April 2014 meeting.

1. Update job descriptions in AUSKF by-laws to reflect statement of work of each officer approved, as follows:

President [one correction], Executive VP, VP-Education, VP-Promotions & Examinations, VP-Competition, Secretary-Historian,

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Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:(continued)

III. Old Business:

B. Committee Action Items:

vi. Documentation updates from April 2014 meeting. (continued)

Treasurer, Auditor, and,

Recorder[eliminated this office]

2. How to manuals. [Need national tournament manual developed] Tabled, to allow 2014 AUSKF Championship tournament committee to meet and develop in 2015.

3. 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election.

- Review 2014 AUSKF Election Process. Bylaws revision.

Distributed copies of proposed AUSKF by-laws changes: Article VIII. Election of Directors.
[Amended items in **bold print**]

Section 1. NOMINATIONS AND SOLICITATIONS FOR VOTES

Nominations. Members may nominate candidates for directorships by written notice **or e-mail with a PDF attachment listing the nominees** addressed to the executive vice president.

Ballots. At least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election (as set forth in Section 2 below) the executive vice

president shall prepare and send to each member's representative of record, by [~~delete: certified or registered~~] mail, a ballot containing the name (and resume or list of qualifications if submitted) of each candidate for whom a nomination was timely received by the corporation.

v. Development:

3. 2015-2017 AUSKF board of directors election.

- Review 2014 AUSKF Election Process. Bylaws revision.
(continued) **Each member's representative will confirm via e-mail receipt of the ballot to the executive vice president.**

Section 2. Elections. The election of directors shall be held every **three (3) years ninety (90)** days prior to the second Saturday in November or **ninety days (90)** prior to the second general meeting of the corporation for that year...

Each member's representative shall return the completed ballot in the unmarked envelope provided by the corporation. The unmarked envelope with ballot enclosed shall be sealed in a separate envelope and mailed to the corporation to the attention of the executive vice president, by [~~Delete: certified or registered~~] mail. **The executive vice president will confirm receipt of each member's representatives ballot by e-mail to each member's representatives and members president.**

Above revisions were approved.

IV. Committee Meetings and reports:

i. Budget-Finance Committee members: K. Yoshida, T. Kato, C. Tanouye, and T. Inoshita.

T. Kato will be assistant treasurer-membership. Bank account transfer will be requested by K. Yoshida.

Effective date of AUSKF membership changed as follows:

Effective immediately, the 2014 AUSKF membership dues paid by December 31, 2014, will be considered as having paid the 2014 AUSKF membership dues through March 31, 2015; then, effective March 31, 2015, the AUSKF membership dues paid by this date, and thereafter paid through March of the next calendar year, will follow the amended AUSKF Policy and Procedure 1.01.01 & 1.01.02 guidelines that states as follows:

1.01.01: "The effective date of annual membership fees paid by March 31 of each calendar year is from April 1 through March 31 of the next calendar year."

1.01.02: "Collection of the annual membership fee after April 1 in each calendar year is effective the month and day collected by member through March 31 of the next calendar year, regardless of the month of collection, up to and including March."

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Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:(continued)

III. Old Business:

IV. **Committee Meetings and reports:**

ii. Education Committee members: C. Yang, B. Harada, S. Shinada, and M. Segawa (SCKO).

It is recommended that the AUSKF sensei be involved in Education Tours.

Also, the Education Committee plans to develop a website; this would allow AUSKF kendoists to register for Education events online, etc.

iii. Promotion Committee members: S. Maeda, S. Koike, M. Kajitani, J. Kodama, and H. Fukumoto.

Discussion held about which postal service the AUSKF should use to ensure that the AUSKF menjos are not damaged during the mailing to the AUSKF member federations; it was suggested to use UPS.

iv. Competition Committee members: Y. Onitsuka, T. Kato, C. Tanouye, T. Yuge, and C. Yang [Jr. National Tournament].

It was reported that there will be 2015-2017 AUSKF Shinpan seminars in the seven (7) zones; also, plans are being made for the 2015 AUSKF Jr. National Championships, and, the 2017 AUSKF Championships

[Proposed venue in the East Coast, if host federation accepts].

