



American Kenpo Karate Association Alphabet Soup

1st Degree Black Belt Thesis

Written by
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Thesis Proposal

American Kenpo Karate First Degree Black

Dennis Bechly

American Kenpo Karate Association Alphabet Soup

The above proposed title for my thesis refers to the numerous Kenpo associations that now exist. Ed Parker's International Kenpo Karate Association (IKKA), formerly the Kenpo Karate Association of America (KKAA) no longer holds dominion over the American Kenpo Karate world. With the death of Mr. Parker came the inevitable battles of ideas, politics, egos and greed which have seen the splintering of the Kenpo community into a wide array of separate associations. AKKI, AKKS, AKTS, IKCA, IKKA, IKKO, LTKKA, UKKA, WKKA are just to name a few. Some of these organizations work together and others do not.

As now a part of this Kenpo community, I am curious as to what associations are in existence and how they contribute to and organize the Kenpo world. Unfortunately, I have not found any one source that summarizes all of this information. This thesis will attempt to bring together that summary of the history, philosophy, current leaders, goals, membership requirements and contact points for many of the Kenpo associations. I plan to limit my research to the associations that are organized and operate mainly in the United States. Since I do not belong to any Kenpo association, I will attempt to make an objective summary for each of the associations that I research. I am not here to make a judgment as to the validity or value of any of these associations.

With the advent of the Internet, many of these associations have information accessible via the World Wide Web. I plan to make extensive use of this media for my research. In addition, I will use both email and standard mail to send out questionnaires to obtain information that is not posted on the Internet and to clarify any questions that come up while conducting my research. Books such as, "The Journey", Gilderoy Publications, and "Infinite Insights into Kenpo", by Ed Parker, will also be used as well as articles from various martial arts publications.

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Introduction

Edmund K. Parker was American Kenpo Karate. In 1958 he founded the Kenpo Karate Association of America as an organization to govern his students in the continental United States. When American Kenpo Karate grew to have an international following the KKAA evolved into the International Kenpo Karate Association.

The IKKA had oversight of the American Kenpo Karate world. Over time a few new affiliate organizations came into existence directed by some of Mr. Parker's senior students. But in the American Kenpo world, Senior Grand Master Ed Parker had the final word.

Mr. Parker's death in 1990 left a tremendous void in the leadership of American Kenpo. After his death, the battles of philosophy, ego and greed began. Numerous new associations were founded. Some evolved. Many disappeared. Even the IKKA itself, control of which fell to the Parker family, faltered over time and currently is in a questionable state of operation.

Today there is no shortage of associations devoted to the art of American Kenpo Karate. In fact, the number and varied philosophies of these organizations is the reason for this thesis. It will attempt to pull together a summary of the focus and membership requirements for many of the more well known associations. Each summary is limited to two pages to allow for a concise overview.

There is a highly dynamic nature to the current world of American Kenpo associations. Even over the last year, a number of associations have faded from existence and new ones have come to the forefront. The variety of focus of these organizations is almost as varied as the number. Some associations welcome all kenpoists while others require that members be exclusive to a particular association, curriculum or instructor lineage. There are significant curriculum differences between associations as well. Some associations are dedicated to the American Kenpo Karate taught by Senior Grand Master Parker while others are working to evolve it.

The acronyms for the names of the American Kenpo Karate associations along with their diverse make up form an alphabet soup of associations and ideas. The goal in producing this thesis is to obtain a better understanding of these current associations and how they fit into the art of American Kenpo Karate. This thesis works to summarize what these associations have to offer. No judgment is given to the validity of a particular philosophy or curriculum.

American Kenpo Federation



Mission Statement

The American Kenpo Federation is a service organization designed to help instructors and practitioners better teach and learn the American Kenpo System. We strive to build a relationship that is mutually beneficial for the AKF and its individual members, clubs, and studios. ¹

History

The American Kenpo Federation was founded by Brian Duffy (7th Degree Black Belt) who is it's current President. Mr. Duffy is a former Vice-President of the National Chinese Kenpo Karate Association and a former member of the IKKA.

