

CAA MEETING MINUTES- AUGUST 27, 2023 LIVE & VIA ZOOM

Opening: Elaine Yoder, CAA President at 12:15pm

Welcome to everyone and reminder of Zoom attendees.

CAA Webmaster Report: Michael Smith Sensei, read by Elaine Yoder

STATISTICS: Overall traffic is up from the same period last year and is basically in line with the previous six months. Daily averages are 16 site visits for 13 unique visitors and 44 total page views. Aside from the Home Page, the most visited areas of the website are, in order, the Events Calendar, Fees and Minimum Requirements, CAA Directory, and the Promotions Lists.

NEW CONTENT: Promotions list (March). Shihan Promotions list (May). Dan papers by Robert Summers, Daniel Palacios, Julia Kay, and Laurence Bianchini. The CAA Dojo Directory page now has an interactive world map of (almost all) CAA dojos. Thanks to Kenneth Kron for putting this together. Please contact the CAA webmaster for any corrections.

REMINDERS: For dojocho, the CAA Directory can be a valuable tool in reaching potential new members. Not only does the directory list member dojos by Division, it also lists all CAA dojos by state and country. Essentially the CAA Directory provides free, world-wide advertising for your school. Please make sure the information is up to date. Likewise, the Events Calendar is a free means of promoting or discovering seminars, world- wide, featuring CAA teachers. If your school is hosting a public seminar, please submit the details to the webmaster via the Event Calendar Submission form on the website: <https://ai-ki-do.org/event-calendar> If you have Dan papers or Articles that you would like to share with the Aikido community, please submit them to the webmaster at cal.aikido.webmaster@gmail.com The CAA website exists to promote the Way of Peace and to facilitate the sharing of ideas and information related to Aikido between our members as well as the general public. Encourage your students to visit, explore, and contribute to our website.

Bookkeeper Report: Carla Garrett

Balances as of August 27

- A) \$8,651.42 Yudansha Account
- B) \$24,989.23 Rank Processing (most of it going out for September and KB batches)
- C) \$6,497.93 Business account

D) \$1,77.17 in PayPal (for pending rank processing)

Rank Processing: Molly Hale

PROMOTIONS

MARCH BATCH

2 Yondan

4 Sandan

8 Nidan

6 Shodan

JUNE BATCH

1 Yondan

2 Sandan

6 Nidan

6 Shodan

All of the promoted individuals are on the California Aikido Association website

Annual Yudansha registration fee: Michael Friedl

The yudansha registration fee will be continued for 2024. This is a VOLUNTARY donation of \$25. One can contribute more than \$25 if they like. No one had any questions or comments. Information about how to donate is available on the CAA website.

Announcement of New Members: Division Heads

There are no new members in the 3 divisions.

Aiki Extensions: Molly Hale

AIKIEXTENSION PRESENTATION

Aiki Extensions is a non-profit I'd like to bring to your attention. They were started by Professor Don Levine, an Aikido teacher and dean at the University of Chicago along with our own Richard Strozzi-Heckler Shihan. Levine Sensei helped get Aikido started in Ethiopia and Palestine, and his vision was to take seriously OSensei's claim that Aikido was a way to heal

the world, and that we all could take the understanding of Aiki principles we forge by training together on the mat out into the world. His mission and work lives on through Aiki Extensions, a community of individuals connected by that mission, and I was recently invited along with Jeramy to attend a Board meeting, and I was surprised at their various initiatives and the amount of work they've been doing for more than 20 years applying Aikido beyond the dojo into fields including holistic health, education, business, leadership, sports, and peace building.

Did you know?

- When the war began in Ukraine, they provided aiki-based trauma relief sessions for refugees in Poland, and recently taught youth and adult seminars at dojos in western Ukraine and Slovakia. They have raised over \$20,000 that has gone to humanitarian supplies, personal protective equipment, and support for the in-country Aikido network that keeps dojos open and classes available for as many as possible.
- They are doing an Aiki Authors series of interviews, posted to their YouTube channel, to discuss books published by Aikidoka.
- They have been bringing Palestinian and Israeli youth leaders together for 15 years, 50 total and six this year, to forge bonds of friendship and trust at an American summer camp
- They have provided seed grants to Josh Gold's innovative Budo Accelerator program, to support Aikido development in Kenya, and to inclusivity in Aikido project. If you have an Aiki-related project, they might have seed grant money for you too - check out their website for details.
- They organized an international Training Across Borders event in 2005 and again in 2015, bringing together aikidoka from both sides of conflict zones around the world, promoting international harmony. They're starting to plan the next one for 2025 and hope to have details to share soon.

