

# AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

Vol. 12 No. 2  
May 26, 2009

## 14th WKC: Good Luck Team USA !!!

### **2009-2011**

#### **OFFICERS:**

##### **PRESIDENT:**

*\*Arthur I. Murakami*

##### **EXECUTIVE VP:**

*Koki Ariga*

##### **VP-PROM & EXAMS:**

*Shinichi Koike*

##### **VP-COMPETITION:**

*\*Yuji Onitsuka*

##### **VP-EDUCATION:**

*Yoshiteru Tagawa*

##### **TREASURER:**

*\*Tomoji Kato*

##### **SEC-HISTORIAN:**

*Yoshinobu Yonekawa*

##### **AUDITOR:**

*Jeff Marsten*

##### **RECORDER:**

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##### **LIABILITY INS. COORD.**

*Mark Uchida*

##### **LAIDO:**

*Takeshi Yamaguchi*

##### **DIRECTORS:**

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*Atsushi Hori*

*Spencer Hosokawa*

*Shozo Kato*

*Shinobu Maeda*

*Norman K. Otani, Esq.*

*Robert Stroud*

*Christopher Yang, Esq.*

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*\*= non-elected 2009-  
2011 AUSKF director*

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Report submitted by Arthur I. Murakami.

Greetings to all of the AUSKF members:

The 14th WKC-Team USA- Men's & Women's Team members have been training very hard to prepare for the 14th World Kendo Championships to be held in Sao Paolo, Brazil on August 28-30, 2009.

On behalf of the AUSKF board of directors and officers, I would like to extend our best wishes to all of the 14th WKC-Team USA- Men's & Women's Team members, to do their best to represent AUSKF.

As the Team USA- Men's Team, achieved a historic win over Japan and a second place finish at the 13th WKC (2006), in Taipei, Taiwan; we are especially excited for them and hope that they will defend this distinguished record with the same vigorous kendo spirit in Sao Paolo, Brazil at the 14th WKC.

Per my request earlier this year; I would like to thank the many individual AUSKF members for sending me their suggestions on what they believe needs to be changed to improve the AUSKF. Please understand, that the suggested changes cannot be accomplished immediately by the AUSKF; each suggestion will need to be reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors for further discussion and approval.

At the recent AUSKF board of directors meeting held on April 4 & 5, 2009; a recommendation was made by the Budget-Finance & Auditor Committee to have a sub-committee to review the current AUSKF by-laws, policy & procedure manual, and promotion regulations to check and ensure that

there is consistency in each of these documents that reflects the past approved changes in each of the respective AUSKF documents. By having this type of oversight subcommittee, there will hopefully be less confusion by AUSKF members and officials when making decisions regarding any particular matter. The name of the subcommittee is the: Document Review Subcommittee.

In addition to the upcoming 14th WKC that is noted above; please extend your support for the upcoming AUSKF events: 2009 Iaido Summer Camp to be held in Boise, Idaho on June 18-21, 2009, and the 2009 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp to be held in Memphis, Tennessee on July 17-19, 2009.

Lastly, I wanted to mention that the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors and officers, has recently demonstrated a new level of enthusiasm and interest to suggest new ideas to improve the overall AUSKF programs and operations. As a result of these new ideas that were suggested at the April 4-5, 2009 AUSKF board of directors meeting, approval was given to plan to have an AUSKF Junior Championships; and, also, after the completion of the 14th WKC, several of the Team USA members will be selected to participate in an AUSKF Education Tour.  
Sincerely,

Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President  
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Whittier, CA. 90601  
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**Highlights from the April 4 & 5, 2009**  
**AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,**  
**Atlanta, GA.:**

Report by Norman K. Otani, Esq.

