

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

KENDO

Vol. 9 No. 1
May 1, 2006

New Changes and Proposed Plans in AUSKF!!!

2006-2008

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Atsushi Hori

EXECUTIVE VP:

Norman K. Otani, Esq.

VP-PROM & EXAMS:

Ichiro Murakami

VP-COMPETITION:

Koki Ariga

VP-EDUCATION:

Yoshiteru Tagawa

TREASURER:

Tomoji Kato

SEC-HISTORIAN:

Yoshinobu Yonekawa

AUDITOR:

Masaharu Makino

DIRECTORS:

Arnold Matsuda

Yuji Onitsuka

Masashi Shikai

Shozo Kato

Shinichi Koike

Maki Miyahara

Shinobu Maeda

Takeshi Yamaguchi

Charlie Tanaka

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Report submitted by Atsushi Hori.

Greetings to all members and their families of the All United States Kendo Federation {"AUSKF"}!

During the past four months, pursuant to the decision of the 2006-2008 AUSKF board of directors and with my full support, the recently appointed 2006-2008 AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator, Masaharu Makino, has been requested to undertake a review of the previous AUSKF liability insurance policy regarding three primary areas of concern:

- (1.) The increased cost of the previous AUSKF liability insurance policy premium.
- (2.) The cost effectiveness of having a medical expense claim benefit.
- (3.) The additional cost for Special Events under the previous AUSKF liability insurance policy.

Recently, on April 1, 2006, Mr. Makino reported to the AUSKF board of directors that upon review of the above three areas of concern, he had located a new liability insurance carrier which would address the above described three areas of concern as follows:

- (1.) The "new" AUSKF liability insurance policy would assess a lower annual premium for the AUSKF [providing the same type of liability insurance coverage previously provided under the previous AUSKF liability insurance policy].

- (2.) Secondly, it was determined that the

previous medical expense claim benefit was not cost effective for the AUSKF membership; as a result, this benefit is no longer provided.

- (3.) There is no additional cost for Special Events under the "new" AUSKF liability insurance policy.

After thorough discussion of the above information, the AUSKF Board of Directors approved the "new" AUSKF Liability Insurance policy located by 2006-2008 AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator, Mr. Masaharu Makino, effective 4/1/06.

In addition to the above change in the general operations of the AUSKF, I would encourage all AUSKF members to carefully review the Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006, AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, which provides information regarding several new projects and plans proposed to be implemented or considered for both the near future and in some cases on a long term planning basis.

If there are any comments that the AUSKF members have regarding any of the subject matters in this issue of the AUSKF Newsletter, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the AUSKF.

Sincerely,

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President
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Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
Orlando, Florida:

Reported by AUSKF Executive VP
Norman K. Otani

*[Note: This report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 1 & 2, 2006, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting; **the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification**]*

I. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Mission Statement.

Committee chairman Norman K. Otani requested additional time to research further ideas for the proposed AUSKF Mission Statement. Matter was tabled to the next meeting.

B. 13th WKC-Team U.S.A.:

(1.) The Final Kyoka Senshu - January 14, 2006. 2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Competition, Koki Ariga reported that the list of successful competitors selected for the 13th WKC-Team USA was previously distributed to all AUSKF Member Federations.

(2.) Budget for 13th WKC-Team U.S.A.: Team U.S.A. Manager: Masashi Shikai requested to discuss the inclusion of the previously approved Team U.S.A. Trainer, Attila Nemetti, as part of the Official AUSKF Delegation to the 13th WKC.

Atsushi Hori indicated to the AUSKF board of directors that there are five persons that AUSKF can submit to IKF as members of the Official AUSKF Delegation.

After further discussion, the AUSKF board of directors approved the inclusion of the Team U.S.A. Trainer, Attila Nemetti, to be submitted to IKF as an Official Member of the AUSKF Delegation.

The proposed budget for both Team U.S.A training/travel expenses and travel expenses to the 13th WKC was \$86,500.00. After further discussion, the AUSKF board of directors approved the proposed budget..

(3) The recommendation to IKF for the Shimpan to the 13th WKC from the AUSKF will be submitted by Atsushi Hori prior to the deadline of May 15, 2006.