Focus

The American Kenpo Federation uses the 16 technique per belt curriculum developed by Brian Duffy in the late 1980's. This curriculum does not delete any instructional material, but simply spreads it out over 2 more belt levels. This allows the student to learn all 154 base techniques, forms Short #1 through Long #4, as well as beginning and advanced sets by 1st Degree Black. Technique extensions and forms #5, #6 and #7 are taught at 2nd through 5th Degree Black Belt levels. All belt levels are laid out according to the Web of Knowledge. There is also an accompanying children's curriculum that allows for a smooth transition to the adult curriculum when the child graduates from kids classes. This curriculum was also presented to and approved by Senior Grand Master Parker for use in Mr. Duffy's studios. In fact, Mr. Parker sent this curriculum out to other studios that were interested in an alternative course of instructions.¹ Details on the AKF curriculum can be found on the AKF curriculum web page at www.akfkenpo.com/curriculum/index.html.

Clubs and Studios are expected to use the AKF curriculum. Individuals are expected to take instruction from Mr. Duffy or another AKF representative. AKF members are not allowed to accept rank from any other Kenpo organization or instructors. All testing for Black Belt level ranking will be held at the AKF annual training camp. Individual instructors with their own studios or clubs will test their own students.

Membership

The American Kenpo Federation does not require its member clubs and studios to register all of their students with the AKF. To be recognized as an AKF club a minimum of 3 student memberships are required to be sent in within 30 days and that amount must be maintained to remain a recognized club. An AKF studio must register and maintain a minimum of 10 students.

Studio and Club Memberships:

Studio Annual Dues: \$75.00 (1st year) \$35.00 (renewal)

Club Annual Dues: \$50.00 (1st year) \$25.00 (renewal)

- include annual membership certificates

Individual Membership:

Annual Dues: \$25.00 (1st year) \$15.00 (renewal)

- Patch
- Rank Certification
- ID Card

Benefits of membership include:

- Instruction
- Rank promotion and certification
- Seminars and training camps
- Standardized curriculum
- Camera ready Belt charts (for studios and clubs)
- Teaching schedule (optional for studios and clubs)
- Internet web page link (for studios and clubs)

Contacts

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American Kenpo Federation
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(512) 444-9889
(512) 444-9928 fax
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Brian Duffy's Kenpo Karate
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Austin, Texas 78745
Ph (512) 444-9889
Fax (512) 444-9928
Address mail to:
PO Box 40009
Austin, TX 78704

Web Site: www.akfkenpo.com

American Kenpo International



Mission Statement

American Kenpo International is an organization headed by Master Professor Tony Cogliandro. Its main objective is to preserve and analyze the "original/traditional" version of Senior Grand Master Ed Parker's American Kenpo Karate and continue the legitimate lines of rank and heritage Mr. Parker has left us. We recognize that we are only as strong as our members, therefore, AKI is committed to continual growth through training and advancement of our knowledge as a group. **All styles are welcome.** ²

History

American Kenpo International was founded in 1994 by Tony Cogliandro (9th Degree Black Belt).

Mr. Cogliandro was a student of Senior Grand Master Parker from March 1983 until his death in December 1990. Tony personally pioneered Parker Kenpo into the northeast United States, where it did not exist before. Mr Cogliandro was also the International Kenpo Karate Association (IKKA) Northeast Director and built Mr. Parker's Organization from 13 to 50 schools over that period.

Current Leadership

AKI INTERNATIONAL SENIOR COUNCIL

- Tony Cogliandro - 9th Black - President
- Don Rodrigues - 9th Black - President Board of Directors
- Maurice Mahon - 10th Black - President, Europe
- Shay Paget - 8th Black - Vice President, Europe
- Barney Coleman - 8th Black - Vice President, Europe
- Alan Corrigan - 7th Black
- Alan Kenny - 6th Black
- Lenny Sprague - 6th Black - Executive Vice President
- Christine Rodrigues - 5th Black
- Brendalee Cogliandro - 5th Black - Executive Vice President

The responsibility of the AKI Senior Council is to vote on the promotions of the AKI's leaders, as well as voting in members of the AKI Hall of Fame.

USA Board of Directors

- Dan D'Onfro - East Coast Director
- Brenda Cogliandro
- Jim Dana
- Dave Conner
- Don Wilson
- Mike Grafton
- Dale Young
- Rich Hale - West Coast Director (California Director)
- Mike O'Handley

Membership

The AKI boast of over 60 schools worldwide.

The AKI sanctions the Ocean State Nationals, Warwick, RI and the Maine Internationals, Sanford, ME.