Discussion regarding start date to implement: Pronouncement of kote, men, do and tsuki, to be reviewed and recommendation made to AUSKF administration [Executive VP, President, VP-Promotion].

v. Iaido Committee members: S. Kato, T. Konno, M. Uchida, P. Parker, and I. Church [Secretary].

It was reported that the 2015 Iaido Education Tour will be held from March 13, 2015 for ten (10) days, and will be held in New York, Oregon, Seattle and San Jose (2-days). Also, the 2015 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will tentatively be held on June 25-28, 2015 in the San Jose, California area, hosted by the Northern California Iaido Association/Northern California Kendo Federation.

vi. Anti-Doping Committee members: N. Otani, S. Shinada, M. Kajitani, and S. Roosevelt.

It was reported that the FIK Anti-Doping Manual for Kenshi is now available on the FIK website; hard copies to be provided to the AUSKF member federations and the FIK website information. Annual AUSKF Anti-Doping Committee ("ADC") meetings are proposed in 2015-2017, as needed. In 2015 the AUSKF ADC plans to meet with the 16WKC-Team USA members to review the OOC, ICT, etc., information.

vii. Development Committee members: T. Yuge, J. Marsten, N. Otani, and J. Kodama.

The responsibilities of the Development Committee was reviewed, including: AUSKF website, media correspondence, AUSKF Newsletter, social media [e.g. Facebook]; PPG, Documentation, and, Virtual Office [Note: Currently, available to AUSKF officers only]

V. New Business:

i. CLAK (Confederation Latin American Kendo)

Discussion about reviewing the CLAK by-laws [English language translation]; no followup needed.

ii. Report on CLAK Activities-Constitution

After further discussion; no followup needed.

iii. Addition of Advisors position to AUSKF (Board of Directors).

It was recommended that current non-AUSKF board of directors past-AUSKF presidents: Charlie Tanaka, Atsushi Hori, and Arthur I. Murakami, be appointed as advisors to the AUSKF board of directors. In addition, discussion was held that if the advisors decide to attend a AUSKF board of directors meeting, the AUSKF board of directors will need to decide what level of reimbursement for travel expenses will be paid.

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Highlights from the November 8 & 9, 2014 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:

V. New Business:

iii. Addition of Advisors position to AUSKF (Board of Directors).

[continued]

The following amendment to the AUSKF by-laws Article X.

Committees, Section 2. Special Advisory Committee, was approved:

[Noted in *italics* and bold print]:

The Board of Directors shall, whenever qualified individuals are willing to serve, establish a special advisory committee to advise and counsel the Board and the corporation *on matters relating to business practices and operating procedures. The Board of Directors may consider individuals as it*

deems appropriate, taking into consideration the skill, knowledge, experience and benefit to the corporation in furthering its purposes, when appointing individuals to the Special Advisory Committee.

The appointee shall serve an unlimited term at the discretion of the Board of Directors, until the individual resigns or is removed by the Board of Directors at their discretion.

After the above above motion was passed; it was approved to appoint: Charlie Tanaka, Atsushi Hori, and Arthur I. Murakami, as AUSKF advisors.

iv. Next April 2015 meeting proposed

to be held in: 1. Denver, Colorado. 2. PNKF area.

v. Legal counsel.

Discussion that C. Yang [confirmed this information] would have a professional conflict to provide any legal opinion to the AUSKF BOD, and this would be a similar situation for N. Otani; for this reason; it was suggested that the AUSKF BOD will ask Mark Kerstein [agrees to provide pro-bono legal assistance] to assist the AUSKF BOD, on a limited basis, to review the current approved Directors & Officers liability insurance policy [see agenda: III. Old Business, above], to be negotiated by AUSKF BOD with a different liability insurance carrier than currently used by the AUSKF.

Thereafter, the AUSKF BOD can consider utilizing Mr. Kerstein or as suggested by Mr. Kerstein, other current AUSKF kendoists who are practicing lawyers, to review pending legal issues, on a limited basis.

Ultimately, it was recommended that the AUSKF BOD should approve retaining legal counsel to review pending legal issues that arise in the course of the AUSKF BOD business matters requiring such legal review.