(5) The final entry and registration of the Team U.S.A. Men's & Women's Individual and Team members is due to the IKF by 8/29/06.

(6.) The Delegation Leader for the AUSKF to the 13th WKC. Atsushi Hori was selected to be the Delegation Leader from the AUSKF to the 13th WKC.

(7) The proposed budget for the 3/4 shimpan selected by IKF from the AUSKF for the 13th WKC was estimated at \$15,000.00.

C. AUSKF Official Tie and Polo Shirt.

Ichiro Murakami reported that the remaining inventory of the AUSKF Official Tie and Polo Shirt is as follows:

A. AUSKF Official Ties= 69 [\$15 each].

B. AUSKF Polo Shirts: [\$25 each].

(1.) Black: 2-medium, 35 large, 50 x--large, 5 xxL.

(2.) White: 3-medium, 38-large, 5-xxl.

The AUSKF board of directors recommended that the above remaining inventory, less any set aside for the Team U.S.A. members/delegation,, be sold at the 2006 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp in June, 2006, and at the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp in September-October, 2006.

D. AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Cards.

Tomoji Kato, AUSKF Data Base Project & ID Card, Chairperson, reported that he determined that the previous File Maker

Pro software [\$300 cost] was NOT a cost effective means to develop and maintain the AUSKF Data Base information. It was recommended to use the Excel Program to transfer the previous File Maker Pro AUSKF data base information to an Excel file system.

Also, Tomoji Kato reported that he has contacted A. Fujimoto, who has agreed to assist in developing and producing the AUSKF permanent ID card that will have the AUSKF member's name and ID number.

A design for the AUSKF permanent ID card was agreed to be developed by Shozo Kato and Tomoji Kato by June 1, 2006.

E. 2006 AUSKF Kendo Summer Camp.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, 2006-2008 AUSKF VP- Education reported that the 2006 AUSKF Summer Camp will be held on June 23-25, 2006, at Cabrillo High School, Long Beach, California.

Schedule will be:

June 23, 2006: Practice with AJKF sensei.

June 24, 2006: Seminar & Farewell Party.

June 25, 2006: Seminar & Kodansha Shinsa.

Registration packets and information will be mailed to the AUSKF Member Federations.

For additional information contact:

Yoshiteru Tagawa

41444 FawnTrail

Novi, MI 48375-4813

E-mail: duke@twmi.rr.com

F. 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.

Takeshi Yamaguchi, AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman provided a written report [including a proposed budget] for the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp which will be held on September 28-October 1, 2006, at the Correyville

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Recreation Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
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Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
Orlando, Florida: [continued]

F. 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp.
[continued]

Schedule will be:

September 28 & 29: Seminar.

September 30: Tai Kai & Sayonara
Party.

October 1: Shinsa.

The AUSKF board of directors approved a requested Letter of Understanding to be sent to the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp coordinator: James F. Adkins, Northern Kentucky Kendo Club; also, the proposed budget was approved.

Registration packets and information for the 2006 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be mailed to the AUSKF Member Federations by May, 2006, and will also be posted on the AUSKF website.

For additional information contact:

Takeshi Yamaguchi

13434 Reis Street

Whittier, CA. 90605

PH: (562) 693-0088

E-mail: kendotiger@earthlink.net

G. 2006 IKF Kitamoto Foreigner's
Summer Kendo Camp Report.

Atsushi Hori reported that due to the 13th WKC being held in 2006; as in the past years when there is a WKC scheduled, the 2006 IKF Kitamoto Foreigner's Summer Camp has been cancelled.

H. AUSKF Liability Insurance Policy..
[See *From The President* report on page 1]

Also, on April 19, 2006, a letter was sent by Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President and Masaharu Makino, 2006-2008 AUSKF Liability Insurance Coordinator by post, to all AUSKF Member Federations with the following documents:

1. General Certificate of Liability

Insurance.

2. Notification of Injury Form.

3. Sample Waiver of Liability Form.

For additional information contact:

2006-2008 AUSKF Liability Ins.

Coordartor: Masaharu Makino.

