

From the President's Desk

ATJA Newsletter

Charles Schweizer: ATJA President

October 2018

To the ATJA Membership,

This is my first newsletter as President of the ATJA, and a lot has changed since I took office on June 22, 2018. First, I would like to thank the former President, Mr Peter Contardo, who stepped down as president after serving for 3 years and leading the organization to A level status in USA Judo. I would like to thank him for his tireless service to the membership and clubs of the ATJA, and all the hard work in bringing us to where we are as an organization.

At the Board of Directors meeting in June, the BOD first voted to approve my becoming a member and then second to vote unanimously in favor of my appointment to the office of President.

For those who do not know me, I run a large club in New York, the West Hempstead Judo Club. I am a Continental Coach with USA Judo, an IJF-B Referee, as well as a certified Kata Instructor. I have been training in martial arts since 1989 and hold a 5th Degree Black Belt in Judo, a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Ju-Jitsu, and a 1st Degree Black Belt in Ronin-Do-Ryu (a samurai art). I have been training for almost 30 years. I had served and been a member of the USJA for over 25 years before leaving them for the ATJA. In the USJA I was Chairman of the Technical Officials Committee, Vice-Chair of the Referee Committee, and a member of the Coaching, Kata, and Scholastic Committees. When I came to the ATJA, I was invited to serve on the Referee, Coaching, and Kata committees and eventually I was named as Co-Chair of the Judo Division.

My goals for the ATJA are to increase our membership with Ju-Jitsu and Judo clubs. Actively work to develop and implement coaching, referee, and kata certification programs, and seek recognition within USA Judo of our programs and certifications. I will actively seek agreements with any and all Judo and Ju-Jitsu organizations, in order that there can be more participation from our members in other clinics, and tournaments. I would like to see the promotion of Ju-Jitsu to Judo clubs so that they can see what the parent art of Judo is all about and how it influenced the techniques of Judo.

I would like to welcome all of the new clubs and members that have come on board in the last year, and all of the new members who have given the ATJA a chance to serve their needs and not just the needs of a few members as is sometimes the case in other National Organizations.

The ATJA has the lowest membership and promotion fees. We do not charge “processing fees” for promotions and we provide every member with a Photo Membership Card and Printed Certificates of Promotion. We are able to keep costs down by looking into better ways of meeting the needs of our members through finding the best value for the money that is spent on insurance. As well as the hard work of volunteers who provide service to our members.

I would like to thank Barry Stebbins who continues to work above and beyond, processing the memberships, promotions, and printing certificates and memberships cards and getting these items out to the membership in a timely fashion. All of these things are accomplished not with a large staff, but through the selfless help of volunteers.

I would like to thank Patrick Hedgepath and the IT Committee for the fabulous new web-site. Where memberships, promotions, and background checks can be processed on-line. As well as news, events, and information can be gotten to the membership and potential members in a very easy and well thought out manner.

This past August 4, in Atlanta, Georgia: Mr. Joshua White and the members of Black Ice Dojo, put on a well run National Championship for the ATJA and AJJF. The tournament hotel, the venue, and the tournament drew 150 competitors Juniors, Seniors, and Masters. The competition was of a very high level and the matches were competitive and exciting.

The Board of Directors had a chance to meet and discuss a number of items. Of these members I can say they are all passionate, hard working, and self-less in their drive to promote Ju-Jutsu and Judo and make the ATJA a great organization.

Lastly, I wish to thank the Board of Directors for placing their trust in me. I will work tirelessly for the membership and the organization to help our organization continue to grow and aid in the development of Ju-Jutsu and Judo across the United States. I am always available if you have questions and I can be most easily reached by email at esg939603@yahoo.com.

Sincerely
Mr. Charles Schweizer
ATJA President