

# The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

The Taekwon-Do Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. The Editor is F.M. Van Hecke. The mailing address is P.O. Box 953, Grafton, WI 53024. E-Mail [fmvh1@mac.com](mailto:fmvh1@mac.com). Archived at USTF Region III site [www.ustf-region3.org](http://www.ustf-region3.org) Persons submitting photographs, letters to the editor, reactions to published articles or articles will be deemed to have consented to their publication unless specifically specifying otherwise. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission prior to publication. Persons submitting materials represent that they have the right to publish the submitted materials and images and submit the same without seeking compensation.

## COMING EVENTS

On December 7, Senior Master **Paul White** will conduct an advanced Dan testing at Arvada, Colorado.

Also on December 7, in Sandy, Utah, **Dubbeld Taekwon-Do, Jeontong Taekwon-Do,** and **Community of Grace Taekwon-Do** will join forces for a Black Belt test. Testing for

First Dan, 5 candidates, for Third Dan, two candidates. And one Fourth Dan candidate and on for Seventh Dan Master!

Sr. Master **David Mason** will act as principle presider at a Black Belt testing on February 22nd in Washington State. Schools testing are **Mountain View Martial Arts, Bodystrong Taekwon-Do,** and **Valley View**



The Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin, held a gup level test on Monday, September 23. Presiding were Sixth Dans **James Pals** and **Mary Lubner**, Fourth Dans **Matthew Thur** and **Valerie Thur**, Second Dan **Ben Lorenz** and F.M. Van Hecke. At the Corner were First Dan **Vyshanth Selvakumar** and Gup Ones Dr. **Daniel Le** and **Vinh Le**.

Testing students achieved the following ranks: **Ai Vy**

**Le**, Gup 9 Yellow Stripe; **Vikranth Kallepu**, **Disha Talagapu**, and **Pardhu Kallepu**, Gup Six Green Belt; **Sashwath Suriyaraj**, **Pranay Balaji**, **Miles Krogman**, and **Saina Balaji**, Gup Two Red Belt. Congratulations to all.

On October 3 a “make up” gup level test was held at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton, Wisconsin. Presiding were Sixth Dans **James Pals** and **Mary Lubner**, Fourth Dan **Valerie Thur**, Second Dan **Gabe Peters** and Ninth Dan F.M. Van Hecke. At the Corners were Gup Ones **Khoi Le** and **Khai Le**. The following tested successfully to the following ranks: Gup Two, **Trishan Ghosh**; Gup Six, **Joshua Vizanko**, **Cora Vizanko**; Gup Eight, **Grace Vizanko**. Here, Cora Vizanko’s very first break (of many to come, we’re sure).



**Taekwon-Do.** Practitioners will test for First through Third Dan.

A Step Sparring Seminar will be held on April 5 at Kennesaw, Georgia. Promoter Mr. **Omar Welch**.

**AROUND THE COUNTRY**

On May 18, **Utah Chang Hun Taekwon-Do Alliance** hosted the 2024 **UCHTA Annual Utah Cup Invitational Tournament** at Salt Lake City. Hopefully some pics and info in the next Flash!

On June 1 in Salt Lake City the **Utah Chang Hun Taekwon-Do Alliance** held a Black Belt Testing. Hopefully some pics and info in the next Flash!

On July 27 **Sheridan YMCA Taekwon-Do** held a Black Belt test. Hopefully some pics and info in the next Flash.

The **Wyoming Invitational USTF Taekwon-Do Tournament** was held September 14 in Casper, Wyoming. Hopefully some pics and info in the next Flash!

A USTF Referee Seminar was conducted at Sereff Taekwon-Do on October

5. The Instructor was Grand Master **Kirk Steadman**. Hopefully some pics and info in the next Flash!

On October 17 **Saina Modak** and her sister **Saija Modak** tested successfully for Gup Two Red Belt at the Academy of Martial Arts Grafton dojang. Second Dan **Gabe Peters** presided.

Master Jeremy Bennett's **Senatobia Taekwon-Do** has scheduled a Black Belt test for November 2.

**Big Dog Taekwon-Do** will host a Black Belt Test in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 16.

Also on November 16 **New Life Taekwon-Do** will hold a testing for First and Second Dan candidates.

