



January 1, 2014

Dear Instructors,

The holiday season is a time to look forward to the New Year, as well as a time to look back at 2014 and take a moment to say thank you. Because of your dedication, along with the support of all your students, the USAF is healthier and stronger than ever before. The USAF mission is "spreading and maintaining the Japanese martial art of Aikido as created and exemplified by its founder, Morihei Ueshiba." The USAF "supports and encourages positive practice and technical proficiency to ensure the preservation of traditional Aikido." Thus, 2014 exemplified a year of great success. The calendar of events listed seminars all over the world, showing that close relationships provided numerous opportunities for USAF instructors to teach, and for members to practice together. Yamada Sensei and the New York Aikikai celebrated their 50th anniversary with commemorative seminars world wide, and the USAF has worked hard to improve the systems that support your dojo. The following facts reflect some of the successes of 2014: (all totals are approximate):

Active members: 4,250

New Dojo: 7

Active dojo: 207

Total kyu tests: 1,500

Total dan applications mailed to Aikikai: 275

Total Fukushima: 160

Total Shido-in: 140

Total Shihan (cumulative through 2014): 39

Total Summer Camp Participants: 600

Number of countries represented at camp: over 20


Number of classes offered at camp: 55

In addition, the Board of Directors (BoD) added 4 new members who offer a variety of experience and expertise: Julia Freedgood (Valley Aikido) and Blue Spruell (Peachtree Aikikai Atlanta), as well as two members from the Technical Committee (TC), Peter Bernath and Claude Berthiaume. These additions will help to support our mission and plans for our future.

Organizing Summer Camp 2015 is well underway, and will once again be held at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Resort in New Jersey. The dates for camp are Sunday, July 26th to Saturday August 1st and registration information will be posted soon. As you know, Karen De Paola (Skylands Aikikai) assists in the running of summer camp. Karen will now be assisting with additional administrative duties throughout the year, so you may hear from her regarding other USAF matters as well.

Directions for how to proceed with your 2015 New Year's renewals will be explained in a forthcoming email, *2015 Annual Renewal Instructions*. Please hold off on your renewals until you receive the email, as updates to the database are being installed in order to improve the process. Enclosed is a gift of appreciation, wishing you, your dojo, and your families a year of health, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely yours,



Laura Pavlick

Director of Operations

