

From the desk of the Paul Jordan - November 20, 2012

First, I'd like to thank Konan and its Executive Committee for the opportunity to participate in Dallas at the USJF strategic planning session for building dojos from the ground up, Oct. 31-Nov 1.

Having ideas of my own on how to start and build a judo club from the ground up, I was very interested in learning new techniques on how to build and expand not only my club, but importantly, all clubs in the Konan Yudanshakai.

The facilitator of this event, Roy Kawaji, owner of Portland Judo in Oregon, was very articulate, witty and has a personality that would attract you to become fully engaged with his presentation.

Day 1 started out with activities that require you to engage outside most comfort zones. Sitting with people you don't know (pretending they weren't judo people), finding out their likes and dislikes and DO NOT talk anything judo. But that didn't last long seeing somehow I always went back to judo. Activities like these reminded me that I do need to reconnect and solidify relationships with athletes and parents.

All activities presented took an opportunity to look at or lack of my, our communication skills, goals for our clubs and positive aspects of your club. One activity that I greatly appreciated had to deal with specifics of your club:

List 3 things about your club that you are proud of.

List 3 goals of your club.

List 3 challenges of your club.

At first glance this activity looks relatively easy. When I started, it became apparently more difficult than it looked. I did indeed spend a little more time on this. Re-evaluating goals, challenges must be done more often especially at my club if I expect to continue to grow.

There were a lot of great ideas that were shared and discussed. There are a number of these ideas I will be implementing @ CTB West along with policies that I will no longer use.

USJF, Kevin Asano and Roy's mission is simple and straight forward as long as I'm (we) are willing to make very simple changes, we will see our clubs start to grow. And when we see growth in clubs we will see growth in USJF. There are also the downfalls of judo clubs and they will always be there. Generating money is always the biggest issue and lack of adjustment is another. If we are not willing to change, then be prepared for nothing else to change.

All in all it was time well spent to expand the face of Judo and USJF Judo. I would be glad to talk with other clubs that want to ask questions about this conference, or discuss some ideas they have that were successful practices and learn from things that I have done that I had to fix, or change.

Respectfully,

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