

UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE USJA

MEETING, VIRGINIA BEACH VA, APRIL 20TH, 2005

HELD AT THE CAVALIER HOTEL

Coral Room “D”

**Presided over by
President James Bregman**

Recorded by:

Secretary Gene Fodor, USJA

The United States Judo Association conducted a Meeting of the Board of Directors and Membership on April 20, 2005.

The meeting was held in the Coral Room “D” at the Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia at 4:30 PM.

Attending the meeting was the following Board Members’

**President James Bregman,
Vice President Michael Szrejter,
Secretary Gene Fodor,
Treasurer James Webb,
Corporate Council Thom Layon.
Board Members,**

**Patrick Szrejter,
George Harris,
Ernest Smith,
George Weers,
Jessie Jones,
Virgil Bowles
Ms. Katrina Davis, Office Mgr.**

There was a quorum present to conduct the affairs of the Corporation. Attending the meeting as representatives from the membership, were 20 members. The meeting began at 4:30PM.

The meeting began with the roll of officers attending the meeting, noting that all 11 were present. The meeting began out of agenda order starting with the Treasurer James Webb.

Treasurer Report:

Jim stated the finances of the USJA for the past months since the last report of October 2004. The reason is that Jim had other meetings to attend in his position with Texas Judo and so on.

He stated that the USJA is in good financial condition, great no, but doing fine, we are non- profit. Jim stated that there is about \$58,000 in long term notes, Liabilities of about \$58,000, which is where it should be. We are about \$2,000 from where Jim would like to be at this time of the year. Memberships are the main source of income, the more members, the more money we have on hand, this is a result of the Club Level Coaches that support us, about \$63,000 comes in from memberships, grass roots level. Next, come the income from Promotions, \$14,000 for the first three months, next come income from sales of judo gi's, books and material, \$12,000 from Life memberships, memberships have not fallen, we are picking up.

The office staff is doing a wonderful job, a lot of work is processed out of this office. Insurance is a source of great expense, we are in compliance with all the mandates of the USOC, and their requirements for Insurance, in spite of what others may say about us.

Mike Szrejter questioned the expenses noted in the report, that appear to have been incurred by Travel to camps and clinics, the office manager did not have a break down of those expenses at the meeting, so the questions could not be answered. Jim Webb did not have other documentation to answer the questions. The President stated that the expense was probably his for travel to camps and clinics, and that he was not going to pay his expenses out of his pocket, some \$4,700 so far. Mike also questioned the money making programs like Melaluca, it appears that it is not a money making venture, and actually costs the JA to do business each month, Treasurer Jim Webb stated that it is time to take a good look at it and divest itself from this program.

President Bregman then called upon the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Mr. Tony Zimkowski to give his report.

Tony started his report by thanking the Ethics Members for drafting a procedure to implement screening for the USJA Membership in the days prior to the meeting, he said that this undertaking has actually been in process for 2 years since the USA Judo mandated that all Class A' Organizations implement such screening, the USJF has been doing them with some modification of the policy. This policy is one that was forced upon us, and we started slowly. Tony called upon Corporate Council Thom Layon to address some steps we will be taking to start a screening process.

Mr. Layon started by saying that certain events required us to issue screening, one of the forces is societies reactions about sexual molestations and so on. The other mandate is that in 60 days, the USA

Judo says that the USJA must have such a policy in place, face adverse consequences and or be suspended. Thom cited the incident that happened in California where USJA Coaches were not allowed to sit at mat side, without proof of a screening. We, cannot ignore what is being forced on us, suppose in two years, we have a setting where it is alleged, some member of the USJA, a coach in this instance, is accused of improper conduct. The jury would be instructed that, it is shown that we have a policy in place, and was it sufficient to cover such incidents, if we, did not, the damages would be severe against the organization. Thom stated that he has been on the other side, and he would not want to put the organization in jeopardy by refusing to implement a policy to protect such persons from harm, because of the feelings of those against such screenings.

Thom stated that a period of time would be allocated for the membership to respond on their views and comments, a screening agent has been selected to do the checks, and it just by chance happens to be the same firm doing the screenings for the USA Judo and the USJF.

We have placed a formal policy in effect, to be implemented in the next 60 days, and to address it quickly.

1. Preventing Sexual Abuse
2. Prevent interaction of sexual abusers with students
3. Prevent interactions with those impaired by Drugs and Alcohol
4. Not to intrude any more then necessary on the private lives of the membership stated in 1, 2 and 3 above.

Thom stated we have struggled with this for 2 years, and we have resisted, we will have a National Screening Agent who deals with Sporting Bodies to do the screenings.