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[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 4 & 5, 2009, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification; in addition, per agreement by the AUSKF Newsletter Editor and the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors; beginning with this Volume 12 No. 2 edition of the AUSKF Newsletter, the Highlights Column will no longer cite to specific speakers, in response to concerns that previous reported matters resulted in allegations of slander and/or libel to affected individuals.]  
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I. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of November 8 & 9, 2008 AUSKF board of directors meeting was submitted by Yoshinobu Yonekawa. With one agreement, and a few corrections, the minutes were approved.

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A. 13th WKC-Team USA Results/Press Release and DVD to Major USA Newspapers and Television Sports Editors [Update].

Due to insufficient time this project is not completed; the new date for completion was projected for 7/1/09.

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B. 14th WKC-Sao Paolo, Brazil

1.) Financial support of \$30,000 to Brazilian Kendo Federation has been paid .

2.) 14th WKC-Team USA Budget. Motion approved to allow Team USA Manager Charlie Tanaka to use discretion to change amount of budgeted expenditures, as long as expenditures are within the projected budget of \$170,732.55.

Discussion about post-14th WKC: Team USA activities; a mentor program is proposed to be developed and

implemented.

A limited fundraising will be conducted by the 14th WKC: Team USA; e.g. t-shirt sales.

3) Approved 14th WKC:AUSKF Delegation to include Arthur I. Murakami.

4.) 14th WKC: AUSKF Shimpan selected include: Yoshiteru Tagawa, Koki Ariga, Shozo Kato and Tim Yuge. Estimated budget expenses is \$10, 800.00.

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C. FIK Anti-Doping Committee Proposal for AUSKF. Appointment of two (2) Anti-Doping Control Officers.

These matter were tabled, pending a meeting of the AUSKF Anti-Doping Committee members, to be held in the near future.

Motion approved for AUSKF Anti-Doping Committee to meet one (1) time each calendar year to impement FIK Anti-Doping Committee requirements, etc.; and, AUSKF will pay maximum \$800.00 reimbursement per meeting for travel expenses by each committee member.

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D. 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp: Financial Report.

Financial Report for the 2008 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp was submitted and included with the AUSKF 2008 Treasurer's End of Year Report.

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E. Proposed AUSKF Promotion Criteria: 1-dan and above [Update].

2009-2011 AUSKF VP Promotion & Exam, requested to again table the following matters until the next AUSKF board of directors meeting.

#1. AJKF letter dated 10/22/08  
RE: Abolishment of the special treatment on the duration of practice years for 60yrs and older.

#2. AJKF letter dated 10/22/08  
RE: Dan Examiners in FIK Affiliates.

#3. IKF Rev. December 7, 2006

RE: Standard Guideline for Dan/Kyu Examination [9pages].

#4. Proposed Change in AUSKF Written Questions for Promotion Exam 1-kyu to 7 dan & Shogo eff. 2009.

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F. Treasurer's Report.

2009-2011 AUSKF Treasurer submitted the End of Year 12/31/08 Financial Report.

Balance of AUSKF treasury at the end of year 12/31/08 is: \$696, 781.64.

At the direction of the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors; a followup inquiry was made regarding whether or not the AUSKF can make cash gifts to guest instructors after a successful AUSKF kendo and iaido summer camp; it was reported that this matter was reviewed with a tax accountant and determined to be allowable for AUSKF to continue/utilize this type of gift, when deemed appropriate for each event.

The AUSKF Membership Benefits document will be provided to the 2009-2011 AUSKF board of directors for reveiw prior to the next AUSKF board of directors meeting.

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G. AUSKF Liability Insurance Policy [Update]

It was reported that currently in California, the AUSKF liability insurance policy does not provide for directors and officers liability coverage. This matter will be reviewed further and an updated report made at the next AUSKF board of directors meeting

Also, it was reported that the current AUSKF liability insurance policy does provide coverage for use of a shinken at the AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp and during practice in AUSKF member federation dojos.

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H. 2009 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar.

It was reported that 62 participants attended the 2009 FIK America Zone Referee Seminar held on January 24 &

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**Highlights from the April 4 & 5, 2009  
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,  
Atlanta, GA.:** [continued]

25, 2009, in Gardena, California.