The AKI offers seminars at various locations throughout the Northeast and Black Belt classes are offered throughout the year at Tony Cogliandro's Kenpo Karate Studio in Sanford, ME.

Contacts

Tony Cogliandro's Kenpo Karate
AKI Headquarters
93 Cogliandro Dr., Acton, ME 04001
207-477-2748
207-477-2641 fax
Email: cogli@metrocast.net

Tony Cogliandro's Kenpo Karate Studio
168 Country Club Road, Route 4
Sanford, ME 04073
207-477-2748 or 207-490-5700

Web Site: www.akikenpo.com

American Kenpo Karate International



Mission Statement

The American Kenpo Karate International Association welcomes all martial artists interested in expanding their education and perpetuating their skills into the future. Our purpose in the A.K.K.I. is to preserve Mr. Parker's art of American Kenpo, as well as continue to create, innovate and perpetuate the ever changing, fascinating and magical art of Kenpo. Our American Kenpo Karate International Association has developed a reputation for maintaining a very high level of proficiency in the art, coupled with sound ethics. We are a synergistic group striving to be humble, honorable, responsible and respectful. We also strive to reach the highest level of perfection, developing our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual thoughts and actions. Our trained, professional Instructors possess extraordinary skill, talent, knowledge and wisdom. Their leadership qualities provide a positive atmosphere, which is coupled with innovative and progressive training ideas designed for those students who would like to learn Kenpo the way Mr. Parker intended it to be. Only this way can we all truly perpetuate the art of Kenpo into the future. Our instructors, students, and new members of the A.K.K.I. are encouraged to seek continuous improvement, and constant innovation. As mentioned before, we must continue to break traditional ways of thinking, realizing that a Kenpo practitioner may make small improvements by developing new skills. Quantum leaps and revolutionary advances in the martial arts require new road maps and new paradigms. This offers distinctively new ways of thinking about old problems. ³

History

In September of 1997 the American Kenpo Karate International was founded by Paul Mills (10th Degree Black Belt). Mr. Mills is currently the President of the AKKI.

Mr. Mills has been consistently training in the art of American Kenpo since 1966. He received his black belt from one of Mr. Parker's first generation black belts then became a direct and private student of Senior Grand Master Edmund K. Parker in 1980. Mr. Parker promoted Mr. Mills up through his fifth degree black belt. After Mr. Parker's death in 1990, Mr. Mills continued with the IKKA and served as a member of the IKKA Systems Council, as the National Testing Director and as Region Representative for a ten state area. Mr. Mills reluctantly

left the IKKA in 1997 and shortly thereafter was requested by many to form his own association.

Focus

The A.K.K.I. has Ed Parker's Kenpo System at its base, but has expanded the curriculum to include new empty hand, stand up grappling, ground fighting, knife (single & double) and stick (single & double) material.

One of the biggest differences in the way people execute their actions in the A.K.K.I. is the use of the master key "Rhythmic Timing Patterns". All of the updates and new material in the A.K.K.I. include the use of these timing patterns. They help the practitioner move with explosive and powerful action. These rhythmic timing patterns are at the base of the Paul Mills Kenpo style. The new A.K.K.I. curriculum also follows Mr. Mills' philosophy that "Structure Governs Function". Mr. Mills has consolidated short and long forms 1-3 into "Form 1", "Form 2" and "Form 3" and then expanded the original platforms to include new ideas and curriculum not currently being used in any other association. There are different levels to each form - standard and black belt versions. This is so that as skill and proficiency increase, more ideas of self defense are learned and explored. The goal is to elevate and innovate the art of American Kenpo Karate, making it better and to continually push the traditionalist envelope while still making highly proficient Black Belts in 2 ½ to 3 years.

Membership

The American Kenpo Karate International association claims an affiliation of over 200 schools and clubs.

The three forms of membership are School (11 or more students), \$125.00 per year, Club (less than 10 students), \$50.00 per year and Individual, \$25.00 per year. The benefits of membership include:

- New Member packet
- Instruction in expanded curriculum
- AKKI Weapon Systems
- Internationally recognized certification
- National and International testing opportunities
- National and International Seminars
- Exclusive AKKI patches and gear

Contacts

AKKI Headquarters
PO BOX 768
Evanston, WY 82931
(307) 789-4124
Email: headquarters@akki.com

Web Site: www.akki.com

American Kenpo Karate System



History

The American Kenpo Karate System is an organization founded and directed by Jeff Speakman (7th Degree Black Belt). The AKKA encompasses Mr. Speakman's franchise and other affiliate schools.