- They host Aiki Passion Into Action roundtable discussions periodically, bringing Aikido leaders together across the world to discuss issues such as engaging the next generation, adaptations to COVID (early in the pandemic), translating aikido passion into action off the mat, and others.
- They host a dedicated social network on a platform called Mighty Networks for sharing ideas, hosting events, and more.
- They support groups using Aikido in trauma therapy for combat-related PTSD with Veterans.
- They bring non-falling aikido into the corporate world to teach leadership development and have a website dedicated to sharing the course work for free so that anyone with a strong aikido background could support their dojo by adding an additional revenue stream in your own community.

These are just some of the activities I became aware of when I attended their Board meeting. They make it a practice to invite someone from outside the Board to attend every monthly meeting as advisors, to bring a fresh perspective to their activities and priorities. And if any of you are interested in doing that, let me know and I'll pass your name and contact along to them.

I think this is an organization whose work would be of great interest to many in CAA. I'd like to invite them to join us for a little while next February to talk more about their activities.

In the meantime, if you're interested in learning more, they have a website, aikiextensions.org, and while there, you can follow the links to join their free on-line community.

Strategies for Dojo Cho to rebuild numbers: moderated by Michael Friedl

This was also discussed during the February 2023 meeting and there was more to offer from the Dojo Cho today.

Edgar Johansson, Dojo Cho Denver Aikikai contributed various ways to encourage lapsed students to return via phone calls.

Lance Giroux, Dojo Cho of Aikido of Konocti, CA talked about how he stays visible online by announcing events and class changes on Facebook for all of the small towns in his area (Clear Lake, CA).

The emphasis is on continued community notification and involvement.

Pat Hendricks, Dojo Cho Aikido of San Leandro talked about how her children's classes bring new members into the school. She also talked about making students feel welcome, included, and making them understand that they can go further in the art (testing).

Several Dojo Cho run sessions specifically for beginners: 6-8 weeks or as long as 3 months. The idea is to get new students rolling, familiar with basics, and a few techniques.

Some Dojo run programs specially for teens 12-18. Those students are also able to join adult classes at some Dojo.

Hombu Dojo values the importance of attracting kids to ensure the future of aikido. There were suggestions for events for children, and seminars for young people. Invite children from local Dojo to get together for a practice, then have a party. This would bring the students from multiple Dojo together to practice and socialize.

IAF Report: North American Youth Work Group: Louis Jumonville

The larger plan is to organize a working group to link Dojo that offer classes for children. Working together to organize Aikido retreats for children and other programs.

Update on IAF Events, Work Groups and Membership: Pat Hendricks

There will be a group representing CAA traveling to Tokyo for the IAF meeting and training in October next year.

General Membership Announcements: Training announcements for various dojo, please see calendar on CAA web site.

Announcement of the next meeting: February 25, 2024 @ Location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned: President Elaine Yoder at 1pm.

Participant	Dojo Name	Waiver	How Paid
Stefan Barton	Golden Triangle Aikido	✓	Cash
Yvonne Thelwall	Aikido of Arlington	✓	Check
Mary Bryham	Aikido of Ashland		
Mark Zwagerman	Aikido of Santa Cruz		
LANCE GIBBOUX	Aikido of Knoxville		check
ANDUS BRANDT	East Bay Aikido		cash
Kathy Aguilar	Denver Aikikai		
CHARLIE BATILO	AIKIDO SAN FRANCISCO		Cash
MICHAEL BATILO	AIKIDO SAN FRANCISCO		Cash
FORREST KAN	MARTEL AIKIDO		CK
MARK KRUGER	AIKIDO OF EUGENE		CASH
LARRY BROWEN	AIKIDO CENTRAL COAST		CASH
RICARDO JEWEL	AIKIDO WEST	✓	CASH
VIKTOR HAAG	GOLDEN TRIANGLE AIKIDO	✓	CASH
Mike McVey	YS Aikido	✓	Cash
Weiliang Chen	Golden Triangle Aikido	✓	Cash
Stefan	Kanvaakuri Dojo	✓	Cash
Carlos Gomez Celledo	Golden Triangle Aikido	✓	Cash
Jarek Adamuszeowski	Royal City Aikido	✓	Cash
Craig Fife	Aikido NW	✓	CASH
OLIVER MORSE	Aikido U.K.	✓	CASH
Ross Middle	City Aikido SF	✓	CASH
Akemi Mamiwa	Aikido of San Leandro	✓	Cash
NAOKI NITTA	11TH ST.	✓	CASH

