

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

Vol. 14 No. 1
May 25, 2011

2011: Busy AUSKF Year of Events!

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:

Tsuyoshi Inoshita, MD

LIABILITY INS. COORD.

Mark Uchida

LAIDO:

Takeshi Yamaguchi

DIRECTORS:

Daniel Ebihara

Atsushi Hori

Spencer Hosokawa

Shozo Kato

Shinobu Maeda

Christopher Yang, Esq.

Norman K. Otani, Esq.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by Arthur I. Murakami

Beginning in June, 2011, there will be several AUSKF events that our members will be able to attend and participate in depending on one's level of interest, as follows:

- The 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be held on June 9-13, 2011 at the MAC Center Annex Gym, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio [near Cleveland, Ohio]. Guest iaido instructors from the AJKF will be: Chihiro Kishimoto, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi, and Masahiro Yamasaki, Iaido 8 Dan Hanshi.

In addition, for the first time, the AUSKF will be conducting an inaugural Jodo Seminar in conjunction with the 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp; if successful, the AUSKF board of directors is considering the approval of the Jodo program for the AUSKF

- The 2nd AUSKF Junior Open National Championships will be held on June 19, 2011, in Huntington Beach, California.

Since the inaugural event held in 2010, this AUSKF event has demonstrated the importance of providing both a challenging national kendo tournament for the children and youth members of the AUSKF; it has also proven to be a good opportunity to start the development and preparation that makes a world class kendoist, at an earlier stage in the kendoist's training

experiences as possible, in the United States.

- The 2011 AUSKF National Championships will be held on August 12 & 13, 2011, at Emory University, Woodruff Physical Education Center, Atlanta Georgia. This tri-annual event is always an exciting national kendo experience, in which the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations bring their best kendoists to compete for the national titles in each of the individual divisions, and the team divisions.

- The 2011 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp will be held on September 3 & 4, 2011 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Community Gymnasium, Annandale, Virginia.

The above list of 2011 AUSKF national events taking place starting in June 2011, requires that all of the AUSKF executive officers listed [see left column] must work very hard to ensure that the AUSKF national programs are conducted in a well organized manner, and try to deliver high quality programs for all to enjoy and learn as much as possible during each of the events.

Please contact me if you have any concerns about the ongoing operations of the AUSKF.

Sincerely,
Arthur I. Murakami, AUSKF President
4305 Mountain Shadows Dr.
Whittier, CA. 90601
Tel. (H): (562) 692-4943
FAX: (562) 463-3604
e-mail: ichiro_kendo@earthlink.net

Page two

Highlights from the April 9 & 10, 2011
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
Torrance, California:

Reported by Norman K. Otani, 2009-2011
AUSKF Board of Director.

*[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 9 & 10, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]*

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. AUSKF Liability Insurance Policy[Update].

(1.) The previously approved additional liability insurance coverage for the eighteen (18) AUSKF board of directors and officers at a cost of \$50 per individual director and officer, was still pending implementation.

(2.) The AUSKF liability insurance policy was renewed for another year effective April 1, 2011. It was noted that AUSKF members making a secondary medical insurance claim for a kendo related injury; these type of claims must be initiated ASAP after the occurrence of the injury, as there is a ninety (90) day filing period deadline, from the date of the injury.

B. AUSKF Tenugui [Update].

It was reported that a new supply of 1000 AUSKF tenugui was received and is available for sale.

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

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

C. Proposal for AUSKF Jodo Program [Update]

It was confirmed that there would be a Jodo seminar given at the 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp[see From the President].

D. Document Review.

The document reviewed for recommended updates to clarify specific matters

previously not reconciled with past approved AUSKF policies, included the following:

● **AUSKF Policy and Procedures:**

1.01.02.03 (new): The AUSKF treasurer will provide the AUSKF Member Federation with a receipt of fees received.[approved].

4.00.00 (updated) Added: Primary.

7.02.01.01 (delete)

7.02.01.02 (delete)

7.02.01.03 (delete)

7.02.02 (updated) Added: secondary.

7.02.04 (updated) Added: FIK.

8.00.00 (updated)

8.01.00 (updated)

8.03.00 (updated)

8.03.02 (delete)

11.01.06 (updated) Selection of instructors shall be by committee if and as required.

15.00.00 (updated) These regulations shall be maintained as a separate appendix B to this document.

17.00.00 (updated) Federation International Kendo Tournament.

18.00.00 (delete)

19.00.00 (updated) Change IKF to FIK.

