



Please reply to: Mr. Dragan Kljenak
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Hello Everyone,

I do apologize for this rather delayed address to the membership at large. We have been so immersed in resolving day to day operations that we simply have not had enough time to address the new program until now.

As the second time elected President of Karate Ontario my objective is to ensure that our new administration once again sets a scrupulous standard as a hard working and result-oriented body.

The new Board of Directors has been elected by the membership in unison. We are continuing in a direction that is dedicated to constructive work and the spirit of cooperation. In order to achieve these goals, we will certainly need understanding and help from all our members: our organization is based on volunteers contributing their effort and precious time.

I would like to thank everyone from the previous administration for all of their hard work and dedication, especially the committees (standing as well as temporary ones) that have provided a great deal of guidance and expertise for the betterment of Karate Ontario during their mandate.

There are a few very important points I would like to make at this time. Currently, we are planning to adopt a general direction to continue the positive development of our organization. I believe that aside from regular "maintenance" of KAO, fresh initiative and a certain dose of leadership is necessary for progress.

Listed below are some of the challenging initiatives that we have already initiated or plan to accomplish, in a particular order.

LTOD

I hope that in the broad sense of the word, our visibility and strong presence in the public eye will significantly increase. We have a responsibility, as the only government recognized sport karate governing body, to raise public awareness regarding our role. This, we plan to achieve through increasing the quality of karate instruction and sport competition provincially. We are systematically increasing the number of qualified officials in Ontario by implementing three year LTOD program with the help of significant “Trillium” donations. This has been achieved through our LTOD Commissionaire’s long and effortful initiative as well as the Officials Committee systematic approach to teaching required courses.

NCCP

Our NCCP program will have a substantial boost in 2011 particularly through the effort of our NCCP Committee. We intend to provide courses to our coaches throughout the year that will enable us to have at least the minimal required number of qualified coaches in all Karate Ontario clubs. The new Karate Ontario by-law states precisely that by the year 2012 any club may be denied registration unless all teaching instructors and coaches possess “Instructor-Beginner” NCCP qualification.

Toronto Community Centres karate instruction

There has been significant success in establishing constructive communication with the City of Toronto, Park and Recreation division, whereby they provide introductory courses in karate. This has been achieved through our Sport Council Commissionaire’s long and effortful initiative. Our main purpose was to firstly inform the public and offer our assistance in disseminating appropriate knowledge about our sport and martial art. We had earlier approached the City of Toronto offering partnership in karate program delivery. Our major goal was to increase general participation of the school age population in the martial art of karate as well as karate sport. The City of Toronto has recently established practice of the new karate instruction program which will be fully implemented by the year 2011. All the karate courses taught in community centres will be of an introductory nature only. Anybody seeking in-depth karate training will be directed to officially listed Karate Ontario registered clubs. If this practice takes root we will be in excellent position to approach other municipalities and further reaffirm our karate development role in our Province.

“Sponsor” membership category

Our contribution to physical development and general health of karate practitioners is not to be underestimated. The vigorous activity that karate requires, is self-evident: the benefit is recognized in all civilized societies. In these times, when various nations struggle with child obesity, we have a grand platform to point out our positive role in youth development. We have established a new category of membership in order to increase our role: The “Sponsor” category with affordable an membership fee of only 12\$ per calendar year enables our registered instructors in after school programs to legitimately provide service to schools. Further membership (categories) reforms are in preparation and will be communicated to all, after proposal is finalized.

Membership registration “Zero tolerance” policy

Karate Ontario should also find an appropriate way to establish the instruments that provide legitimate playing field for all our clubs. We have struggled for quite some time with uneven support from clubs that utilize the privileges that go with recognized membership, while not truly supporting our organization. There are clubs out there that truthfully always register all their members. There are some, however, that register only selective, minimal, numbers. This must stop. We are going to introduce the membership registration “Zero tolerance” policy where clubs that are found avoiding registration of all their members -as per our own by-laws- will be immediately suspended .

Our main sources of financial solvency are collected membership dues. Our budget and overall operation remains dependent on membership support.

Executive Director paid part-time position

We are planning to introduce a new, part time, paid position for a person, such that the Board and other volunteers will be better able to perform all their required duties. This position of ED will provide a real opportunity for volunteers to take part in decision making (on policies and perspectives) and the democratic governing process without spending endless hours on tedious, grinding, every day administrative tasks.

We hope that these ideas will find strong support among KAO members, and have a positive and lasting impact on our organization.

The membership at large is invited to contribute to our Karate Ontario. All interested parties have an opportunity to express their intention to participate, belong and contribute to Karate Ontario (listing relevant special qualifications or ability) through email or otherwise writing us. A willingness to volunteer for any of our future special projects can also be indicated through the same process.

Please send all your concerns by mail or e-mail to my attention. I am available to you by email karateontario@gmail.com or by calling my personal number 905.274.7852.

Dragan Kljenak
President KAO

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'mim' with a small dot above the second 'i'.