

It is hard to believe that 2019 is only weeks away, the New York Aikikai holiday seminar will soon be a memory, and that another year of travel and seminars is coming to an end. I am so lucky, with my health and your support, to be able to continue teaching and spending so much time on the mat with my students all over the world. As you know, I celebrated my 80th birthday, and truthfully, I feel my commitment to the aikido community is still as strong as ever.

Every time I am at a seminar, I see so many familiar faces. I'm happy to say there are also new faces. That means aikido has a long life ahead, with the younger ones learning from their elders, and the elders passing along their knowledge and experience to the younger generation. I have been in both those positions now, and I understand and value the importance of both roles equally.

While I am very proud, I want you to continue working hard, continue going to seminars, and please, come by NYA to visit me and take my class. My home dojo is always a place where I welcome you.

Wishing you a very happy New Year.

Y. Yamada



## Your 2019 New Years Gift

Each year, the USAF sends its instructors a small gift as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for your dedication and commitment to the USAF aikido community.

We hope you enjoy the enclosed gift, and that it comes in handy for carrying your dogi and personal items throughout the year!

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Happy Holidays.



# 2018

## The Year at a Glance

**USAF  
Summer  
Camp  
2018**



# GOVERNANCE

2018 has been a successful year for the USAF: financial stability, strong administrative support, a successful summer camp, and numerous seminars held by local dojo throughout the country. The Board of Directors (BoD) and Technical Committee (TC) have joined with members to generate ideas and investigate ways to implement new strategies to increase membership support and services.

Directors of the Board and members of the TC are selected through a nomination and voting process. They hold annual meetings at Summer Camp and Winter Camp, have 4 year terms, and receive no compensation for their service. Along with several other considerations, the TC policy requires candidates to be 7th dan.

As of February 1, 2019 the Board of Directors is comprised of (alphabetical order):

Peter Bernath  
Claude Berthiaume  
Raymond Farinato, Secretary  
Paul Forhan  
Julia Freedgood, Treasurer  
George Kennedy, Chairman  
Blue Spruell

The Technical Committee is comprised of:

Claude Berthiaume  
Peter Bernath  
Andy Demko  
Harvey Konigsberg  
Steve Pimsler  
Donovan Waite  
Yoshimitsu Yamada, Chairman

# SNAPSHOT

## 2018 in numbers: (all #s are approximate)

- Dues Paying Members: 4,000
  - New Dojo Joined in 2018: 3
  - Active dojo: 205
  - Total kyu tests: 1,220
  - Total dan applications mailed to Aikikai: 231
  - Total Active Fukushima: 198
  - Total Active Shido: 170
  - Total Shihan (cumulative): 68
  - Total Number of Seminars Listed on USAF Calendar (either hosted by USAF dojo or taught by USAF instructor): 141
  - Month with most seminars: 20
  - Total "Likes" on USAF facebook page: 5,179
  - # Summer Camp Participants: 460
  - # Classes at Summer Camp: 52
- all totals are approximate*

## 2019 ANNUAL RENEWALS

An email will be circulated regarding the renewal procedure. Please do not submit any renewals until you have reviewed the email.

# SUMMER CAMP 2018



Another well attended Summer Camp provided the opportunity for so many to learn from our exceptional group of instructors. With our greatest appreciation and gratitude going to Yamada Sensei and Osawa Sensei, the array of TC members and other instructors classes helped fill the week with high energy, friendship, sweat and good cheer!

Each Summer Camp provides a time for instructors to meet with the BoD and TC, to be brought up-to-date on official business, and to share ideas on a variety of subjects. One of the announcements at this meeting was the new way in which the USAF will be sharing footage from our summer camps. Rather than selling DVDs, we will be launching a USAF Youtube page in 2019, where an archive of camp classes will be posted for free and easy access. We hope you find this useful, as both an educational tool as well as for sharing the quality and breath of USAF aikido.

**Save the next camp date!**  
**July 28th - August 3rd 2019**