

OSJI Presidential Notes - January 2004

Another new year is here with the opportunity to build on the actions of last year and to undertake and accomplish those goals we had planned but not achieved. Participation is the key! Please let me know in which areas you would like more activity.

Reminder - Mark Hunter will be running a USJA Coach Certification Clinic Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004 in Findlay, OH. Check our web site or contact Mark for details.

Congratulations to Jim Starcher (the new OSJI Director of Operations) and Tom Jones (the new OSJI Director of Law & Legislation) on their election in December. Welcome to the OSJI Executive Committee.

A Judo Awards Dinner has been set for February 28, 2004 to provide a social opportunity to get better acquainted with other members of the judo community and to recognize the accomplishments during 2003 of some of Ohio's outstanding achievers. The dinner will follow the judo competition at our Open State Championships at Central Christian High School, Kidron, Ohio. We hope you and your family can attend. RSVP to Hannah Starcher prior to Feb. 19, 2004. Please see attached flyer and nomination form. This information can also be downloaded from the OSJI Website (<http://www.ohiojudo.org>). Categories are: Outstanding Junior Player, Outstanding Senior Player, Outstanding Coach, Outstanding Official, Outstanding Support Person, and Outstanding Parents. Nomination forms are due Feb. 7, 2004 and should be sent to Russ Scherer, 510 Silvercrest Terr., Dayton, OH 45440.

State Championships set for February 28, 2004. Again this year the OSJI State Championships will be open to competitors from surrounding states as well as all judoka within Ohio. The following divisions will be offered: Senior, Junior, High School, Middle School (a new national competition to be conducted with the H.S. Nationals) and a Development Division (for Orange Belts and below who have been in 4 or less tournaments). Details will be forthcoming shortly. Check the OSJI Web Site often - this info, as well as a lot of other useful info, will be/is posted there. Remember Points toward the OSJI Travel Team are awarded at our State Senior and Junior divisions, as well as the Rock & Roll Classic and the Flag City Invitational.

Plans are being made to take the OSJI Travel Team to the Liberty Bell Classic in Philadelphia, March 27-29, 2004. We are also looking into an additional trip later this year. Check the current status of the OSJI Team Standings. They are posted on the OSJI web site.

Please remember to register your club for 2004. Contact Jim Starcher for registration materials. Remember, your club instructor is required to be a certified coach or teacher through the USJI, USJA, or USJF in order to register your club with the OSJI.

During the December meeting we changed one of the requirements to receive funding from the OSJI. As you know, support funding to the Senior Nationals, National Junior Olympics and National High School Championships is granted to OSJI players as a result of their placement at the OSJI Open State Championships in these respective divisions. In the past a player had to be a member of OSJI for the

current and immediately preceding year in order to be eligible for funding. This was changed to only requiring OSJI membership (or application for membership) prior to the start of the qualifying event. This should qualify more players for such support.

Keep in touch,
Russ Scherer
President OSJI