



## World Alliance of Shorinjiryu Karatedo

世界 少林寺流 空手道 連盟  
*Sekai Shorinjiryu Karatedo Renmei*

April 24, 2023

Hello and greetings to all Shorinjiryu black belts,

My name is Wayne Donovan. I have been an active member of the Shorinjiryu Karatedo family since November of 1967. I hold the rank of 7<sup>th</sup> dan in Shorinjiryu Kenkokan and the rank of 9<sup>th</sup> dan in Shorinjiryu Kentokukan, the organization of which I am the founder.

Over the years, I have given much thought to what unites us as a Shorinjiryu family and what separates us. I have come to the conclusion that it is Kaiso's motto – *Doku Ji Gyo Sei Ki* – that binds and encourages the growth and development of various individual schools and dojos across the globe. I believe that adhering to Kaiso's basic philosophy, principles and kihon, while continuing to evolve would make Kaiso proud. It is my hope that our diversity continues to grow and strengthen.

*My concern, however, is that our collective history and knowledge are not shared or celebrated as they should be.*

We continue to expand while moving further and further away from our origins and each other. Couple this with the fact that many of Kaiso's direct students and followers have entered their "golden years", and I fear that many firsthand experiences will soon be lost.

Though I felt a strong sense of urgency to act, it was not my responsibility to advance the cause. In late 2019, an event caused me to rethink my position. I was informed that Kaiso Hisataka's dojo had closed permanently, and the family home sold. I was shocked and disappointed. I felt spiritually disconnected from my Shorinjiryu roots. This was the site of our origin. This was where Kaiso lived, trained, and taught his Shorinjiryu. This was where our records and history were stored. This was the site where students from across the world would make a personal pilgrimage. Now all of that is gone, lost forever.



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Will the Shorinjiryu style suffer the same fate? Will 75 years of growth and development fade from memory and cease to exist? Unless we act soon, I fear this will happen. The question now becomes, “If not now, when? If not us, who?”

Shortly after the closure of Kaiso Hisataka’s Honbu, Hanshi Michel Laurin called me asking if I would be interested in joining him and Shihan Scott Brown to help found an organization named the World Alliance of Shorinjiryu Karatedo (W.A.S.K.). This was not the first time that I had been approached to join a Shorinjiryu group. In the past, I felt that as long as Kaiso Hisataka’s dojo remained open, I would not venture beyond my own Kentokukan organization.

Now circumstances had changed, and I was free to move forward. I shared Hanshi Laurin’s and Shihan Brown’s philosophy of unity. The timing of the events and the urgency of the mission all coincided with my thinking. I was presented with an opportunity to join fellow Shorinjiryu karateka who were willing to dedicate themselves to the dream and make the sacrifices needed to achieve the goal. After giving the invitation serious thought, I made the decision to join W.A.S.K. and support the organization in any way possible.

After three years of meetings, discussions and concrete action, W.A.S.K. has established itself and advanced to the point where we are able to recruit members and provide them with opportunities to engage with us in two distinct ways.

### **1) Active Membership**

Active membership provides the diaspora, those without any connection or affiliation to a formal Shorinjiryu group, a home where they are welcome. W.A.S.K. offers all members the opportunity to supplement their Shorinjiryu knowledge and skill without challenging or undermining what they already know. Those members with no avenue or opportunity to be graded and promoted will be provided with a



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curriculum, instruction, grading and promotion. Please keep in mind that the W.A.S.K. diploma is in no way intended to replace or diminish a former dan ranking.

Once a sufficient number of members have registered, we are confident that we will be able to assemble for seminars to discuss, compare and exchange knowledge. In addition, the more countries that join our organization, the greater the opportunity will be for international-level competition.

### **2) Retired Membership: The Shorinjiryu Legacy**

Though I remain committed to the active segment of W.A.S.K., I am most interested in seeing the retired segment blossom. To that end, I will be focusing on working with retired members to preserve our Shorinjiryu legacy. I believe that the best way to accomplish this is by establishing a “Virtual Shorinjiryu Library”, a place which allows us to name and honour every Shorinjiryu black belt, from every country, be they active, inactive, retired or deceased, who is part of Kaiso Masayoshi Kori Hisataka’s lineage. The Library would also store our Shorinjiryu history, philosophy and principles.

In time, it is my hope that this Library will grow to be a place to remember our younger selves, stories of dojo life, training partners and Sensei, and where adventures would be shared through the written word, photos, podcasts and video. Further down the line, I envision increased networking and collaboration, educational research and seminars.

*The most difficult part of any project is to move from dreaming to taking action.*

I am pleased to say that the first steps have been taken. The project has been given the name, *Operation Shorinjiryu Legacy*. Work is already underway to establish the best possible virtual facility to house our Shorinjiryu Library. Also, I have recruited a team of volunteers to assist with reaching out to as many Shorinjiryu black belts as possible, informing them of our project and giving them the opportunity to join.



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W.A.S.K. is registered in the U.S.A. as a nonprofit organization. We rely on a pool of dedicated volunteers and are open to donations, but the inevitable operational expenses do occur. To assist with deferring some of our costs, we charge a yearly fee of USD\$10. Progress and financial reports will be provided on request.

Those who wish to join us may register by going to the W.A.S.K. website at [www.wask.site](http://www.wask.site), locating membership registration, and following the instructions.

Though our goals may seem lofty, I believe that now is the time to begin the work to accomplish the task. I am confident that with your support we will be successful. I look forward to reading your name on our members list and to working with you in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

Shinan Wayne Donivan