

“The American Budo Society - What We’re About”

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Since the inception of The American Budo Society and our efforts to help martial arts instructors around the globe, we have continued to hear “horror stories” about the misdoings and misdeeds of other organizations. We are actually glad that we are in a position to help these people as well as others who are interested in sharing knowledge. It’s really quite sad that some people just can’t see what’s going on. They just don’t realize how they are being taken advantage of. But let’s be positive, shall we?

In the sense of fair play we will examine a few of the reasons other organizations give as justification for their exorbitant testing and certification fees. It is often said that members are paying for worldwide recognition- not just a piece of paper- when they pay the fees of many of these organizations. These are not just some local dojo rankings, they say. After all, anyone can print a certificate. True enough. Some say that the process is much like earning a college diploma, and that’s why it costs so much. Let’s examine this recognition a bit further.

The other day as I was walking down the street I saw a bird on a limb of a favorite tree. I knew it was a bird right away and I recognized it as such. I did not, however, feel the need to charge the bird for this recognition. You see, this recognition required little of me just as it requires little of an organization to recognize someone. You either do or you don’t. The certificate is proof of the recognition. If we think of the college comparison for recognition (and a diploma) we have to remember that the student pays thousands of dollars in tuition. The same way a martial arts student pays tuition to their local dojo. What they don’t have to do is cough up another thousand to get the diploma at the graduation ceremony!

Let's further explore legitimacy. The American Budo Society is not some local dojo. We currently have many schools nation-wide and are a rapidly growing organization. We have international affiliates and are recognized by several other national associations. In fact, our ranks are often recognized worldwide. Guru Ben Fajardo received teaching ranks from such greats as Richard Bustillo and Ron Balicki. He was even a chief instructor under Grand Tuhon Leo Gaje, Jr.

Consider the legitimacy of instructor/ member Prof. Robert Jones, the founder of the Wu Shen Pai Kenpo system. Prof. Jones teaches seminars all over the world and received his first black belt from the hands of the legendary Ed Parker. Need we say more?

The head of the A.B.S. is Professor William Rawls. Hanshi Rawls has taught Judo and Jujitsu since 1961. He was a student for many years of the great Grandmaster Leo D. Wilson (the founder of Shin Shin Jujitsu). If you're looking for a legitimate organization you've come to the right place!

Of course training is going to cost money, but charging hundreds of dollars for testing and certification is just not what we're about. Isn't that great? And we aren't just another website organization that gets you to join and then promptly forgets about you and your school. We do the right things for people, and that's why we continue to grow as an organization.

What about traveling to test in front of a board of directors? Many of our members have been down that road themselves in the past... but here's the thing: we would never charter an organization without being fully confident in that instructor's capabilities to rank his or her own students! If the instructor is qualified we see no point in the expense and problems of sending students to a board to test. Why would any organization do that? Could it be for money? You think? We believe in the autonomy of the local dojo.

Do we attend seminars? Yes. Do we cross train? Yes! Do we host seminars? Yes. Do we require attendance at our seminars to be promoted?

No way! Again, we believe in the autonomy of the local dojo. We are here to help you, not hurt you and your school.

Sometimes there is a bit of confusion about our organization because of the Japanese word "budo" in the name; but we are a multi-martial arts organization and we currently have at least 15 different arts under our umbrella. Should we have 15 different certifying boards to rank them? Hardly. And yet our ranks are recognized because our abilities are recognized. And we continue to work with other organizations to build trust and good will as well as working relationships. And this is only the beginning!

So what have you to fear? Won't you join us in our quest to share the knowledge and skills (and enjoyment) of the martial arts? Let us hear from you today!