

Sogo-Goshin-Do

WKDA KAI NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2004 issue #4 Vol. 4

2nd Hand Knowledge

You probably hear us talking about the masters in our lineage quite often. These are people like Kyoshi Marvin, Soke Kuniba, Soke Church, and Soke Cherry. You may have even seen the lineage written out in one of these newsletters. However, just seeing the names doesn't tell their stories. Seek out those with first hand knowledge on these masters. Ask us questions and maybe we can share some informative tales with you.

Not too long ago almost everyone in the Sogo-Goshin-Do system had actually trained with and knew Kyoshi Earle Marvin. However, due to the high drop-out rate in martial arts the people that knew him personally are just a mere fraction of the system today. Ask the older black belts to tell you about him and they will be glad to share some great anecdotes.

Besides Kyoshi some of us had met and trained with the other masters in the system like Soke Kuniba. Shihan Will and Shihan Wade spent more time with him than any of us and could probably share some great insights on his wisdom from a unique perspective. The list is even shorter when it comes to Soke Church, but if you ask around you'll find someone with some tales to tell. Soke Cherry is also a key part of our lineage and he is the only living member of this legendary group of Sokes. Perhaps you'll have a chance to meet him one day since he currently lives and trains in North Carolina. At any rate

since he was the one who tested a few of us for our black belts back in the late 1980s there are still some of us who can tell you about him first hand as well.

Ask around so you can be part of the second hand group and then you can be sure your information is accurate. Hopefully when your students ask about our history you can share something about each of these great men and know it is accurate.

Tournaments ???

Have you ever been in a martial arts tournament? If not then ask yourself why. Of course tournaments are not the true focus of our system, but due to our versatile training style we can certainly take part quite easily. If you have never been in a tournament then you might want to experience this just once. It all comes down to challenging yourself to be at your best and facing your fears.

Now you may be asking yourself "how and when?" That is a good question to start with. There was a time not too long ago when tournaments were one of our focuses. We even had an official tournament team and uniform. Ultimately the WKDA teams did very well and competed mostly in the Charleston, SC area as well as other lower state sites. Our experiences were good and bad. Sometimes tournaments were not as fun as we'd hoped and sometimes they were awesome. One of the huge trophies in the Walterboro dojo came from a tournament

in Charleston in 1986 and Team WKDA won first place of all the teams there due to us winning so many trophies. It is a great memory.

Today our perspective has changed to a more practical approach to fighting. We use more practical katas rather than the traditional tournament karate type that win trophies. We fight in a more realistic way today rather than using 3-point fighting. We have become better martial artists over the past 15 years, but our ability to play the tournament game has probably lessened. It is no longer our focus.

Today we occasionally have our own small tournaments that give the same opportunities as larger competitions with a good family atmosphere. There are also many tournaments in SC every weekend as well. Ask your instructor about competing. Be sure to have that experience at least once in your life. Even if you don't want to fight due to age or injury you can still compete in the kata events with relative ease.

If you want us to have a WKDA tournament then let us know so we can start planning it. Since it is not our focus these days we need to know who is interested.

Commit to Training

By Sensei Cindy Frankett

To all brown and black belts:

How many of you are really committed to training? Is it something that you have to do or is it something that you really want to do? How many of you have made it to the monthly brown and black belt

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trainings? If you are truly committed to training you would find a way to make it to as many of these as you can. It gives you an opportunity to work with different instructors in our system. By training with other senseis you will get another perspective or another light bulb that may light up!

Back in the day, when I grew up in the martial arts I was always committed to training. It was a big part of my life and still is. When I heard of an extra training seminar by high-ranking senseis I was always there. By the way it also would cost money to attend these. I have even documented all the seminars and who was teaching for my own personal record. In just the last few months I have trained with Shihan Sanford at Warrior's Weekend, Sensei Perry's Camp, and Kyoshi Abeles Symposium.

Shihan Sanford came up to Walterboro to teach those who were interested. I was disappointed by those who did not show up. On the flip side I truly got most of Shihan's attention. I can't complain there.

What I am trying to get across to all of you is: How much do you want to learn? How committed are you? There is so much out there to learn. Do you think that when you get your black belt that it ends there? These days black belts are too easy to obtain. It has become too Americanized. So I say this to all of you, start making a commitment to Shihan Will and make those monthly

brown and black belt training days.

For those of you who are interested I am going to be traveling to Columbia to train with Kyoshi Logue and Sifu Mark Mills. If you are interested contact me at goshindocindy@aol.com.

Newsletter or Column

I have come to realize that this forum is really not a newsletter most of the time. It is really a column like you read in the newspaper. It is filled with interesting facts and such, but not necessarily the news.

Please note that I am happy to include info from all the schools on promotions (especially for kids). Just e-mail me the information and I will type it up. I have not gotten anything in months.

Also, if you have done anything interesting lately in your school, such as seminars, tournaments, or had a special guest then let me know the details and I'll put in a blurb for you. Please help out any way you can.

I Need Articles

I would like to challenge every black belt in the group to jot down a brief 100 word article for the newsletter. That should be any easy task. Just think of something you want to share and e-mail it to me.

Writing Articles

I think some of us are unsure when it comes to writing an article. If you have any ideas at all then you may have the spark to write something. We all have some

words of wisdom to share, so simply write down a few sentences and then reread them a few times and let the ideas flow from there.

Brainstorm for a while and you will have the outline for your article. You may even have the article itself. Think of it this way. A brief paragraph of about 12 sentences is all it takes to convey some thoughts. Send it to me and I will edit it for you and then you'll have an article in the newsletter. It is that easy. Please help out.

Remember if you put it off it will never happen. Just sit down and spend 10 minutes sharing some of your own insights or observations and then send it in an e-mail. I hope you'll give it a shot for November. Thanks to Sensei Cindy for being the first person to ever contribute to the newsletter.

Who's Reading This

I want to take a quick survey on who is reading this newsletter. We now have it posted on 2 web sites: www.sogogoshindo.org/ and www.geocities.com/ltsmann. Also, I believe paper copies are given out at the WKDA dojo. Please e-mail me and let me know who is reading this monthly so I can get an idea on who our audience is. I am still at the e-mail address below.

Thanks,

Shihan Sean

(to contribute to the newsletter contact Shihan Sean Mann by e-mail at: Nowheremann3@yahoo.com)