Not go back further then 10 years for records, suggests screenings for 4th Dan and Higher, Members of the Board of Directors, Committee

Members, Corporate Officers, persons for Instructor Certification, Coach Certification, Referees and the Renewing of the same categories. All member's who request promotions to 4th Dan and higher and points for coaching. Charges for sexual acts can still be addressed without a conviction. These recommendations are not carved in stone, some modifications may be made upon recommendations from the membership. Frank Phillips, spoke and stated, that he has people that are less in rank and feels that they should have screenings. Other members that spoke are Ann Maria Rousey, Pete Contardo, John Denora, Dana Rucker, Martin Bregman, Michelle Holtze, Walter Dean, Jeff Ginta, and Connie Halporn.

No policy crafted will satisfy many people, but we have to do what is best for the organization. Cost of the screening will be \$16, every 4 years, which is not written in stone. The information gathered by the USJA will not be centered in the office, or kept there. The policy is that we will have a link on the web site, that a form can be downloaded, filled out by the member with necessary information to allow for a screening. The form will be sent in with the fee submitted. A check will result, with a copy mailed to the applicant, a envelope should be sent with the request, so it can be mailed back, a copy will be sent to the Chair of the Ethics Comm. The member's number will be on the document, no SSN will be shown. The committee suggests not going back further then 10 yrs, unless acts of molestation occurred.

Council stated that Dr. Chris Dewey has with the help of Tony Zimkowski, addressed a code of conduct for coaches, incorporated in his coaches manual, so we are being proactive and hopefully this will help when our Insurance Carriers look at our organization.

Minors will not have to screen, people that have valid screenings, such as police officers, attorneys, federal workers screened, and those that volunteer that have checks, only need to provide a verification of having one done. Any one that has submitted a check to the JI or JF,

need only to provide a copy of their clearance.

After all the members were allowed to speak on this subject and Council ended his talk, President Jim Bergman expressed that we have to implement a policy and it is time to move on. Vice President Michael Szrejter made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Corporate Council and Board of Directors, there was a second by Board member, Jessie Jones, voting to accept the motion were, President Bregman, Vice President Michael Szrejter, James Webb, Gene Fodor, George Weers, Pat Szrejter, Virgil Bowles, Ernie Smith, Jessie Jones, Thom Layon and George Harris, Motion passed.

Chair of the Camps and Clinics, Gary Monto:

The USJA and clinicians started in 2005 with the summer camp schedule, the first one in North Carolina, it will feature Jim Pedro and Igor Yakimov. Camps attended were ones held in Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, California and New York. They have been very successful, and we hope the trend will continue. Problems centering around the "Sanction Forms" have been corrected and he is now getting information, however people still are not filling out the forms that have to be completed at the end of the camps and clinics.

Several Clinicians have committed to holding Clinics around the country, some of them that hope to be involved are Virgil Bowles, Dr. Ronald Charles, Michael Szrejter, Ed Szrejter, Leleand Roth, Jim Bregman, Thom Layon, Gary Monto and Gene Fodor.

Kata, The USJA with the help of Virgil Bowles have made some inroads with the USA Judo Kata Committee, Virgil, Mike Szrejter, Gene Fodor, Gary Monto and Tony Zimkowski have been placed on various Kata Committees with USA Judo, and will Judge at the Sr. Nationals in Va. Beach this year, also Virgil is now the Chairman for the PAN AM Kata, and Gene & Gary are committee members, having judged in

Montreal Canada at their Champion ships, which will be in Denver Colorado this year. It is believed that doors may open up and we will be accepted by the JI on our certification levels, there are some hurdles however that need to be overcome, but it is a step in the right direction.

Tournaments, the 2005 Jr. Nationals will be in Toledo Ohio at the Seagate Convention Center, the host hotel, the Raddison is connected to it and all one needs to do is walk across the hall and you are in it. Please help to support this event. Ann Maria Rousey and Jim Pedro will do a clinic, cost will be \$10 and worth every penny of it, so attend it, it will be on June 30th, Thursday.

This past January a posting to hold the 2008 Jr. Nationals was on our Web Site, No One submitted a Bid for it, and no club indicated interest, so Judan Judo, Toledo, again submitted a Bid and was granted it. Green Bay Wisconsin is interested in hosting the 2010 Jr. National's, Brentwood Taylor will submit a formal bid after January 2007. 2006, the Jr. Nationals will be in Orlando Fla, Mike Szrejter Director. End of Report. Motion to accept 2008 Jr. Nationals Bid, Mike Szrejter, 2nd by Thom Layon, voting to accept, Bregman, Szrejter, Layon, Fodor, Weers, Bowles, Jones, Smith, Harris, P. Szrejter, and Webb. Motion passed.