II. New Business:

2009-2011 AUSKF Committee Reports:

**Budget/ Finance & Auditor  
Committee:**

2009-2011 Committee Budgets  
submitted.

Auditor raised discussion about the need  
to have a "new" sub-committee to review  
the AUSKF by-laws, policy and  
procedures, and promotion examination  
regulations, to ensure consistency when  
changes are made in one document that  
affects a section in the other document(s).

Approved the formation of a "new" sub-  
committee: Document Review Sub-  
committee. Jeff Martsten, Chairman.  
Mark Uchida, member and Chris Yang,  
member.

**Competition Committee:**

2010 AUSKF Junior Championships was  
proposed; approved to begin planning as  
soon as demographic information is  
received from each of the AUSKF  
member federations.

2011 AUSKF Championships is proposed  
to be held in Atlanta, Georgia sometime  
in June/September.

2009 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars to be  
held in several venues throughout the  
AUSKF, as determined at a later date..

**Promotion Committee:**

The AUSKF menjos are now being  
prepared by one individual; motion  
approved to provide compensation of  
\$1.00 per menjo.

Motion approved to charge \$20.00 for  
replacement of lost menjos.

Promotion examination seminars  
continue to be welcomed by AUSKF

member federations; to date, such  
seminars have been held by CCKF,  
NCKF, SUSKF, AEUSKF.

**Education Committee:**

As a matter of improved communication  
between each of the AUSKF committees;  
the Promotion Committee agreed to  
notify the Education Committee when a  
promotion examination seminar is  
scheduled with a AUSKF member  
federation.

2009 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp will  
be held in Memphis Tennessee on July  
17-19, 2009. AJKF guest instructors will  
be Toshiaki Takahashi, 8 Dan Hanshi  
[Kyoto] and Eiji Sueno, 8 Dan Hanshi  
[Kagoshima]. Application deadline: June  
30, 2009.

**Iaido Committee:**

2009 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp to be  
held in Boise, Idaho on June 18-21, 2009.  
AJKF guest instructors will be Chihiro  
Kishimoto, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi, and  
Masahiro Yamasaki, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi.

**Development Committee:**

Several proposals were presented to  
consider opening an AUSKF  
headquarters office and to hire either a  
full-time or part-time staff person was  
discussed. Agreement reached to table  
this matter to consider additional  
inquiries regarding job description of the  
staff person, proposed location of the  
AUSKF headquarters office, etc.

**Anti-Doping Committee:**

No additional report made.

C. Fall 2009 AUSKF Board of Directors  
meeting.

Northern California Kendo Federation  
requested to host the November 7 & 8,  
2009 AUSKF board of directors meeting  
in the San Jose/Santa Clara area.

**REGIONAL MEMBER'S  
NEWS:**

1. Central California Kendo Federation.

Report submitted by Toshio Livingston.

Belatedly, we would like all AUSKF  
member federations to welcome a "new"  
dojo that has joined the CCKF:  
Kogakukan Kendo Dojo, located in  
Seattle, Washington.

The practice schedule for the Kogakukan  
Kendo Dojo is as follows:

Tuesdays: 6:30am-7:30am  
Nisei Veterans Committee Hall  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA.

Wednesdays: 6:30pm - 9pm  
Nisei Veterans Committee Hall

Saturdays: 4:30pm - 6:30pm  
Bellevue Tyee Middle School Gym  
13500 SE 40th Street, Bellevue, WA.