250 E. 1st Street-Suite 804

Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Phone: (213) 617-7272

FAX: (213) 617-9494

E-mail:

makinomasaharu@gmail.com

I. Annual Disney Martial Arts Festival:
[proposed] 2008 AUSKF Championships
Venue.

The AUSKF board of directors previously received a presentation from Mr. Andy Ching, representing the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports organizations at its November 12 & 13, 2005 AUSKF board of directors meeting in Santa Clara, California [see AUSKF Newsletter Vol. 8 No. 2 Dated: December 12, 2005].

As a followup to the initial presentation made on November 12 & 13, 2005; an invitation was extended to the AUSKF by the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports organizations to have a kendo demonstration at their 1st Annual Disney's Martial Arts Qualifier held at Disneyland on January 6-7, 2006.

On Saturday, January 7, 2006, AUSKF Team U.S.A. -13th WKC, Manager Masashi Shikai and members of Team U.S.A. provided two kendo demonstrations as part of the program's Showcase of "new" martial arts.

In the weeks following the above described kendo demonstrations, the reports received by the AUSKF from the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports officials, stated that the kendo demonstrations were very impressive to those both in the audience and by others present [e.g. Cirque de Soleil].

The most frequent comment heard was

that kendo was understood to represent one of the foremost "traditional martial arts" still being practiced in its traditional forms, in comparison to other martial arts programs that presented kicking, punching, etc. activities to the tune of a musical background, and in a more entertainment format, as part of the 2006-1st Annual Disney Martial Arts Qualifier.

Subsequently, an invitation was received by the AUSKF from the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports officials, to consider having the April 1 & 2, 2006, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, Florida, at the Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex located in Disney World.

As the AUSKF Board of Directors meetings generally are combined with a Godokeiko and a Kodansha Shinsa; a combined good faith effort between the AUSKF and the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports officials resulted in an agreement to have the April 1 & 2, 2006, AUSKF Board of Directors meeting hosted in the Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex [aka: Milkhouse], in the same board room used in the past by Disney executives, located overlooking the 10,000 sq. ft. gymnasium floor, where an actual basketball competition event was taking place.

On April 1, 2006, a Special Presentation was made to the AUSKF board of directors by Disney Sports Attractions: Senior Sports Manager Ravenn Gethers and Disney Martial Arts Festival Co-Coordinator: Rob Hartman, explaining the benefits of having a [proposed] 2008 AUSKF Championships in either a combined event with the Disney Martial Arts Festival in October, 2008 or as a separate event at the Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex venue on another available date.

The Special Presentations made by Ms. Gethers and Mr. Hartman explained and compared the costs of the combined event with the Disney Martial Arts Festival and what type of costs there would be if AUSKF decided to have a separate event for the 2008 AUSKF Championships.

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Highlights from the April ! & 2, 2006
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
Orlando, Florida: [continued]

I. Annual Disney Martial Arts Festival:
[proposed] 2008 AUSKF Championships
Venue.[continued]

In addition, if the AUSKF decided to have its 2008 AUSKF Championships at the Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex, there would be several marketing services available through either of the options proposed to the AUSKF, which would provide "new" channels of promoting kendo through dedicated martial arts magazine articles, Disney websites, etc.

It was very clear to this writer that after listening to the information provided by Ms. Gethers and Mr. Hartman, both the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports officials are very respectful and supportive of the AUSKF traditional martial arts/sports history in the United States and would like to continue developing a working relationship with the AUSKF, which would be mutually beneficial to both parties.

After the special presentations were concluded, a special tour was provided to the AUSKF board of directors by Ms. Gethers and Mr. Hartman of the 4-story Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex which includes multi level gymnasiums, locker rooms, training facilities, vendor services, food services etc. [Note: This specific facility is located in the middle of a 247 acre site that consists of a professional baseball stadium used by the Atlanta Braves, several sports fields for other sport events, etc.].

The high standards of quality and excellence are seen throughout the various areas and facilities encompassing the Wide World of Sports: Sports Complexes, as observed by the AUSKF board of directors during this tour. It is quite evident that the intent of the Wide World of Sports organization is to attract and promote both world class professional sports organizations and to

help develop national amateur sports groups, such as the AUSKF, by providing this type of facility and its many supportive resources that are provided by being part of the Disney organization.

