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To: United States Judo Association members

From: AnnMaria Rousey, De Mars, Ph.D.

Subject: October President's Letter

The election is over and the membership has spoken with a resounding voice. On behalf of all of the incoming board, I want to sincerely thank everyone who voted for us and promise that we will make you glad that you did, as for those who didn't, we will work hard to improve the organization so much that you will wish you had!

Here is one opportunity for your clubs starting today – we are having a raffle at the USJA/ USJF Winter Nationals. First prize is two nights in Las Vegas. There are also numerous small prizes - \$25 gift certificates to Starbucks and Build-A-Bear, USJA t-shirts. Tickets are \$1. Clubs keep half of the money and send the rest for the development fund. Last year we raised \$1,200- \$600 for local clubs in southern California. If you would like to receive raffle tickets to sell, email Dan McNair at dksys2000@yahoo.com. We will be doing a raffle at the junior nationals with larger prizes, and in the past this raffle raised a few thousand dollars. This is a quick way to make a few hundred dollars for your travel fund with no risk to your club. We will be offering more and more of these opportunities in the coming months as part of club development.

We want to hear from you and have you be part of our organization. November 21 will be a town meeting and open workout in Norwich, CT when you can meet USJA Board members (me, Joan Love, Bill Montgomery & Marc Cohen) and the chair of our Ethics Committee, Michael Goldsmith. Ask anything you want, say hi and do some judo. December 4, after the coaches workshop in Ontario, CA will be an open comment session, run by Hayward Nishioka and Bill Montgomery of the USJA Coaching Committee asking your input on the direction you want our coaching program to go.

We continue to have clinics around the country. Thank you to James Wall, Jeff Miller and Jim Hunt for the coaching clinic in Louisiana. Ronda Rousey will be in Los Angeles doing a clinic and two workouts in November. The All-Women's Tournament in Ohio is also coming up in November. In January, we will be having another All-Women's Tournament in Las Vegas as well as a National Coaches Summit. It will be great!

There is an absolutely terrific new program called the Kodokan Techniques Certificate program that should be of interest to every club that has players who could be termed recreational or life-time learners, that is 99% of the clubs in America. Check the October

issue of Growing Judo for more information
<http://judoforum.com/index.php?showtopic=41211>

These are just a few of the events planned. On a less cheerful note, you may have heard of some dissension between USA Judo and USJA. First, let me assure you that our wonderful legal and financial team, led by Glenn Nakawaki, work for free (yes, incredible, I know) so none of this dispute takes anything away from our funding for member services. In a nutshell USAJ interprets the law one way and USJA thinks we have a lot more freedom than their interpretation. While the lawyers hash it out, the rest of us are doing judo.

Speaking of our wonderful volunteers, if you would like to volunteer in any way, from our legal committee to editing Growing Judo one month (January is open!) to a clinic in your area, please email Joan Love judolady210@aol.com who will be coordinating our volunteers. If you are a current committee member, you will shortly be getting a letter in the mail asking if you would like to continue in your current position or are interested in something else. Don't be shy. Let us know your talents. The new board will be meeting in January to appoint most of the committees.