



January 5, 2018

Happy New Year, and warm greetings as we begin 2018!

Looking back at the past twelve months, 2017 was a relative stable year. Although there were many political and economic changes over the last year, we have been fortunate enough not to have it directly affect us or our pursuits in the ongoing study of Bushido.

Honbu dojo has currently moved back to the Nichiren Buddhist Temple in Boyle Heights while we wait for the permits and the building of our permanent Dojo.

2018 Schedule.

- Honbu Keiko Hajime on January 12-14th.
- Our May Seminar not yet scheduled due to unknown rental conditions - Date to be set by end of February.
- August Seminar not yet scheduled due to unknown rental conditions - Date to be set by end of February.
- In August we will be involved with the Nisei week parade. If you are available, please come down to participate. (we are hoping to make this event on the same weekend as the seminar)
- October Seminar not yet scheduled due to unknown rental conditions. - Date to be set by end of Feb. (This seminar will coincide with Kaiso's 70th birthday)

Honbu Changes

Honbu permanent building should start its groundbreaking and construction by the 1st quarter of 2018.

Some of Honbu's administration duties has been shifted over to Honbu Shidojin and Soke Hosa away from Kaiso Hosa.

Yearly ISF membership payments can be made directly to ISF over PayPal. New payment options will be available the following year.

Membership and Menjo info will now be digitally recorded at Honbu.

Email Addresses

Obata@shinkendo.com - Obata Kaiso's personal email. Please do not expect quick reply nor answers to technique questions. This email would best be used in reporting changes and sending greetings to Kaiso himself. Please remember that the person answering back is usually the Kaiso Hosa.

Obatasoke@shinkendo.com - Soke Yukishiro Obata's new email. Please send all Menjo request and Shinkendo emails to this address.

Shidoiin@shinkendo.com - Honbu Shidoiin Michael Mason. The term "Honbu Shidoiin" is similar if not same to that of "Soke Hosa. If any email are signed by Soke Hosa or Honbu Shidoiin the email can be thought of being sent out in the Soke's place.

Adminhonbu@shinkendo.com - This is an email address you may receive email from in regard to website or membership info. This address is manned by the Soke Hosa.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we are always on the lookout for swords, iaito and new training and cutting equipment for Shinkendoka that meet our safety and design standards. We are also currently working on several different Uniform options that may be implemented by the end of the year.

As the ISF organization continues to grow, we can expect some growing pains but hope to solve them with everybody's help. One issue involves branch members visiting other branches. While there is no formal rule against it, please follow proper etiquette in asking permission from the teachers involved and those it may affect. Shibuchō may wish to consult with Honbu regarding protocols.

Our main priority in teaching Shinkendo is Safety. Please continue to make sure all equipment is safe, that all teaching and studying is done in a safe and manageable way. Rules are set and enforced for a reason. If you are unsure of the reason or have ideas to modify or improve any of the rules, please email me. At the Honbu, we encourage asking questions and try to explain so that everybody can understand. That will later bring fun and happiness in learning. As many long time practitioners already know, many of the rules can be bent or broken as long as one knows the reason why they were set there in the first place and are not doing so in a dangerous manner.

In closing, please accept my very best wishes to you and your family for a prosperous 2018!

Jinsei Shinkendo!

Yukishiro Obata, Soke
International Shinkendo Federation