

Minutes of the
UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION,
INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JIM BREGMAN, PRESIDENT

April 25, 2001

3:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

2001 USJI Senior National Championships

Orlando, Florida

Submitted by George Weers, Secretary

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A. Call To Order:

President Jim Bregman called the meeting to order on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 15:30 hours. The roll was called and reflected that the following members of the Board of Directors and guests were in attendance:

Jim Bregman
Board Member and President
Arlington, Virginia

Jesse L. Jones
Chief Operating Officer
and Board Member
San Diego, California

Michael L. Szrejter
Board Member and Vice-President
Boynton Beach, Florida

Thomas A. Layon

George Harris
Board Member
Brick, New Jersey

VIRGIL J. BOWLES
Board Member
Indianapolis, Indiana

Ron Hansen
Board Member
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Eugene S. Fodor

Board Member, Secretary and
Corporate Counsel
Tulsa, Oklahoma

James R. Webb

Board Member and Treasurer
Dallas, Texas

Board Member
Toledo, Ohio

George Weers

Board Member
Canton, Illinois

Edward N. Szrejter
Executive Director and Ex-Officio Board Member
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Meeting attendees:

Katrina Davis; USJA National Office Manager
Tony Zimkowski; Chairperson, USJA Standards and Ethics Committee
Gary Monto; Chairperson, USJA Clinics and Camps Committee
Connie Halporn; Chairperson, USJA Women's Taskforce
Ronald A. Charles; Chairperson, USJA Awards Committee
Pete Contardo; Member, USJA Standards and Ethics Committee
Lisa Rogers; Member, USJA Standards and Ethics Committee
Jaques Legrand, Member, USJA Promotion Board
Charmaine Alsager; Member, USJA Women's Taskforce
Martin Bregman
Jim Haynes
Melinda Szrejter
Kathy Buys
Hans Vogt
Michael Burr

B. Review of minutes from USJA Board of Directors meeting conducted January 27, 2001

Meeting minutes approved with amendment to page 7, paragraph #6 to reflect that electronic mail response should be with two (2) weeks.

C. Officers' Reports

1. President's Report:

President Bregman reported regarding current activities and objectives of the USJA. Synopsis of key points;

- a. It's time change the paradigm! The USJA has been following the same practices with the same results for 20 years. A steady decline in membership indicates that those results are unacceptable.
- b. Congratulations to Katrina Davis and the USJA National Office staff members. The staff has persevered through many difficulties and challenges during our recent computer problems. Katrina has done an outstanding job during the computer upgrade.
- c. Now that we have a functional computer system it's time to modernize to a web based system from which Local USJA Leaders can utilize the USJA web site as a Club Management System.
- d. Special thanks to Virgil Bowles, Gary Monto and Gene Fodor. Virgil, working tirelessly as always, has contributed significantly to the success of the current Life Membership drive. Gary and Gene were able to provide monetary support in a time of financial emergency.
- e. USJA financial prospects present major challenges to the Board of Directors. However there is room for optimism because we have good people analyzing and planning our recovery.

2. Vice President's Report:

Vice President Szejter reported he will be traveling to Colorado Springs for investigation and analysis of our financial situation.

3. Secretary's Report:

In lieu of a Secretary's report Thom Layon reiterated his desire to resign as Secretary and nominated George Weers as the new Secretary. Mr. Weers was elected by acclamation. President Bregman thanked Mr. Layon for his service as Secretary.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jim Webb distributed copies of the balance sheet, which reflects financial obligations associated with USJA owned buildings and costs of litigation. Report was approved.

President Bregman requested monthly operating statements to be issued to members of the Board of Directors. Ms. Katrina Davis accepted responsibility for execution of the request.

5. Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Ed Szejter distributed copies of the Executive Director's report date October 19, 2000 to present. Mr. Szejter thanked clinicians Elaine Myer, Virgil Bolwes, Gus Carper, Terry Kelly, Ronald Charles and Mike Szejter for their dedicated efforts. He also reports, to date, the current Life Membership drive program has generated \$20,000.

6. Litigation Report:

USJA Council, Mr. Thom Layon, presented the litigation report.

- a. USJA obligations have been met in the "Bowling" case and in the "Suffix County" matter.
- b. The USJA has notified the USJI that we will no longer be party to the "Bowling" case.

