

International Seito Karate Kenyukai

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To all prospective Members,

We wish to present you with the following proposal, and ask you to consider membership in a newly formed karate “study group”, titled the “*International Seito Karate Kenyukai*”. First and foremost I want to let you know that we, (all karate-ka) need to continually move forward, seeking new opportunities to promote our chosen art’s, while continuing to expand our technical knowledge by training and sharing with other like minded martial artists. I hope that you will take the time to look at what we can offer you as a member of this study group, and how we can offer it at a very low, to even “no” cost to you.

Most of us in the course of our studies, have found that we are forever learning, and feel that sharing/exchanging knowledge is the fastest way to improve and develop our current technical database. The *International Seito Karate Kenyukai* seeks to provide a relationship where all Members and Instructors are treated as equals, not subordinates. We also maintain a close relationship with many other quality Karate organizations. This helps to ensure that our Study Group is also continuously within a “development and learning” state at all times. At this time we are proudly associated with many excellent, and highly knowledgeable karate-ka from around the world, and as a “Study Group”, hope to attract even more members due to the non-political nature of our organization.

We also own and maintain the website at www.seitokarate.com which will provide you with additional information about our group, and many of our friends, affiliates, and other association’s. We will also maintain a Yahoo! Group for online chats, archives, photos, and most importantly, the website will provide a secured link to a full compliment of mpeg recorded kata and their respective bunkai/oyo/henka. This will provide a wealth of information on the many styles of “seito” or “true” karate (provided by our many members around the world). This feature will allow us to compare notes and teach and learn from each other no matter the location of the contributing party, or the member wishing to learn from the provided information.

This is a “lifetime” membership program, hopefully providing you an important opportunity to network with some very highly qualified individuals, at a truly respectable cost to you. The fees are set up to never “cost” more than \$45.00 US for a “lifetime” membership. The website will be password protected so that only members may have access to the training areas provided by our other members. It will be somewhat of a virtual Dojo, with some of the best teachers in the world at your fingertips, twenty-four hours a day, and seven days a week.

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The Big Question: What about Rank?

One important issue to bring to the forefront is that we are not a Rank Mill, or a cheap opportunity to get a promotion to an un-realistic rank. The **ISKK** will however, issue Rank Certification up to the rank of **Hachi-dan**, 8th Degree and/or Rank Recognition, up to the **Ju-dan** or 10th Degree Black Belt level, to all who are legitimately qualified. We will also issue **Title Authority** to those qualified, including the Titles of **Renshi** (represented by one gold stripe on each side of the black belt, as is current fashion in Okinawa), **Kyoshi** (represented by two gold stripes on each side of the Black Belt and only after a minimum of five years as Renshi), and **Hanshi** titles (represented by three gold stripes on each side of the Black Belt). The Black/Red/White, Red/White, and Red ceremonial Obi's are also acceptable for all with **Title Authority**. All Rank and Title "Certification" will follow the Internationally excepted guidelines of the **Dai Nippon Butokukai** and/or **IMAF**, the International Martial Arts Federation, and will be issued "only" on recommendation and confirmation by the **International Yudansha Grading Committee**, which will be composed of no less than three **Shihankai** members, who must confirm at a rate of no less than unanimous.

In the event that a member is requesting a style specific Rank advancement, the member shall by necessity work under the direct guidance of a qualified ISKK Instructor Member of the desired specific style. After successfully completing the required testing criteria, and upon recommendation of the Shihankai and the International Yudansha Grading Committee, the new rank shall be ratified by the ISKK, and the appropriate certificate issued.

Rank Recognition certificates however, are based on current Rank at the time of joining (or later, if you are promoted within your current system/style), or can be issued after a successful completion of a non-style specific testing and evaluation process conducted by the International Yudansha Grading Committee, and approved by the Shihankai.

We have established the guidelines above in an attempt to maintain legitimacy for all, and to deflect any negative politics associated with other Organizations who may or may not reflect our same moral and/or professional attitudes. This is not an association simply to provide rank, but it is an attempt to establish a **Fraternal Organization** of serious Karate practitioners, regardless of style and/or affiliation.

The **International Seito Karate Kenyukai** will be professionally directed by the members of the **Administrative Counsel**. Regional and/or State Representatives, **or "Shibu-cho"** will act as head council for their respective territories, whether in the USA or abroad. **Shibu-cho** never pay for anything after their initial **Membership** fees, as they represent the **ISKK**, and all of our services are free to them including all Rank and Title updates etc.

