

USAF

2019 at a glance



As I sit at my desk in my office I don't know where the time flies, especially when I look at my 2019 calendar and see how many places I visited around the world. Again in 2020, I am traveling from as far away as Australia and Russia, to as close as Brooklyn and New Jersey. These seminars and each stop in between is a chance for me to see you all on the mat, and it is what keeps me young and eager to remain your teacher for as long as possible. New York Aikikai's Christmas seminar was overflowing with visitors. People were even practicing in our entry way because there was no room on the mat! This of course made me very happy. So many wonderful tests, so many friendly faces I have known through the years, and so many new and young faces that are the future of aikido.

I encourage you all to continue practicing in a harmonious, joyful and friendly way. I think this is what makes the difference in our lives on and off the mat. — *Y. Yamada*

GOVERNANCE FOR 2020

The board is pleased to welcome Sylvie Firestone, 5th dan and co-founder of Aikido of Westchester, as a new member of the board. Her term will begin February 1, 2020. Sylvie is an Art Director and is well-versed in the uses and applications of social media. She hopes to use her expertise to benefit the USAF.

Julia Freedgood, 6th dan and dojo cho of Valley Aikido, was re-elected Treasurer and Peter Bernath, 7th dan and dojo cho of Florida Aikikai, was also re-elected as Technical Committee representative. Julia and Peter will begin their 2nd term on the Board beginning February 1, 2020.

Commencing February 1, 2020, the Board of Directors will be comprised of (alphabetical order):

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

The following Technical Committee members' terms were renewed for another 4 years: Peter Bernath, Claude Berthiaume, Harvey Konigsberg, Donovan Waite, commencing February 1, 2020.

The Technical Committee is comprised of: Claude Berthiaume, Peter Bernath, Andy Demko, Harvey Konigsberg, Steve Pimsler, Donovan Waite, Yoshimitsu Yamada (Chairman)



2020 ANNUAL RENEWALS

An email has been circulated regarding the renewal procedure. Please email laura@usaikifed.com or karendepaola@usaikifed.com with any questions.

SNAPSHOT OF 2019

all totals are approximate

2019 Active Members: **4,000**
New Dojo Joined in 2019: **5**
Active dojo: **195**
Total kyu tests: **1100**
Total dan applications mailed to Aikikai: **231**
Total Active Fukushima: **160**
Total Active Shido: **160**
Total Shihan (cumulative): **71**
Total Number of Seminars Listed on USAF Calendar (either hosted by USAF dojo or taught by USAF instructor): **162**
Most seminars listed in a month: **21**
Total "Likes" on USAF & USAF Camp Facebook pages: **7,900**
Total views on USAF Youtube: **6,914**
Summer Camp Participants: **400**
Classes at Summer Camp: **52**

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

The USAF YouTube channel and Instagram accounts were implemented in 2019. Follow the channel by searching United States Aikido Federation as new videos will be uploaded soon. To date, there are 532 subscribers and 6,914 views. Further info will be coming soon about ways in which these resources will be shared with USAF dojos.



SUMMER CAMP 2019

Summer Camp 2019 welcomed everyone to a newly renovated and beautiful resort. With first class accommodations, luxurious living and gourmet meals, the experience lived up to camp's reputation for being one of the best aikido seminars in the world!

While 2019 camp had no birthday celebrations or historic anniversaries to celebrate, the relaxed atmosphere was noted by many and as one of their favorite camps. With a classes throughout the day, plenty of pool-side lounging, hot tub recuperating, and evening socializing, this camp provided a great time for everyone both on and off the mat.



SUMMER CAMP 2020

July 26th - August 1st

Location: Dolce Seaview Hotel, Galloway, NJ

In addition to hosting Yamada Sensei & Osawa Sensei for the full week, we will be honoring Tamura Sensei & Sugano Sensei's 10th Memorial Anniversary with special guest, Jikou Sugano Sensei, for the 2nd half week.

YOUR 2020 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 it comes in handy for traveling or organizing your personal items throughout the year!

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Wishing you a joyful & healthy 2020!