Symposium, Hope Kennedy,

Hope stated that this years event will take place on a ship, combining both vacation and clinic, and hopes it to be a great event, prices range from \$330 per –person, to \$390 per-person, inside and outside cabins, double occupancy required. A Tax and Port Tax of \$116.12Details can be accessed via the USJA Web Site. February 16th-20th, 2006. There will be free days. A \$100 clinic charge. She encouraged everyone to attend and stated that there should be some great speakers, and her trip was not paid for.

Awards, Dr. Ronald Charles.

Ronald gave a written report of the committee's selections this year of people submitted for recognition. He stated that this has become a work of labor and love. Jim Pedro, Outstanding Male Competitor, Ronda Rouse, Outstanding Female Competitor, Master Mail, Robert Byrd, Master Female, Lisa Guerrero, Life Member Raimundo Marquez III, Kata Practitioners, Heiko Rommelman and Jeff Ginta, Coach of the Year, Gary Monto.

The deadline for State Awards has come, over 100 nominations have been received from 35 States, 80 will be selected. Many coaches have sent letters of appreciation for this program, as a way of recognizing our outstanding members, and Dr. Charles thanked the Board of Directors for their support.

Publications, Connie Halporn

Connie is trying to get the Publications in progress and expressed a wish to have a \$400 honorarium to get help in doing this, saying she could have help and believed that it was a way to reward a person for their hard work, getting the publications up several times a year, possibly 4 times a year. This will take a lot of time, for a Graphics designer, \$100 an issue is peanuts. Have a business type card, and advertise our own members businesses. Connie did not contact the home office to see how the Posters were doing, but people are still buying them, as the 64 tape and photos. No cost to the organization, it is Connie's way of helping the organization. Connie says she has lots of photos of the Olympians left, Why? Lets sell them.

Connie, Motion for the Calendar and On Line News Letter, she is the Editor on a motion by Thom Layon, 2nd by Pat Szrejter, voting to accept the motion were, George Weers, Jim Bregman, Gene Fodor, James Webb, Thom Layon, Pat Szrejter, Mike Szrejter, Virgil Bowles,

Jessie Jones, Ernie Smith and George Haris, Motion passed.

Coach Education Committee, Dr. Chris Dewey,

Dr. Dewey was not present, however, he submitted a written report, and Thom Layon addressed the Board. The program at present has 785 coaches who have completed the courses, of those, 60 previously uncertified, taking the course, via distance learning. Coaching levels, 1, 11 and 111 are all in the final stages of publication. Level 1 is to expect about 100 manuals in short time. Delivery of level 11, the end of April., level 111 is ready to go to the printer. Level 1V is on hold until the other manuals are completed. Renewal rates running at about 20%.

The list of coaches on the Web site is not accurate, when the first three manual's are published, the free downloads will be removed and the web site will get a new face lift. All certificates of completions are mailed out within three working days.

Corinne Shigomoto of the USJI resigned her position, and Nestor Bustillo who replaced her, was apparently fired, and no replacement has been made at this time. Chris states that a section included in the manual, now deals with sexual issues, this was mandated by the Board of Directors, Chris and Tony Zimkowski, Ethics Chair worked out the details, and it meets with the approval of the Ethics Committee, this same information will be included in club charters every single year, and will be in the manuals published. End of Dr. Dewey's report.

Martin Bregman, interrupted the meeting, asking to be head, as he had another important meeting to attend, he wanted to let the people know, that a free service regarding on site medical assistance was available, for no charge, you can contact Martin for details regarding this extra service, or contact the Oklahoma Judo Association for information. They send people to tournaments and pay their costs. These people are licensed.

Promotion Board, Virgil Bowles,

Virgil called the meeting to order at 9:00AM, All members except Walter Dean was present. Mike Szrejter and Thom Layon, attended as observers.

Recommendations for promotion, were Yodan, Robert Aviles Jr. did not pass, lacking sufficient information, David Baker, Passed, Gene Beadle, did not pass, resubmit on proper forms, Julia Irvine-Calotte, MD passed, Cheri McKeown, did not pass, not enough sufficient information nor activity for a batsugun promotion, recommended to submit for Sandan.

Sam Mitani, did not pass, insufficient time in grade, resubmit in one year, Hugh Reed, passed, Scott Lee Smith passed. Paul Drescher, passed, needs additional paper work sent to the central office.