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We will provide the following *Membership* types:

Charter Dojo Membership Option # 1: allows the instructor to continue teaching his own syllabus, while providing them the opportunity for Rank Advancement, and opening other opportunities for continued learning and networking with other like minded Instructors. Cost is US\$150.00 for ***Lifetime Membership*** and includes Membership/Rank/Title Certificates, and Dojo Charter Certificate, and 10 Mudansha/Kyu Membership Packages to sell at \$25.00, which makes a profit of \$100.00 for the Instructor. Add'l Student Membership Packages (see below) as needed for US\$25.00 each. ***Charter Dojo Membership*** in the ***ISKK*** doesn't cost.....it pays.

Charter Dojo Membership Option # 2: same as above, but does not include the 10 Mudansha/Kyu Membership Packages. Cost is US\$45.00 for ***Lifetime Membership*** and includes the Membership/Rank/Title Certificate and the Dojo Charter Certificate. This option allows the Instructor to Charter his Dojo, while not having to register any students within his/her Dojo.

Yudansha (Black Belt) Individual Lifetime Membership: allows individual Black Belts with or without schools the opportunity to network and receive all ***ISKK*** benefits including Rank/Title Advancement as needed. The cost is US\$45.00 for a ***Lifetime Membership*** and includes Membership/Rank/Title Certificates for the rank at time of joining.

Mudansha (Kyu Grade Student) Memberships: allows colored belt students, who may or may not be currently enrolled in a formal school to continue learning and networking with other martial artists, and allows them the opportunity to test at member schools or at the annual Seminars in order to continue their advancement toward Black Belt. The cost is US\$25.00, and has no expiration date until upgrading as a ***Yudansha Lifetime Member*** (\$20.00 upgrade fee). This includes Membership and Rank Certificates, for the rank at the time of joining. When upgrading it will include the Yudansha certification.

Promotion/Advancement Certificate Packages: Mudansha/Kyu grade advancement packages are available to all ***Instructors***, for any member assigned to his/her Dojo. The cost is US\$10.00 per Certificate Package and includes Certificate and a signed Letter of Congratulations from the Hombu Dojo. Yudansha/Dan grade advancement packages are available as well, with the cost set at US\$25.00 for all Dan grades, and include the Rank Certificate, Title Certificate (if appropriate), and the Letter of Congratulations from the Hombu Dojo. *Testing Fees at each Dojo are set by the Dojo's themselves and are at the discretion of each Sensei. These packages are purely optional, at your request, for any member of the ISKK.*

Note: ***All ISKK Title, Dan and Kyu grade Certificates are 11x17 and high Japanese quality, translated in both English and Japanese.***

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Compensation for undue Expenses

As the **ISKK** is not a profit driven organization, the ISKK may provide the Chairman, members of the Shihankai, and the Regional Shibu-cho, periodic re-imbusement of any “approved” expenses incurred for, or at the direction of the ISKK.

State/National/International Level Seminars

State/National/International Seminars are where the **ISKK** provides to each Student, Instructor and the Membership as a whole, the opportunity to learn, share knowledge, and to participate in Dan/Kyu Testing for themselves and their students. All Dan Grade Testing, when needed can be video transferred to the **International Yudansha Grading Committee**, for approval of requested grade, and issuing of appropriate Certification.

It is also an opportunity for the “Bucho” members to earn income for their sponsoring Dojo’s, and if desired, to bring in special seminar guest Instructors.

We will also provide all members the opportunity to advertise their own local tournaments, seminars, and other special events, in hopes that we might assist you in maximizing your events potential for success.

Conclusion

This is to be a quality organization, built on a quality foundation, and built to last for the long haul. We will never play games or play politics on any issue or on any front. We will “except” formal recommendations on any subject, from any member, at any time. We may then ask for opinions, and we may even conduct polls to determine the positive and or negative feedback from the membership at large. We will do our best to administer this organization without the use of voting, as voting equals politics, and this is not a politically motivated Organization. Our Organizational Structure will be made up of the **Administrative Council**, the **Shinhankai** and the **International Yudansha Grading Committee**, all whom also hold the positions of “**Shibucho**”, and one **Honorary Association Chairman, or “Kaicho”**, none of which has any legal authority over the **ISKK** itself. The **ISKK** is a registered; US domiciled LLC, or Limited Liability Company.

This organization is founded on one guiding principle and that is the study, and sharing of **REAL KARATE**. With that in mind we will never tolerate a member who is not acting in accordance to the maxims of Karate, especially in reference to **Respect**. All members will be expected to respect the differences of opinion of other members, and to agree to disagree when differences of opinion arise.

If you are interested in Membership, or a position in any administrative capacity please contact us immediately, as areas are assigned on a first come first serve basis, and of course we welcome all other inquiries about membership as well. Call me direct at 910-309-3666 or contact us via the e-mail link at www.seitokarate.com

*Thank you,
Bud Morgan, Go-Dan
ISKK Yudansha*