Contact person:

Manabu Yabe, Head Instructor  
E-mail: manabu\_yabe@yahoo.com  
PH: (206) 272-0574

2. Northern California Kendo Federation.  
Report submitted by Court Tanouye and  
Tony Cabral.

51st North-South Tournament:

The results of the 51st North-South  
Tournament held on April 19, 2009, at  
the Mission College, Santa Clara,  
California, is as follows:

10yrs & under:

1st: Courtney yoon -Norwalk Dojo  
2nd: Saya Tamaki-OCB Dojo  
3rd: Luca Desa-San Mateo Dojo  
3rd: Felicia Chang- ISKD

11-13yrs:

1st: Kazuhiko Kobayashi-Torrance Dojo  
2nd: Tsukasa Ito - Salinas Dojo  
3rd: Akira Minamitani- Torrance Dojo  
3rd: Kenichiro Mizobe-Gedatsu Dojo

14-17yrs:

1st: Haruka Komiyama-Torrance Dojo  
2nd: Max Nguyen-San Jose Dojo  
3rd: Kevin Yokota-Salinas Dojo  
3rd: Alex Kim-Norwalk Dojo

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## **REGIONAL MEMBER'S**

### **NEWS:** [continued]

2. Northern California Kendo Federation.  
Report submitted by Court Tanouye and  
Tony Cabral [continued]:

#### Adult Kyu:

1st: Hiroshi Ito-Salinas Dojo  
2nd: Nathan Galiinger-Torrance Dojo  
3rd: Saxon Amdahl-San Jose Dojo  
3rd: Takashi Taguchi-Gedatsu Dojo

#### Women [1 Dan & under]

1st: Lilly Kem-Berkeley Dojo  
2nd: Grace Chuang-San Jose Dojo  
3rd: Emiko Ikeda-San Jose Dojo  
3rd: Allyson Dong-Costa Mesa Dojo

#### Women [2 Dan & up]

1st: Sachiko Tamura-OCB Dojo  
2nd: Nisiku Sano-Sho Tokyo Dojo  
3rd: Sunmi Lim-Torrance Dojo  
3rd: Grace Lee-Torrance Dojo

#### 1-2 Dan:

1st: Kyle Umeda-San Jose Dojo  
2nd Adam Eitoku-Salinas Dojo  
3rd: David Pruitt-San Diego Dojo  
3rd: Michael Hsueh-Palo Alto Dojo

#### 3-4 Dan:

1st: Shigeharu Ouchi-Sho Tokyo Dojo  
2nd: Jarrod Hatakeyama-San Jose Dojo  
3rd: Katushi Chinen-Gedatsu Dojo  
3rd: Gen Mikuni-San Jose Dojo

#### 5 Dan & up:

1st: Glenn Harada-Sacramento Dojo  
2nd: James Yamasaki, PCI Dojo  
3rd: Atsushi Miyamoto-Berkeley Dojo  
3rd: Toshiaki Yoshida-San Jose Dojo

#### Seniors:

1st: Mikio Koga-San Mateo Dojo  
2nd: Masami Yamaguchi, Mt. View Dojo  
3rd: Tomoji Kato-Covina Dojo  
3rd: Eddie Hurt-Salinas Dojo

Youth Team: NCKF

Women's Team: NCKF

Adult Team: SCKF

Kodansha Team: NCKF

Kantoshu-Youth: Yuichi Nakama-  
Berkeley Dojo

Kantoshu-Adult: Mieko Cabral-  
Sacramento Dojo

#### **NCKF Kendo Summer Camp:**

NCKF announced that their 2009 Kendo  
Summer Camp will be held on July 17-  
19, 2009 at Buchser Jr. High School in  
Santa Clara, California.

Special instructors are Tadanori Ota  
sensei, 8th Dan Hanshi, and Kakehashi  
sensei, 8th Dan Hanshi.

For more information contact:  
Glenn Harada, NCKF VP-Education  
e-mail: [sacramentokendo@yahoo.com](mailto:sacramentokendo@yahoo.com)  
PH: (916) 622-4753

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

#### **4th North American Women's Team Championships-2010:**

The Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation  
has begun preparation for its 4th North  
American Women's Team  
Championships. Tentative date will be  
June 12, 2010 and is planned to be held  
in Renton, WA. A formal invitation as  
well as preliminary information for  
planning purposes will be sent to the  
Canada, Hawaii, and Mexico Kendo  
Federations, as well as to the entire  
AUSKF membership. As in the past, a  
week long seminar prior to the  
tournament will be held. Guest instructor  
to be announced.