At the conclusion of the tour, an invitation was extended by Mr. Hartman to have another kendo demonstration(s) on October 28, 2006, to again Showcase kendo as a "new" traditional martial art/sport at the Disney Martial Arts Festival held at the Disney World: Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex; AUSKF VP-Competition, Koki Ariga, has agreed to be the contact person for this event.

Also, Mr. Hartman and Ms. Gethers were both willing to consider assisting the AUSKF to have other types of events, such as a regional kendo federation qualifier event for the 2008 AUSKF Championships, etc., that could be held in conjunction with the annual Disney Martial Arts Festival, or as a separate event.

The AUSKF board of directors did not make any decisions at its meeting held on April 1 & 2, 2006, about whether or not the Disney World: Wide World of Sports: Sports Complex could be a feasible venue for the 2008 AUSKF Championships.

It is recommended that further review and discussions throughout the AUSKF Member Federations should take place regarding the above suggested options for the AUSKF to continue building a relationship with the Disney Martial Arts Festival and/or Disney Sports organization.

If there is a strong enough interest in continuing to have this friendly working relationship with the Disney Martial Arts Festival & Disney Sports, it is important that the AUSKF board of directors look very carefully at all of the possible opportunities that could assist the AUSKF in helping to promote and develop kendo in the United States, and to further the understanding and ideals of kendo on other levels, through access to resources not available in any other

option.

Additional comments should be sent to:

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF President
[see page 1 for contact information]

or:

Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Competition.
223 S. Plum
Troy, Ohio 45373
Home Phone: (937) 335-7417
Work Phone: (937) 339-0212, ext. 111
E-Mail: kariga@fandp.com

Also, for those interested, there is a Disney Wide World of Sports website to obtain an overview of this organization, view of its facilities, etc., at:
<http://disneyworldsports.com>

J. 2006 IKF-America Zone Referee Seminar.

Atsushi Hori reported that the 2006 IKF-America Zone Referee Seminar was attended by 19-AUSKF participants; this event was held on March 25 & 26, 2006, and hosted by the Canadian Kendo Federation.

The AJKF sensei who conducted the 2006-IKF America Zone referee seminar were: Eiji Taguchi, Kunio Hayashi and Katsuo Endo; all were 8 Dan Hanshi.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SCKF Inquiry RE: AUSKF Investment.

SCKF President Masashi Shikai previously had sent an email to 2003-2005 AUSKF President, Charlie Tanaka, re: SCKF Questions re: AUSKF Investment.

Subsequently, this matter was placed on the business agenda for the April ! & 2, 2006 AUSKF board of directors meeting.

Atsushi Hori reported to the AUSKF board of directors that he had received a

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letter dated January 30, 2006, from 2003-2005 AUSKF Treasurer, Masaharu Makino [copies of the letter were Page 5.

Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando, Florida: [continued]

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SCKF Inquiry RE: AUSKF Investment.[continued]

Mr. Makino explains in the letter that in carrying out the decision made by the AUSKF board of directors on November 6 & 7, 2004, which authorized investment of the AUSKF treasury funds into an investment fund; a sum of \$128, 039.22 had been invested as of 12/31/05, on behalf of the AUSKF.

Due to the changeover and election of a new 2006-2008 AUSKF Treasurer, Mr. Makino recommended that the above AUSKF investment sum of \$128, 039.22, which had unfortunately not gained any profit, be withdrawn and placed back into the AUSKF treasury.

On April 1 & 2, 2006, 2006-2008 AUSKF Treasurer, Tomoji Kato verified receipt of the check from Masaharu Makino for the amount of \$128, 039.22, which had been deposited back into the AUSKF treasury.

Due to there NOT being any loss of AUSKF treasury funds as a result of the actions of 2003-2005 AUSKF Treasurer, Masaharu Makino, following the initial decision made by the AUSKF board of directors in November 6 & 7, 2004, as described above. No further action was deemed required by the AUSKF board of directors regarding the SCKF Inquiry RE: AUSKF Investment.

B. 2006 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Competition, Koki Ariga reported that the AUSKF Competition Committee recommended and proposed to CHANGE the previous decision made in November, 2005, to have the 2006 AUSKF Regional

provided for review by the board of directors].

Seminars, one in the Western Region and the second in the Eastern Region of the United States.