Focus

The main focus of Jeff Speakman's Kenpo Karate and the AKKS is now Jeff Speakman's Kenpo 5.0.

American Kenpo version 5.0 is the hybrid of the last generation version of American Kenpo taught directly by Senior Grand Master Ed Parker to Jeff Speakman and ground fighting brought into the equation by Mr. Speakman's senior student Trever Sherman. Mr. Sherman brought this type of combat back to Kenpo so he and Mr. Speakman could create Kenpo answers to defending against an opponent with these skills in the street.⁴

Approximately 31 new techniques have been created and replaced out dated or redundant existing techniques. In addition another 20 techniques have been altered in varying degrees to accommodate the same thinking.

"It is important to recognize that this is not grappling or cage fighting but an expanding philosophy of Kenpo and the Kenpo ground system coupled with training drills and sparring techniques. It is modifying the existing 4.0 system, while remaining completely within the combat models and thinking of American Kenpo, to address this increasing and prevalent void in the Kenpo world. By keeping within the models of Kenpo, we have been able to develop a system combining the best of the Kenpo and Grappling worlds to give our students the maximum ability to deal with the very real possibilities of becoming involved in these kinds of altercations. In addition it allows us to continue to develop ourselves within the mind-body-spirit paradigm to reach a higher level of individual performance and sustained excellence therefore strengthening the group as a whole."⁴

Membership

The AKKS has over 30 affiliate and franchise schools worldwide.

Contacts

General Contact:

Jeff Conway, jconway@jeffspeakman.com

School Membership:

Dan Pribble, lostcoastkenpo@aol.com

Web Site: www.jeffspeakman.com

American Kenpo Legacy Association



Mission Statement

The American Kenpo Legacy Association is dedicated to the preservation of the American Kenpo Karate the Ed Parker had taught prior to his death. The minimal requirements for belt ranking promotions were listed in Ed Parker's Infinite Insights Into Kenpo Series, Vol. 5. Some call our approach to the preservation of kenpo as "preservationists." To some extent this is true. We understand the process that Ed Parker had designed in teaching and transmitting the concept, principles and theories of American Kenpo. That is why, therefore, we teach all students the Ideal Phase of each self-defense technique in the same manner that Ed Parker had designed. After the student has learned all that the Ideal Phase technique contains, we then teach the student how to apply the concept of the "Formulation Equation" to tailor the Kenpo Techniques for maximum effectiveness based on their own natural abilities and deficiencies. Ed Parker stated that the student must always learn to tailor, the instructor must always teach from a solid foundation. Ed also stated, "The student is one who understands how, the instructor understands why." ⁵

History

Since Ed Parker's death many Kenpo association have sprung up, each making variations from Ed Parker's system, claiming it to be the 'best', or newest rendition of Kenpo. It is felt that what has happened during this time-span is that the original art is becoming lost, with many concepts and principles being dropped out. The AKLA was created to preserve the teachings of American Kenpo Karate as Ed Parker had outlined it in his Infinite Insights into Kenpo Series, Vol. 5, prior to his death.

Focus

The AKLA is designed to teach a standard base from the Ideal Phase Techniques that Ed Parker had prescribed. The curriculum taught is the 24 techniques per belt as listed in Ed Parker's Infinite Insight into Kenpo Series, Vol. 5. From this standard base, the student is then encouraged to tailor the art to the individual. This is the method of transmitting Kenpo that Ed Parker had devised. It is believed that maintaining a strong base of standards that Ed Parker had set forth will produce the high quality kenpoists that were evident from his personal teaching methods.

The AKLA supports a web site that is designed to assist instructors and students of American Kenpo Karate to further their teaching abilities, studies, training and belt promotion preparations. This website provides downloads of various manuals and training guides as well as information on home study courses, books and videos.

The American Kenpo Legacy Association has also formed a new organization, the American Kenpo Research Council, devoted to presenting documentation, resource materials and study/training materials encompassing the entirety of American Kenpo, in all of its various forms and systems of presentation. There is no specific affiliation or association necessary to participate in the AKRC. The web address is www.american-kenpo-legacy.com/index.htm.

