



United States Judo Association Newsletter

Winter 2022 no. 3

USJA Officers and Board of Directors

Andrew Connelly
President

Rob Reilly
Vice President

Peter C. Mantel
Secretary

Jack Borsch
Treasurer

Jesse Goldstein

Bonnie Korte

Paul Rivera



From Vice President Rob Reilly

It has only been a scant few months since your new Board of Directors has taken office. As a completed newly elected Board are all brand new, we have learning curve and much to accomplish.. The great news is that your Board of Directors is composed of resolute individuals who have each assumed responsibility for a specific area of USJA operations. Your Board of Directors is committed to working as a team and envisions a bright future. Let me offer a few tidbits of what's happening.

President Andrew Connelly's primary task is to oversee and coordinate the many tasks that are currently underway. He oversees our Central Office's operations. Needless to say, this keeps him quite active.

Treasurer Jack Borsch has met with our Regional Coordinator Committee Chair Doug Bedsaul and a number of Regional Coordinators. They exchanged ideas and developed plans to effectively connect with USJA members in their locality and provide outstanding customer service at a local level. More organizational meetings are coming. In addition to his involvement with the Regional Coordinators, Jack Borsch's primary function is that of Treasurer. Jack's major duties involves our organization's financial structure and processes

Board Member Jesse Goldstein is reaching out to several insurance companies to determine if our current USJA insurance policy is best for the members and the organization.

The Jim Bregman invites you to series is hosted by Jim Bregman USA's first Olympic medalist, a 10th Dan, and former USJA president. Vice President Rob Reilly and Board Secretary Peter Mantel support the production of the program. This is a series of zoom presentations, which are subsequently archived on YouTube for later viewing. The program consists of interviews and presentations by notable judo leaders on assorted topics. Here is a link to the previous presentations.

<https://web.media.mit.edu/~reilly/BregmanUpdate.docx>
or as a PDF <https://web.media.mit.edu/~reilly/BregmanUpdate.pdf>

Board Members Bonnie Korte, Jesse Goldstein and Vice President Rob Reilly are the USJA Committee Review Committee (CRC). Their goal is to learn how the Board of Directors and our Central Office can most effectively support our committees. After several months at-work, the CRC will be making recommendations to the full Board.

Rick Celotto, our Referee Committee chair, is returning to that position after several years absence. He is an IJF-A Referee with a tremendous talent for developing new referees and updating existing referees. He is developing a plan to implement club/local referee certification clinics.

Michael Hall, our Central Office Manager, is working with The Board members in order to move the USJA forward. Michael has a great deal of institutional memory and is a very skilled manager. He has proven to be a great asset to your new Board!

Given that our current Bylaws are out of date and have not evolved, Michael Goldsmith, the USJA's Legal Counsel, Walter Dean, and Edie Connelly have stepped forward to serve as our Bylaw Review Committee. They are hard at work reviewing our existing Bylaws and will be making recommendations to the Board of Directors in the relatively near future.

Donna Turk, the chair of our Promotion Board, is working with several Promotion Board members and members of the Certified Rank Examiner Committee to revise and implement a process for our Certified Rank Examiner program to be more effective.



Board Member, Bonnie Korte is currently evaluating the USJA Junior Promotion System to make it more engaging and user-friendly for both Juniors and their parents. She is also making contact with smaller grassroots clubs in the USJA by calling instructors/coaches about their needs and concerns.

Board member and secretary Peter Mantel, is coordinating our board meetings and operations in general. This is a broad duty with a great deal of work involved!

Board Member Paul Rivera is overseeing our obligations for compliance with various state and federal agencies.

We have an award that needs our attention as it is not, for some reason, part of the Awards Committee's portfolio! The Lifetime Achievement Award exists but the process of selecting a person for this recognition is undefined. The champion who will oversee this has not been identified at yet. Stay tuned.

Steve Matias has created a terrific new USJA Facebook page: United States Judo Association (Official).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228364705964956>

Judo Steve as he is known, possesses a wealth of experience in the area of social media.

