

International (Kokusai) Seito Karate Kenyukai

From: ISKK Administrative Counsel;

United States/American Hombu/Headquarters: c/o Shihan Bud Morgan, ISKK Godan (seitomail@seitokarate.com)

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To: All Prospective Members

From: ISKK Administration

We wish to present you with the following proposal, and ask you to consider membership into a truly, high quality karate “study group”, properly titled the “International (Kokusai) Seito Karate Kenyukai”, or the ISKK for short. We are represented throughout the world by many highly qualified, traditional karate teachers.

First and foremost we want to let you know that we, (all ISKK karate-ka) have the responsibility 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.

We 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 currently offer it at a very low lifetime price of only \$55.00 USD, which is used simply to defer shipping and production charges of our Benefits Packages. In the future, if the World’s economic situation dictates, we will only on necessity ever raise the pricing to reflect the absolute smallest of increases possible in order to continue providing the same level of service we have always provided.

This is truly a no profit organization, and always has been, yet our membership includes and seeks the most utmost respectable and capable karate-ka in the world.

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 (Kokusai) Seito Karate Kenyukai seeks to provide a relationship where all Members and Instructors are treated as equals, not subordinates. Of

course respect is important, and all members understand this is a simple requirement in all karate environments, including our own.

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”, we hope to attract even more members due to the non-political nature of our organization. Truly we are here to share the historical and technical sides of karate, from as many legitimate directions as possible.

We were founded on February 11th, 2006 on the first of our web groups which was hosted on Yahoo Groups. 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 Private Forum for registered Members only, while exercising our existence on both the Yahoo Group and Facebook for online chats, archives, photos, and general information and sharing. We are in the process of establishing a private library of articles for members to download at any time they wish.

Most importantly, our desire is to develop and provide to the members via the Forum, a secured link to a full compliment of mpeg recorded kata and their respective bunkai, oyo, and henka. This will provide a wealth of information on the many styles of 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. Most importantly it will be private, and viewable only by our ratified members, who hold a "Certified" membership level.

This is a to be 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. Additional supplies, certificates etc. may incur small fees to cover the individual order and shipping charges, but are also maintained at no profit per ISKK design parameters.

The Forum 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 and a Library, with some of the best teachers in the world at your fingertips, twenty-four hours a day, and seven days a week.

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. Period.

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 as deemed appropriate by the ISKK Shihankai.

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 Renshi Belt, the Red/White Kyoshi Belt, and the Red Hanshi 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, and 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 ISKK 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 (Kokusai) Seito Karate Kenkyukai will be professionally directed by the members of the Administrative Counsel.

Certified Dojo Sensei will at the discretion of the Shihankai be designated as **Dojo-Cho**, while other Sensei ranked at Sandan, 3rd Degree Black Belt and above may be designated as **Shibu-cho** or Regional and/or State Representatives. All **Shibu-cho** will act as head council for their respective territories, whether in the USA or abroad. Should a certain area of the globe not have a qualified Sandan to act in the capacity of Shibuchō, at the discretion of the Shihankai, a special appointment of a Nidan candidate may be considered for that Region.

The **Shihankai** will be made up of Certified Yudansha Members who hold a minimum of the rank of Godan, 5th Degree Black Belt and will make the major decisions for the group as a whole. Our trust is in their hands.

All ISKK Lifetime members who hold the distinction of Dojo-cho, Shibu-cho, or Shihankai membership must understand that while these titles were awarded on your distinction, and on your Karate resumes.....it is imperative that you have a true desire to move the ISKK forward in its endeavors.....we need you to fully participate in the roles you have been given. We are always aware that many will have the responsibility to grow your own organizations as well, yet we all need to at least find and sponsor one or two new members a year.

If after a period of time the office holder has shown no desire to promote the activities and growth of the ISKK, he may be removed by a majority vote of the Shihankai. We truly hope this never happens, yet the growth of the ISKK depends on your involvement.

Should a member of the ISKK, for any reason discredit the ISKK by his actions, he may be expelled by a majority vote of the Shihankai. Lesser offences could result in temporary suspension, but would again require a majority vote of the Shihankai.

MEMBERSHIPS:

We will provide the following ISKK membership types:

General Lifetime Membership (for both Mudansha and Yudansha): this membership level is designed to allow "any" interested party to join the Kokusai Seito Karate Kenkyukai, and to receive a Recognition of their current "Mudansha-kai" status, or if you are a Black Belt, the "Yudansha-kai" status via our Beautiful ISKK Menjo/Certificate, as well as the Kenkyukai's Official Patch, and access to all other member benefits at this level. The cost is US \$35.00

Certified Yudansha (Black Belt) Individual Lifetime Membership: this 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 \$55.00 for a Lifetime Membership and includes Membership/Rank/Title Certificates for the rank at time of joining. It is required that members in this setting will provide all copies of their current rank credentials, and go through the required vetting process.

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 or a General Lifetime Membership (\$30.00 upgrade fee). This membership level will include the 11x17 Membership/Mudansha Certificates and an ISKK patch.

In order to serve the Dojo's of our members, Mudansha/Kyu Grade Rank Certificates are available to "all Certified Members" at any time for your ISKK registered students and can be fully filled out, endorsed by the Shihankai, and stamped with all of the ISKK Hanko stamps and mailed for \$10.00 each including shipping and handling.

Note: All ISKK Title/Dan grade Certificates are Hand Crafted Menjo, 11x17 in size and of high Japanese quality, translated in both English and Japanese. All Kyu Grade Certificates are printed 8 1/2 x 11 inches in size, and includes the Official ISKK Logo. Both include all Hanko stamps, and Shihankai signatures.

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 a modest 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.

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 "accept" 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 Shihankai and the International Yudansha Grading Committee, (all whom may also hold the positions of “Shibu-cho”) along with the designated Shibu-cho and Dojo-cho assigned to positions around the globe. We will also have an available position for one Honorary Association Chairman, or Kaicho.

It should be noted that none of the Positional Authority positions shall have any legal authority over the ISKK itself. The ISKK is a registered; US domiciled LLC, or Limited Liability Company, and ultimately will be legally maintained by the Administrative Council.

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 of assignment are available around the globe.

Of course we welcome all other inquiries about membership as well. Contact us via the e-mail link at www.seitokarate.com

Thank you,

Bud Morgan, Godan, ISKK Shihankai