Current Leadership

The AKLA is under the leadership of Kevin Lamkin (6th Degree Black Belt) and Eric Lamkin (5th Degree Black Belt).

Membership

The American Kenpo Legacy Association has the following types of memberships:

- Individual (free with any purchase of AKLS instruction material)
 - Referrals to AKLA Sanctioned Schools and AKLA Certified Instructors
 - Free Belt Ranking Tests
 - Listing of results for your belt ranking examinations
- Certified Instructor (\$15.00 lifetime membership)
- AKLA Sanctioned School (\$25.00 lifetime membership)
- AKLA Regional Representative, 3rd Degree Black Belt or higher (appointment with no fee)

Contacts

Kevin Lamkin
P.O. Box 5517
Louisville, KY 40255-0517
502-797-8827
Email: webmaster@elite-fighters.com (Membership)

Eric Lamkin
1921 New Garden Road Apt I-204;
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-601-6911
Email: elamkin@elite-fighters.com

Web Site: www.arnis.org/index.htm

American Kenpo Training System



Mission Statement

The primary purpose of our Association is to continue the teaching of Senior Grand Master Edmund K. Parker, by providing our members with a standardized base of knowledge and teaching, while allowing personal preference, expression, and variable expansion within the Art. It is our intention to provide a solid base to teach and learn from, not to control or manipulate your Kenpo experience. The Art of SGM Parker's Kenpo is widespread and diversified, to many sources. Realizing the enormity of information and rich history of our Kenpo, we welcome the many qualified people who were exposed to these teachings. We will work towards developing the Art of American Kenpo throughout the world and support and train those individuals who seek to study and teach Ed Parker's American Kenpo System. The quality and standards set by Mr. Parker must be preserved while the Art of Kenpo continues to evolve and grow. American Kenpo is a living Art, which exists and grows through its schools, instructors and students, and which provides a solid structure of responsible leadership, administrators, and qualified instructors. ⁶

History

The American Kenpo Training System was founded by John Sepulveda (9th Degree Black Belt). Mr. Sepulveda has trained in Kenpo since the early 1960's, studying directly with Senior Grand Master Edmund Parker.

In August of 2002 a group of John Sepulveda's senior Black Belts approached him about forming a new Association. This organization would formalize his students as part of an exclusive group of Kenpoist, dedicated to preserving and evolving in Ed Parker's American Kenpo Karate. The AKTS was formed in January 2003.

Focus

The quality and availability of training earmark the American Kenpo Training System. Training is the shared value that binds the members together. Unless injured, sitting on the sidelines is not an option. The focus is to grow and evolve through training, learning and exploring the many facets of American Kenpo regardless of belt rank or time in the Art. There is a great emphasis on a high level of care and support shown to all students.

"We train together, we sleep together, we eat together" is a quote from Mr. Sepulveda, at the 9th annual John Sepulveda Spirit Camp in Donnelly, Idaho in 2003. This represents the shared value of the AKTS that "everyone tries - everyone trains."

Membership

The AKTS has over 50 schools affiliated world wide which includes those of the European Kenpo Karate Association.

The forms of membership include both individual and school. Membership in the AKTS is not exclusive. Its members can have dual affiliation with other Kenpo, Professional, or Martial Arts organizations. Some of the benefits of membership include:

- The great value placed on professional personal responses from staff in a timely manner
- Affordable Association Crests, and patches
- Discounts at AKTS seminars
- Two annual Association training camps, currently in Donnelly, Idaho and in Seattle, Washington
- Professional support regarding curriculums and material

A great value is placed on customer satisfaction to its individual members and member schools.

Contacts

John Sepulveda
P. O. Box 622
Star, Idaho 83669
Email: akts01@bitSMART.net

Memberships: kenpoisit@aol.com
School Memberships: kenpoisit@cableone.net

Web Site: www.akts.us

Chinese Karate Federation



Mission Statement

The CKF...

...believes that instructors must continue to grow in the art and must be willing and able to serve not only as instructors, but also as role models.

The CKF...

...believes that continuing education is of primary importance. Our instructors, through the use of the CKF logbook, are recognized for attending classes and seminars designed to increase their knowledge, expertise and teaching abilities.

The CKF...

