



Newsletter

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The 5th Annual Founder's Day Workout

The 5th annual Founders Day workout will be held in Cecil, Wisconsin, Saturday, July 11, 1998 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm at Sports Park. Please call 920 - 842 - 2099 with any question.



From The President

Dick Bruno

In the month of April we had our quarterly board meeting in Kenosha at Ray Radigan's Restaurant. I was not able to be there except in spirit, but our vice-president, Al Gomez presided over the meeting. After receiving a copy of the minutes from Al, I was very pleased with the outcome. The board is making much progress in unifying and supporting all the schools in the association. We have a working constitution with a revision of rank structure and time from 8th kyu to 5th dan. Speaking of Master Koeppel always gives me great pleasure because of his past relationship with Master William H. Foster. I first met Master Koeppel in 1968 in Kenosha when I started studying with Sensei William H. Foster. Before that I studied Judo and self defense with a nidan instructor, Jon Straub at Carthage College. I studied with Jon for 2 years before I finally made a decision to study seriously with Sensei Foster.

I was fortunate to attend Master Koeppel's seminar on analysis and structure of kata with practical combat application techniques. (November 1998) We were all impressed with his expertise in the subject after his travels in Asia. He brought back many ideas and strategies that we learned on that afternoon. We all felt the power and focus he can generate with his application of techniques.

I would like to thank Sensei Chuck St.Pierre for hosting us in Cecil, Wisconsin this summer for our 5th Annual Founder's Day Event. (July 11th, 1998) The instruction we will receive that day are from Master William Van Auk-en, Ki Do Karate, and Master Bill Penca, Fu Chen Kung Fu. Both instructors have over 30 years experience in the martial arts and have excellent credentials. If you haven't called in your room reservation, please do as soon as possible. Our dinner will follow after the workout commemorating the life and memory of Shihan William H. Foster. The dinner will be at the Fox Ballroom and the workout will be at Sports Park. Please see information and map in our newsletter.

I would also like to thank Sensei Ron Zieth for his hard work and research on the internet to provide the board with information and standards for rank and time from world karate associations. This helped give the members of the board some insight into making a template of time and rank for the yudansha ranks for all the schools. Anyone being promoted above nidan will have to apply to the board of directors of the association in writing or in person. The board will have the final vote by 2/3 majority in a quorum.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Sensei Bob Tondi (to Sandan) and Sensei Tom Mellonig (to Yodan) on their promotions at our last board meeting. Sensei Tondi and Sensei Mellonig both teach at Highland Park High School Dojo in Highland Park, IL.

Tom has over 25 years of experience and Bob has over 15 years experience in the martial arts.



Karate Role Models

Tim Hillary

At last summer's ('97) Founder's Day workout I was afforded the privilege, honor, & opportunity to work with a group of YYDKA young people -- and I was impressed! They were all bright, eager, proud, enthusiastic, respectful kids who will do a great job of running this Country when we're too old to do so. I again crossed paths with several of these young folks at a Phil Koeppel seminar at the KYF and was once again thoroughly impressed by their persistence, hard work, and courtesy. (You know who you are & I congratulate you!) Their sensei should also be complimented, along with their parents.

I also know that American youth are looking for heroes -- role models they can fashion their lives after. People they can look up to and say, "This is the kind of person I'd like to be"! A person of unquestionable character, morals, ethics, courage, and commitment. And when even our elected officials are not held responsible for their character or misdeeds, where does that leave our kids? I submit to you that the void must be filled by sensei, sempai, & yudansha. For like it or not, our instructors, senior students, and black belts are going to be taken as potential role models. Our lives will be scrutinized and judged by these young people. And they are very astute observers of human nature. They know if you are a

hypocrite -- saying one thing and doing another. We all give lip service to the character-building aspects of karate-do, but do we walk the talk? Are we doing enough in our own lives to show these kids how to live?

We all have an obligation -- a debt of honor, if you will -- to our sensei and to our students, to live lives of honor and impeccable character. We all know the difference between right & wrong. Doing the right thing is the honorable, courageous thing to do. There is always an honorable way to deal with any situation -- It may not be the easiest or most comfortable, but it is the right way. The right values are seldom safe, easy, or advantageous.

Living an honorable life is not impossible, or even all that difficult. We are, however, all human beings. As such, we make mistakes. Without mistakes, no learning takes place. We also need to let our youth know that one can make mistakes and still survive. And we need to show them how to deal with their mistakes, too. If we work hard on helping these young folks mold their character properly now, they will live solid, productive lives and raise moral, honest, ethical, courageous children.

And if we don't do it, who will? .