The AUSKF board of directors approved the "new" plan to have the 2006 AUSKF Shimpan Seminars held by each of the individual fourteen Member Federations with the support and assistance of the AUSKF VP- Competition and the members of the AUSKF Competition Committee.

A letter was sent on January 25, 2006, by 2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Competition, Koki Ariga, to all of the AUSKF Member Federations, announcing the above change in the 2006 AUSKF Shimpan Seminar program.

Each of the AUSKF Member Fedeations was requested to select a date and location for their 2006 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminar. A qualified AUSKF shimpan instructor is to be recommended; and, if none is available in the regional federation's area, then Koki Ariga, 2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Competition, will make a selection of a qualified AUSKF shimpan instructor to assist the AUSKF Member Federation.

Also, it was mentioned that if a smaller AUSKF Member Federation would like to join a neighboring 2006 AUSKF Member Federation's Shimpan Seminar, this is an option available with the consent of the hosting AUSKF Member Federation.

Any additional inquiries regarding the above matters should be made to:

2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Competition
Koki Ariga
[see contact information on page 4, column 3 of this newsletter]

C. IKF General Assembly Meeting: December 10, 2005, held in Taipei, Taiwan.

2003-2005 AUSKF President Charlie Tanaka attended the 12/10/05 IKF

General Assembly Meeting in Taipei, Taiwan.

It was reported that the most important subject to be reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors is the matter of the 14th WKC.

Previously, the 14th WKC was proposed to be hosted by the Hawaii Kendo Federation; however, this bid was withdrawn at the December 10, 2005 IKF General Assembly Meeting. Now, the Brazilian Kendo Federation [?"BKF?"] has agreed to host the 2009-14th WKC; however, there is a request to receive support for funding assistance in the amount of \$40, 000.

Charlie Tanaka told the IKF General Assembly that previously the AUSKF agreed to assist the Hawaii Kendo Federation to host the 2009-14th WKC, as Hawaii is a part of the United States; at that time, the AUSKF agreed to financially support the Hawaii Kendo Federation by contributing \$30,000.

In the current situation, regarding the Brazilian Kendo Federation bid to host the 2009-14th WKC; the AUSKF did NOT make any previous commitment to provide financial support to the BKF to host the 2009-14th WKC. IKF was told by Charlie Tanaka that this matter has to be reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors for further consideration.

Atsushi Hori recently attended the 2006 IKF America Zone Referee Seminar in Canada; at that time, A. Hori received a copy of a letter to Mr. Roy Asa, IKF VP, regarding the 2009-14th WKC Proposal by the BKF to host this event.

Norman K. Otani was requested to read the above described letter to the AUSKF board of directors. In summary, the letter stated the following: 1. On 12/10/05, when the BKF accepted to host the 2009-14th WKC, it was with the understanding that certain conditions would be met to assist them in raising a total proposed financial budget of \$100,000. 2. The BKF stated that it currently has \$30,000

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available to host the 2009-14th WKC, and will need assistance to raise the balance of \$70,000. 3. At the 12/10/05 IKF General Assembly meeting, three Page 6.

Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Orlando, Florida: [continued]

II. NEW BUSINESS: [continued]

C. IKF General Assembly Meeting: December 10, 2005, held in Taipei, Taiwan. [continued]

the above statements in the letter read to the AUSKF board of directors; the IKF has agreed to provide \$30,000 financial support to the BKF to host the 2009-14th WKC. The balance of \$40,000 was proposed to be provided as follows: \$10,000 from the Canadian Kendo Federation, and \$30,000 from the AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori agreed to have the above proposal reviewed by the AUSKF board of directors.

Atsushi Hori reviewed the current circumstances as described above: 1. It is the America Zone countries responsibility to host the 2009-14th WKC. 2. The BKF has agreed to be the host country for the 2009-14th WKC. 3. As the AUSKF is one of the larger national kendo federations in the IKF America Zone, it was recommended to provide financial support to the BKF to host the 2009-14th WKC.

It was also noted that the Hawaii Kendo Federation has agreed to provide some financial support to the BKF to host the 2009-14th WKC.

