

State of Iowa Black Belt Association President's Annual Report – 2008

During my first year as president of the SIBBA, I have had the opportunity to work with a great group of people and have been very thankful and for the support, hard work and dedication of the Cabinet and Chairs. They have selflessly volunteered their time and have worked countless hours this past year to make the SIBBA a stronger organization and one that its members can be proud of.

One of our biggest accomplishments this year, as in all years since it began in the year 2000, was the annual Symposium. We offered some new classes in addition to some regular favorites and our attendance was up from the prior year.

While the Symposium is the main event that takes much of our time during the year, the SIBBA provides many other benefits to its members.

Some of these services are:

Nametags – for members to wear at testings and tournaments.

Merchandise – To raise money and promote martial arts, we sell a variety of apparel items, as well as neckties to wear at testings and tournaments and poomse DVDs and VHS tapes.

Newsletters – We publish a quarterly newsletter. Spring, Summer and Fall are posted online at the SIBBA website, and our Winter newsletter is printed and mailed in late December.

Scoreboards – We maintain an electronic scoreboard system that clubs can rent for tournaments.

Website – It has undergone extensive changes in the last few years and continues to be improved. In tandem with the educational mission of the SIBBA, our goal is to continue to improve it with educational info about the martial arts for members to access.

Scholarships – We offer three \$400 academic scholarships, one \$400 leadership scholarship, one \$150 Jared Ringstad Memorial scholarship and one \$250 Junior Olympic Scholarship, which we award at Banquet each year.

Referee Awards – Two awards: the New Referee Award and the Outstanding Service Referee Award are awarded each year at Banquet.

Delegates – Each martial art is represented by an SIBBA delegate who is your connection to SIBBA. I encourage you to contact your delegate with any ideas or comments you may have that will help us serve you better.

Goals for 2008

- To update our by-laws and other records so that we can apply for a higher level of non-profit organization recognition, which will allow us to raise more money and thus provide more services to our members.
- Continue to plan and hold the annual Symposium.
- To develop our fundraising and public relations efforts to support our scholarship program.
- To look for other ways to promote our mission of being an educational and professional organization that is focused on supporting and improving martial arts in the state of Iowa.

Elections and Our Future

This year several of our cabinet members are leaving to pursue other interests or take posts on the newly reintroduced State of Iowa Taekwondo Association, so we have several openings that need to be filled. While volunteering can take time, it can also bring a sense of pride in contributing to and furthering a worthwhile cause. The SIBBA is here to serve its members but can only do so with your help: not only by your membership, but also by your participation. The services we offer may not seem like much, but there is a lot of planning involved – especially with the Symposium – and we need all our posts filled in order to operate efficiently, continue to grow our organization and provide more benefits to our members. The agenda shows a list of who has been nominated and which positions are open. I hope that when we ask for nominations from the floor, that you will consider nominating yourself or someone in our audience.

Respectfully,
Linda Griffen