**Maestas Taekwon-Do** will host its Fall Black Belt Testing on November 24!

The October 12 Referee Seminar scheduled at **Marquette Taekwon-Do** was cancelled due to the instructor's coming down



On November 2 Casper, Wyoming was site of a USTF Referee course taught by Grand Master **Kirk Steadman**. Master **Anthony Giese** hosted the event at the National Guard Armory home of the **Steel Dragon** school. Over 40 attended the course with several new referees certified. To the right, Grand Master Steadman points out the most important tool in an umpire's toolbox.





A typical rainy day in the Pacific Northwest did not stop 31 students from 5<sup>th</sup> gup up to 8<sup>th</sup> Dan from converging in La Center, Washington for a Weapons Defense Course November 9. The course was organized by Mr **John Ragsdale**, 7<sup>th</sup> Dan candidate, and taught by Senior Master **Brandon Stoppani**. Students from **Mountain View Taekwon-Do**, **Bodystrong Taekwon-Do**, **Golden Tiger Taekwon-Do**, **Valley View Taekwon-Do** and **Next Level Taekwon-Do** were present. Master **James Brown** representing **Nenana Taekwon-Do** and serving as Alaska State Director was in attendance as well. All enjoyed 8 hours of instruction on defense tactics against knives, guns, sticks, and batons.



As anyone who has attended a seminar taught by Senior Master Stoppani could attest, sitting around is not in the lesson plan. There were various take downs including throws. Many agreed a highlight was the mock knife fight with a partner in which a rubber knife with chalk sent most of us home with colorful doboks! A particularly special moment was the presentation by Senior Master Mason to his student Senior Master Stoppani of a sword honoring Senior Master's Stoppani's promotion earlier this year to Senior Master! We all are thankful to the USTF for offering such quality instruction and look forward to 2025. [On left, Mr. Keith Walling contemplates how Senior Master Stoppani got him in this position.]

*Dr. Linda Allen, F.S.*



Sereff Taekwon-Do welcomed Mississippi, Nevada, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Utah to the **Sereff Taekwon-Do Championships** in Broomfield, Colorado on October 20. Pattern and Sparring competition and breaking teams went smoothly with Master **Jeremy Bennett** as the Tournament Director and Master **April Bowing** as our Chief of Referees and Grand Master **Ricky Todd** in charge of Breaking. Grand Champions of the event for Junior Black and Red Division was **Jacob Olsen** with **Karlee Benaviente Bosse** for the Color Belt Division.. Adult Black Belt Grand Champion was **Alex Bennett** and for Color Belt, **Kaasen Pass**.



Breaking team competition results for Juniors were,  
 Nevada Avalanche Golden Knights 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Colorado Maestas Cubs 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
 Thornton French Fries 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
 Thornton Nuggets 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Adult Breaking results were,  
 Sereff #1 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Maestas Big Bears 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
 Sin city Kickers 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
 Thornton Crushers 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Thank you to the officials who worked hard all day including Grand Masters, Sr. Masters and Masters . We look forward to next year’s Sereff Taekwon-Do Championship!

*Grand Master Renee Sereff, D.F.S.*



Some more photos from the Sereff Taekwon-Do Championships. Master Bennett, Master Bowling, and Mr. Prusinowski.



On November 21st, **Axe Taekwon-Do** in Bellevue, Nebraska conducted a color belt promotion testing. Students tested for various ranks from white belt yellow stripe through blue belt red stripe. The testing board was composed of Grand Master **Ricky Todd** 9th Dan, USTF Region 2 Director, Sr. Master **Kevin Bushor**, 8th Dan, USTF Nebraska State Director and Master **April Bowling**, 7th Dan. Mr. **Sean Toppi**, 5th Dan served as the testing director. The following students were promoted: Blue Belt Red Stripe: Ms. **Izabella Piele** and Ms. **Eva Graff**. Blue Belt: Mr. **Matthew Cordova**, Mrs. **Amra Graff** and Mr. **Logan DeVries**. Green Belt Blue Stripe: Mr. **James Williams**. White Belt Yellow Stripe: Mr. **Harrison Hammerling**. [Photo: the Group. Additional photos next page.]

*Grand Master Ricky J. Todd, D.F.S.*



Izabella Piele with downward knife hand break, left, and, below, Eva Graff with two board side piercing kick break on November 21 Axe Taekwon-Do promotion test.

