United States Aikido Federation

2024 Annual Report



photo credit: Jaime Kahn

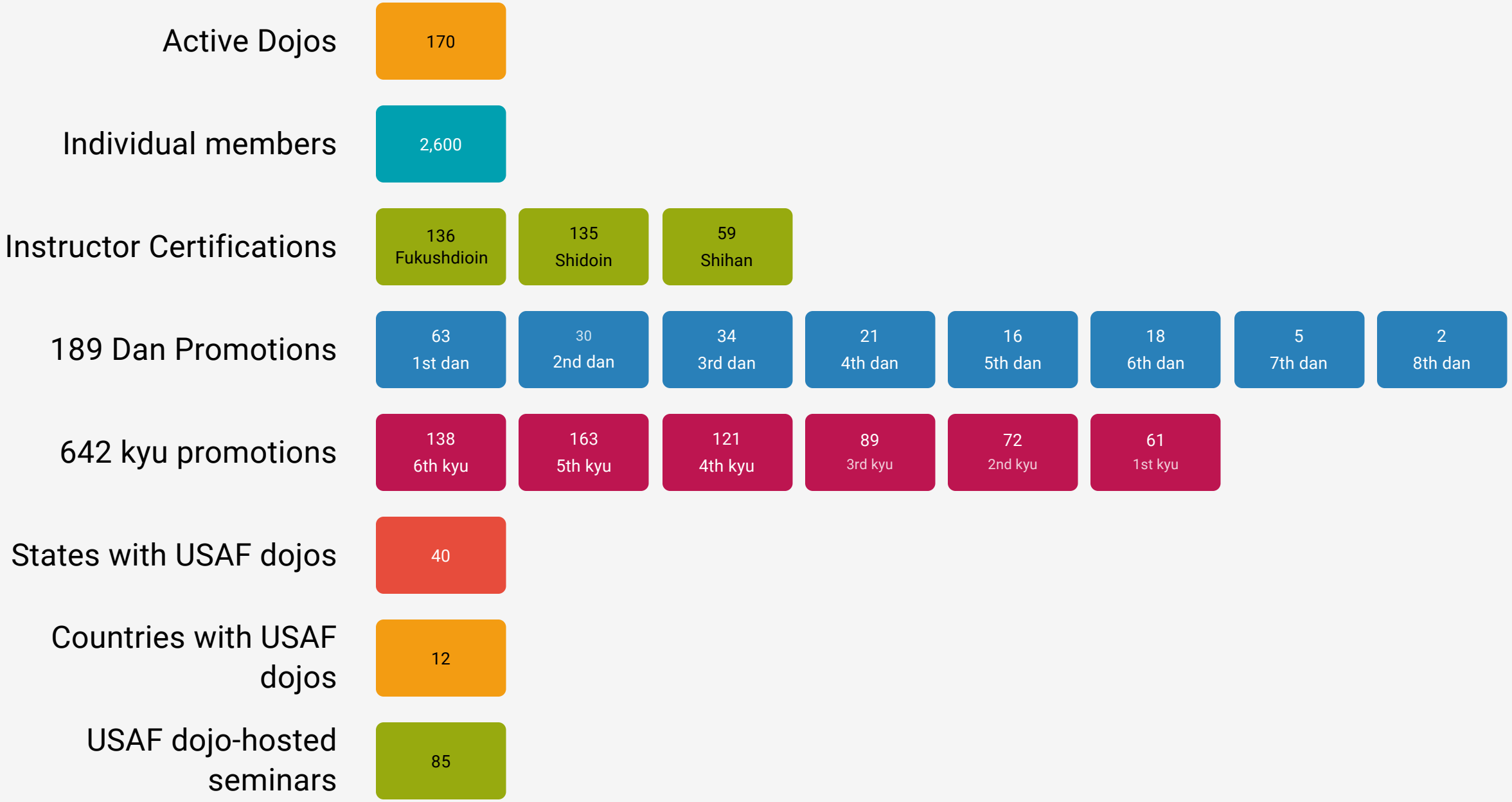
About the USAF

The USAF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered in New York. Its mission is to spread and maintain the Japanese martial art of Aikido as created and exemplified by Aikido's founder, Morihei Ueshiba.

