

USJA winter meeting December 6, 2019:

Location: The Alexander Hughes Community Center,
1700 Danbury Road, Clairmont California 91711

Board members present at the meeting:

John Paccione

Dave Goodwin

Bob Rush

Ed Rodriguez

Sparky Bollenger

President Paccione opened the meeting at 3:15 P.M., with an introduction of the board members. He then gave an overview of the financials for Mark Tamulonis who could not attend. He noted that the membership has stayed the between 6300-6400. There is a concern that we have been pushing training for the Olympics for over twenty years and the American people have clearly rejected it. Less than half of one percent go to the Olympics and less than three percent go to international competition. We need to rebuild grass roots Judo again like in the seventies. If find that Kosen Judo would be a good outlet for people to expand their numbers.

President Paccione went on to go over the year by year financials, so everyone knows how we have recovered from the losses that we suffered under Katrina Davis and her husband Mike and that whole entourage that was in the office. In 2014 we had a total of 48k in the account, 2015 we had a 6% increase, our total funds were 51k. 2016, we had a 46% drop to 27k, we were on the cusp of collapse at that point. Gary Goltz mentioned that the former office staff was not processing applications and was very behind 3 or 4 months behind. They wanted a no cut contract to continue processing the applications that should have already been process. Gary Goltz denied that request and the staff was terminated. In 2017 we had our comeback, we had 35k in the account, in January 2018, we had 38k, in 2019 we have 88k in the account. We feel much more secure now and we are on our way to 100k. When you have economic stability behind you it helps to be taken seriously by the other organizations. Our top expenses were Ashlex, which runs our day to day operations gets about 215k annually, the insurance 104k, legal and accounting fees were 27k and our office supplies were 10k for a total of 356k. Revenue: membership 380k, promotions 25k, certifications 15k, for a total 420k.

Dave Goodwin gave an overview of the committee reports; The Jujutsu Committee was submitted by Dave Parrit, they had their meeting in June of 2019 and they decided any BJJ student that wants rank recognized must go through the USJA Jujitsu rank examiner system. They have conducted 10 clinics nationwide in 2019 and have reworked the promotion forms for Jujitsu that are on the website.

The National training center update was submitted by Celita Schutz noted that the center was operational from January to May. In June and July, due to extensive tournament activity there were no sessions held. Unfortunately, due to uncontrollable circumstances, there was a delay in restarting the training center, but it is now back in full swing. Additional nights have been added to make up any lost days. A URL has been created for the Nation Training Center and should be up this month. She noted further that some of the players from the NTC went on to place at very high-level tournaments.

Ray Conte submitted the scholastic report. A very professional eight-page document detailing the program. The report is too long to read at this meeting but is available upon request from the USJA office. Ray was asking for 25k for training videos for the program along.

The promotion Report by Dr. Charles is waiting to see who the donor of the year and the coach of the year will be. That information will be sent to us as soon as it is determined.

The coaches report was read by Mr. Chima noted that they had 72 people attend the various clinics this year, the structure was each area do their own clinics and certifications, so we adopted a regional approach, where one person is approving the clinicians and having them give clinics for a level 1 only. The reason we concentrated on level 1 is because that's where the grassroots interest is and that's where we will build with the new people coming in. The one little glitch we got in the process which we are trying to address by also add in a level 2 certifications by allowing a uniformity of a level 1. All organizations will accept our model for level 1 coaching. The AGDM model which is the one used as a mainstay for this, is also progressing forward so that all the online courses that we have will be available to all 3 organizations is to be funded by the Olympic committee and will be available in January. The part that is unclear is the practical portions are going to be done by the individual organizations. I think we ramped up our level one enough that it is self-contained and is going to be one of the elite level 1 certifications, level 2 needs a lot of work to add the material to make it where we want it. We want it to be superior, especially for our grassroots coaches that are looking to develop themselves. The level 2 will allow you to create more level 1 coaches. Therefore, if you are certified level 1 by any of the 3 organizations, you can go to any tournament up to and including the Sr. Nationals. However, any IJF sanctioned tournament you will need their certification. We will be adding the depression awareness training to the coach's certifications.

Mr.Chima went on to speak about how he has been working with Keith Bryant to exhaust the funding they received by December 31, 2019.

Ed Rodriguez asked about a Depression Awareness meeting during the Presidents Cup, was that well attended? Mr. Chima noted that many coaches did attend as well as some referees, it was well attended. I recommend we maximize our online resources to build out of that task force to see that as a base for teaching in the coach certification area. I see us being the key grassroots organization across the United States. Going forward , I will try to report quarterly because there is a lot of work being done.

President Paccione noted that a point was raised to him about the bylaws not being posted on the website. Basically, they are bien updated and will be put back up.

President Paccione stressed how important it is to have Kosen components in our tournaments, as it will help to build membership. He noted that he has it in his tournament in March and at the Summer Nationals as we. The referees take to it well.

The S&E report was presented by Brian Money. He noted that last year we had 20 formal complaints, this year only 8. A lot of stuff in S&E was very positive. We have been able to intervene and assist members with minor issues to have corrected, not just to penalize members. Mr. Cohen made 3 allegations against the current BOD:

1. That we are discriminatory as to whom we allow into our tournaments.
2. That the bylaws were not listed on the website, (addressed above)
3. That there was no vote for the current board during the last election cycle.

President Paccione responded to the allegations by noting that only members of the 3 national organizations are eligible to compete and there is no discrimination involved, the bylaws are being modified and will be posted shortly and finally that nobody else ran for office.

The Special Needs Committee report was given by Brian Money as well. We added Scott Galas, he is the only special needs international referee, he was certified in the Netherlands. They had thousand special needs judo players; it was very impressive. We are now up to 8 certified therapists on the mat. Eventually, we would like to go to New York and Florida to certify people. President Paccione asked if there were any statistics about how many special needs students, we have in the USJA. Brian Money noted that they are spread throughout the country so its hard to put a number on it. Many are in my club. This is an area we can easily grow to a thousand players easy. March 22, 2019, we are hosting our 5th annual Special Needs Championship, all are welcome.

The Promotions Committee was given by Gary Goltz. He noted that we are getting fewer high-level promotions which is a good thing. The heart is in the lower rank promotions. We have had about a hundred of the low-level promotions. There has been a low turnover rate on the Promotion board, we have a very strong group. That is all I have at this time.

Bob Rush initiated a conversation concerning hiring John Paccione as the Executive Director for the USJA, in April after stepping down as the USJA President. He noted that the board noted that the BOD voted unanimously. Bob Rush noted that with the board turnover and all the initiatives currently under way, John would be the most qualified to take the position. Gary Goltz noted that John did an excellent job as the President.

John Paccione asked if the BOD wanted to give Ashlex their annual bonus as is customary. Dave Goodwin put forth a motion to grant the bonus for ASHLEX, John Paccione seconded the motion and the rest of the board members present voted unanimously to give ASHLEX their annual bonus.

Dave Goodwin also put forth a motion to end the meeting and it was seconded by John Paccione and the meeting was concluded at four PM