...is a family of martial artists helping each other grow in the practice of Kenpo Karate. We believe the most important investment in your martial arts training and future is time on the mat with the finest instructors available. Our instructors are dedicated to providing you with top quality training at CKF schools, and through CKF seminars. ⁷

History

The Chinese Karate Federation was founded in 1994 and is headed by Sean P. Kelley (7th Degree Black Belt).

Focus

The Chinese Karate Federation uses a version of the 16 technique per belt curriculum. The techniques are spread out to allow the learning of 150 techniques by 1st Degree Black.

The CKF is dedicated to providing training with many of the foremost Parker Kenpo instructors in the country. Many of the Black Belts invited to teach at CKF Seminars have been recognized for their excellence including Dave Hebler, Michael Robert Pick, Frank Trejo, Lee Wedlake and Rainer Schulte. There is firm belief in expanding one's Kenpo arts knowledge by exploring other martial arts disciplines. The CKF offers training at regular seminars with some of the country's most outstanding martial artists including Joe Lewis, Bill Wallace, Steve Shepherd, Bart Vale, Larry Lam, Al McLuckie and more.

CKF Seminars offer a venue for school owners to network with guest instructors as well as other CKF schools. At least once yearly, the CKF holds a Summit

seminar which in addition to providing training also offers a formal venue for discussion of CKF school needs, requests and direction.

Current Leadership

- Senior Professor Sean P. Kelley, President
- Grandmaster Dave Hebler, Vice President
- Professor Rainer Schulte, European Representative
- Michael Beal, East Coast Regional Representative
- Brian Price, State Representative
- Max Majothi, State Representative
- Mike Friedman, State Representative
- Michael Miller, Public Relations Administrator

Membership

School Membership:

Annual Dues: \$200.00 (school), \$100.00 (Club, 50 students or less), \$50.00 (Black Belt)

- A Custom Charter School Certificate
- Membership Cards
- An Official CKF Patch
- A Free School listing on the CKF Website
- Free Listing of CKF related events held at your school
- Listing of all CKF Student Members in Your School
- The Right to Use the CKF Logo in School Advertising

Individual Membership:

Annual Dues: \$35.00 (1st year), \$25.00 (renewal)

- A CKF Membership Card
- A CKF Patch
- Discounted Fees at CKF Events

A testing board of ranking CKF officials is available for belt testing at a set fee per number of board members. Instructors and Students who test before the board will receive a certificate signed by all board members certifying their rank.

Contacts

Sean P. Kelley
Kelley Karate Center, Inc.
6077 Lake Worth Road
Greenacres, FL 33463
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Email: Kenpo5@aol.com

Web Sites:

www.chinesekaratefederation.com/index.html
www.seankelley.com

International Kenpo Karate Organization



NOTE!! The information that I researched for this summary was somewhat dated and I was not able to verify it in a timely manner. I present it here only because there were many site references to this organization.

Mission Statement

To share, instruct, preserve, and expand all aspects of American Kenpo to anyone that has a true interest in training in the "System of Motion" as originally designed by the Founder: Edmund Kealoha Parker. Strive not to just "know of" or "know" but to "understand" the Art of Kenpo to its fullest. ⁸

History

The International Kenpo Karate Organization was founded in 1995 by Dennis Conatser. Due to the untimely passing of Mr. Parker on December 15, 1990 and with the lack of a credible infra structure to contain & organize the Leaders of American Kenpo (Senior Black Belts) it was felt there was a need to develop a new Quality Organization.

Focus

The IKKO is an Organization that certifies descendants of true Ed Parker's American Kenpo with quality Kenpo training and traceable lineage. Certification in the IKKO is handled strictly through Dennis Conatser. Rank authorization is closely monitored for quality.

Current Leaders

Membership

Contacts

IKKO
PO BOX 14711
Scottsdale, AZ 85267-4711
(602) 498-5960
Email: goldendragon@uswest.net

