

CAA MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 27, 2022

AIKIDO WEST & VIA ZOOM

1. Meeting called to order by Craig Fife, CAA President.

Started with a quote from A. R. Lucas: We've been infected with this idea that love is an emotion only felt between two people. But love is universal. An energy. A contagious force. A gift. To offer money to a homeless man is to love. To smile to a stranger is love. To be grateful, to be hopeful, to be brave, to be forgiving, to be proud, is to love.

2. Congratulations to Kagami Biraki candidates: Division Heads.

Paul Filbert	Aikido West	7 Dan
Harry Concepcion	Aikido of San Jose	6 Dan
Bill Essig	Aikido of Berkeley	6 Dan
Dianne Haynes	Tatsu Gi Kai Inc.	6 Dan
Betsy Hill	Tenchi Aikido	6 Dan
Alex Vanderburgh	Aikido West	6 Dan
James Cornfield	Sandia Budokan	5 Dan
Shawn Ellingson	Aikido Mountain West	5 Dan
Paul Haynes	Tatsu Gi Kai Inc.	5 Dan
David Sofen	Aikido of Santa Cruz	5 Dan
August Swanson	Quemazon Aikido	5 Dan
Mark Wise	Aikido of Berkeley	5 Dan

3. CAA Webmaster Report: Michael Smith Sensei.

The CAA website, www.ai-ki-do.org, has been up and running for 25 years. From the very beginning its role has been to facilitate communications within and amongst our community. It also serves as our public "headquarters" in cyberspace. In this regard it is important that dojo-cho keep the CAA administrator and CAA webmaster informed as to any changes in the contact information listed in the Dojo Directory pages. Also, please help grow the Community pages by forwarding articles and Dan papers to the CAA webmaster.

Looking back over the last four years of site traffic, 2019 had a relatively high level of engagement, with overall visitors 62% above the previous year. The pandemic arrived early the next year. Since then the traffic has dramatically declined to well below pre-pandemic levels.

Year: Total Site Visits:

2018: 10,630

2019: 17,244 (CAA hosted seminar with Doshu)

2020: 7,122

2021: 5,552 - 22%

2022: 879 (year to date) down 40% from same period last year

Our Squarespace subscription (website content building and hosting) costs \$216.00 per year, and it's another \$20.00 per year for the domain name registration. There is zero cost for site maintenance.

The CAA also has an internet presence on two FaceBook pages: one for administrative announcements, and a second that is open to the public. There is no cost to the CAA for these pages.

There is some redundancy between the content of the CAA website and the CAA FaceBook pages.

Five minute discussion: Should the CAA continue to pay for and maintain the CAA website?

There was lively discussion both via zoom and in the dojo. There was pretty much unanimous agreement that we should keep the website. Numerous people mentioned that they did not use FaceBook, but used the website often.

4. Bookkeeper Report: Carla Garrett.

Money from online meeting participants: \$358.00

Money from in person meeting participants: \$638.65

Total in PayPal \$896.68 (more money came in after the bookkeeper looked at PayPal at 7 am 2/27.

Bank Account Totals:

Rank processing: \$9,143.77. Some additional RP money is in transit between PayPal and the bank.

Business: \$6019.39 (this includes most of the expenses for the training and meeting, plus payment of the CPA for the tax return and the State of CA. The only other major expenses will be insurance to be paid in Sept. 2022.

5. Rank Processing: Adrienne Wonnacott Sensei, read by Carla Garrett, in her absence.

Ranks Processed for the last 6 months:

29 Yudansha applications:

Sept. batch: 9

Dec. batch: 8

Kagami Biraki: 12

If you have any problems with the website. please email the Clerk and we will fix it!

Molly Hale will be the new CAA Clerk starting with the June promotions. Adrienne will continue to assist for a while as Molly learns the job.

The CAA wishes to acknowledge the years of service and hard work provided by Adrienne in this service as CAA Clerk. It is a time consuming and important job for the CAA. Heartfelt thanks to Adrienne for all her excellent work!

Hendricks Shihan has made a Calligraphy to present to Adrienne, and the CAA is offering her a plaque to acknowledge her service.

6. International Aikido Federation report: Pat Hendricks Shihan.

In the IAF there are three Aikido groups who are representatives for the USA. The USAF, the Aikido World Alliance, and the CAA.

There is a World Games event taking place in Alabama in July 2022. Pat Hendrick Shihan has been asked to represent the IAF at the World Games by giving an Aikido demonstration.

This is an exciting recognition of the CAA and Hendricks Shihan in representing the IAF and Aikido to the world.

There is opportunity for CAA members to attend. If interested, reach out to Hendricks Shihan for information.

7. Electing a new President: Craig Fife Sensei.

The current Presidential term ends at the August CAA meeting. It is time to take nominations for a new President to be elected at the August CAA meeting.

The CAA President serves one 4 year term. Anyone Godan and above, who is a member of an association dojo, is eligible to be President.

The duties of the President are as follows: A) Represent the CAA at official functions. B) Act as a resource for information regarding the Association. C) Coordinate special events. D) Help plan, preside at, and maintain order at all meetings.

Nominations for President take place at the Feb. meeting, and via email up to May 1st.

All nominated candidates must send in a one paragraph statement about what makes them a good candidate for CAA President, by May 1st.

By June 1st, the CAA clerk will post on the CAA website the names, ranks, dojos and statements from each candidate. There will also be an absentee ballot for members who won't be at the August meeting, where the voting will take place and the new President will be announced. All CAA Yudansha are eligible to vote.

For more details about the CAA President and the voting process, see the CAA guidelines.

8. Nominations for CAA President:

Elaine Yoder Sensei, 6th Dan, Division III, City Aikido/Two Rock Aikido.

9. Words from our Division Heads: Can you share an inspirational story with us about an experience with your teacher that had an impact on your training?

Pat Hendricks Shihan spoke about her close relationship with Saito Shihan and his support of her as a woman in the Aikido World.

Michael Friedl Shihan spoke of his long and close relationship with Doran Shihan and his support and early testing experiences.

Lauren Herr Sensei spoke of his close relationship with Nadeau Shihan, and Nadeau Shihan's close and life changing relationship with O'Sensei.

10. Announcement of New Members: Division Heads.

Division I has one new dojo: Aikido Contra Costa, Pleasant Hill, CA. Dojo Cho, Carla Garrett Sensei, Nidan.

11. General Membership announcements:

Aikido Retreat At Granlibakken; June 10 - 15, 2022 registration now open.

Pat Hendricks Shihan has seminars in Sweden in March, Virginia in April, Texas in May. See the CAA website for detail information.

12. Announcement of the next CAA meeting: August 28, 2022. The location yet to be announced. Check with the CAA website for the location.

13. Meeting adjourned: Craig Fife, President.