The USAF is officially recognized by Aikikai World Headquarters, Hombu Dojo in Tokyo, Japan, and is the U.S. representative to the International Aikido Federation (IAF). As such, the USAF promotes and develops good will and friendship among members of the USAF and with other Aikido organizations, instructors and practitioners.

photo credit: Javier Dominguez




Active Dojos
170
Individual members
2,600
Instructor Certifications
136
Fukushdioin
135
Shidoin
59
Shihan
189 Dan Promotions
63
1st dan
30
2nd dan
34
3rd dan
21
4th dan
16
5th dan
18
6th dan
5
7th dan
2
8th dan
642 kyu promotions
138
6th kyu
163
5th kyu
121
4th kyu
89
3rd kyu
72
2nd kyu
61
1st kyu
States with USAF dojos
40
Countries with USAF dojos
12
USAF dojo-hosted seminars
85

Governance

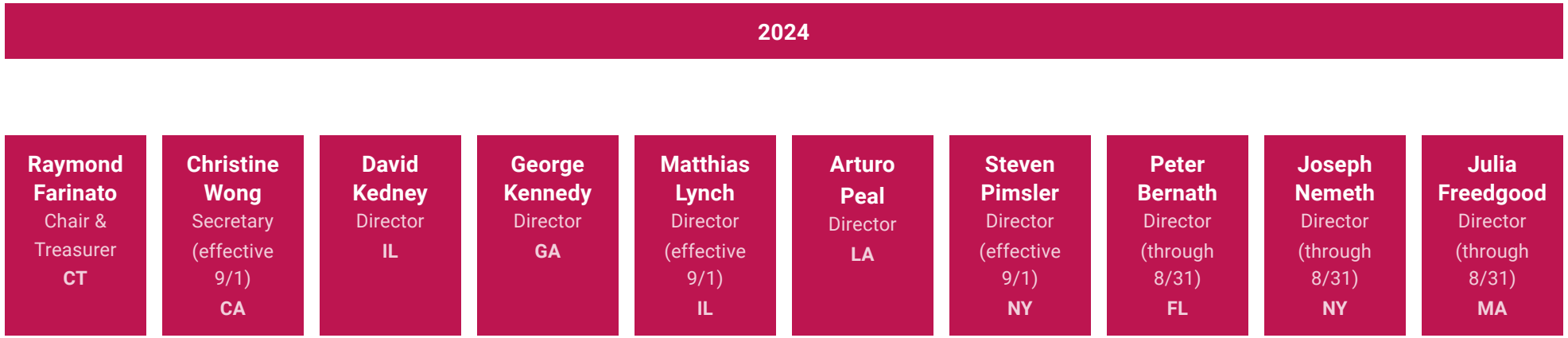
Governance of the USAF is through the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee which carry out the mission and purposes of the USAF in their respective areas of responsibility and in cooperation with one another, as described in the By-laws.

All Board and committee members are volunteers, donating their time, expertise and experience to ensure that policies and decisions reflect the best interest of the USAF and its members.

Board of Directors

The business and affairs of the USAF are conducted under the supervision of the Board of Directors. In addition to the Board's fiduciary responsibility, its role is to ensure that the organization remains accountable to its mission and operates both ethically and responsibly.

As the governing body of the USAF, the Board is responsible for setting the organization's direction as well as overseeing all legal and ethical compliance matters.



Technical Committee

One of the purposes of the USAF is to encourage positive practice and technical proficiency to ensure the future preservation of traditional Aikido. As such, the Technical Committee is responsible for overseeing the technical standards of the USAF.

Together with the Board of Directors, the Technical Committee supports the USAF mission, while continuing the legacy of the founding Shihan-kai.