20.00.00 (delete)

Appendix A, B, C and D [approved].

E. 2011 AUSKF Jr. Open National Championships [Update].

After discussion, the recommendation of inviting six (6) Honorary Shimpan, to be utilized in the sem-final and final matches of the individual and team matches, was approved.

F. 2011 AUSKF Championships [Update]

It was announced that Atsushi Hori sensei will be the Shimpancho for this event.

Due to having an annual AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp; and two (2) AJKF sensei are sent to this event, with travel costs paid for by AJKF, there was an inquiry whether or not, the AJKF will pay for the travel costs for the two(2) requested AJKF sensei to attend the 2011 AUSKF Championships. Followup will be done to check with the AJKF regarding this inquiry.

G. 15th WKC: Team USA [Update]

The final selection of 8 men and 7 women for this event will be made in May 2011.

Proposed budget for 15th WKC: Team USA members, manager, coaches, advisor and shimpan from AUSKF was approved.

H. 2012-2014 AUSKF Board of Director Elections [Update]

The 2012-2014 AUSKF board of directors election committee reported that Norman Otani was recommended to administer and implement the proposed election schedule of requesting nominations, submitting individual names of voting representatives, sending ballots, etc. The date set for the counting of ballots was August 20, 2011, in Los Angeles, California.

I. Proposed Guidelines for \$1,000 maximum AUSKF officers/board of directors mtg. travel expenses.

It was decided that the \$1,000 maximum for the AUSKF officers/ board of directors will now include: Friday before mtg. dinner [\$30 max.], Saturday and Sunday breakfast [\$20 max.], Sunday after mtg. dinner [\$30 max.], round-trip air travel or round-trip mileage [\$.50 per mile], automobile transportation from residence to airport [\$.50 per mile], airport long-term parking, luggage fees; it was also clarified that as the AUSKF arranges and pays for the shared hotel room reservations, this will not be included as part of the \$1,000 maximum AUSKF travel expenses for the officers and board of directors.

J. 2010 AJKF Champion Takanabe sensei Education Tour [Update].

It was reported that this event will not be able to be conducted until after November 13, 2011, due to Takanabe sensei's training schedule which currently conflicts with the implementation of this program.

K. 2011 AJKF Jr. High School Overseas Tour [Update].

It was reported that this event was successful; however, it was suggested that when making plans for 2012, if the host AUSKF member federation/dojo will be responsible for a homestay during the weekdays, it was recommended that the option of using a hotel for housing be

Page three

Highlights from the April 9 & 10, 2011
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,:
Torrance, California [continud]

Reported by Norman K. Otani, 2009-2011
AUSKF Board of Director.

K. 2011 AJKF Jr. High School Overseas
Tour [Update] [continued]

allowed. Homestay families are more
readily able to do so on the weekends, due to
the parents working, etc.

L. 2011 America Zone Referee Seminar
[Update].

It was reported that 43 participants attended
this event in Chicago, Illinois on March 19
& 20, 2011, and everyone indicated that this
was a very informative and excellent refereeing
training seminar conducted by FIK
instructors: Shuji Fukumoto 8 dan Hanshi
[Head Instructor] and, Tomoyasu Ota, 8 dan
Hanshi, Tadahiro Ajiro, 8 dan Hanshi.

M. 2011 AUSKF Spring Education Tour-
East Coast [Update].

It was reported that Kunihide Koda sensei,
Tsukuba University, will be conducting
AUSKF kendo seminars in Washington
D.C., Atlanta, Georgia and Detroit,
Michigan.

N. 2011 AUSKF Summer Education Tour-
West Coast.

It was reported that Futadoshi sensei, 8 dan
[former AJKF Champion], and, a second
AJKF sensei [to be selected] will be
conducting AUSKF kendo seminars in
PNKF, RMKF, and NCKF in July 2011
[West Coast].

O. 2011 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp
[Update].

It was reported that the 2011 AUSKF Iaido
Summer Camp will be held on June 9-12,
2011 at Kent State University, Mac Center
Gym; hosted by the Cleveland Kendo/Iaido
Association; in addition to the iaido events,
there will be a Jodo seminar held on June 12
[afternoon] and June 13 [morning].

P. 2011 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp
[Update].

It was reported that the 2011 AUSKF Kendo
Summer Camp will be held on September 2-
4, 2011, at the Northern Virginia

Community College, Ernst Community
Cultural Center Gym, Annandale, Virginia
[near Washington D.C.].