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

1. All Eastern U.S. Kendo Federation. ["AEUSKF"] Submitted by: Noboru

Kataoka, AEUSKF President.

On Sunday: June 28, 2015, the AEUSKF will have a kendo tournamnt at John Jay gymnasium: 899 10th Ave., New York, NY 10019.

Contact: Noboru Kataoka
kataokaken@earthlink.net

2. Midwest Kendo Federation.
Submitted by Norman Otani.

On February 14 & 15, 2015, the Detroit Kendo Dojo hosted a kendo seminar and the 17th Annual Detroit Open Kendo Tournament.

The kendo seminar held on 2/14/15, was conducted by guest instructor: Shinji Shimizu sensei, 8 dan Kyoshi.

Over two hundred participants competed in the kendo tournament on 2/15/15.

3. Northern California Kendo Federation ["NCKF"]
Submitted by Anthony Cabral.

A. It is our pleasure to announce that Charlie Tanaka, Kendo Kyoshi 7 Dan, was inducted into the Bunka Hall of Fame, the Class of 2014. The award ceremony was made at the Hokka Nichibei Kai New Year Party held on January 24, 2015 at the Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco Japantown. The award was to honor those who have excelled and contributed to the

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3. Northern California Kendo
Federation ["NCKF"] (continued)

culture of Japan as practiced here in America and bettered relationships in our community by enlightening all to the culture of Japan as practiced here in America.

B. IN MEMORIAM:

It is with great sadness to inform you that Richard Tanaka sensei, Kendo 5 Dan and Iaido 5 Dan, passed away on October 28, 2014.

Richard Tanaka sensei was a major contributor to the NCKF and Iaido communities as well as a major presence in the San Jose Kendo Dojo. He was past president of the San Jose Kendo Dojo and held several positions on the NCKF Board of Directors as well as the 2014 manager for Team NCKF. He will be greatly missed by all.

C. The 57th Annual North-South Tournament was held on March 15, 2015 at Leigh High School, San Jose, California.

[Note: Due to space limitations; the results were not included. If interested, contact:
kendocabral@aol.com]

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

Belated: **IN MEMORIAM:**

Shuichi "Switch" Obata Sensei
[1923-2014]

Shuichi "Switch" Obata Sensei was born on January 28, 1923 in El Centro, California.

Obata sensei graduated Brawley High School in 1941 and attended Brawley Junior College after high school. During WWII his family was interned to Poston Camp in Arizona. During this time in Poston Camp, Obata Sensei was granted a "Seasonal Leave" to work on a sugar beet farm in Idaho and later found employment at the Phil Mar Products Company in Cleveland, Ohio until the end of the war in 1945. He and his family returned home to Brawley, California and in 1954 he married Emie Sakakura.

Obata sensei worked as the groundskeeper for the City of Los Angeles Police Academy in Elysian Park until his retirement in 1989 as Senior Groundskeeper. His hobbies included kendo, golf, bowling, and traveling.

Obata sensei began the study of kendo in the Imperial Valley at 14 years old and in the late 1930's practiced kendo at Terminal Island. In November 1956, under the leadership of (late) Torao Mori Sensei and Yutaka Kubota Sensei, Obata Sensei and 17 other kenshis from the American Kendo Federation travelled to Japan for a four week goodwill tour that included visiting dojos and kenshis in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto

and Osaka, Japan.

During the 1960's Obata Sensei taught kendo at the Denker Playground in Los Angeles from 1969 to early 1971, he was an assistant Sensei at WLA Kendo Dojo under the (late) Torao Mori Nakabara. In 1971, the Venice Kendo Club was formed under Tokuji Matsuda and Obata sensei began his tenure at Venice Kendo Club. Obata Sensei remained fully active at Venice Kendo Club until 2009, due to health problems. However, Obata Sensei stayed active with the Venice Kendo Club as Dojo advisor and visited the dojo often and the annual Venice Japanese Community Center Matsuri held in June.

Obata sensei passed away on March 17, 2014 at the age of 91.

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about May 2015, can be submitted to my e-mail address:

norm_otani@auskf.info
