

## The USJF 2023 Spring Meeting in Boise Idaho

### Report by delegate Hayward Nishioka

I will get right to the point. Our President Keith Chu made a valiant attempt at changing the course of the impending possible split between Nanka and the USJF/JA. This of course is the primary issue that most of the board members of Nanka are concerned with since it conflicts with our boards ability to make money. For an old-timer like myself there are several things wrong with this. The USJF is the main body that we belong too and adhere to its by-laws and majority rules. Second is that we are not in the business of making money. We are in the business of making better people. The third is that the conflict was not started by USJF, but by USA Judo, who initially made restrictions on our members. The fourth is that Nanka Yudanshakai is the only Yudanshakai opposed to the USJF's defensive tactics taken to defend our members. The fifth and sixth thing that is wrong with the idea that we should split and go rogue or be with USA Judo. are these reasons goes against the majority rule: It is childish to think that we should pick up our marbles and go play somewhere else because we didn't get our way in the vote. I'm wondering where we are to go too? I say, "LOOK before jumping."

A. going rogue: We are doing everything we want to do already. We are preparing for our Spring tournament and our shorai practice. and eventually our Winter Nationals. As of yet, we have not been chastised or penalized for doing what we are doing. So, what is it that is bothering you?

If we go rogue, Here are some questions that we may come up against. "Who will come to our Rogue tournaments? Will USA Judo come? I think,not unless we join them. Will USJF, Yes, if we are still members? Will USJA? Yes, if we are still members of the USJF. Will Nanka just stand alone? What will our income then look like then. Depends, I guess. Also remember that only 10% of our membership attends tournaments. What kind of programs will they have left at the dojo?. Who will monitor their development? Where will they get their ranking from? Who will want to join our non-Nationally recognized organization? Will they have to be competition oriented? If you decide on the making of money over the making of character is this the right way to go? What is the new mission statement? Make money over making character? What will parents be saying about joining a non-Nationally recognized organization? Why are we even thinking of going rogue? These ,and many more questions will have to be answered. If we go rogue. I hope you already have the answers. I don't!

B. If we decide on USA Judo, are we better off than going rogue? What organization will they offer us? Will we have representation on their board? Will we have a vote? I doubt it! They will tell us the very same thing they told the USJF. You cannot compete unless you are a member of USA Judo. This is what they have said all along. Isn't this why the USJF and the USJA are fighting back now? We were allowing USA Judo to enter our many, many developmental tournaments under the original agreement but they did not allow us to enter their 6 elite tournaments unless we paid their membership fee. How fair is that? That is only one of the ways USA Judo has grown. Many dojos joined them because they thought "Why not just join USA Judo and that way we could still fight in the local tournaments and also the elite tournaments as well, and all for the same one price." Besides, USA Judo was giving \$5.00 back to the dojo for every member in their membership drive. JF gave back \$7, but it was to the Yudanshakai, not the dojo. (A very clever move that paid off). Their membership increased now with people who were trained by USJF trained instructors. Brown belts became immediate black belts who saw an easy way to make money and rank.

While membership grew, they still did not put their money on elite athletes.

This is one of the main reasons why USA Judo gets an "F" for helping judo

grow. They don't take care of the athletes, or ours that the USJF and JA have

worked hard to train. The best judoka are not always the ones who get to go to international tournaments. Everyone must pay their own way to get to the event. If the number one person can't afford to go, the next person who can get to go. Same with the coach's. That's why some teams do not have a coach, manager, or medical personal. Imagine that! You go to a country you can't even speak their language, and no one is in charge of your team. What parent would send their child into such a chaotic event! No matter if you think your child has the ability, it takes a village. Better make sure you have the right help. Ask around to find out if I am correct. Ask Kayla, ask Travis, ask Marti, ask Ronda. The story is always the same," USA Judo doesn't have a plan!"

Under their current system, they never will.

. There were some bright spots at the Spring meeting The Board of Examiners meeting which I was assigned to attend. Unfortunately Nanka had no candidates being

promoted. This was because we did not have a meeting to discuss promoting anyone. We didn't have a viable chairperson. Our Nanka promotion committee is currently changing chairmanship. The new chair will most likely be sensei Verala. Once elected we will be having our meetings and promotions. If there are any candidates please submit them to the Nanka Office as soon as possible. Use the new form 20 that can be found on the USJF Homepage under promotions or forms. The Board of Examiners Chairperson, Mac Takeda's report can be seen on the USJF web page. There have been some new changes that make things more understandable.

On the cheerful side, Three cheers for Mickey Matsumoto, who was inducted into the USJF Hall of Fame. 8 times US Champion 4 time Police and Fire Games. He and fellow competitor Doug Tono were honored as competitors. More Information on The Nanka Judo Family Stories on the Nanka Website. Matsumoto sensei now joins other Nanka members: Seigo Murakami, Shig Tashima, Kenneth Kuniyuki, Hayward Nishioka, Hal Sharp, Tosh Seino, AnnMaria Burns, Ronda Rousey, and Maureen Brazil, as USJF Hall of Fame awardees.

Coaching and Teacher recertifications were also held with all attendees recertifying. A techniques session was held featuring Hector Estivez and other prominent 6ths and 7th dans. This was followed up on a subsequent day with competition Coaching strategies, discussed by Hayward Nishioka, former Chairperson of Coaching, 9th Dan.

In considering the National USJF Spring meeting it was a great success. Along with the Winter meeting in San Francisco it can be said that USJF judo is on the rise again. Membership has increased by about 2000 members and stands around 8000+ members. Delegates are coming back to face to face National meetings. New blood is being infused into the USJF with new and eager faces. Reports by all committees are very positive as is our finances. There is somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 million dollars + in reserve and our insurance package is the best of the three National organization's. There are plans being made for increase flow of tournaments as we are making plans to use SmoothComp for all USJF tournaments. More responsibilities seem to be shifting toward the yudanshakai's with services more accessible to the individual dojos. Terri at the National Office will be helping out for about 5 or 6 months before really retiring. There are new office staff members. The main sticking point is USA Judo method of stealing of our membership by forcing the issues of insurance and memberships. XXX