

Wahiawa Kendo Club Bulletin - December 2022

Thank you for your help with Zippy's ticket sale ended in November to raise fund for our club. This fund is not only helping our club but also supporting Hawaii Kendo Federation when we get involved in their activities. We also appreciate those who donated money rather than selling or buying tickets.

Six of us and 2 chaperons went to Seattle to participate in Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation Kendo Tournament on November 6. Leland Hara did very well despite this was his 1st major tournament outside Hawaii. Issei So was Champion in 3 Dan division. Lonny Hancock was 3rd in 4 Dan above division. Team Hawaii consisted of Issei So, Sho Ishida, Erika Hill, Lonny Hancock and Iwao Sato came in close 2nd. We enjoyed our stay there. People were nice and hospitable.

Aiea Taiheiji Kendo Club Tournament was on Saturday, November 19. Our club member, David Sato, came in 1st in consolation bracket of 4 Dan and Above Division. Also, this was our member Peyton Ching's 1st tournament entry. He did well though he did not place. I was happy to see that Peyton got many kendo friends from other dojo and played with them.

Hawaii Kendo Federation 1 *Kyu* and Dan examination was on Sunday, November 20. I was glad that majority of people who regularly practiced with me passed the examination. Afterwards, we had Fundraise Banquet at Natsunoya Tea House that evening. We enjoyed the company and foods there. Fundraise was successful.

Thanks to Tusha Buntin Sensei's effort, Midweek magazine featured Hawaii Kendo Federation in November 16 edition. This kind of exposure was good for Hawaii Kendo.

There will be no *Honbu* Dojo practices on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year Day, January 01. Our dojo will continue to practice on Wednesdays through out the year.

Steveston Kendo Club Tournament in Canada will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Some people are already planning to go and participate in the tournament after many tournament cancellations due to Covid restrictions in past years.

I did my best to recruit 5 person Team Hawaii for Pacific Northwest Kendo Tournament on November 6. I was successful to get 4 persons, but, one person was short for Team. I had to drag myself in as captain to complete Team. I did not expect much from hastily gathered Team. Lo and behold, Team won up to the final championship match. Before I came up as the captain, our team was ahead, 2 wins against 1 loss. So, if I tied, we could have been Champion Team. I got 1st point with *kote* strike but lost 2 consecutive points to make winning numbers even. However, other team had one point advantage to win over us. Afterwards, one person commented, "You fight like a young man." Another said, "You must be so tired." The best remarks I received and liked was, "I wish I want to be like you when I get to your age." This comment meant that out of my performance this person got motivation to continue kendo and get better. That was the best reward I felt out of this disappointing loss. Make your kendo a life long endeavor.

Iwao Sato

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Club Website - www.wahiawakendoclub.com