Contact person: Jeff Marsten  
e-mail: [jmarsten@comcast.net](mailto:jmarsten@comcast.net)

For other updated PNKF news matters  
please refer to PNKF's **Kenyu online** at:  
[http://www.kendo-  
pnkf.org/news/kenyu.phtml](http://www.kendo-pnkf.org/news/kenyu.phtml)

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4. Southern California Kendo Federation  
Report submitted by Jamie Inouye and  
James Yamasaki.

The SCKF officers and dojo  
representatives would like to wish Maki  
Miyahara, 8 Dan Hanshi, a Happy 88th  
Birthday which was celebrated on May 8,  
2009. Miyahara sensei celebrated his  
birthday practicing kendo at his dojo:  
PCI.

Upcoming events for the Southern  
California Kendo Federation:

**Southern California Kendo  
Championships** to be held Sunday, June  
28, 2009 at Wilson Park in Torrance.

**SCKF Kata Seminar** to be held on July  
19, 2009 at Covina Dojo from 9am-5pm.

**Nisei Week Kendo Tournament** to be  
held on August 9, 2009 at the Nishi  
Hongwangi Gymnasium.

**Nisei Games Kendo Tournament** to be  
held on August 16, 2009 at the California  
University Long Beach-Pyramid

#### **IAIDO NEWS:**

Report submitted by Richard Tanaka.

The NCIA would like to announce that  
plans are in place to have an iaido camp,  
including a taikai and shinsa on July 31,  
August 1 & 2, 2009.

The guest instructor will be Tomoharu Ito  
sensei, 8 Dan Kendo & 8 Dan Iaido, from  
the Tokyo Police Department.

Further details will be sent at a later date.

For inquiries contact: Richard Tanaka  
e-mail: [ktanaka1115@yahoo.com](mailto:ktanaka1115@yahoo.com)

#### **KENDO PRODUCT REVIEW**

Correction to report previously submitted  
by Norman K. Otani, in AUSKF  
Newsletter Vol. 12. No. 1; submitted by  
Ron Fox.

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## **KENDO PRODUCT REVIEW**

[continued]

I read with some interest your review of the oval handled shinai as I was interested to see how others like that form of shinai.

I was first exposed to this sort of shinai in 1998 when I was working for Osaka University as an invited visiting professor under the Ministry of Education's Centers of Excellence program.

One small correction to the terminology is in order however. Dobari refers to the shape of the shinai past the tsuba. Dobari shinai have a 'fat part' just past the tsuba which brings the balance point of the shinai closer to the tsuka than other shapes such as Koto or Chokuto. The oval shape tsuka is referred to as "Koban" or sometimes just "Obaru" (Oval).

As you can easily imagine the shinai shape past the tsuba and the tsuka shape are independent of each other. One can have a Koban-chokuto shinai, as well as a Koban-Dobari shinai. In fact Maruyama sells a 'non' Dobari Koban shinai (they don't provide the exact shape designator for it).

[Editor's note: Thanks to Ron Fox for his kindness to submit the corrections to the earlier Kendo Product Review article]

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## **OTHER KENDO RELATED NEWS/INFORMATION:**

### **GUEST AUTHOR:**

Yoshitsugu (Pat) Murosako, 7 dan Kyoshi-Kendo, 7 Dan Renshi-Iaido, previously submitted an interesting article that the AUSKF Newsletter editor has decided to include in this edition.

