

USTF Newsletter

February 2025
Volume 1, Issue 1



We are excited to announce a fresh format and direction for the USTF Newsletter. As we move forward, we want to thank Grand Master Van Hecke for his dedication in publishing the previous issues of the “USTF Flash”. We wish him the best and know he will continue supporting the USTF and publishing “The Flash” for Region 3.

Moving forward, all newsletters for our organization will be published directly from USTF Headquarters. All schools will submit articles and photos directly to Grand Master Sereff at Headquarters, rsereff@rmi.net. Grand Master Todd will assist the USTF as needed with this process. We will attempt to publish a monthly newsletter if the interest is there; if not, it will become bi-monthly newsletter.

Why the change? The goal of the revamped USTF newsletter is to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, important updates, and the many ways members can be involved with the USTF. While posting articles and information on social media platforms like Facebook are great to see, not everyone has access to the information. Whether you are a long-time member or a new student, this small change will ensure every USTF member is well informed and connected.

USTF Black Belt Testing: Sereff Taekwon-Do

We are proud to announce the USTF Black Belt testing to be held on March 8, 2025 at Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield, Colorado. Sr. Master David Ott will be promoted to USTF Grand Master. SM Ott was a student at the Denver YMCA when he was a child and continued training to this day! The unique thing about SM Ott is that he was born



deaf and was able to read lips and sign which enabled him to stay in Taekwon-Do and the USTF. All Grand Masters, Sr. Masters and Masters are invited to this grading.

(pictured from far left to right: Sr. Master Ed Newcomer, Master Gregory Shain, Sr. Master David Ott)



(pictured from far right to left: Grand Master Todd, Grand Master Griffin, Grand Master Steadman, Grand Master Swan, Grand Master Stephenson, B. Grand Master Martin, Grand Master Sereff, Grand Master Winegar)

Calendar Dates 2025

Feb 22: Black Belt Testing:
La Center, WY. SM Mason.

Feb 27: Black Belt Testing:
Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

Mar 1: USTF Breaking Seminar:
La Center, WY. Promoter SM Mason.
Mountainviewtkd@gmail.com
Registration: [Breaking Seminar](#)

Mar 8: Black Belt Testing:
Denver, CO. GM Sereff.

Mar 15: Maestas TKD Challenge 2025.
Avada, CO. Promoter SM Pettijohn.
Registration: <https://www.maestastkd.com/>

Apr 5: USTF Step Sparring Seminar:
Kennesaw, GA. Promoter Mr. Welch.
bsdtaekwondo@gmail.com

May 3: Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament:
Bellevue, NE. Promoter GM Todd.
Flyer/Registration: [Axe TKD Flyer](#)

May 10: Black Belt Testing:
Las Vegas, NV. GM Bosse

May 17: Pacific Northwest USTF
Championship: La Center, WA.
Promoter SM Mason.
Mountainviewtkd@gmail.com

May 17: 2025 UCHTA Annual Utah Cup
Tournament: Salt Lake City, UT.
Promoter Master Wadium.
cwadium@yahoo.com

May 17: Black Belt Testing:
Senatobia, MS. Master Bennett.

May 29: Black Belt Testing:
Bellevue, NE. GM Todd.

May 31: Spring Black Belt Testing:
Salt Lake City, UT. Master Wadium.
cwadium@yahoo.com

Jun 28: USTF Technical Seminar:
Arvada, CO. 9 am—4 pm.
Promoter GM Sereff.

Aug 1-3: 2025 UCHTA Summer
Weekend TKD Camp. Morgan, UT.
Promoter Master Wadium.
cwadium@yahoo.com

Aug 28: Black Belt Testing:
Bellevue, GM Todd.

USTF Taekwon-Do Seminars

How to host a USTF Seminar at your school.

1. Send your event application to your Regional Director for approval, at least one month in advance. [USTF Event Application](#)
2. Grand Master Sereff will select the instructor for your seminar.
3. The USTF will pay for the hotel and travel expenses, plus 20% to the Host and 20% to the Instructor.
4. The USTF will create the certificates and send to the Host.
5. You need at least 20 participants, (initial & refresher combined)
6. If you have any questions, please ask. Call headquarters @ 303-466-4963.