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

It was reported that the AUSKF

submitted four (4) candidates, in
the AUSKF PPG appendix rotation order
for 2011: WKF, AEUSKF, SUSKIF, and
PNKF. Final selections by the AJKF will
be made in May 2011.

II. New Business:

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Budget/Finance.

The 12/31/10 AUSK End of Year Financial
report was reviewed and approved.

2. Competition:

No further report.

3. Promotion::

(a.) It was reported that the AUSKF
member federations from AEUSKF and
SEUSKF have requested seminars on
preparation to take promotion
examinations; these seminars are still
available upon request to Shinichi Koike,
AUSKF VP-Promotion and Examinations.

(b.) The AUSKF Kodansha Promotion
Examination was held on Sunday, April 10,
2011.

(c .) The AUSKF kyu rank policy was
requested to be reviewed, as there was a
Western Kendo Federation/Ildo Dojo
promotion certificate issued on June 24,
2010 for the rank of 2 Keup.

After review of the AUSKF Regulations
for Kendo Promotional Examinations,

Section VI. Regulations for Kendo
Ranking and Shogo Title Certificates.

Article 1. All kendo ranking [6th kyu
through 8 dan] and Shogo Title
certificates shall be issued by the AUSKF,
it was decided that the Western Kendo
Federation is not following this section of
the AUSKF Regulations for Kendo
Promotional Examinations.

AUSKF President Arthur I. Murakami,
will send an official letter to Peter Kim,
President, Western Kendo Federation, to
request the cooperation and assistance of
the Western Kendo Federation to follow

this AUSKF regulation for
promotional examinations as noted
above.

(d.) Review of AUSKF PPG 8.04.00,
8.04.01, 8.04.02, 8.05.01, and Section
VII. Revoke Rank/Shogo, were tabled.

-4. Education:

No further report.

5. Iaido:

It was reported that the 2012 AUSKF
Iaido Camp has been proposed to be
held in Tacoma, Washington.

(a.) Review of PPG 11.00.00 Financial
responsibility limitations guidelines,
was tabled.

6. Development:

(a.) AUSKF Headquarters office and
Part-time staff and/or Virtual Office
Proposal [update].

The members of this committee
reached a decision, that the previously
approved AUSKF headquarters office
and part-time staff, was recommended
to be suspended due to logistical
problems to locate a suitable location,
etc. As an alternative, this committee
recommended the implementation of a
Virtual office concept, as presented by
David Kodama to the AUSKF board of
directors in a Power Point presentation.

(b.) Recognitions subcommittee
recommended that three (3) individuals
receive Special recognitions, for their
contributions as volunteers to provide
supportive services to the AUSKF:

1. Kotaro Yoshida.
2. Yutaro Matsuura.
3. Kitaho Kato.

A presentation to these three (3)
individuals will be made at the 2011
AUSKF Championships event.

(c .) AUSKF PPG: AUSKF Website
(new) 27.01.0 through 27.04.0, was
approved, to provide a clear procedure
for the fifteen (15) AUSKF member
federations to update their dojo
listings, to implement an AUSKF
Calendar of Events, and policies as to
notification of the AUSKF webmaster
of AUSKF official matters, and, the
procedure to post an electronic copy of
the AUSK Newsletter.

Page four

Highlights from the April 9 & 10, 2011
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,;
Torrance, California [continud]

Reported by Norman K. Otani, 2009-2011
AUSKF Board of Director.

II. New Business:

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS: [continued]

7. Anti-Doping: [Updates]

1. AUSKF Anti-Doping Rules previously adopted. [To be posted on the AUSKF website]

2. AUSKF individual (secondary) members are required to have on file with the AUSKF [Excel data base to be developed by the AUSKF ADC] a signed copy of the ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT TO AUSKF and/or MEMBER FEDERATION ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITY [aka: Athlete AD Form].