Godan, Fredrick Fries, passed, Richard Kennedy, passed, Clintonn Main, passed, William Montgomery, passed.

Rokudan, Sanders Ishikawa, did not pass, not eligible for validation, as he got his last promotion through the USJA, resubmit in July 2009, Bernie Semel, did not pass, no activity within the USJA organization, Daniel Wooltaze, did not pass, Mehran Viseh, passed, but needs to insure back dues are paid.

Shichidan, Jessie Goldstein, passed, Patrick McKeown, did not pass, needs more time in grade, Jason Morris, not a members of a USJA Club, and no activity within the USJA.

Hachidan, Elie Morrell, did not pass, needs more time in grade, and is not a members of a USJA Club.

Kudan, Walter Dean, Passed, Jessie Jones, passed, Jaques LeGrande, passed. It should be noted, that each candidate for this high dan promotion was interviewed by the Promotion Board and the Board of Directors, and was asked to give an overview of their accomplishments and service to the United States Judo Association and the sport of Judo during their lifetime.

End of report.

BOB Spraley report on JiuDo Judo

Bob did not prepare a written report, he spoke on his involvement and what he does within the program, actually an exercise program involving Judo. Bob has put on a lot of clinics, and continues to add members to the roles of the USJA, he stresses conditioning. He targets adults, and many members are college students, and has had a lot of success with his system. Bob teaches at the YMCA's and provides this to them free of charge, which is usually a \$60 fee. He has a web site, Jiudo.com

Grass Roots Committee, Ann Maria Rouse

Ann Maria is the chairman of the newly formed Grass Roots Committee, formed to promote judo throughout the country, there will be a number of clinics planned during the year, she explained that most people want little involvement from National NGB, and give coaches and students the resources they need to get ahead, scholarships and some funding. These can be accomplished by waiving fee for coaches at various training clinics and so on, market Judo as it should be. Provide free of charge, lesson plans to follow for coaches. Provide funding for regional coaches, Getting money from those that contribute, when they say, "what can I do for you"? What can I do to help you?

Funding Committee, Gary Goltz

Gary did not know he was to give a report, and had none written, but he did speak on what has happened since the Funding Committee was formed. They have assisted in getting contracts through various partnerships, which gives the USJA a part of the costs of a product purchased by members. He mentioned partnerships with Hatashita, Ikon, Chris Dewey, Addias, Golden Tiger Martial Arts, giving the JA a 5% profit of everything sold. At present we have no way of tracking sales, but Gary is trying to get Chris Lester to do something so we can. Golden Tiger Martial Arts sent out 1,500 letters to coaches from a USJA list supplied by the Colorado Office, and a letter, with the help of Jim Bregman, listing services of merchandise and says they are giving us a 10% discount on their products, and they are aggressive in sales. Gary says that they are in his backyard, and he knows a lot about them and they supply all name brands plus their own brands. Some 25 accounts have been signed up in the past few weeks by Golden Tiger Martial Arts, from the USJA Coaches. Gary says he has shown her how to access our Web Site to get phone numbers of coaches, so that individual contacts can be made to generate sales.

Connie Halporn injected the USJA Credit Card that we have, a NO FEE CARD, for our membership, it features a holo graph picture of two Judo Players, we get a fee for each member and fees from sales charged on the card, to the USJA. Gene Fodor upgraded this card to a rewards program and signed the contract for the USJA. This needs more publicity on our Web Site, but it has not been posted by Chris Lester as yet. It is through MBNA Bank, a Platinum Master Card, and credit lines up to \$100,000. To apply you can go to 1-800-WEB-Apply and mention priority code R2G9. This is a Rewards program and you get mileage and many perks.

Gary closed his remarks by saying we need to support all these business partnerships. Gene Fodor noted that the USJI is attempting to

get a credit card program going too, wonder where they got the idea?

Technical Committee, Jeff Miller,

Jeff was not present, but he sent a short report with Hope Kennedy who read it for Jeff, Jeff says that the two year old program continues to grow. There are about 65 Officials who have been trained and certified in 12 different states. 49 are at level 1, and 16 at level 11 Tech Supervisors, who have authority and train certify new level 1 official's. They have brought in about \$915.00 with a balance of \$795.00. These funds will be used to pursue future goals of the committee. Goals for next year include publishing level 111 (Tournament Directors) manual and to certify people at that level, revise level 11 to include greater coverage of the Texas match card system, gain greater publicity and more participation, and put things in the USJA Headlines Issues, design a shirt for those that have completed courses, and to expand membership and interest across the country. End of report.

