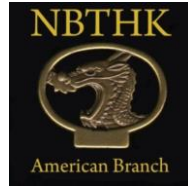


**American Branch  
of the  
Nippon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai**



To the members of the NBTHK American Branch:

Let me open by saying thank you to all of the members for their continued support over the last nine years. We realize that the methods of disseminating and sharing knowledge about the world of Nihonto have changed dramatically since the inception of our American Branch. In order for the NBTHKAB to remain a viable and worthwhile organization that is deserving of your membership, we realize that we must work to earn your continued support.

To that end, the Board of Directors have voted to put into place some new benefits for existing members and to entice new members to join, thus keeping our organization up-to-date and viable. The following is a list of some of the new benefits that the board has voted to start along those lines;

1. Effective immediately, all members of the NBTHKAB will automatically be enrolled as members of the Northern California Japanese Sword Club. The \$60.00 annual cost of that membership shall be paid by the NBTHKAB out of your annual dues of \$250.00. As members of the NCJSC you shall be entitled to receipt of the monthly newsletter published by the NCJSC retroactively to January, 2023 and continuing for the balance of the current year. You will also have access to the NCJSC monthly kantei meetings, monthly club meetings via zoom, etc.

You can receive this monthly newsletter one of two ways. It will be posted on the NBTHKAB website in the “members only” section at the following address:

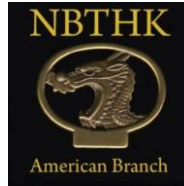
<https://nbthk-ab2.org/reciprocal-membership-links/>

If you prefer to have a copy emailed to you each month, all you have to do is to send an email to [ncjsc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ncjsc.secretary@gmail.com) indicating that you would like to be added to the club mailing list. We are giving you the choice because we do not want to arbitrarily give your personal information to other clubs without your permission.

This joint membership shall be renewed on a year by year basis.

2. The American Branch Board has also authorized that a gift of \$100.00 to be given to each existing member and any new members joining in the calendar year 2023. This gift shall be in the form of a gift certificate to be used towards the purchase of any publication(s) produced by Mr. Markus Sesko. The details of this gift shall be forthcoming soon.

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3. We are continuing our displays/lectures at the major sword shows throughout the year. At the upcoming show in San Francisco on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Bob Benson will be giving a hands-on display and lecture of Gassan blades focusing primarily on Gassan Sadakatsu. Over the years, these lectures have been very informative and well-received and we look forward to continuing to offer them to our members.

Additionally, the NBTHK-American Branch will have a table at the upcoming SF show. Please stop by and we will field any questions you might have about these proposed enhancements to your membership. Look for our banner and stop by.

4. We are also looking for additional ways to expand on sword and related content to you. This might include translations of books or articles that might be of interest to our members. We ask that if you have a suggestion for a specific translation, or if you have an article that you have written that might be of interest to the members, please contact, our education director, Nick Kolick at [education@nbthk-ab2.org](mailto:education@nbthk-ab2.org). He can direct you as to where and how to submit it.

We look forward to seeing you at the San Francisco show and will work to continue to support your education regarding Nihonto. We would also like your feedback on this communication and other proposals you might have to help us make sure that the NBTHKAB is meeting your expectations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Benson".

Bob Benson  
President NBTHK-American Branch