[Pending implementation]

3. Signed copies of the Athlete AD Form to begin to be obtained from AUSKF competitors at the upcoming future AUSKF events:

2011 AUSKF Champonships [To be deferred]

2011 AUSKF Iaido Taikai [To be implemented if possible]

4. AUSKF ADC-Administrative DCO to provide educational materials to each of the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations. [Pending implementation]

5. AUSKF website to have dedicated Athlete Section for links to anti-doping information, e.g. WADA Prohibited Subdstance List, FIK Anti-Doping Rules, etc. [Pending implementation]

6. AUSKF ADC Adminstrative DCO authorized to place annual order from WADA for 100 ["free"] copies of List of Prohibited Substances; distribution to AUSKF board of directors, officers, AUSKF member federations, 15th WKC-Team USA members, manager, coaches, etc. [2011 order received, and pending distribution]

7. AUSKF ADC Medical Issues DCO is authorized to contact the United States Anti-

Doping Agency to obtain information as to the type of ICT doping testing services available, costs for each test sample, laboratory costs for each sample, OOC services available; a proposal will then be submitted to the AUSKF board of directors for further review and consideration.. [Pending implementation]

NEW PROPOSALS:

1. Approved travel expenses for ADC Administrative DCO to have Anti-Doping Information Table at the 2011 Championships.

2. Appoved printing of At a Glance series handout materials for distribution to AUSKF members [see # 1 above]. Also, copies of At a Glance CD to be provided to the fifteen (15) AUSKF member federations.

3. ADC to meet with 15th WKC: Team USA members in October 2011 for Anti-Doping Updates for 15th WKC.

B. Fall, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting: November 12 & 13, 2011.

Tentative locations:

1. Dallas, Texas.

2. Houston, Texas.

C. Other:

(1.) 15th WKC: Team USA Waiver Form approved for implementation.

(2.) Japan Earthquake Victim's Relief Donation.

It was decided that the AUSKF will make a \$10,000 donation to support the Japan Earthquake Victim's Relief organization(s) as recommended by the AJKF.

(3) AJKF Official Guide for Kendo Instructors.

AUSKF members are recommended to go the AJKF website [visit AUSKF website: www.auskf.org for link to AJKF website], to place orders for this excellent kendo instructors publication recently released.

(4.) Attendance at November 12 & 13, 2011 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting. If a current 2009-2011 AUSKF board of director is not re-elected as a 2012-2014 AUSKF board of director; it was decided that attendance at the next meeting is optional by those individuals in this sit

AUSKF MEMBER
FEDERATIONS REPORTS:

1. Midwest Kendo Federation.
Submitted by: Bradley Anderson.
2011 Moorhead Dojo- MWKF Iaido Seminar will be held on July 29, 30 & 31, 2011, at Concordia College, in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Through the support of the AUSKF visiting instructor program; Tatsuhikko Konno sensei Kendo 7 dan Kyoshi, Iaido 7 dan Kyoshi, will conduct an "Introduction to Iaido" seminar, and a parallel track of instruction with a focus on Iaido for current practitioners. There will also be a couple of sessions of Kendo keiko, for those interested.

Attendees are encouraged to register online at:

<http://seminar.musoshindenryu.com>

2. Northern California Kendo Federation.

Submitted by: Court Tanouye.

In Memoriam:

Benjamin H. Hazard sensei, entered into rest on May 16, 2011 at the age of 91.

Son of Massachusetts, he became a world traveler, serving in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean conflict as a language officer in the Pacific Theater. He continued to serve as a reserve officer and retired with the rank of Colonel.

After receiving a PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley, he was a History Professor for many years at San Jose State University. A student of Japanese martial arts, he achieved 7th Degree Hanshi in Kendo and was instrumental in fostering the growth of Kendo, Kyudo and Naginata in California. Hazard sensei founded the San Jose State University dojo in 1965.

Hazard sensei will be missed by all and remembered for his spirit, his great scholarship of kendo and his ability to communicate with everyone.

Page five

AUSKF MEMBER FEDERATIONS
REPORTS: [continued]

2. Northern California Kendo Federation.
[continued]: Submitted by Anthony Cabral.

53rd Annual North-South Kendo Tournament
held on April 17, 2011 at Leigh High
School, in San Jose, California:

10yrs and under:

1st. K. Kim SCKF
2nd. R. Satoh SCKF
3rd. T. Nakashimo SCKF
3rd. C. Tada SCKF

11-13yrs:

1st. R. Satoh SCKF
2nd. C. Yoon SCKF
3rd. D. Kumagai SCKF
3rd. T. Horii SCKF

14-17yrs:

1st. K. Kobayashi SCKF
2nd. T. Makiuchi SCKF
3rd. K. Fujimoto NCKF
3rd. K. Hakamata SCKF

Adult Kyu:

1st. A. Kern SCKF
2nd. C. Kao SCKF
3rd. T. Taguchi SCKF
3rd. D. Brown NCKF

Women's:

1st. K. Kikunaga NCKF
2nd. MC. Cabral NCKF
3rd. A. Aono NCKF
3rd. ME. Cabral NCKF

1-2 Dan:

1st. R. Eguchi NCKF
2nd. S. Konopka NCKF
3rd. T. Onisaki NCKF
3rd. B. Yoon SCKF

3-4 Dan:

1st. H. Imai SCKF
2nd. C. Park NCKF
3rd. S. Choi NCKF
3rd. H. Kim SCKF

5 Dan and above:

1st. Y. Shimada NCKF
2nd. J. Eitoku NCKF
3rd. G. Harada NCKF

3rd. T. Tokunaga NCKF

Seniors:

1st. M. Harada NCKF
2nd. K. Chinen SCKF
3rd. A. Mizunoue NCKF
3rd. C. Tanouye NCKF

Kantoshō:

Youth: H. Hakamata SCKF
Women: J. Brodsky NCKF
Adult: L. Pham NCKF

Youth Team: 1st: SCKF

Yudansha Team: 1st: NCKF

Kodansha Team: 1st: SCKF

3. Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation.
Submitted by: Thomas Bolling

Kenyu- Monthly Newsletter of the Pacific
Northwest Kendo Federation, can be
viewed online: <http://pnkf.org>

4. Southern California Kendo Federation:
Submitted by: Kohjiro Kinno

A. The Southern California Kendo
Championships will be held on June 26,
2011 at the Dee Hardison Sports Center
located in Wilson Park, Torrance, CA.

B. The SCKF Shinpan Seminar was held
on May 15, 2011 at Covina Dojo. The
seminar was led by Tim Yuge sensei; many
of the 3 dan and above kenshi of SCKF
were in attendance.

C. The 2nd AUSKF Junior Nationals will be
held in Southern California on June 19,
2011 at Marina High School in Huntington
Beach, CA. A great number of 18 yrs and
younger kenshi from SCKF will be
entering.

5. Southern California Kendo Organization.
Submitted by: Hajime Mori

14th Annual SCKO Memorial Day Kendo
Tournament was held on Sunday, May 29th,
2011.

13yrs and under:

1st. Gardena 2
2nd. Ildo A
3rd. OCB 5
3rd. Gedatsu A

14-17yrs:

1st. Ildo C
2nd. Ildo D
3rd. Torrance A
3rd. Gedatsu B

Adult Kyu:

1st. Covina
2nd. W. LA
3rd. OCB
3rd. UCLA A

Yudansha:

1st. Long Beach E
2nd. Torrance A
3rd. Torrance B
3rd. UCLA A

5. Southwest United States Kendo and
Iaido Federation.
Submitted by: Steve Sasaki

13th Nabeshima Cup and Texas Open
Taikai was held on April 30, 2011 in
Dallas Texas; there were 154
competitors.

10-13yrs:

1st. Tiarnan Marsten Kent
2nd. Keeley McManus Kent
3rd. Eugene Lee Austin
3rd. Daniel Nicolett Little Rock
Kantoshō: Justin Kim Tulsa

14-16yrs:

1st. Ken Nicoletti Little Rock
2nd. Kyle Anderson Houston
3rd. Kai Imamura Little Rock
3rd. Matthew Yang New Orleans
Kantoshō: Kenichiro Koga Houston

1kyu and below:

1st. Joao Lourenco Dallas
2nd. Adam Schmidt Dallas
3rd. Sanghyun Ko College Statio
3rd. Andy Koke Dallas
Kantoshō: Terry McManus Kent
Kantoshō: Kenny Phan Houston

Page six

AUSKF MEMBER FEDERATIONS
REPORTS: [continued]

5. Southwest United States Kendo and Iaido Federation.: [continued]
13th Nabeshima Cup and Texas Open Taikai [continued]

Women's: 1dan-3dan:

1st: Apinya Premprajaks Dallas
2nd: Huong Dang Austin
3rd: Masako Wright Salt Lake City
3rd: Alexandra Darrah Austin
Kantoshō: Janet Shim Austin
Kantoshō: Lauren Menkemeller Dallas

1 Dan-3 Dan:

1st: An Giang Little Rock
2nd: Michael Lindsay Tulsa
3rd: Yong Cho Dallas
3rd: Yuta Imoto Houston
Kantoshō: Luis Angeli Arvada
Kantoshō: Shaw Furukawa OK.

4 Dan and above:

1st: Kenichi Hatakeyama Waco
2nd: Brian Cooper Arvada

3rd: Michio Kajitai Little Rock
3rd: Mark Uchida Denver
Kantoshō: Michio Kajitani Little Rock

IAIDO NEWS AND EVENTS:

Submitted by: Dennis Ralutin

Northern California Iaido Association
2011 Iaido Seminar and Shinsa will be held on August 5-7, 2011 at the Alameda High School in Alameda, California.

Yoshitaka Matsuoka sensei, Iaido 8 dan Kyoshi -Shinkage ryu and 7 dan Kendo, from Aichi Prefecture will be the visiting sensei from Zjapan.

For more information contact:
Cynthia Tanabe
e-mail: shinchantx@hotmail.com

AUSKF VP: Promotion and Examinations:
Shinichi Koike

AUSKF Kodansha Shinsa: April 10, 2011

5 Dan Promotions:

Ai Takadao PNKF
Naoaki Tanimura PNKF
Katsuhide Kinjo SCKF
Kook Bae Lee SCKF
Ken Ikeda SCKO

6 Dan Promotions:

none

7 Dan Promotions:

Uk Hur SCKO

Shogo Awards:

Taro Ariga Kyoshi
Tsuyoshi Nishiura Kyoshi

OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:

GUEST AUTHOR:

Ken Strawn has given permission for the AUSKF to reprint an article that he wrote for the *SEUSKF NEWS* Volume 10 Issue 1.

[Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, this concluding Part two of: *Heroes of Kendo*, was not able to be printed in the last AUSKF Newsletter. See AUSKF Newsletter Vol. 13 No. 1 for the Part one section of this news article]

Part two:

Heroes of Kendo

At the suggestion of a Kendo friend, I exchanged several letters with Warner sensei currently living in Okinawa at a youthful 96. His letters were full of encouragement and advice. But my determination of how I would deal with my loss had already been made while I was sitting in that hospital room awaiting the diagnosis from my vascular surgeon. I could already see that there would be no good news. We are all familiar with the many surveys of young people that asked who their heroes are. We all know how young people list television and movie stars, rock and roll singers, rap artists, and the like. I suppose that in that younger and less wise time, I would have named Roy

Rogers and Steve Reeves. I was fortunate enough in my life to know my heroes personally. My main hero was my father, Harrell Strawn, who was shot down over German occupied France and spent eighteen months in a POW camp. He never talked much of his experiences while he was alive but research on the internet has revealed a history of force "death marches" on starvation rations to escape the advancing Russians. The Germans wished to preserve the POW's as bargaining chips when the war ended.

My other heroes are men like Benjamin Hazard, Rod Omoto, Yoshinari Miyata, and Yoshinori Takao. They are Kendo sensei with whom I have spent large amounts of time. There are many others who have influenced me, too many to list in this short article. From these men I learned the determination not to allow the loss of a leg to stop me from living my life to the fullest.

Each generation must face their own adversities and in so doing, forge their own character. Each individual must face their own personal adversities. No person lives a life without some grief, loss, failure or pain. My father and my sensei had the great depression and World War II. My generation had Viet Nam and Watergate. The current generation has the problem of international terrorism, a genie I don't think will be going back into the bottle any time soon, and the consequences of my generation's "If it feels good, do it" counterculture.

I am very fortunate. I can still do Kendo. Artificial legs do not last as long as a new car and when my first prosthetic leg wore out, my prosthetician rebuilt it into a special leg for doing kendo. I can still do something that I love to do.

None of the above previously mentioned men preached to me how to face adversity. It was learned by

Page seven

OTHER KENDO RELATED

NEWS/INFORMATION: [continued]

GUEST AUTHOR:

Ken Strawn has given permission for the AUSKF to reprint an article that he wrote for the *SEUSKF NEWS* Volume 10 Issue 1.

Part two: *Heroes of Kendo* [continued]

osmosis, spending a lot of time in the presence of men of sterling character. There characters were formed by a lifetime of overcoming adversity during times of devastation and scarcity. They taught me things that cannot be put into words.

How fortunate those of us who do Kendo are, to have our heroes available in person to spend time with and learn from. Wherever Kendo is being practiced, there is some hero opening the gym door and hoping enough people will show up for them to pass on what they know. And the people who come to practice each session will learn through osmosis what makes a person of character.

We are all so very fortunate.

[End of article]

AUSKF NEWSLETTER
Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

Future news items for the next issue to be published on or about December 2011, can be submitted to my e-mail address:

norm_otani@auskf.info

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