Following discussion, the AUSKF board of directors approved to provide a maximum of \$30,000 financial support to the BKF to assist them to host the 2009-14th WKC; the final amount of financial support from the AUSKF to the BKF will depend on the final 2009-14th WKC [BKF budget] and the contributions from the other America Zone countries.

(a.) GAISF Update.

entities: IKF, Canada, and U.S.A., stated that they would support the BKF to host the 2009-14th WKC.

Atsushi Hori reported to the AUSKF board of directors regarding the overall IKF efforts to expand its current campaign in affiliated IKF countries to lobby for support of the pending IKF application to become a member of GAISF; which will be considered at the April 2006 GAISF General Assembly Meeting in Seoul, Korea.

Background Information:

On July 3, 2003, the subject matter of GAISF [General Association of International Sports Federations] was initially discussed at the IKF General Assembly Meeting. The concern raised was that it appears that the GAISF has already gained recognition in the European and Asian nations [and appears to be increasing its influence in other global areas] as the sole legitimate organization that is recognized as representing the major international sports groups; as there are existing competing international martial arts groups seeking membership in GAISF [which include non-IKF member countries who practice kendo], it was believed to be in the best interest of IKF to join GAISF.

In August 2004, the IKF affiliated countries were requested to circulate a vote by correspondence on whether or not the IKF should submit an application to join the GAISF. The AUSKF board of directors voted to approve the IKF request to submit an application to join the GAISF; which was subsequently not approved in April, 2005.

On April 17, 2006, the IKF sent notification to its affiliated countries, announcing that the GAISF General Assembly had APPROVED the IKF application to join the GAISF.

The only prerequisite that was understood at the time of the 2006-IKF application to join GAISF was that the current acronym "IKF" is already being used by another member of GAISF; thus, the proposed "new" acronym is "FIK", which is the

Atsushi Hori further reported that upon further discussion with IKF officials and the Canadian Kendo Federation regarding

current French name of International Kendo Federation: Federation Internationale de Kendo. As English and French are the official languages of GAISF, the decision was made to propose "FIK" as the new acronym for the International Kendo Federation. D. Korean Kumdo Association.

Atsushi Hori reported that there was a letter dated 11/14/05 sent to 2003-2005 AUSKF President Charlie Tanaka requesting additional information regarding the process to join the AUSKF organization.

A followup letter was sent to the KKAUSA organization on 3/26/06, from Atsushi Hori, 2006-2008 AUSKF President, stating the AUSKF policies and procedure prerequisites to become member federations of the AUSKF.

Atsushi Hori clarified that the KKAUSA organization contemplates joining the AUSKF as one group [encompassing several regional areas throughout the United States]; however, this type of proposal does NOT follow the current AUSKF policy and procedure for becoming a member federation of the AUSKF. Further discussions will be required to be held with the KKAUSA to reach full understanding as to the criteria that must be met to join the AUSKF.

Also, as there is currently a separate organization called the WKA [World Korean Association] which is not affiliated with the IKF; this group formed as a result of breaking away from the KKAUSA. Discussion was held as to how the members of the WKA would be considered if a request is made to join the AUSKF. Atsushi Hori stated that he would like both the KKAUSA and WKA members to reach a mutual agreement to join the AUSKF; thereby, the AUSKF will be a stronger national kendo federation.

Any additional suggestions or ideas

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regarding how to unify the KKAUSA and WKA organizations if both request to join the AUSKF, are welcomed by Atsushi Hori [see contact information on page 1].

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**Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006
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Orlando, Florida:** [continued]

E. Committee Reports. [continued]

(2.) Competition Committee report. [see Old Business: B. 13th WKC-Team U.S.A., and New Business: B. 2006 AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminar]

(3.) Promotion Committee report.

Ichiro Murakami, 2006-2008 AUSKF Vice-President Promotion & Examinations reported that the committee requested the following:

a.) Review the prior approved AUSKF Promotion Regulation passed on November 6-7, 2004, for Shogo: Renshi and Kyoshi.

