



<http://shinkazeaikidoalliance.com>

March 27, 2020

Hello,

We are pleased to inform you we have launched our new organization, Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance (Shin Kaze), and we are writing to provide you with information about it.

Background

Shin Kaze is an organization dedicated to the practice and development of Aikido. It aims to provide technical and administrative guidance to Aikido practitioners and to maintain standards of practice and instruction within an egalitarian and tolerant structure.

Shin Kaze was conceived in 2018 by some of Mitsunari Kanai Shihan's most senior students. Although it is starting with that group in leadership roles, its Board of Directors (Board) intends to add members to the Board and the Technical Committee (TC), and evolve to include representation of all the teachers in our Aikido family tree (namely N. Tamura Shihan, A. Tohei Shihan, S. Sugano Shihan, K. Chiba Shihan, Y. Yamada Shihan, Y. Kawahara Shihan and Y. Kurita Shihan) and others. There will also be a place for those with other teachers, multiple teachers or who do not have a specific teacher.

Our intention is to create interaction and synergies in order to facilitate the continuity and study of the respective technical and spiritual legacies of our teachers. Further, we expect Shin Kaze to facilitate through Aikido practice the union of practitioners that share values and interests.

The name Shin Kaze

Our teacher, Kanai Sensei, was planning to leave the USAF some sixteen years ago and launch a new federation he called Kaze no Kai (Association of the Wind), a dream that came to a halt with his untimely death.

We chose the name Shin Kaze for our organization because its two Japanese characters align with the characters and significance of Kaze no Kai. Shin (新) means new or fresh and Kaze (風) means wind. Thus, the name Shin Kaze, or "New Wind" evokes the beginning of a fresh direction for our path of Aikido.

Principles and values

We envision Shin Kaze as an organization that leverages expertise available in its member dojos for the support and benefit of the entire Shin Kaze membership as well as the Aikido community in general.

Shin Kaze's guiding principles can be expressed in five words: Consultation, Legacy, Education, Equity and Freedom.

- Consultation Decisions of the Board and TC follow a consultation process that involves the entire membership.
- Legacy Support and promote our teachers' Aikido heritage.
- Education Foster and engage in meaningful learning activities to improve Aikido skills and teaching capacities.
- Equity Promote member equity and access to Shin Kaze's resources and opportunities.
- Freedom Support the freedom to invite instructors and attend Aikido seminars and activities without penalty.

Incorporation

Shin Kaze was registered as a non-profit corporation in April 2019.

Its founders, directors and TC members are, in alphabetical order, Barbara Britton Shihan, 6th dan Senior Instructor at Framingham Aikikai, David Farrell Shihan, 7th dan, Chief Instructor of Commonwealth Aikikai, David Halprin Shihan, 7th dan, Chief Instructor of Framingham Aikikai and of Providence Aikikai, and Robert Zimmermann Shihan, 7th dan, Chief Instructor of Toronto Aikikai.

On May 29, 2019, five dojos in the US and three in Canada, along with their dojo-cho and students, resigned from the USAF and were joined by four unaffiliated dojos in Canada to become the initial members of Shin Kaze. Another dojo joined soon after.

We expect the number of dojos and members to grow as Shin Kaze becomes known.

Dojos that are currently Shin Kaze members are listed on our web site.

Accomplishments so far

Since creating Shin Kaze we have been busy completing its legal foundation, establishing a working relationship with Hombu Dojo and preparing for its launch.

These are some of our accomplishments thus far:

- Registered Shin Kaze as a non-profit corporation.
- Completed Shin Kaze's Bylaws.
- Established Shin Kaze's Board and TC.
- Established a working relationship with Hombu Dojo.
- Received approval from Hombu Dojo to conduct dan test examinations for Shin Kaze members.
- Confirmed that all dan grades issued by Shin Kaze will be recognized and registered with Hombu.

- Conducted dan grade examinations in 2019 and received certificates from Hombu in early 2020.
- Received, through private communications, expressions of interest from dojos in the US, Europe, Central and South America to join Shin Kaze.
- Designed an organizational structure that:
 - Has an Advisory Committee of dojo-cho that interacts with the Board. Through this committee the entire Shin Kaze membership can interact with the Board.
 - Has an Advisory Committee of senior instructors that interacts with the TC.
 - Has an Access and Equity Committee with the mandate to provide advice to the Board on gender, minority group and related issues.
 - Has an Education Committee whose goal is to preserve, organize and distribute historical and educational materials, develop processes that maintain the legacies of our teachers and organize dialogue to clarify important issues affecting our understanding of Aikido.
 - Has the ability to set up other committees to manage matters of significance as they arise.
 - Promotes running the organization with full transparency in all aspects of its operation.

Outlook

Some of our near-term goals are to:

- Grow the Shin Kaze membership.
- Leverage the expertise available in Shin Kaze's dojos for the support and benefit of the entire Shin Kaze membership and the Aikido community in general.
- Create an open dialogue among members on expansion and refinement of Shin Kaze goals.

In conclusion

This, in short, is what Shin Kaze is about, who we are and what we plan to accomplish. More information is available on our web site, at <http://www.shinkazeaikidoalliance.com>.

Our doors are open to everyone, individuals and dojos alike, who want to participate in this undertaking and help create the best possible Aikido organization.

If you have questions, suggestions or just want to have an exploratory conversation you can contact any of us at any time. Our email addresses are:

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Sincerely,

Barbara, David, David, Bob

Barbara Britton, David Farrell, David Halprin, Robert Zimmermann
Directors
Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance