



Bujinkan Bruin Dojo New York

MEMO

DATE: 11/02/2002
TO: ALL BUJINKAN BRUIN DOJO PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MARK GUEST *SHIDOSHI*
RE: *DOJO* MEMBERSHIP

As most of you already know, commencing November 1, 2002, the Bujinkan Bruin Dojo New York [the “*Dojo*”] adopted a “Members Only” policy for training. The main reason is for *consistency*. You need consistency in your training and the *Dojo* needs consistency of cash flow. Membership is a commitment by the student and *Sensei*, one to the other, to discharge certain responsibilities. Membership is a privilege, and in return there are privileges of membership, among them:

1. If you train at least once a week, the cost per class is less than the mat fee paid by non-members. This encourages consistency in your training and provides the *Dojo* with a consistent cash flow to meet its financial obligations.
2. Train as much as three times per week at no additional charge.
3. The privilege of rank promotion and recommendation for promotion to upper ranks through *Godan* (and beyond) will be accorded to members only. This is virtually universal in the martial arts. No *Sensei* can be expected to accept the responsibility of grading or recommending someone other than his personal students. Therefore, non-members who visit our *Dojo* intermittently are assumed to be members of other *dojo* or merely training to maintain their current level of skill.
4. There are no fees for promotions to any of the *kyu* ranks (ranks below Black Belt).
5. Members can take advantage of discounted fees for all seminars presented by the *Dojo*.

If you are accepted and given an opportunity to train at the *Dojo*, you, in turn, must accept the responsibilities of membership, among them:

- a. *Safety*: You are primarily responsible for your own safety and the safety of your training partners and others in the *Dojo*. The phrase, “It wasn’t my fault,” should be eradicated from your vocabulary.
- b. *Conduct*: Your conduct reflects on the *Dojo* in general and the Head Instructor in particular, as well as yourself. Inside the *Dojo*, treat fellow members with the respect they’ve earned by virtue of their membership in this unique endeavor. If you see someone you don’t know, introduce yourself and offer your assistance. The visitor

MEMO: DOJO MEMBERSHIP

might be a prospective member or a visiting *Shihan* from another *dojo*. You only get one chance to make a good first impression; people may judge the entire *Dojo* based on how *you* conduct yourself. Outside the *Dojo*, speak well of it and take pride in your membership and the Art. Show some *Esprit d' Corps* (Spirit of the Corps).

- c. *Membership Dues: Your* membership dues are the lifeblood of the *Dojo*. When you accept membership in the *Dojo*, you are also accepting the responsibility for submitting your dues on time, usually the first day of each month, so that the *Dojo* can meet its financial obligations. If you know in advance that you cannot train until after the fifth of the month, you should pay your dues on your last training day of the previous month. Whether you intend to train three times per week or not at all, your membership dues should still be submitted. This will keep your membership in good standing, but more importantly, discharge your obligation to your *Dojo*, your *Sensei* and your fellow members. Members are not permitted to *skip* a month or two. Put simply, ***you are not paying for training; you are paying for your membership*** in the *Dojo* of your own choosing.

Since your dues are so important, be aware of when they are to be paid and submit them on time. A member of the *Dojo* should never need a reminder to pay dues. It is an embarrassment to all involved, both to those who have to be reminded, as well as those who are in the awkward position of doing the reminding. If you will not be around the *Dojo* for an extended period of time due to business travel, vacation, injury, or other obligations, please tell the Head Instructor, in person or via e-mail, so a leave of absence may be granted. During a leave of absence, you will incur no liability for unpaid dues; your obligation to pay dues will be suspended for the term of the authorized leave. No leave of absence will be granted after the fact, and any dues accruing during a member's unauthorized absence must be paid in full before permission to resume training will be granted.