2024					
Harvey Konigsbery Woodstock Aikido **NY**	**Andy Demko** Aikido of New Castle **PA**	**Claude Berthiaume** Aikido de la Montagne **Canada**	**Peter Bernath** TC Chair Florida Aikikai **FL**	**Steven Pimsler** New York Aikikai **NY**	**Penny Bernath** Florida Aikikai **FL**

Financial Reporting

USAF financial records are kept by the Director of Operations and the Assistant to the Director. All income and expenses are recorded using a cash-basis accounting method, that is, all income and expenses are recorded as income is received and expenses are paid. As such, all financial reports capture a snap-shot in time.

At the end of each calendar year, the USAF's accountant prepares the not-for-profit 990 tax return and NYS CHAR100.

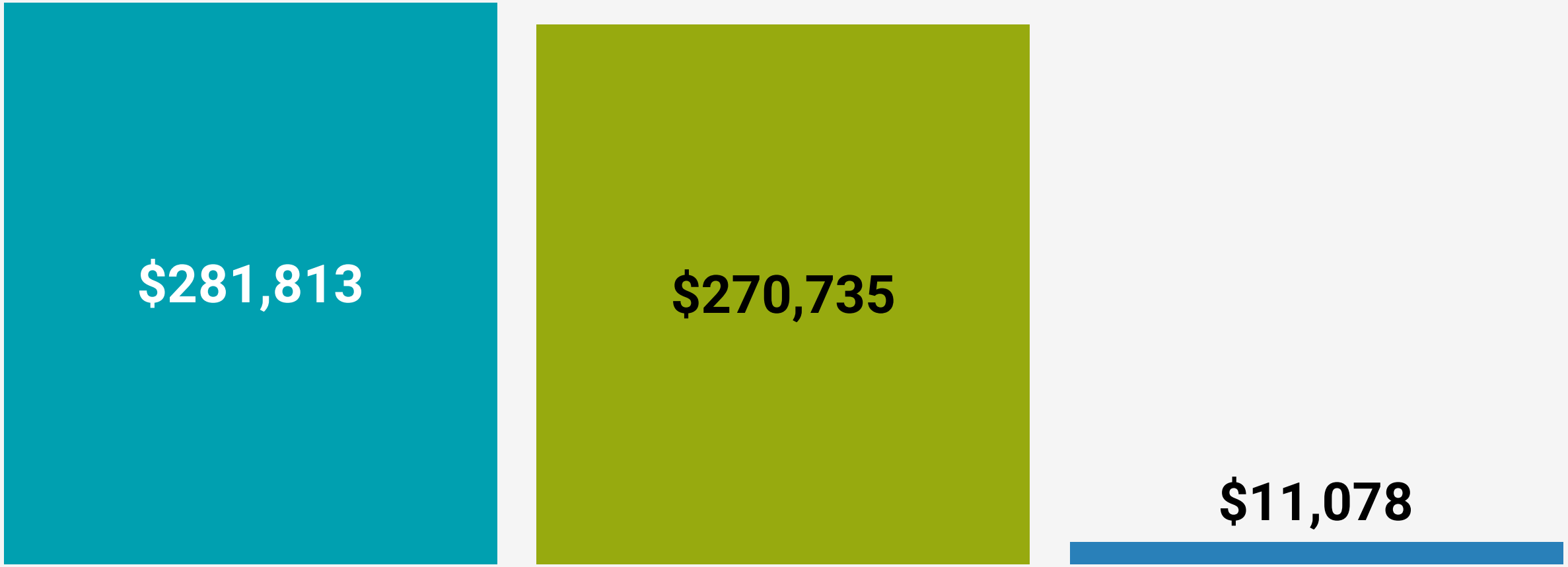
The information for this 2024 Annual Report is based on the 2024 year-end Profit & Loss Statement and the 990 tax return.