### **The Evolution in Kendo and Iaido:**

*True Essence of Meaning of Martial Art.*

We who have been practicing Kendo and Iaido for many decades, may realize that Kendo and Iaido have changed not only in regulations and techniques but, in philosophy. No different than any other martial arts. It is the nature of things. BUT THE QUESTION IS: "Is the change/changes better or worse?" The terms Kendo and Iaido themselves had various names before it is now known as Kendo and Iaido.

The great masters of by-gone days such as Yuji Tajima, Moriji Mochida, Goro Saimura, Nakayama Hakudo and many others had one thing in common. What was their philosophy in regards to these arts? THEY ALL KNEW THE ART OF DRAWING SWORD.

These masters considered Kendo and Iaido as ONE ART. Furthermore, they were expected to know both arts as ONE ART! It was inseparable. Unfortunately through political changes, Kendo and Iaido went their separate ways. So, what was the result of this separation.

Some years ago, kendo kata was demonstrated by two kendo teachers of 7th dan with no experience whatsoever in Iaido. Both of them held their swords as if they were holding shinai unaware that the swords are held differently. And to make matters worse, they were embarrassingly clumsy when performing "Noto." Returning the blade into the saya (scabbard). And, in sonkyo position which has no relation to the art of Iaido.

### **NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE IAIDO?**

Many Iai senseis and students have never parried nor counter-attacked their "enemies;" most of them cannot even strike at their "enemies." So much with their choreographed movements, it is no different than a DANCE! Graceful as it may be, it's "shadow boxing." The shadow doesn't strike back.

In the midst of these problems, another sinister head loomed up: "SPORT KENDO." Winning matches became most important. Kendo and Iaido have lost their philosophical foundation.

Kendo or Iaido cannot survive in the competitive world of sport. Without the foundation, kendo and Iaido become meaningless.

Iaido is in the same predicament. Unaware of the fact that Iaido Tournament has no value and which is disliked by many of the older senseis. Unfortunately the older senseis have become involved because it became a necessary "evil" to survive.

**KENDO OR TAKEDO?** Many years ago there was an article in a Japanese newspaper, the author demeaningly renounced that the present day kendo is not kendo, but 'TAKE-DO (bamboo). However disturbing as it may be, this author made his point. How can one call himself "kenshi" if he/she doesn't even know the art of Iaido. I was quite irritated but nevertheless, he made the point, thus I became involved in Iaido.

Most of the reputable early sensei mentioned at the beginning of my article knew both arts. Kendo and Iaido. The days of the "senseis" who only know of one art are numbered. As the number of dojos throughout the world began to practice both Kendo and Iaido, they will seek sensei who knows both. Is it financially feasible?

I hope for the return of the days when such senseis as Yuji Tajima, Moriji Mochida, Goro Saimura, Nakayama Hakudo, Torao Mori and other senseis who knew both Kendo and Iaido will smile as we begin to practice both arts as one inseparable art again. "Sensei, anshin shite kudasai."

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## **Correction Letter and Apology to Shozo Kato.:**

On March 12th, the Vol. 12 No. 1 edition of AUSKF Newsletter dated January 26, 2009 was published to the AUSKF website. In that newsletter, several

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**Correction Letter and Apology**  
**to Shozo Kato.**: [continued]

statements were made concerning Shozo Kato's actions in distributing draft minutes to non-AUSKF members. These statements were in error as Mr. Kato did not distribute draft minutes to non-AUSKF members. The newsletter also contained several other misleading comments. The newsletter was published without the authorization of the AUSKF Board of Directors and was the unfortunate results of a communication error. The AUSKF hereby unequivocally states that the negative editorial comments made in the Newsletter do not accurately reflect the opinion of the AUSKF or its Board of Directors. Mr. Shozo Kato has been a valuable member of the Board of Directors and there is no doubt he will continue to serve as such. The Board regrets and apologizes for any injury such publication may have caused Mr. Kato or any of the members of the AUSKF. Please be assured that steps have been taken to prevent a repeat of this mistake.

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**AUSKF NEWSLETTER**

Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

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

norm\_otani@auskf.info

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