



UNITED STATES NAGINATA FEDERATION, INC.

United States Naginata Federation Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

September 2, 2007

Brussels, Belgium

Board Members in Attendance:

Executive Committee: Miyako Tanaka Price (President), Karen Schmucker (Recording Secretary).

Regional Representatives: NCNF: Martin Nobida and Marcia Toyohara; PNNF: Kurt Schmucker;

SCNF: Andrea De Herrera, Kevin Saxton.

Board Members not in Attendance:

Leslee Williams (Vice-President), Malyne Hazard (Executive Secretary), Bruce Mitchell, (Treasurer),

RMNF: Takami Tanner; and SCNF: Nathan Scott.

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

GNYNF: John Prough, Sachiko Yamauchi Prough;

ECNF: Fran Vall; SCNF: Helen Nakano;

President Miyako Tanaka Price opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Regular Reports

1. Determination of Quorum

It was determined that enough members were present to form a quorum.

2. Approval of the Minutes from March, 2007

No comments or changes were added to the previous meeting's minutes. Kevin Saxton moved that the Board accept the minutes from the last meeting. Marcia Toyohara seconded the motion. A show of hands was requested. All members present agreed. The minutes were accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report

As Bruce Mitchell was not present, the Board reviewed hard copies of the Treasurer's reports. It was noted that the insurance premium had not yet been paid (approximately \$4,000.00) and that most of the other expenses shown on the charts Bruce had generated were related to the INF event. Miyako Tanaka Price noted that 5-6 people were added to the list of those attending the Welcome Party at the last minute. She added that the Board had already agreed to pay for the Welcome Party for all team members. The additional members added were from Greater New York Federation who had not originally signed up for the party. Marcia Toyohara made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kevin Saxton seconded the motion. A vote was taken. all were in favor. The motion passed.

4. USNF Kyu Examiners List Criteria (Minimum requirement vs. Proficiency)

Board members discussed the way they had managed the list in the past. Kurt Schmucker expressed his opinion that the regional federation presidents should exercise some judgement and not just automatically submit new Sandan for the list.

A discussion began about the need to separate the lists for kyu examiner and shinsa-in. Karen Schmucker reminded the Board that this part of the issue had already been resolved at the last meeting and read the portion of the previous minutes that indicated a vote had already been taken on the matter of separating the lists.

A discussion of criteria followed. Kurt said that today we have written criteria for kyu examiners and said we need criteria for referees. For example, we could have an age requirement...what age is too old, which is too young? Miyako Tanaka Price suggested that everyone think about what kinds of requirements they would like to see and bring them to the next meeting. Marcia Toyohara made a motion that everyone bring their ideas on agenda items #4 and #5 to the next meeting. Martin seconded the idea. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

5. Composition of Dan Examination Board

Miyako Tanaka Price said that once the USNF satisfies the INF minimum requirements, then we can create additional requirements of our own. She asked Andrea De Herrera to explain Southern California Naginata Federation's proposal to have exams up to Nidan held in regional federations. Marcia Toyohara asked to know the rationale for the proposal. Andrea explained that it was Leslee Williams' (Vice-President) idea and that it was discussed within SCNF. They believe this proposal would satisfy the requirement to have diversity by requiring some of the examining panel to come from outside the regional federation.

Miyako Tanaka Price said that she has observed that some people (not at shogo level) who have participated in examination panels do not have a good eye. She further stated that when she composes an examination panel, she tries to get a good mix of people.

Kevin Saxton said that he thought the proposal was a way to keep regions from becoming isolated. Karen Schmucker mentioned that a person who comes to a seminar and participates with the group gets more exposure than they would by a visiting sensei coming to their area. Kurt Schmucker pointed out the difference between attending an exam as part of a seminar and that held at the March meeting. The latter is just an exam. There is still a good reason to have a March exam: to allow USNF promotions to be in sync with AJNF in terms of time in grade and so forth. Andrea expressed the desire to have more than two test opportunities a year, especially if a person cannot afford to travel to one. Kurt brought up the fact that at some point, a person has to face the hurdle of travelling to an exam. Marcia expressed her thanks to SCNF for the thought that went into the proposal. She said she would like to hear the opinions of more Board members. She made a motion to table the proposal until March. Kurt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The proposal will be discussed in March.