7. Executive Office Manager's Report:

Ms. Katrina Davis reinforced President Bregman's comments regarding the progress in upgrading the USJA computer system.

D. Committee Reports

1. Standards and Ethics Committee

Committee Chairperson, Anthony Zimkowski, distributed reports of progress regarding current and recent investigations. After a synopsis of current committee Mr. Zimkowski posited the following suggestions and queries.

1. Suggestion: Require a background check for any person seeking the rank of Shodan. No action was taken.
2. Observation: Inclusion of martial arts, other than Judo, in the USJA are a liability to the USJA.
3. Observation: Our current record system does not provide sufficient information from which thorough investigation may proceed. Mr. Zimkowski will prepare recommendations regarding records of conduct, with an implementation strategy, and present his recommendations during a future meeting of the Board of Directors.
4. Mr. Zimkowski requested permission to use the USJA letterhead in the execution of Standards and Ethics Committee duties. The Board of Directors approved said use.
5. Mr. Zimkowski asked if the members of the Standards and Ethics Committee are covered through the USJA insurance policy. George Weers is working with Mr. Bill Horve to research the answer to Mr.

Zimkowski's question.

6. Mr. Zimkowski raised a question regarding potential conflict of interest where a person is a member of both the Standards and Ethics Committee and the Board of Directors. After brief discussion members of the Board of Directors concluded that a conflict of interest is unlikely.
7. Mr. Zimkowski requested help in recruiting members for the Standards and Ethics Committee. Specifically, the committee seeks to recruit members located "west of the Mississippi". The committee would also prefer to include greater female representation.
8. Mr. Zimkowski requested funds for printing and distribution of materials pertaining to Standards and Ethics. The Executive Committee will address the request after receiving an monetary estimate.

Mr. Pete Contardo, member USJA Standards and Ethics Committee, present a report regarding a complicated case of rank fraud. At the conclusion of his report Mr. Contardo requested the Board of Directors approve the following;

1. **If** a USJA written policy to accept only certificates from IJF associated organizations was in effect when USJA accepted the ranks of these individuals or promoted these individuals based on rank certifications of said questionable organizations, **then** we would recommend stripping these individuals of the ranks granted by USJA. We would then recommend that they be returned to the USJA ranks that they had earned before the USJA ranks in question were awarded.
2. **If** there was no USJA written policy of rank acceptance in affect at the time these individuals joined USJA, **then** we would recommend that those of these individuals that had their ranks validated by USJA maintain their ranks as validated.
3. USJA should maintain our "Rank Validation" procedures in order to help those individuals who have been caught up in the ugly politics associated with some organizations.
4. The USJA establish a clear policy of only accepting certificates of rank from International Judo Federation (IJF) recognized organizations and that these certificates should only be accepted if the organizations have rank reciprocity with the USJA.
5. A list of addresses, contact persons and email addresses for IJF affiliated organizations should be obtained, regularly updated and made available to all members of the USJA.
6. Mr. Jack Stern be stripped of USJA rank and permanently expelled form the USJA.
7. Records and notes of the Standards and Ethics Committee be archived for a period of ten (10) years. At the end of that period investigative records are to be destroyed.

So move by Mike Szrejter, seconded by George Harris, motion approved by Board of Directors.

Digression: Connie Halporn related concerns regarding potential liabilities where a person is denied event sanction from one group and then seeks, and receives, sanction from another group. Mr. Zimkowski accepted responsibility to investigate the situation.

2. Coaching Education Committee: No report available

3. Electronic Member Services Committee:

President Bregman presented a synopsis of committee activities with observations.

- a. DSL is now in place
- b. New hard drives are installed
- c. The Electronic Member Services Committee is considering conversion of our current database to an MS Access format. Decisions will be reported at a future Board of Directors meeting.
- d. We need to re-design membership data processing to fully utilize the potential of the internet and develop a, web based, Club Management System. Features of such a system would include features such as electronic membership processing, availability of club rosters and promotion information. We should also expand our web site information center to include official information, i.e. USJA bylaws and operating procedures. Connie Halporn suggested that posted official documents should available for download in PDF format.