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United Kenpo Systems



Mission Statement

Kenpo Karate is a means by which we as students progress through our life's journey with the idea of self-improvement being a daily priority. We seek to bring a unity and understanding between our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual selves. There are three primary areas in which every Kenpoist should strive for improvement if they wish to achieve any degree of enlightenment through their art. The first is *academic knowledge* of the historical, physical and physiological aspects of American Kenpo. The second is to be able to physically perform their art to a degree that is at least indicative of the rank they wear on their belt. The third and most important aspect is to conduct oneself with honor and integrity both on and off the mat. Honorable, moral, and ethical conduct should be inherent in all of us as Martial Artists. This is sometimes a difficult path, especially when mixing the business of our art with the art itself. But by interacting and blending our energies with other honorable people, the journey is less arduous and much more enjoyable. We of the U.K.S. strive to achieve exactly that - uniting honorable Kenpoists from around the country and around the world to continue the mission that Mr. Parker started and that was to touch as many lives as possible with this incredible Art of Kenpo.⁹

History

United Kenpo Systems was founded by Brian Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins was the former Manager and Chief Instructor of Ed Parker's Kenpo Studio of West Los Angeles and as a long-time private student of Mr. Parker, he is considered to be one of the foremost authorities of American Kenpo in the world today.

Focus

United Kenpo Systems is based upon respect for the scientific, written work of Senior Grand Master Ed Parker. The principles inherent in the techniques, forms and sets are prescribed in a specific manner for both physical and mental progress. The UKS welcomes all Kenpoists, encouraging them to enhance communication and their understanding of the Art.

Current Leadership

- Brian Hawkins, Director
- Robert Liles, Senior Advisor
- Howard Silva, Advisor

- Jim Diggs, Advisor
- Gurujodha Singh Khalas, Advisor

Membership

School/Owner Membership:

Annual Dues: \$100.00 Per School

Approval places the school on the UKS roster and the newsletter mailing list.

Other benefits available to the school are:

- Updates on Kenpo Techniques
- Promotions and Tests
- Access to Instructor Manuals up to Brown Belt
- Private Instruction
- Preferential Scheduling of Qualified Instructors

Student/Individual Membership:

This membership is for all students of the martial arts. It allows discounts for UKS sponsored events and puts the student on the newsletter mailing list.

Annual Dues: \$25.00

Other benefits available to students are:

- System Patches
- Professional Quality Ranking Certificates
- Updated Technique Manuals Available for Each Belt

Contacts

United Kenpo Systems

P.O. Box 986

Culver City, CA 90232-0986

310-313-3883

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Web Site: www.uks-kenpo.com

Worldwide Kenpo Karate Association



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Worldwide Kenpo Karate Association (WKKA) is to elevate and preserve the art of Kenpo. It is an international forum for all stylists who wish to enhance their professionalism. We extend the hand of brotherhood to everyone in the martial arts community. ¹⁰

History

The Worldwide Kenpo Karate Association was founded by Joe Palanzo.

Joe Palanzo began his association with Ed Parker as a student in 1965. Mr. Palanzo's dedication resulted in achieving, along with six contemporaries, the seventh degree black belt in Kenpo under Mr. Parker and the vice presidency of the International Kenpo Karate Association (IKKA).

Ed Parker's untimely death left a significant void in the Kenpo community. This also led to many self-proclaimed Kenpo masters and others who wrongfully claimed to be former students of Mr. Parker. The IKKA began to move in a different direction from the Parker-Palanzo principles. This eventuated in the establishment of the Worldwide Kenpo Karate Association (WKKA), which promoted Joe Palanzo to eighth degree black belt. Joe Palanzo would later become the first tenth degree after Mr. Parker's passing.

Focus

The WKKA developed and utilizes the Kenpo Protection System (KPS) curriculum. KSP is a complete self-defense program that, when added, will compliment a school's current curriculum. The WKKA has taken American Kenpo and simplified the system into one that can be easily taught. The KSP four year rotating curriculum is carefully designed to maximize results among students and instructors by including:

- Weekly lesson plans for the entire year.
- Instructor technique manuals that provide a comprehensive explanation for all of the techniques.
- Detailed instructor DVD series that effectively teaches how to perform and practice all of the self-defense techniques, which provides an accurate reference for training at a comfortable pace.

Current Leaders

Worldwide Kenpo Karate Board of Directors

- Joe Palanzo, President
- Joe Breidenstein, Executive Vice-President
- Tom Kelly, Senior Vice-President
- Tom LoVarco, Vice-President

Membership

The WKKA provides Instructor Certification, Martial Arts Conferences, seminars and tournaments for members. The WKKA offers several types of certification programs for any individual or school that wishes to have a WKKA certification. These certifications provide recognition of knowledge of Kenpo Self Defense. Certification Courses, camps, and seminars are taught by WKKA board certified instructors that include many of Ed Parker's personal students.