6. USNF Kyu test: Ikkyu minimum requirement of Nikkyu?

The Board discussed the idea of stopping the current practice of letting students test for Ikkyu without having Nikkyu first. Miyako Tanaka Price explained her feelings about seeing such a large number of new students being passed to Ikkyu after only a few months of practice. Kurt said he doesn't like the idea of requiring Nikkyu first as it is too restrictive. He thought the solution was to fix the problem of Ikkyu level rather than add another layer of restriction. Karen also did not want another barrier and did not know it was a problem. She does not know of anyone requesting large numbers of promotions to Ikkyu with little experience. Andrea asked how often this happens. Miyako said she gets 2-3 such requests a year. Several people had suggestions to help: Kurt mentioned that the student should be extremely good if the regional federation wants to make their first promotion Ikkyu. And a recommendation should be given to the testers. Andrea suggested a written recommendation or justification. Karen said regions should try to test earlier, rather than waiting for Ikkyu and if it isn't possible, to submit a justification. Marcia suggested that this be written out. Kurt Schmucker will draft it for the March meeting.

7. USNF Calendar Update

2008: the venue for next year's seminar and tournament needs to be decided. Karen mentioned an idea Lelsee had earlier about having more instructor's seminars and topical seminars. She asked if anyone had thought of having

instructor's seminars on the East and West Coast separately. Everyone liked the idea. Proposals for instructor's seminars and the USNF seminar and tournament were requested by Thanksgiving.

Other additions to the calendar: SCNF seminar 6 & 7 October in Gardena and Wilson Park in Torrence, CA. A correction to the calendar: the 4th weekend in March 2008 is the GNYNF seminar, Friday night through Sunday.

8. INF Report

Kurt Schmucker will be sending out his last report as outgoing INF Director for the Pan American Zone. The INF wants to hold seminars in the following places: 2008 in New Zealand, 2009 in the Czech Republic, 2010 in Canada and the next world championship and seminar will be held in 2011 in Japan. The INF Director from New Zealand expects little attendance at the seminar there. The AJNF never responded to Kimura Sensei's request to have Godan testing at every world championship. Kurt said that the INF is also considering creating its own Dan promotions. Applicants would no longer have to go to Itami to test. The goal is to have levels identical to the AJNF. There was even talk of creating 6-dan, 7-dan and 8-dan promotions through the INF.

The INF wanted its draft new constitution voted on at this last meeting. The General Assembly voted against this. Some countries had just received the draft and wanted time to consider it. The USNF has asked that comments on the draft be submitted to the USNF office by 21 December 2007. (Kurt is sending an email version to the Board with his INF report).

INF membership fees have gone up 12% or 86,000 yen per year.

Canada and Germany were given full member country status and Italy was given provisional membership.

There are new uniforms for INF referees: white polo shirt and black slacks.

Jean Yien is the new INF Director for the Pan American Zone. Miyako Tanaka Price took this opportunity to thank Kurt Schmucker for his many years of service in this position.

Kurt made a motion that the INF Director for the Pan American Zone be invited to all USNF Board meetings. Marcia Toyohara seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

9. Web Report

Kurt Schmucker gave a brief report on the status of the USNF website.

10. Matters from the Floor

Kurt Schmucker mentioned that he had tried as INF Director to have Zen Nihon Engi be added to INF events, but that it had never been approved. He now suggested that the USNF include such an event at national tournaments. Marcia Toyohara seconded the motion. Six members voted in favor, one against. The motion passed.

Sachiko Yamauchi asked that the US Rhythm Team be reimbursed for a taxi they had to take. It was approved. Yamauchi Sensei also asked if Katie Roche, who is going to Japan for an extended time, be allowed to take an exam while she is there. Miyako Tanaka Price advised her to ask the US office at that time and then ask the local Japanese office for their procedure.

John Prough asked if the situation with regard to the GNYNF' status meant that they could not vote in the 2008 election and if they could be candidates for office. The answer to both questions was that according to the By-Laws

of the USNF, they could not either run for office or vote because they were not members in good standing as of April 1, 2007. As a result of this answer, John resigned his position on the nominating committee. (Kevin Saxton later volunteered to take John's place on the committee).

Marcia Toyohara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Martin Nobida seconded the motion. Kevin Saxton abstained. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Yesowich Schmucker
Recording Secretary, USNF