4. Promotion Committee:

1. Mr. Ron Hansen asked if lapsed insurance should be grounds for rejection of request for promotion. The Board of Directors affirmed that current insurance is a requirement for promotion. Mr. Hansen requested that applications for promotion be withheld from the Promotion Board until all administrative requirements, for promotion, are met. Ms. Katrina Davis acknowledged that future applications for promotion shall meet all administrative criteria prior to being presented to the Promotion Board.
2. Mr. Hansen requested that the Promotion Board be supplied copies of the permanent of applicants for promotion. So moved by Thom Layon, seconded by Mike Szejter motion passed.

5. USJA Women's Taskforce Report:

Ms. Connie Halporn, USJA Women's Taskforce Chairperson, reported the following;

1) Taskforce current membership is comprised of;

- a. Connie Halporn, Chairperson, New York
- b. Charmaine Alsager, Wisconsin
- c. Hope Kennedy, Texas
- d. Janet Dewey, Mississippi
- e. Helen (Scottie) Johnson, Louisiana
- f. Bonnie Korte, Missouri

2) Taskforce activities include;

- a. research regarding retention in other martial arts organizations
- b. preparation of a survey of women in Judo
- c. Ms. Korte has been requested to write a children's book
- d. Ms. Alsager is working to develop a mentoring program to establish key female role models

6. USJA Clinics and Camps:

Mr. Gary Monto, Chairperson, USJA Clinics and Camps presented a synopsis of activities. Mr. Monto also stated that the current organizational approach to organization of clinics and camps is unwieldy and inefficient. Mr. Monto was requested, by the Board of Directors, to outline an operational strategy to be presented at a future meeting of the Board of Directors.

7. USJA National Symposium:

Mr. Jim Haynes, host of the 2001 USJA National Symposium, provided a report of progress.

1. The symposium will take place on May 25th and 26th, 2001
2. Announcements have been issued via email, copies distributed at the USJI Senior Nationals and other regional events, copies of the flyer are to be distributed to USJA club leaders via a national mailing.
3. All events will occur at one venue

Ms. Halporn requested, written, copies of presentations be made available to interested parties who cannot attend the symposium. George Weers volunteered to contact Ms. Hope Kennedy, Symposium Chairperson, with the request.

8. USJA Awards Committee:

Dr. Ronald Allan Charles, USJA Awards Committee Chairperson, reported current activities. Dr. Charles expressed concern over lack of participation from club leaders and asked for help from those present.

E. Old Business:

There was no old business for the Board of Directors to discuss.

F. New Business:

1. Open Tournaments: The Board of Directors discussed the "Open Tournament" proposal before the USJI Board of Directors meeting. The "Open Tournament" proposal was subsequently defeated during the USJI meeting.

2. Insurance Policy Issues: The Board also discussed differences between the USJA insurance policy and the USJI/USJF policy. Mr. Webb proposed organization of an exploratory committee for a, USJI/USJF/USJA, joint policy insurance, seconded by Thom Layon, approved by the Board of Directors. Mr. Layon, USJA Council, will pursue obtaining a copy of the USJI/USJF policy for purposes of comparison.

3. Coaching Certification Credential Recognition: Ms. Connie Halporn raised an issue regarding USJI recognition of her USJA Coaching Certification credentials. She was assured that a cooperative agreement, regarding recognition of Coaching credentials, is in place. In the absence of Dr. Chris Dewey, USJA Coaching Education and Certification Committee, George Weers volunteered to investigate.

Follow-up to Coaching Certification Credential Recognition:

Investigation and discussion involved Mr. Fletcher Thornton, Chairman, USJI Standards and Certification Committee, several USJA personnel and Dr. David Matsumoto, Chairman, USJF Standards and Certification Committee, (former Chairman, USJI Standards and Certification Committee). The outcome of the discussions, is that

1. A cooperative agreement of Coaching Certification credentials between the USJI, USJF and USJA, as proposed by Dr. Matsumoto and adopted by the USJI Board of Directors (verify this title) does, indeed, remain in effect.
2. Dr. Chris Dewey, Chairperson, USJA Coaching Education and Certification Program, and Ms. Corrine Shigemoto, Chairperson, USJI Coaching Education and Certification Program, will work to together to establish operational procedures.

4. Equitable Representation: Dr. Martin Bregman explained the rationale of the proposal, appended below, which he has presented the USJI Board of Directors. Dr. Bregman has requested the approval and support USJA Board of Directors.

G. Adjournment:

Mr. George Harris moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Fodor, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1830 hours by President Jim Bregman.

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