

EJF General Assembly Minutes of January 3, 2009

Opening of the Assembly at 8:00 p.m. by Barbara Meroni, President of EJF.

Item 1: Election of scrutators:

The scrutators of the Assembly are Jérôme Seydoux and Jean-Louis Martin. 91 persons are present.

Item 2: Reading of the preceding Report

The Report 2008 being on the website, it is not read at the Assembly.

Item 3: President's report

First of all, B.M. thanks everybody for their dedication during the whole year and welcomes all those who came to Cartigny for the first time.

B.M. gets back to the decoration P.K. has received this year by the Emperor of Japan. She expresses her gratitude for the work P.K. has done so far for many years.

B.M. thanks also the group leaders for their dedication. Thanks to them, numerous local events could be organized during the year. B.M. is also pleased about the great number of Europeans coming to the Gasshuku organized in Japan this year.

Item 4: Vice-President's Report

As Helga could not be present this evening, she has sent a letter to B.M. First of all, Helga Wurth expresses her thanks to the organizers of the Guadarrama Gasshuku.

As far as the website is concerned, H.W. thanks Matthias Wenderoth who is responsible for all translations. H.W. agrees to continue this job, but asks for someone in the federation to be her "backup". She always tries to update the website as fast as possible (calendar, address changes, etc.). However, as she does this job during her free time (which is never enough), it might sometimes be possible that it takes a little bit longer, especially when she is on holiday. That's why she would be pleased if somebody could assist her.

She also agrees to continue as vice-president.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

Yves Galley announces that the financial status of the Federation is healthy. The number of members has grown during the last five years (approx. 350 active members in 2008), therefore the sale of stamps represents an important financial factor. What's more, the expenditures during 2008 were quite low (website, insurances, bank charges).

Y.G. then speaks about the situation of the bank where the EJF has its accounts. He asks the Assembly if it would make sense to open accounts at another bank which is less exposed to the current crisis. There are different opinions, and it is finally decided to open an account at another bank and to transfer part of the EJF money to that bank in order to minimize the risks.

Item 6: Controllers' report

Jean-Pierre Pahud and Sylvain Creuzet announce that the accounts have been well taken care of and that there was no error. They ask the Assembly to accept the account presented by the treasurer.

Item 7: Vote of acceptance of items 1 to 6

Items 1 to 6 are accepted unanimously by the Assembly.

Item 8: Technical Board's report

P.K. expresses his thanks to the team that had organized the very successful Guadarrama Gasshuku. P.K. then continues by presenting the next international Gasshuku in Japan. P.K. warns the people against travelling in Japan. It is very difficult to go there without having well organized the journey before going there. He urges the people to reserve everything in advance, if possible (airplane ticket, hotel, train, etc.).

P.K. also gives an advice to the people. Not the Japanese invited us to come to Japan for the Gasshuku, but rather the Western people have invited themselves, a fact that will inevitably change many things. P.K. then reads the text that will be published as the invitational text.

P.K. also underlines that the teaching during this Gasshuku will solely be ensured by the technical Japanese staff of Nishioka sensei as well as by a few Westerners who have spent many years in his dojo (V. Borondo, A. Knight).

P.K. announces that there will be a mini-Gasshuku in Wurzburg from August 15 to 16.

Item 9: Election of the 2009 Committee

The whole committee is re-elected.

Item 10: Budget 2009.

Some teachers will receive a financial help from the EJF, because it is important for them to be in Japan. Their participation at the Gasshuku will be paid for, travel expenses, however, will be at their expenses.

Item 11: Date of the next General Assembly

The next General Assembly will take place on January 9, 2010.

Item 12: Miscellaneous

The first issue is about the money which the EJF has. P.K. declares that an important sum has been used to purchase the rolls necessary for elaborating the traditional grades. P.K. has bought 20 of them which will be paid for by the EJF.

Another issue came up. Some small groups have difficulties in collecting the money which is necessary to invite a qualified teacher. The expenses are certainly important (travel expenses, accommodation, meals, etc.). The EJF can financially support these Gasshuku to some extent. With the agreement of P.K. and the treasurer, half of these expenses can be born by the EJF.

In a few words, Szabolcs Gollob presents the next European Gasshuku that will take place in Hungary in 2010. The venue has not been decided yet, but the organizers think about a place near Lake Balaton. As soon as everything is sure, Szabolcs will inform the committee.

Yves Galley now gives some information about the EJF member listing. Every year, Y.G. will send a file to the group leaders for ordering the stamps and the new licences. By means of this Excel file, the group leaders transmit the information which is necessary to update the EJF register. As the file has already been sent to some group leaders and that some of them have not responded to it, Y.G. ask them to communicate their exact e-mail addresses.

The General Assembly is closed at 21h15.