

## From The President's Desk

Mr. Charles Schweizer  
ATJA President

February 16, 2020

I know this is a little late, but there has been a lot going on. Another year has flown by and we have a number of accomplishments to relay to the membership.

The ATJA continues to grow, we have picked up a few more clubs and now have a total of 36 clubs throughout the United States. With an increase in clubs, our membership numbers continue to grow as well.

We are working on adding some new features to the web-site, more information will be provided as soon as we are ready to roll it out.

In accordance with USA Judo, we are updating the website with regards to Background Screening, as the old forms will no longer work and must now be done on-line (the process is fairly simple).

Once again, the ATJA/AJF Nationals were a big success, special thanks to Mr. Joshua White and all of the hard work that he (and his many volunteers) did to set up and run the event, which included a training camp.

Work continues on the development of our Coaching, Kata, and Referee programs, which the ATJA hopes to have fully in place by the Greatest Camp on Earth, in North Carolina, June 25-27.

I had the pleasure of attending the Greatest Camp on Earth last year, and for those who haven't gone, it is amazing. Multiple classes on Ju-Jutsu and Judo, including, Ju-Jutsu, Kansetsu-Waza, Kata, Refereeing, Coaching, and Competitor Style Training, as well as Therapeutic Massage. As well as a number of techniques and training methods from various guest instructors.

This past November 22, I traveled to Dallas, Texas with Carl Hayes for a meeting with the USA Judo Promotion Committee and the Executive Committee, the purpose of which was to get USA Judo to grant rank recognition to ATJA Judo Ranks. I am pleased to report that for the first time in our organizations history, we now have Rank Recognition from USA Judo for Ranks up to Sandan. This is a huge step forward for the ATJA. As time goes on we will continue to work on getting ranks up through Godan recognized.

Lastly, it is my pleasure to announce that the ATJA has received a \$10,000 endowment from Ms. Karen Martensen-Fodor, the widow of one of our Founding Members Mr. Gene Fodor. This endowment will be utilized to continue the work of and in honor of Mr. Gene Fodor and all he did for the ATJA, Ju-Jutsu and Judo. A committee is being established to determine how best to utilize these funds for the benefits of our members. We cannot thank Ms. Martensen-Fodor enough for this gift and all of the work that can be done to further the ATJA, Ju-Jutsu, and Judo.