President Bregman moves to accept all the Committee Reports that were either presented or written to the Board. 2nd by Mike Szejter, voting to accept all reports were; James Bregman, Mike Szejter, Thom Layon, Gene Fodor, James Webb, George Weers, Virgil Bowles, Jessie Jones, Ernie Smith, Pat Szejter and George Harris, motion passed.

President Bregman, makes a motion to create a Grass Roots Committee, chaired by AnnMaria Rousey, 2nd by Thom Layon, and that the Board accept the persons named to this committee, Mike Szejter in discussion, questioned the purpose of the committee, suggested that the USJA through it's Camps and Clinics activities already addresses this kind of grass roots learning. Bill Montgomery, a USJA member stated that he personally feels that this time has come, we need to fund it financially and ethically and to raise money like the Taekwondo people do. Funds raised through effort would only be used to push the grass roots effort, supply money for training, a portion

returned to clubs and so on.

After many people spoke on the issue, the motion was called for, voting to accept the motion was, Jim Bregman, George Harris, Mike Szrejter, Virgil Bowles, George Weers, Gene Fodor, Ernie Smith, Jim Webb, Jessie Jones, Pat Szrejter and Thom Layon. Motion passed.

Gene Fodor was asked by USJA members to speak to the issue of recertification on levels of coaching. Some members feel that it is unnecessary as they only want a basic level of coaching, that we insist upon having. They feel that there is no need to go beyond that level and have to retake another test, they feel, like on some other certifications, that they should only be required to pay an amount and renew, instead of taking more tests. Some members of the board spoke on the issue, saying it was good for coaches, to keep up on advanced learning, it was also noted that some of the board members are on the coaching committee, and therefore should not vote on the issue, it may be a conflict. Never the less a vote was called for and the issue was, Thom Layon, a member of the coaching committee, spoke that he has to re certify in many things he has and feels that it is a benefit/educational function. Gary Monto spoke to the issue, as did Walt Dean, saying that if you are active, it is not necessary to take tests over and over again. Mike Szejter injected that it is sort of like a drivers license, you get one, and unless something happens, you do not need to retest. Jim Bregman asked if he could modify the motion to request that the issue be referred to the Coaching Committee and for them to address, voting to modify were Bregman, Fodor, Szrejter, G Harris, P. Szrejter, G. Weers, Bowles, E. Smith, T. Layon and J. Jones, J. Webb had to leave for other meetings and did not vote, motion passed.

James Bregman made a motion to hold the next USJA SR. Nationals on the West coach, absent a bid, 2nd by Thom Layon and passed, all board members voted except Jim Webb, who had to leave for other

meetings.

Jim Bregman stated that the Election Commission will have documents up on the WEB Site on Monday of the next week. No voting required.

Motion by Jim Bregman, a 2nd by George Weers, to not consider a Summer Special as we have had in prior years. Motion defeated. Voting to reject were Layon, Weers, Bregman, Fodor, Bowles, Harris, M. Szrejter, Jones, Smith and P. Szrejter.

Motion to establish an Insurance Fund for the USJA, Motion by Jim Bregman, 2nd by Pat Szrejter, voting to accept, Fodor, Bregman, P. Szrejter, Harris, Layon, Weers, M. Szrejter, Bowles, Smith and Layon, motion passed.

Motion to establish a Legal Fund, motion by J. Bergman, 2nd by Mike Szrejter, voting to accept, M. Szrejter, J. Bregman, Weers, Layon, Fodor, Harris, Jones, Smith, Layon and Bowles, motion passed.

Motion to accept the Age and Weight categories to be used in tournaments that the USJI has put into effect, the JA noted ours was in conflict with the IJF and JI and JF, Motion by Jim Bregman, 2nd by Virgil Bowles, votig to accept, Bregman, Bowles, Fodor, Weers, Harris, Smith, Jones, P. Szrejter, M. Szrejter and T. Layon. Passed.

Thom Layon requested that the Board, go into executive session to speak to the issues of promotions of three candidates for high dan rank.

The Board of Directors addressed the promotions of Walt Dean, Jessie Jones and Jacques LeGrande and voted to accept the recommendation of the Promotion Board in all promotions passed upon. After a lengthy interview, the Board reconvened and notified the body of the promotions granted.

Old Business, None
New Business, None

No further business of the association was brought before the board.

The President and the Board of Directors called for the adjournment of the meeting at 9:00PM, On the motion to close by Mike Szrejter, the meeting was closed by vote of the board.

Submitted by the Secretary,
Gene Fodor, USJA