



President's Report 2020

As we all know the past year has been like no other. It is never easy to keep a non-profit organization operating at optimum efficiency and this year has been harder than most. Due to all of us having challenges in our own lives that need prioritizing, Karate Alberta has basically been in a holding pattern. With that being said, I would like to give a special mention to our executive director Jasen Pratt for the professional and timeous manner he kept us all informed regarding provincial COVID-19 updates and how it impacted our members.

As a team we have built Karate Alberta to be noticed and respected by Canadian Karate. As I have stated before, I believe that we have accomplished this goal by implementing sound management and fiscal controls, streamlining systems and making redundant anything that was archaic or non-functioning. I have also stated in the past that all organizations are fragile entities in the sense that they all need to re-evaluate on a regular basis as to what is working and what needs to be changed. If changes are not made "for the better" then something will give and all the positive aspects that have been developed will be for nothing.

I believe we are now in a position to really dig down and determine what did not work for Karate Alberta and do a re-boot so to speak and build a new and improved organization. Our coaching and officiating programs were very successful in some areas but because of the speed of development became, in my opinion, somewhat cumbersome. I believe we now have the time to look at these deficiencies as a team and determine democratically how the new and improved versions should be.

As previously mentioned Karate Alberta is fundamentally a sports organization, with our funding being geared towards sport participation as per the Alberta Sports Connection (ASC) and AGLC policies. The sport side of Karate has been decimated over the last year and even with the initiative of Zoom type instruction it will take a while for everyone to come up to speed... whenever that may be.

Personally I believe that traditional/technical Karate is still fundamental to whichever aspect of Karate we pursue. This is only achievable through our member dojos and their tireless efforts. As an organization Karate Alberta will need to be there for all those member dojos who are struggling I therefore look forward to any constructive advice, direction and processes to assist in this endeavor.

The board members, committee members, managers, parents and the countless volunteers who give freely of their time year in and year out to make Karate Alberta successful are truly appreciated. Though we haven't seen each other since March 2020 you are all in my thoughts and once all this is behind us I look forward to seeing you all again

Yours sincerely,

Marc Ward