



BANDO



Greetings,

I hope 2021 is treating you all and your families well. Let us aim for a positive year where we can begin to get back to the things we love to do and the people we love to see. I would like to acknowledge the delay in updated information due to our online website changes. With that said, our organization is absolutely on my priority list. To welcome a new year, after a quite challenging one for many, I want to recognize the importance of our commitment to this great organization. The Bando organization is about you, the member, and the people we honor, such as the Veterans. To continue providing knowledge and to carry out our mission we need your continued, or new, support to survive as a strong organization. If you are able, the original membership dues fee of \$100 per year is greatly appreciated. However, because of COVID-19, the ABA/NBAA is happy to offer discounted dues. Dues will be a total of \$45 for a one-year membership until further notice, yet time sensitive, whether that be recurring or new. This is an especially great opportunity to grow our system with new members, as well as allow our current members to take advantage of monetary savings. It is my hope that we continue to develop into the strongest organization we can possibly be. These membership dues are essential for the growth of our system so we can offer trainings, events, and clinics, but most importantly, to honor the legacy of our great Grand Master and founder, Dr. U Maung Gyi. I would like to provide a special thank you to the following members who provided guidance and hard work on the online website updates: Eugene Johnson, Mark Clayton, Tristen Kirkman, James Witcher and Steve Anderson. Additionally, I would like to thank Bando Elder, Sayaji Steve Denty, for the suggestion of reduced ABA/NBAA dues because of the trying times of the pandemic, as well as encouraging new members to join our organization.

A new ABA/NBAA certificate has been created and has also been approved by Dr. Gyi, himself. The primary reason for the new certificate was to represent both the ABA and NBAA systems equally. The certificate has been a great way for members to become excited about something new. If you are interested in receiving one, please feel free to contact me at any time via email (most efficient, abanbaageorge@gmail.com) or phone. A strong supporter of this has been Sayaji Dave Decker. He has encouraged each of his school members to obtain certificates and update their dues. The ABA/NBAA thanks Sayaji Dave Decker and his members for their support, as well as other schools led by: Sayaji Gary Martin and Sayaji Mike Martin (Atlanta Bando), Sayaji Cordell Blackshire (Weirton Bando), Sayaji Dave Keeney (Connecticut Bando), Sayaji Dave Croft (Tennessee Bando), Sayaji Mike Decker (Cape Cod Bando), Sayaji Greg Cochran (Columbus Bando) and Wheeling Bando. I encourage each of you to consider upgrading your certificates as it represents both of our systems to include three phases of Dr. Gyi's life and his personal signature.

Many of you have probably heard about the crisis that is currently happening in Dr. Gyi's home county of Myanmar and the death of a Phoenix Taekwondo Club student, Kyal Sin. As a token of support, our organization agreed with the help of Sayaji Michael Martin and Sayaji Gary Layton, to present an honorary 1st Level Bando Black Belt in her memory.

Discussion regarding dates will be upcoming for future gatherings, whether that may be clinics/tournaments. The target date may be the last quarter of the year, such as Veteran's Day Weekend. This is not set in stone as we are still working through COVID-19, but likely. Plans for BOD and BOA meetings will be in the near future. Results of these meetings will be reported to the membership. Please be patient but know that personally I am eager to have some type of gathering for whatever purpose.





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Discounted Dues and Information:

- \$45 for one year
Discount available until further notice
Effective Immediately
- All instructors are asked to be current and should encourage all green belt and beyond students to contribute to our membership
Green belt and beyond contributions seem most appropriate as I feel at this point, he or she has decided that they want to continue within our system, gain the martial arts and outside knowledge and officially belong to the organization. Though, white belts may certainly contribute to hold membership as well
- If you are a current member and not ready to re-new your dues, you may still take advantage of this offer. If you choose to make a payment of \$45 now, your membership will continue until the month that you are due the following year. For example, if May 1st, 2021 is your current due date, your \$45 membership will be active until May 1st, 2022. So, you are simply renewing early, but not losing out on your membership

If there are any questions regarding this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me at abanbaageorge@gmail.com.

I hope all is well. I look forward to seeing old and new faces at near (hopefully) future Bando events. It cannot be promised that events will go on as usual, but I encourage you all to train as if they were. Our usual events occur in March, May, August, and November. Frank Benasutti has contacted me for his annual foundation camp to be held during the summer of 2021. Stay tuned and stay healthy.

Respectfully,
Jerry A. George
Current ABA/NBAA President

