

USAF | United States Aikido Federation

Purposes and Principals,
Board and Committees,
and Goals Achieved as of
November 2009





USAF | What is the USAF?

The United States Aikido Federation (USAF) is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to spread and maintain the integrity of the martial art of Aikido as created, developed and exemplified by O-Sensei, Morihei Ueshiba, and spread by the Aikikai Foundation, Aikido World Headquarters (“Hombu”), located in Tokyo, Japan. The USAF develops and guides the practice of Aikido and its instruction as established at Hombu and strives to promote and develop goodwill and friendship, and to improve lines of communication among members of the USAF and other Hombu recognized organizations. The USAF registers Dan grades with Hombu, and standardizes Kyu and Dan grading consistent with and as described in Hombu’s international regulations. The USAF represents, defends, and promotes the interests of its members and carries out such other ancillary activities as necessary or incidental to the achievement of these purposes.

| USAF: Direction and Management

The direction and management of the USAF are carried out by the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee. The day-to-day operations are administered through the Director of Operations who is currently Laura Pavlick.

| Board of Directors

USAF Board of Directors responsibilities are:

- a. To establish, monitor and modify as necessary the financial policy of the USAF
- b. To appoint representatives to the International Aikido Federation (IAF) and Hombu
- c. To elect the officers of the USAF
- d. To establish, modify as necessary and oversee the policy and procedure for admission to the USAF
- e. To establish, modify as necessary and oversee the policy and procedure for maintaining membership in and for the expulsion or removal from the USAF
- f. To establish, modify as necessary and oversee the policy and procedure for the resolution of disputes involving member dojo, including disputes involving dochocho of member dojo, in the USAF, such resolution to be non-binding as between the parties, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties; and
- g. to generally conduct all business and adopt all policies and procedure.

The positions in the Board of Directors are classified into Officers and Board Members.

USAF Board of Directors Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President: Yoshimitsu Yamada, New York Aikikai
Vice President: Harvey Konigsberg, Woodstock Aikido
Vice President: Mike Abrams, New York Aikikai
Chairman: Charles McGinnis, Aikido of Cincinnati
Treasurer: Malory Graham, Puget Sound Aikikai
Secretary, Laura Pavlick, Litchfield Hills Aikikai

Board Members in alphabetical order:

Penny Bernath, Florida Aikikai
Larry Bieri, Finger Lakes Aikido
Barbara Britton, Framingham Aikikai
Glenn Brooks, Aikido of Scottsdale
Skip Chapman, Jersey Shore Aikikai
George Kennedy, Aikido Center of Atlanta
Bob Mason, Aikido of Dallas
Joe Nemeth, Aikido of Nassau County
Ed Peteroy, USAF Academy Aikido Club
Gordon Sakamoto, Northern Virginia Aikikai
Walter Van Enck, Midwest Aikido Center
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara



Board of Directors Current Sub-Committees

Financial Oversight Committee:

Chair: Malory Graham, Puget Sound Aikikai
Mike Abrams, New York Aikikai
Bob Mason, Aikido of Dallas
Charlie McGinnis, Aikido of Cincinnati
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara

Human Resources Committee:

Mike Abrams, New York Aikikai
Ed Peteroy, USAF Academy Aikido Club
Barbara Britton, Framingham Aikikai

Summer Camp Committee:

Laura Pavlick, Litchfield Hills Aikikai
Skip Chapman, Jersey Shore Aikikai
Joe Nemeth, Aikido of Nassau County
Paige Chapman, Jersey Shore Aikikai

Website Committee:

Laura Pavlick, Litchfield Hills Aikikai
Walter Van Enck, Midwest Aikido Center
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara
Glenn Brooks, Aikido of Scottsdale

Co-Committee to the Technical Committee:

Larry Bieri, Finger Lakes Aikido
Penny Bernath, Florida Aikikai

Nominating Committee:

Chair: Yoshimitsu Yamada, New York Aikikai
Harvey Konigsberg, Woodstock Aikido
Laura Pavlick, Litchfield Hills Aikikai

Ethics/Dispute Resolution Committee:

Chair: George Kennedy, Aikido Center of Atlanta
Gordon Sakamoto, Northern Virginia Aikikai

Trademark Use Committee:

Walter Van Enck, Midwest Aikido Center
Bob Mason, Aikido of Dallas
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara

Marketing Committee:

Mike Abrams, New York Aikikai
Ed Peteroy, USAF Academy Aikido Club
George Kennedy, Aikido Center of Atlanta
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara

Donations/Planned Giving:

Ed Peteroy, USAF Academy Aikido Club
Barbara Britton, Framingham Aikikai

Merchandising Committee:

Walter Van Enck, Midwest Aikido Center
Laura Pavlick, Litchfield Hills Aikikai
Chris Wong, Aikido of Santa Barbara

Technical Committee

The duties of the USAF Technical Committee include:

- a. Establishing testing qualifications, and awarding and recommending rank consistent with and as described in Hombu's international regulations;
- b. Establishing the qualifications and procedure for issuing teaching licenses and administering such procedures consistent with and as described in Hombu's international regulations;
- c. Conducting seminars, including black belt and instructor seminars, with the goal of assisting in the improvement of the overall teaching methods of the USAF;
- d. Approving promotion by recommendation for member dojocho, member dojo senior instructors and member dojo chief instructors; and
- e. Developing instructional materials including, but not limited to handbooks, videotapes, and DVD's.

