

Wahiawa Kendo Club Bulletin - January 2022

A Happy New Year! Two years in a row we are living through the pandemic. I thought that we could see the end of tunnel when the infection rate was coming down gradually in November. But now we have Omicron variant which is much, much infectious and spreading violently. Hawaii Kendo Federation canceled Sunday, December 26 practice because of the rapid spread after consulting with medical professionals. January 2 practice is canceled due to City and County staffing problem. They will make an announcement for future schedule soon. As for our club, we are continuing in-person practices though not many persons are coming lately. We will cancel our practices if they close Hall we are using for activities or Mayor impose restrictions for sports gathering like in the past. We are getting tired but using stringent measures to mitigate infection.

We are very happy to be informed that the following Hawaii Kenshi's received their prestigious titles on November 23.

Renshi-Go (Skilled Kendoist Title)

Jack Yamada Sensei

Billy Kang Sensei

Kyoshi-Go (Instructor Kendoist Title)

Tusha Buntin Sensei

Mikio Koga Sensei

Please congratulate them when you see them. They received my congratulatory remarks plus reminder of responsibility of raising Hawaii young Kenshi's and continuous their betterment.

Thanks to your support, this year's our club fund raise, Zippy's ticket sale, ended in success. As soon as we are allowed to have more activities, we are planning to spend fund raised for promoting kendo among young ones by hosting or sponsoring Children's tournament, participating in tournament outside of Hawaii, having seminars and so on.

I will be collecting Club dues for year 2022. I would like to finish club dues collection by the end of March. I will find out Hawaii Kendo Federation dues amount and collection time. Meanwhile you can give me your club dues. As every year I say, the best support you can give to an organization you belong is to attend its activities and to pay dues.

My computer stopped working in December. When revived, most information stored was gone. If you find someone saying that he/she did not received monthly bulletin, let me know.

A musician said, "If I did not practice one day, next day I myself notice. If I did not practice one week, music critics can tell. If I did not practice one month, music enthusiasts in a concert hall get disappointed of my performance."

In fact, a pianist I know has been practicing 5 hours a day in many years.

Long time ago when Hawaii Kendo Federation was inviting teachers from Japan, we asked All Japan Kendo Federation to send national level *kenshi* to teach us in Hawaii. An official told us that no one wants to come to beautiful Hawaii because they think that they will drop down to lower levels if they cannot do usual daily vigorous training for 2 weeks.

Now we are in Covid-19 pandemic. Many expressed me for possibility of deterioration of their kendo qualities. My answer was, "We are in the same boat. We do whatever we can to maintain our ability and sense by doing *suburi* and watching kendo video." Also, some go for walking, running, swimming, surfing, lifting weights and so forth. Take care of yourselves.

Iwao Sato

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Club website - wahiawakendoclub.com