Board Member Paul Rivera and Committee Chair Steve Matias are moving forward with our Military and Public Service Committee. We have a USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin available for purchase.

Publications Committee Chair Connie Halporn has revived the USJA's newsletter. She hopes to establish a monthly schedule. We hope you all will submit articles, photos, regional, national or international tournaments/camps, or such items to the Editor at americanjudomag@gmail.com. When submitting photos, please send them in digital format (JPEG preferred) to the Editor with a relevant caption and credit to the photographer; action and group photos are welcomed, without shadowy faces that are unrecognizable, or totally black backgrounds. The copyright for all articles/photographs remains with the authors/photographers.

We have identified 670+ lost Life Members (LM) from our paper-based archives and reentered them into our electronic database; this is an ongoing project under the leadership of past USJA President John Paccione.

Thank you from the entire Board of Directors--You are what makes the USJA Great!

Please email questions or comments to me at reilly@media.mit.edu and I will do my best to respond.

Thank you for your continued support,

Rob Reilly

All submissions to The *United States Judo Association Newsletter* are carefully reviewed by the Editor. If you wish to submit material to The *American Judo* please send those articles, photos, regional, national or international tournaments/camps, or such items to the Editor. If you are submitting a photo, please send it in digital format to the Editor with a relevant caption; and please be sure that the photo is of high-quality (e.g., good contrast, some action is preferred but line-up photos are welcomed, without shadowy faces that are unrecognizable, totally black backgrounds, etc.).
The copyright for all articles/photographs remains with the authors/photographers.

USJA Coach of the Year, 2020

Reported by Pete Mantel

It was another great night at the Budokan Judo Club in Chesapeake Beach, MD. Two old friends came together to honor one another. This time, Marshall Coffman was given his belated Coach of the Year for 2020 award by Jim Bregman. "This is really a lifetime achievement award for Marshall" said Bregman, whose friendly eyes scanned the room as he stood filled with pride beaming about his friend. These two heroes are a prime example of why staying in judo is important.

It was truly a pleasure to watch them both reminisce and share a couple of stories with those on the mat. A group of about 40 were present and were truly blessed to hear the story of when Marshall Coffman received his Nidan certificate from the great Anton Geesink, and other stories. George Harris was his Sensei in the Philippines before he returned to the US to study with Jim Bregman. The younger judo generation were able to learn about how important the USJA and judo is to these two pillars of judo. Marshall, as usual, took less of the credit and, instead thanked Jim for his leadership and friendship throughout the years.

Both were presented with the USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge coins as tokens of appreciation from the USJA Board of Directors. It was a great honor to be there standing with them.

I am reminded of why I have spent my life on the mat yearning to be a part of something bigger than me. Something that endears friendship, competition and the struggle of finding one's greatest inner qualities through adversity. Marshall and Jim inspire me and generations of judo players to be better both on and off the mat.

Very Respectfully,
Pete Mantel



photo courtesy of Pete Mantel



Notes from the Scholastic Committee

Raymond Conte, Committee Chair

Nine years ago today we started judo classes in our local school in upstate New York. We bought tatami, judo uniforms and USJA memberships for every student through a partnership with parents, kids and the school. We have been on pause due to the pandemic.

Over the years we have taught close to 100 kids with a maximum class size of 30. Judo is free and available to all students in grades 1-8. We have the largest sports program in our school. We teach traditional Kodokan judo. Our kids are learning the new Kodokan Kodomo no Kata. They learn the GoKyo No waza . It is a structured program with goals, objectives and most importantly individualized lesson plans. We have an open gym. Every class we see a half dozen parents sitting and watching class. Parents are an active partner in the success of the program. We require an interested student to watch a class with a parent before enrolling. We hand out a workbook that has requirements and rules. It has prevented misunderstandings.