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photo credit: Javier Dominguez

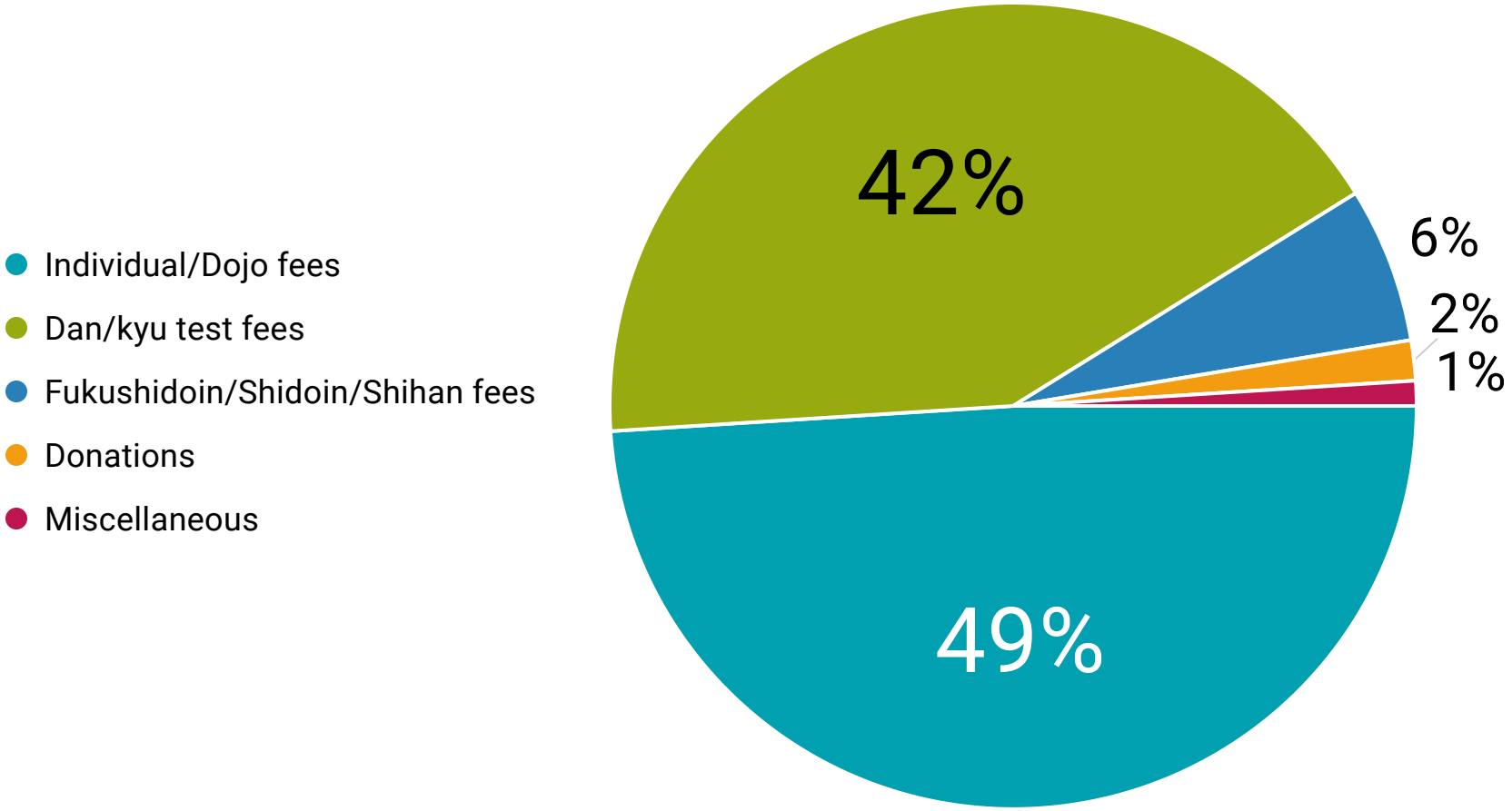


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



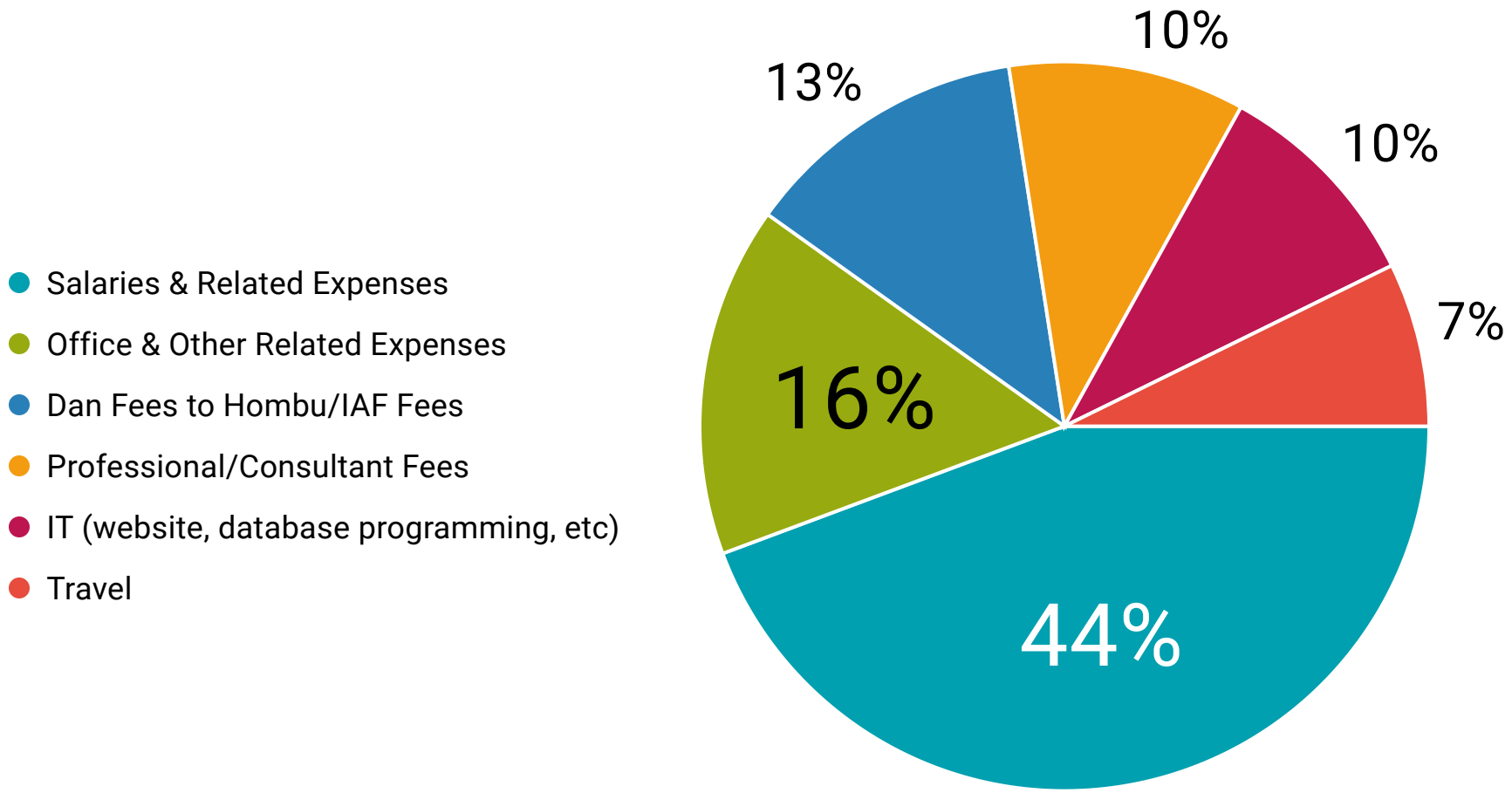
Revenue

$281,813



Expenses

$270,735



2024 Highlights

A major challenge for the USAF in 2024 was overcoming the effects of COVID and adjusting to the loss of Yamada Sensei. 2024 was the first full calendar year since his passing on January 15th, 2023. After a long period of adjustment to these major events, the USAF continues to evolve and strengthen its determination to provide high quality Aikido and continue the legacy of the founding Shihan. Here are significant highlights that occurred in 2024.