The AUSKF board of directors amended the prior approved AUSKF Promotin Regulation approved on November 6-7, 2004, to CHANGE the Shogo: Renshi and Kyoshi requirement. As of April 1 & 2, 2006, the Shogo: Renshi and Kyoshi applicant is NOT required to participate and receive a passing grade in the AUSKF Regional Shimpan Seminars.

b.) Each Member Federation is requested to send Ichiro Murakami, 2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Promotion Examinations, the date of the scheduled regional promotion examinations ASAP.

c.) The AUSKF Promotion Examination Committee members will be visiting the regional federation promotion examinations to try to ensure that there are consistent promotion examination criteria applied throughout the United States; a report will be made to the AUSKF board of directors as to the results.

d.) Panama Kendo Federation members have requested to take promotion examinations at AUSKF Member Federation Promotion Examinations.

E. Committee Reports:

(1.) Budget-Finance Committee Report.

Atsushi Hori reported that if the Panama Kendo Federation is an IKF affiliate member country, this request is approved.

e.) AUSKF members taking promotion examinations in Japan.

Atsushi Hori reported that AUSKF members requesting to take a promotion examination in Japan, must submit the application for approval by the AUSKF President to: Ichiro Murakami, 2006-2008 AUSKF VP-Promotion & Examinations. If the application to take a promotion examination in Japan is NOT submitted far enough in ADVANCE of the date of the promotion examination in Japan, it may NOT be accepted for approval by the AUSKF, as late applications will cause a lot of problems for the AJKF officials to be able to process the request in time prior to the promotion examination date.

(4.) Education Committee report.

Yoshiteru Tagawa, 2006-2008, AUSKF Vice-President-Education reported that the committee members discussed the following:

a.) 2006 AUSKF Summer Camp [see I. Old Business: E., page 2 of this newsletter].

b.) Education Tour Program is proposed to be implemented effective October, 2006.

1. AUSKF will invite a young 8 Dan sensei from Japan to be the Head Instructor of the 2006 Education Tour.

2. The 2006 Education Tour will be for 12 nights and 14 days; the projected total budget [airfare for travel: r/t Japan & United States, hotel, gift/orei] is: \$5,000.

3. The itinerary proposed is to begin the Education Tour in the East Coast

2006-2008 AUSKF Treasurer Tomoji Kato reported that the AUSKF treasury balance as of 3/29/06 was: \$387, 676.88.

areas, travel to the Texas area, and then concentrate the remainder of the time in the Southern California areas, to allow practice time with the 13th WKC-Team U.S.A. kenshi.

4. Local AUSKF Member Federations hosting the 2006 Education Tour delegation will be asked to provide the local transportation and meals expenses.

(5.) Iaido Committee report. [see I. Old Business: F, page 2 & 3 of this newsletter].

(6.) Development Committee report.

Norman K. Otani, AUSKF Executive Vice-President distributed a Development Committee report updating the current projects under his responsibility: 1. AUSKF Newsletter; 2. AUSKF Archives, AUSKF Hall of Fame & AUSKF Oral History Project; 3. AUSKF Website; 4. Marketing and Advertising; 5. Policy and Procedures Guidelines; 6. AUSKF Office & Part-time Staff Person.

Budget for the Development Committee Projects: projected total: \$2,000 per year; was approved by the AUSKF board of directors.

F. Other: Boston Kendo Kyokai. On 1/25/06, AEUSKF President Noboru Kataoka initially forwarded an e-mail letter to the AUSKF which was received by Mr. Kataoka from the Boston Kendo Kyokai/Mr. David Harrison.

The Boston Kendo Kyokai, a member dojo of the AEUSKF, indicated in the original letter dated 1/25/06, to Mr. Kataoka that this dojo had re-located to the City of Boston Community Center. One of the agreements made by the Boston Kendo Kyokai was to provide kendo instruction to local underprivileged children/youth. [currently there are about 15-20 children/youth, ages 11yrs-16yrs]. A request was made to the AEUSKF for

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support of this program by providing a set of bogu.

Also, the original request was to have the AEUSKF membership dues AND the AUSKF membership dues waived.

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Highlights from the April 1 & 2, 2006
AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting,
Orlando, Florida: [continued]

F. Other: Boston Kendo Kyokai. [cont'd]

The requested background letter for Mr. David Harrison, and the letter of recommendation to support the requests of the Boston Kendo Kyokai was received; copies were provided to the AUSKF board of directors.

After further discussion, several of the represented AUSKF Member Federations [NCKF, ECUSKF, MWKF] board of directors agreed to send "used" children/youth kendo bogu sets to: Mr. David Harrison.