Teaching in a school is not the same as being in charge of the dojo. It is similar to being a house guest. We have learned to maximize resources. Gym time is limited to one 2 hour block per week. When school is closed, we are closed. Rather than focusing on Shiai, we have a developmental model that stresses basics and age appropriate skills development. They have plenty of randori, without the winning is everything mentality. It is one reason why we have a high retention rate. We have 4 black belts on the mat, 2 male and 2 female. We do not receive any compensation. We have always had at least one female instructor. Our newest instructor is a family nurse practitioner. She addresses first aid concerns, proper warmups and student wellness. All of the black belts receive in service training on concussions and safe sport ethical practices.

All of this work has led to the establishment of a National Scholastic Committee of the United States Judo Association. We have identified best practice models that can be replicated throughout America. We have developed school based judo programs in two other states, a home school model in another and an off site model for physical education academic credit in another. Our model is supported by behavioral science research. Judo builds resilience in kids. This resilience provides resistance against at risk behaviors, including delinquency, bullying and substance use. We have developed a peer leader model for our middle school students. This next step prepares them for continuing their study of judo in a community based dojo. It is practicing the mission statement of judo " mutual welfare and benefit". Our goal is to build champions in life.

While the pandemic may have impacted kids negatively, the positive impact of making judo available to kids is more important than ever before. Reach out if you want to develop an after school traditional judo program in accordance with USJA Junior standards. Technical assistance, program development, and research are all functions of the USJA Scholastic Committee.

Respectfully,

Raymond Conte, Chair
smijudo@gmail.com





Downtown Martial Arts Academy

909-B Lynn Lane, Starkville, MS 39759

(662) 268-8208

DowntownMartialArtsAcademy@gmail.com

Get to know us

The club is led by Doug Bedsaul, who is a CRE, Continental Coach, and chair of the USJA Regional Coordinators Committee. Located in Starkville, Mississippi, Downtown Martial Arts Academy has classes for all ages in judo, jujutsu, and taekwondo.

Doug picked up the mantle in Starkville when his judo instructor, Dr. Chris Dewey, moved away from the area. Classes maintain an emphasis on practical self defense, but the club has also seen competitive success.

With a few national champions on its roster, the team won the first place award at the recent Gulf Coast Judo Open. Instructors encourage lifelong learning, which includes traveling to clinics and camps, and bringing Olympians to town. Nick Delpopolo and Marti Malloy are both scheduled to teach over the next few months.



Lineup for the adult session of the Marti Malloy clinic at Downtown Martial Arts Academy on June 9, 2018



DMAA junior team for the Gulf Coast Judo Open 2/19/22
Beau Arney, Max Bian, Jamarion Lee, Zaylen Turnipseed, Aiden Carver, Colin Smith, Hunter Long, Marshall Bian, Timothy Anthony, Weston Cooper, Ethan Jackson, Rhett Cooper, Abbi Crump



Large group listening attentively to Olympic medalist Marti Malloy



DMAA senior team for the Gulf Coast Judo Open 2/19/22
Doug Bedsaul, Charles Moore, Brian Green, Abbi Crump, Caleb Messer, Jackson Pipes, Daniel Miller)

The USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin

We are happy to announce you too can be part of Armed Forces Judo history
with the USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin.

For a donation of \$25 (which includes shipping) you can own a little part of history.



Ordered by

Ship to (if different from ordered by)

Name

Name

Address

Address

City

City

State

Zip code

State

Zip code

QTY.	The USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin	Price each	Total Price
		\$25.00	

Includes shipping

☐  ☐  ☐  ☐  ☐ Check
Make checks payable to *The United States Judo Association*

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

EXPIRATION (MM/YY)

--	--	--	--

CVC CODE

--	--	--	--

SIGNATURE

For information about the history of challenge coins go to:

<https://www.tempeprofy.com/military-challenge-coins-and-their-significance-to-soldiers/>



2059 Merrick Road #313 Merrick, NY 11566

(516) 366-3311

<https://www.usja.net/>