School Membership:

Annual Dues \$100.00

School members receive:

- Discounts at select WKKA sponsored events
- A listing on the website as an official WKKA affiliate member school
- WKKA membership patches to distribute and sell to member student

Individual Membership:

Annual Dues \$20.00

Individual members receive:

- An embroidered insignia patch
- Discounts at select WKKA sponsored events
- Discounts on WKKA Certification Programs

Contacts

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Baltimore, MD 21208

Phone: 410.484.7122

Fax: 410.484.7179

E-mail: info@worldwidekenpo.com

Organizations to Note

Kenpo Karate Association of America (KCAA)

Ed Parker's original organization registered in California in 1956 for the purpose of governing Kenpo in the continental United States.

International Kenpo Karate Association (IKKA) – www.ikka.us

The KCAA name change in 1960 when association members started to migrate to other countries. The web link cited sends you to *maxdojo.com* an organization and group of studios in California operated by Mr. William L. Kongaika. I am currently waiting for information as to the status of this association.

American Kenpo Senior Council (AKSC)

An association founded in 1994 by Mr. Stephan LaBounty and a group of Ed Parker's Senior Black Belts. This organization is no longer in existence.

Frank Trejo Kenpo Karate Association (FTKKA) – www.franktrejokarate.com

The association established for members and affiliate studios of the Mr. Frank Trejo lineage of Ed Parker's American Kenpo Karate.

International Karate Connection Association (IKCA)– www.karateconnection.com

The IKCA was chartered in 1990. It supports the members and affiliates of the Karate Connection, a school and multi-media training program founded by Mr. Chuck Sullivan and Mr. Vic LeRoux.

International Kenpo Karate Society (IKKS) – www.ikkskenpo.om

The IKKS was founded by Professor Robert L. Jones to continue the teachings of American Kenpo Senior Grand Master Ed Parker through the further evolution and expansion of his teachings. This further elaboration of American Kenpo is termed American Wu Shen Pai Kenpo.

Larry Tatum Kenpo Karate Association – www.ltatum.com

The association established for members and studios of the Mr. Larry Tatum lineage.

Universal Kenpo Federation (UKF) – www.ukfkenpo.com

An organization created by Mr. Michael Pick. The UKF was created to serve the need to expand dimensionally in Kenpo without the politics and established regimes.

Conclusion

American Kenpo Karate associations are founded to help formalize and standardize what is being taught and make sure that consistent standards are met. They provide their members with recognition and validation of rank and some formulate specific rules for testing. Many offer their members access to documentation on curriculum, training methods, instructor guides and more. Access to senior instructors is also touted as a member benefit. Almost all of the associations either sponsor seminars and tournaments or at least aid in organizing these types of events.

When I first conceived of the idea for this thesis I hoped to discover those few associations that were overwhelmingly recognized as the leaders of American Kenpo Karate. What I found was a much larger and more diverse group of associations with differing ideas about the art of American Kenpo Karate. Most of these associations are headed by former students of Senior Grand Master Ed Parker. All claim to be organizations that will protect, preserve and perpetuate what Mr. Parker created.

After researching all of these associations my ideas on what to expect from them and what they represent have changed. The community of American Kenpo Karate has grown to such a degree that a single organization would no longer be able to represent the entire Kenpo world. For better or worse, the differing philosophies and curriculums have resulted in the founding of separate associations. Instructor lineage has become a major aspect of many of them. There is no longer an association such as the original IKKA that can act as an overall governing body for the Kenpo community.

Senior Grand Master Ed Parker structured American Kenpo Karate with a strong foundation in fundamental concepts and principles. Once there is a thorough understanding of these principles and mastery of the basics an individual can then adapt techniques to suit their personal needs. Mr. Parker once stated, "Kenpo never changes, it perpetually refines itself." There are some associations that are making changes and additions to the American Kenpo Karate curriculum as Mr. Parker organized it. As long the fundamental base is maintained and the principles are followed these changes can contribute to the refining of the art. If the changes ignore or bypass those principles, it will cease to be American Kenpo. The real future of American Kenpo Karate rests in the hands of each Kenpo practitioner. It is by their study and training that the art is refined and by their understanding and implementation of the American Kenpo Karate concepts and principles that the art will be perpetuated.

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