Current USTF Taekwon-Do Seminars—Currently Offered

USTF Referee Seminar
 USTF Step Sparring Seminar
 USTF Ground Tactics Seminar
 USTF Ho-Sin Sul Seminar
 USTF Knife and Weapons Seminar
 USTF Breaking Seminar

Save the Date—2026 Nationals & Camp

In order to save students money, Grand Master Sereff is considering combining the USTF Nationals & Sereff World Camp to be held in June 2026. Preliminary planning is to have competitors arrive on a Friday. The tournament patterns and sparring will take place on Saturday, finishing with breaking on Sunday morning. We are also considering waiving the weigh-in requirements that require students to arrive early on Friday. Students attending Sereff TKD World Camp would depart after the tournament. Camp would run from Sunday to Friday as in previous years. These changes would allow students to attend both events with one travel expense. Of course, students could attend one or the other, but the hope is that students plan to attend both.

In 2025, enjoy a break from the larger events to spend time with your family. As always, we appreciate your support in attending events, but will continue to help you find a balance between TKD events and family!

Social Media Groups

Recently Grand Master Sereff posted that USTF members need to be cautious when joining other martial arts groups online. Additionally, it is important to know who is running a group before joining to ensure there is no conflict with the USTF and that group. There are people that left the USTF for various reasons and have attempted to damage the reputation of Sr. Grand Master Sereff and the USTF. Some of these individuals are still actively recruiting students to leave the USTF. They also post technical information and pictures that are not always correct. Remember, we have the USTF Technical Director, Grand Master Winegar, as a resource if we need technical information. We also have the USTF books and access to the Taekwon-Do Encyclopedia, written by General Choi. If you have a question about a group or are approached by a black belt from outside the USTF, please contact USTF Headquarters at 303-466-4963 for guidance. We are not trying to limit your friendships with groups such as those in Ireland, Scotland, and Australia, just providing guidance to everyone to protect the legacy of the USTF.

Calendar Dates 2025 (cont)

Sep 20: USTF Wyoming TKD Tournament: Casper WY.
 Promoter Mrs. Wilcox
a2willcox@yahoo.com

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 Promoter Mrs. Wilcox.
a2willcox@yahoo.com

Sep 27: USTF Step Sparring Seminar: La Center, WA.
 Promoter SM Mason.
Mountainviewtkd@gmail.com

Oct: Sereff Fall Championship Tournament: Denver, CO.
 Promoter GM Sereff.



Sr. Master Denise Moormeier, organized the “Patterns Around the World 24” event. Her dedication and spirit truly Builds a More Peaceful World! We look forward to 2025!

Local News Article: Utah, Mr. Paul Williams

Recently a nice article was published by the Standard– Examiner in Utah. The article features Mr. Paul Williams, founder of Jeontong Taekwon-Do. Mr. Williams does an outstanding job representing the USTF and Taekwon-Do. Here is a link to the news article: [Williams Article](#)



The Williams family

USTF Article Submissions

Articles were previously submitted to Grand Master Van Hecke, please note that moving forward, all submissions will be sent to Grand Master Sereff at rsereff@rmi.net. We are accepting articles for potential publication in the USTF Newsletter. Additionally, if you have a flyer or event you would like to be linked, please feel free to provide it, and we are happy to include it. All articles need to be submitted by the 20th of the month.

USTF Officers

Please ensure that your current address is on file with USTF Headquarters. During our recent Christmas card mail out, over a third of the cards were returned, including those sent to USTF senior instructors. If your contact information has changed, please take a moment to update your details. You can email any updates to Grand Master Sereff at rsereff@rmi.net. Include your physical address, email address, or phone number.

USTF School Membership Certificates

This is a reminder to submit your Taekwon-Do school registration. This fee is required annually for any school with over 20 students. There are no other special fees for any USTF region for individual schools. Please note that this program replaced the USTF Plaque Program. The registration fee is \$50 per year and provides instructors with a discount on USTF merchandise and is due each year by **January 31st**. When submitting your registration, please ensure you include the official name of your Taekwon-Do school. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support of the USTF.

Black Belt Testing: Colorado

On December 12, 2024, Mr. **Fred Mitchell** was promoted to 4th Degree Black Belt. Mr. Mitchell achieved his 4th degree under the guidance of his instructor, Sr. Master **Paul J. White**, at New Life Taekwon-Do. Mr. Mitchell's promotion is a testament to his years of dedication, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the art of Taekwon-Do. As a devoted student, Mr. Mitchell has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, leadership, and a deep respect for the traditions and values for the USTF. Sr. Master White praised Mr. Mitchell's perseverance and growth, noting his ability to inspire fellow students and embody the spirit of Taekwon-Do. Congratulations to Mr. Mitchell on this remarkable achievement.



