



Albany Council of
Traditional Karate-Do
Organization, Inc

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AC-TKO NEWSLETTER

"2nd Annual Winter Festival and Mayor's Cup Tournament A Success!"

Our Second Annual Winter Festival & Mayor's Cup Tournament was held this past December at the Albany School of Humanities (ASH). Over 160 athletes were in attendance for this day long event while parents, siblings and friends came out to watch and cheer! This tournament is a great



2006 Mayor's Cup Karate Tournament - 2nd Annual Winter Festival

1st time experience for our new white belts. It gives them the opportunity to experience what a karate tournament is all about and helps them to prepare for the upcoming regional and national tournaments. Last year, we had several new white belts compete and medal at the National AAU Tournament in Miami, Florida....and this Mayor's Cup Tournament helped them on their way!

Also at this year's tournament Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings was in attendance to help kick off the event and present our own Brandon Abdullah with an Award for his participation in the World AAU Tournament. The tournament was a big success and we hope all had a great time. See you next year!

WORLD CUP- Germany 2006

Brandon Abdullah was again chosen to participate in the World Cup this year and be a part of the team to represent the United States in Germany. Along with Brandon, Kristen Dawson and Matt Chow were chosen. These students had to endure an extensive try-out in Florida the day after Nationals along with hundreds of other athletes trying to make it onto this US Team. Brandon and Matt were fortunate to be able to participate and travel to Germany in October and be a part of this team. Brandon won first place for his team in the Kumite Division. This is Brandon's second year participating in the World Cup and both times he has proved that he truly is a "Champion". This was Matt's first year ever competing in the World Cup where he participated and brought home a new experience and wonderful time from another country and culture.

"GIVE BACK"

In the last couple of months, our students have participated in various activities in the community, to help give back. They have participated in the Juvenile Diabetics Walk-a-thon, the Breast Awareness Walk-a-thon and most recently some volunteered their Sunday to participate at Equinox for the Thanksgiving holiday. These students took time out of their schedules to help those who are less fortunate, whether by obtaining donations, walking 5 miles, or peeling carrots. We dressed up in our team jackets and as group participated and represented AIJK/ACTKO in these events. The CEO of the Juvenile Diabetics Walk-a-thon in September was taken aback with our kids and school that he came over to our group and thanked us personally for participating and helping the children. He appreciated that our kids took time out to help others.

We want to thank all students who participated in this event and invite others to participate as well.

A Word From the Board

The Board of Directors (Shihan, Joseph Sorce and Jenneane Butler) would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! With this New Year, we will be embarking on an exciting time and journey. The Albany Council of TKO, Inc. is excited to announce there will be upcoming changes you will be noticing throughout the dojo as well as all the programs. These new changes are aimed at creating a constructive environment, which will work more efficiently, and effectively to meet your needs.

The goals of the BOD are focused on bringing together one organization working as a unified team within the community. The directors will continue to build on their vision of an organization reaching as many kids in the community as possible.

This New Year is a year of change for everyone involved in this organization. Shihan is more focused on teaching traditional Karate-Do. The CEO, Mr. Sorce (Joe), is focused on bringing technology to support the business end of the organization to fruition. AC-TKO, the City of Albany and Albany CVB have submitted a proposal to bring the 2008 Karate Nationals to the City of Albany for the first time ever. The BOD will continue to seek sponsorships as well as grants to aid in our programs' growth.

This year, 2007, The Board of Directors has charged the Executive Board with:

1. creating a functional website that will have dates, times, meetings, seminars, clinics, and more;
2. develop an active email database for blast emails to disseminate information in a timely fashion;
3. an increased and organized communication network so information flows easily;
4. ordering equipment will be streamlined to meet the athletes as well as the parent's needs;
5. distribution of a monthly Newsletter ;
6. an increased presence as well as accessibility to the board members

It is an exciting year in front of us --- Keep your eyes open... get involved and participate... for this is the year of change and growth.

Thank you and we look forward to working with everyone in the near future.
The Board of Directors

Nationals 2007

The hotel we will be using for Nationals this year is the **Sundance Plaza Hotel in Winston-Salem, NC** www.choicehotel.com. Check in date is the week of Sunday June 24th and the check out date is Sunday, July 1, 2007. We have 25 rooms blocked, with 18 non-smoking and 7 smoking. All rooms have refrigerators, microwaves and Internet access and continental breakfast. The rate per night is \$101.68 including taxes.

Parents we are asking you to please contact either Katja Higgins or Cyndi McKeehin with questions and payments at 436-3411 or via email at D1esq77@aol.com to book your room. This will allow us to determine if we need to get more rooms, if necessary. Katja and Cyndi are also available for air fares, for those who are thinking about flying. Should anyone need to personally talk to Katja or Cyndi, their office is located at 1141 B Central Avenue, next door to Carbonic beverages.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and we look forward to having one of our best Nationals yet!

Upcoming Events:

Blackbelt Dinner – March 10, 2007

Association Tournament – March 24, 2007

Regionals – April 14 & 15, 2007

April 2007 – March of Dimes Walk-a-thon

ASH Annual BBQ – June 8, 2007

Nationals 2007 – June 25 – 30, 2007

Thank You Students!

Special thanks are due to the following: Brandon Abdullah and Matt Chou for participating in the World Cup in Germany this year.

All students who participated in the Juvenile Diabetes and Breast Awareness Walk-a-thon and Equinox.

Everyone for participating in Toys for Tots Donation. All parents and volunteers for participating in the Mayor's Cup Winter Festival Tournament.

****ACT-KO Board Members:** President: Jerome Culler
Vice President: Shawn Sorce Secretary(s): Isabel Laboy and Michele Fields
Treasurer: Elizabeth Alexander
Members: Maryanne Butler and Kriste White