USAF Technical Committee officers and members:

Chair: Yoshimitsu Yamada, New York Aikikai

T.C. members in alphabetical order:

Peter Bernath, Florida Aikikai
Claude Berthiaume, Aikido de la Montagne
Andy Demko, New Castle Aikikai
Harvey Konigsberg, Woodstock Aikido
Donovan Waite, Aikido of Center City
Seiichi Sugano, New York Aikikai
Robert Zimmermann, Toronto Aikikai

Co-Committee to the Board of Directors:

Claude Berthiaume, Aikido de la Montagne
Robert Zimmermann, Toronto Aikikai



USAFA | Recent Achievements

The following are a few of the many changes and improvements achieved by the USAFA Board of Directors and the Technical Committee over the last 2 years:

1. The implementation of strong financial oversight and budgeting procedures has helped establish achievable goals for the future of the USAFA;
2. A strong working Board of Directors and Technical Committee with meetings 3 times per year have enabled new policies and procedures to be implemented to benefit USAFA members;
3. A clear plan is in place to implement both immediate and long range needs and goals of the USAFA;
4. An immediate plan is in place for priority projects which will address the continuation, growth and long term success of the USAFA;
5. The continued expansion of the regularly published USAFA online newsletter has been successful in providing an easily accessible community resource;
6. There has been a successful development and distribution of Ethical Guidelines and Standards expected of all dojo and members;
7. The revamping of administrative procedures to improve service to member dojo remains a constant priority;
8. The clear procedures in place and positive working relationship with Hombu have improved the processing and of both kyu and dan certificates to members;
9. The introduction of the 6th kyu rank requirements will assist in the retention of new students while providing a valuable tool to improve on the foundation of all basic techniques;
10. The instructors' use of the members link on the USAFA website continues to increase by making available all USAFA forms, newly uploaded USAFA logos, and by year end the revised USAFA Handbook;
11. The new USAFA Instructors Yahoo Group provides a great opportunity for instructors to discuss ideas, strategies, membership retention, etc in a closed format that is by invitation only;
12. The organization of two successful summer camps by the USAFA provides useful information to ensure that future summer camps will be successful as well;
13. The USAFA conducted an online member survey to collect demographics about member dojo to assess member needs and improve future services;

In Progress

14. The creation of a new USAFA website is underway to improve content, visual elements, and interactive database for members. Phase 1 has been completed;
15. The USAFA is researching a possible insurance contact to refer member dojo to for their dojo liability coverage;
16. A testing and evaluation review sheet is being prepared as an optional tool for instructors to use either in their own dojo or when preparing a student for a dan examination;
17. A USAFA New Student Guide will be available in the near future for all member dojo to download as a useful handout for new students, detailing proper etiquette, ranking procedures, the history of aikido, etc.



Honorary Committee

The By Laws of the USAF also provide for an Honorary Committee, whose members are appointed by the President. These are senior instructors or members of the USAF who have made significant contributions to the growth and promulgation of Aikido. Members of the Honorary Committee may not be members of the Board of Directors or the Technical Committee. As a way of recognizing their lifelong contribution to Aikido, Members of the Honorary Committee may attend any USAF seminars, excluding major seminars such as Summer Camp and Winter Camp, free of charge. Honorary Committee appointments are lifetime appointments. Members may not be removed, except for good cause shown.

USAF Honorary Committee in alphabetical order:

Nelson Andujar, Nations Aikikai
Anne Buchanan, Aikido of Try-Co-Lan
Paul Buchanan, Aikido of Try-Co-Lan, former member of the USAF Board of Governors
Rodney Grantham, Aikido Center of Atlanta
Eddie Hagihara, Long Island Aikikai, former member of New York Aikikai
Luqman Abdul Hakeem, Shihan, Aikido School of Maghreb, former member of New York Aikikai
Dennis Meno, Suncoast Aikido
Sidney Spencer, Aiki O'Kami Society, former member of New York Aikikai
Rick Stickles, Aikido Schools of New Jersey, former member of New York Aikikai
Paul Keelan, New England Aikikai
Bernie Mulligan, Shodokan
Peter Tamagni, Vineland Aikikai
Linda Lee Vecchio, Aikido of Cleveland, first General Secretary of the USAF
John Yaglowski, Greater Hartford Aikikai