- ## 8th Dan Promotions

  Michael Abrams, New York Aikikai, and Harvey Konigsberg, Woodstock Aikido were the first 8th dan promotions granted by Doshu to USAF members who were not USAF founding Shihan-kai.

- ## Kagami Biraki

  Since Yamada Sensei's passing, there has been a strong commitment between Hombu dojo and the USAF to maintain close relations, as was the expressed wish of Yamada Sensei. The Technical Committee Chair, along with other TC and Board members, attended Kagami Biraki to meet with Doshu and the International Department in order to build on that foundation.

- ## Technical Committee Policy

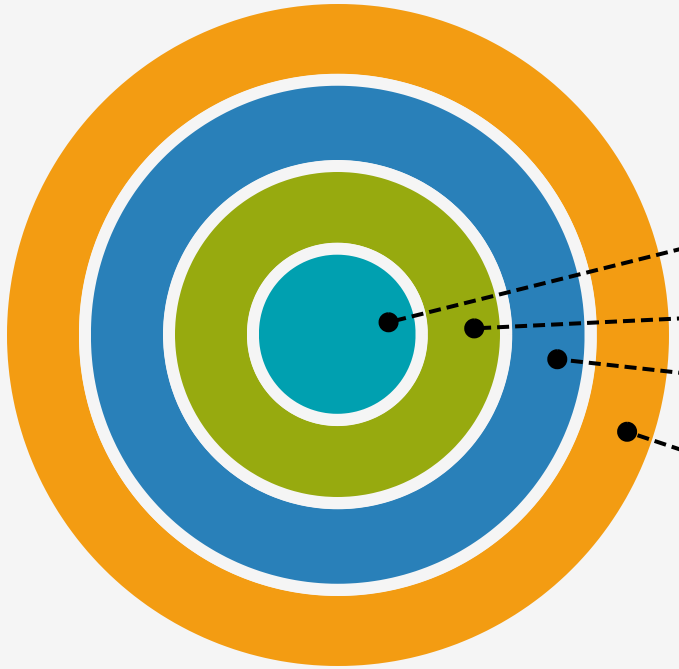
  The TC Policy was amended to allow for 6th dan Shihan to be considered as candidates for nomination to the TC. This was done to better reflect the number of high level Aikido instructors within the USAF. Since it takes 12 years to be promoted from 6th to 7th dan, this will enable a larger pool of future TC candidates.

- ## Lifetime Achievement Award

  The Board established the Lifetime Achievement Award Policy to recognize a USAF instructor who has served as a leader and guide to foster the practice and teaching of Aikido and made an exceptional and lasting impact on the art in the United States and around the world. Yamada Sensei was recognized as the first recipient of this Award in 2024. Mrs. Yamada was presented with a $10,000 check on Sensei’s behalf.

Looking Forward

The Board and TC will continue to maintain close relationships with Hombu Dojo, including attending Kagami Biraki annually and inviting an Aikikai guest Shihan instructor to USAF summer camps. The Board commits to working on ensuring the USAF is prepared for future transitions, and establishing new policies and procedures to benefit the USAF membership.



Initiatives

explore initiatives to benefit USAF dojos, instructors and members.

Governance

nominate new Board and TC members with diverse backgrounds and experiences

Communication

encourage dialogue between the Board, TC, instructors & members

Programs

coordinate USAF Summer Camps

With Gratitude

The USAF extends its gratitude to the dedicated instructors and members who continue to support the mission and help develop the art of Aikido in the US and around the world. Thank you to everyone who made a donation in 2024. Your support was greatly appreciated and helped the USAF achieve its annual goals.