Yoshinobu Yonekawa, AEUSKF member was requested to send the AUSKF Member Federation Presidents the address of Mr. David Harrison, for the above stated purpose.

Also, Atsushi Hori agreed to donate 10-shinai to the Boston Kendo Kyokai.

Lastly, it was decided by the AUSKF board of directors that the matter of AEUSKF and AUSKF membership dues is a matter that should be resolved between the Boston Kendo Kyokai and the AEUSKF.

G. Fall, 2006-AUSKF Board of Directors meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the date and location of the Fall, 2006-AUSKF Board of Directors meeting. Proposed date was November 11 & 12, 2006 [pursuant to the AUSKF by-laws Article VII, Section 2]. The location will be Los Angeles, California; hosted by the SCKF.

REGIONAL MEMBER'S NEWS:

[Due to space limitations, this section of the AUSKF Newsletter is being omitted]

Per Atsushi Hori's advisement, a followup letter was sent to Mr. Kataoka, to provide a background letter for Mr. David Harrison, and a recommendation from Mr. Kataoka, as to whether or not

IAIDO NEWS:

[Due to space limitations, this section of the AUSKF Newsletter is being omitted]

AUSKF WEBSITE:

Effective 3/1/06, Jean Kodama was appointed by Atsushi Hori to be the AUSKF Webmaster.

AUSKF website is located at:

html://www.auskf.info.

Please send any changes in dojo address, contact person, etc., to: Jean Kodama, AUSKF Webmaster at:

E-Mail address:

jkodama@alumni.caltech.edu

OTHER KENDO RELATED
NEWS/INFORMATION:

I. GUEST AUTHOR:

Tom Bolling, PNKF Recording Secretary and Editor of Kenyu, recently authored an article about AUSKF sensei, Rod Omoto, 7 Dan. This article was featured in the November-December, 2004 Issue of Kendo Nippon Monthly Magazine, and with permission of the author will be reprinted in the AUSKF Newsletter, in several parts.

Part four:

HIROSHIMA SURVIVOR [cont'd]

He arrived in his grandparent's place in Kure and got a job at the city hall, working for one yen a day. One day just below his house he encountered an American and said "Hi" to him. The American said, "Hey, you speak English," and ended up asking Omoto Sensei to come and work for them. So he became an interpreter for the U.S. Army CIC or Counterintelligence Corps. This appointment eventually led to further positions with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, and U.S. Army/Air Force Counterintelligence.

the AUSKF should support the requests noted above from the Boston Kendo Kyokai.

In 1948 at the Matsue City police station in Shimane-ken, he was interpreting for his commander Captain Parker when he noticed that the police had Kendo equipment there, and he asked them if they would keiko with him. They were afraid to do it and said no, because Kendo had been forbidden, but Omoto Sensei asked the commander, and he said go ahead. Thus they started practicing again.

Matsue City is the place where he encountered Ono Soichiro Sensei. They had a tournament of Shimane-ken vs. Tottori-ken. Ogawa Sensei was there too. Ono Sensei was Mori Torao Sensei's sensei. When Ono Sensei died, his wife sent Omoto Sensei a calligraphy of "Sei Shin" or "Quiet Mind." That "Quiet Mind" sums up Ono Sensei's Kendo, and Mori Sensei had the same "Quiet Mind" as well.

Mori Torao Sensei is legendary in both Kendo and western fencing. Omoto Sensei encountered him in Wahiawa, in Japan, and again back in North America. He always seemed calm and cool, and his attacks, especially from jodan-no-kamae, were leisurely, but so perfectly timed there was nothing you could do. Omoto Sensei regards him as "...the world's best. I had a very special opportunity to meet Mori Sensei three different times. First in Hawaii, in the 30's, when he first visited Hawaii...long time ago. Then Steveston...when I used to go to Steveston Kendo Taikai, and the last one is here in California, when he was president of U.S. Kendo Federation. But he had to die early of heart attack...while doing keiko in California."

[To be continued in next issue]

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Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

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**Future news items for the next
issue to be published on or about
December, 2006, can be submitted to**

my e-mail address:

norm_otani@auskf.info

or news items can be sent to:

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