Gup Testing: Grafton, Wisconsin

On January 23, Principal Presider Master **Rick Bauman** and a testing board which included Sixth Dans **Jim Pals** and **Mary Lubner**, and Fourth Dans **Matthew Thur** and **Valerie Thur**, conducted a gup test at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton. At the Corner were **Khai Le** and **Khoi Le**, assisted by **Vinh Le**, **Daniel Le**, and Grand Master **F.M. Van Hecke**.

This was a successful test. Students promoted to the following ranks: **Aiden Leinss**, **Evelyn Harding**, **Devansh Ravella** to White Belt Yellow Stripe; **Ai Vy Le** to Yellow Belt; **Grace Vizanko**, Yellow Belt Green Stripe; **Disha Talagapu**, **Pardhu Kallepu**, **Vikranth Kallepu**, **Joshua Vizanako**, **Cora Vizanko**, Green Belt Blue Stripe; **Erin Williams**, **Gwen Williams**, **Kate Williams**, **Ari Krogman**, Blue Belt; **Pranay Balaji**, **Saina Balaji**, **Sashwath Suriyaraj**, and **Miles Krogman** to Red Belt Black Stripe.

Requirements for Black Belt Applications

All black belt applications submitted to the USTF for processing **must** be typed and legible. You can access the application at: [USTF Black Belt Application](#). The application submitted must also include payment, one photo that is trimmed to 1" x 1", and a signed liability waiver. Instructors are required to ensure that community service and other requirements are met. Instructors can maintain the record of community service. Black belt applications are processed in the order they are received IF they are complete. If your package is received and is incomplete, it will not be processed. Dan numbers are not held while we wait for the application to be completed. Your students work hard for their promotion, so please ensure you are submitting complete and accurate paperwork. Black Belt applications need to be sent to USTF Headquarters within two weeks after the date of the testing.



General Choi, Grand Master Sereff, and Sr. Grand Master Sereff

Training Time & USTF Support

An important clarification about the qualifications and time requirements for testing in the USTF. **Active Training Time:** Only time spent in active training counts toward the time requirements for promotion. Any time taken off, whether for personal reasons, injury, or other circumstances, does not contribute to the required training time. **Time Away:** if a black belt takes time off (such as a year or more), they must be in good standing with the USTF and have renewed their membership for at least 12 months before being eligible to test for promotion. **Minimum Active Training Time After Returning:** for someone returning after a period of absence, they must wait a minimum of 12 months after resuming active training to be eligible for promotion, even if they had previously trained for a number of years. **Testing for 4th Dan (Example):** in the case of a student who trained for 3 years, took a break, and then returned only 6 months ago, they cannot test for 4th Dan immediately. They would need to accumulate the additional active training time (12 months) before becoming eligible for promotion. For further clarification, it's recommended that you consult the USTF Testing Requirement Books and reach out to USTF Headquarters if needed.

Grand Master Sereff Closing Words-

USTF History: A Legacy of Excellence

The United States Taekwon-Do Federation (USTF) was founded in 1974, and since its inception, we have been dedicated to spreading the art of Taekwon-Do throughout the United States and affiliated countries. We proudly uphold the legacy passed down to us by our Founder, Sr. Grand Master Sereff (December 8, 1933—April 18, 2022), as well as the teachings of General Choi Hong Hi (November 9, 1918—June 15, 2002) the Father of Taekwon-Do.

As an organization, our goal is to continue the influence of Taekwon-Do, honoring the tradition and principles instilled by these great leaders. We remain committed to supporting our members with high level instruction, building unity within the Taekwon-Do schools, and promoting tenets of courtesy, integrity, self-control, perseverance, and indomitable spirit. We do, however, expect loyalty and discipline.

In our upcoming editions, we will provide detailed information about exciting USTF events, tournaments, seminars, camps, and other opportunities to connect with Taekwon-Do students. We are excited about this new direction and look forward to keeping you informed and involved as we continue to promote the growth and success of Taekwon-Do throughout the United States and beyond.

Grand Master Sereff
USTF Test Director
USTF Administrator
<http://ustf-itf.com/>

