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This newsletter features a recap of last year's events, the holiday party, charitable event updates, and WTSDA Strategic Planning!

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Upcoming events:

March 21-23—Masters' Clinic
April 6—Region 8 Dan Testing
April 13—WTSDA Judging Certification
May 4—Region 8 Spring Championship
June 8—Youth Black Belt Camp
June 21-23—Adult Black Belt Camp
July 11-13—WTSDA World Championship

Dragon's Den



唐手道

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Savvy

By Grandmaster Vaughn



A lifetime of training in martial arts is supposed to bring enlightenment, or, maybe said a different way, to bring you wisdom. I relate to this wisdom as becoming savvy. Now wisdom and education are two different things. I know folks who are highly educated who sometimes lack being savvy.

Being savvy is a condition that is very hard to explain. It kind of hints at a state of awareness one might achieve, but I think it means something a bit more than that. Just what is savvy and why should one want to have it? I look at it as knowing how to do the right thing at the right time and knowing that the folks you are leading are closely watching you.

I am a combat veteran of Vietnam. I served as a team leader in the US Army Rangers. Being a leader in war can be very demanding. It is not unusual to find a leader who can demonstrate that he/she has a higher level of understanding about all aspects of the job assigned. But more than that, understanding is the inspiration and guidance one gives one's team by becoming a good leader and from learning how to become savvy.

How one presents himself as a leader in war is of the utmost importance to the people around him. Warriors want strong leaders. They want to have confidence that

their leaders are concerned about the soldiers under them and that they care for those soldiers' welfare. Good leaders are savvy. They seem to know instinctively how to lead, and most times make it appear that it is a talent that just comes naturally, when it is a set of skills that can be obtained through constant study and most importantly through the study of other leaders (masters, mentors) who possess these skills.

The ancient masters were subtle, mysterious, profound, responsive.

The depth of their knowledge is unfathomable.

Opaque, like muddy pools.

Who can wait quietly while the mud settles?

Who can remain still until the moment of action?

The Tao Te Ching by Lao Tsu

It is my observation that today, very few practitioners are really seeking enlightenment as described in the ancient texts. It is more about kicking and punching and obtaining financial success rather than maintaining a relationship with a wise master/mentor. I regret to say that these days it seems that most who receive the rank of master stop looking for a mentor to follow. It seems when this happens, artists sometime put seeking true enlightenment on the back burner.

I spent years in the Orient studying martial arts. I worked very hard to spend those years being as close as I could get to the best masters. I spent over 30 years as Grandmaster Shin's closest student. I had to learn to wear different hats in my relationship with him. He was always my Grandmaster, my master and mentor, but most and foremost, he was my friend and brother.

(Continued on page 2)

Savvy

(Continued from page 1)

He was a great leader. He had a very strong charisma, was always kind and gentle, never mean, or small. He constantly put others ahead of himself and worked and sacrificed more than anyone in our beloved Association. He only expected others to respect him in the same way. He had an awareness that was off the charts and was very good at thinking on his feet.

Back in 1984, it was after I had returned from the first China visit. Dr. Beaudoin, Master Carson, Master Dercole, and I left China a week before GM Shin. He had extended his trip to do research on martial arts in North Korea and stayed that extra week. I had the assignment to be there at the airport to pick him up upon his return.

I took this job very seriously and was sure to be at the airport ahead of his scheduled flight. I was at the baggage claim early. The carousel began to turn and the folks from that flight started

collecting their bags, but there was no GM Shin.

I waited until everyone from that flight had left and then I began to panic. I called Mrs. Shin to see if she had any news as to why he was not there with me. Upon finding out that I was at the Philadelphia Airport, she informed me that I was at the wrong airport, that he was at JFK in New York city.

I scrambled and headed to Mrs. Shin in New Jersey and got the particulars on how to find him. I got in my pickup and headed to New York and JFK. On the way I thought about how I should apologize to Kwan Chang Nim (KCN).

Well, as I was pulling up to the arrival terminal, I spotted GM Shin on the sidewalk, waving and laughing at me. This was just after he had flown for hours and had been stuck for hours at the airport waiting for me. He did not chew me out like I figured he would. He just showed that he was happy to see me and brushed off my apology. What a gentleman. It was stuff like that that made him special. I'm not sure if we even had the "Master of Disaster" award back then,

and because of my rank then, I could not be nominated for one, but I am sure I met all the other qualifications to earn it.

I shall always cherish the time I spent with KCN Shin as the absolute best years of my life. He used to call me "his best friend," and to this day, I am considered a member of the Shin family.

From 1982 on, I worked to promote the WTSDA. I put that before making my own mark in the world of martial arts. I guess I could have done better financially, but I am not sorry for that decision. I have the very best instructors in the Association, and I am blessed with a solid WTSDA dojang.

My goal was to really understand the mysteries of ancient martial arts. I sought out the very best masters I could find to study under. I have achieved the status of Grandmaster in WTSD and in Hapkido. I continue to keep a close tie to GM Ji Han Jae, the founder of Sin Moo Hapkido, and if GM Shin were alive today, I would be by his side benefiting from his wisdom, learning how to teach the art we all practice today, and learning how to walk the path and following the Way.

2023 Christmas Party

By Akanksha Palod, E Dan

As a senior, this year's Christmas Party was bittersweet. Seeing all of the masters together with their families and many of the students with their families warmed my heart. We all celebrated the year's achievements and the overcoming of many challenges in 2023, awarding some of the most dedicated individuals for their efforts throughout the year. Congratulations to the Instructor of the Year, Mrs. Lisa Mentley, the Student of Year, Isabelle Voight, and the Family of Year, the A. Singh family as well as all of

the students who were promoted! A special thanks to Grandmaster Vaughn and all of the masters who put together this festive and fun party every year. Looking back at last year's events, I am excited to see what the new year will bring and wish for a great last year at Vaughn's Dojang before going off to college. But enough reminiscing, the party itself was filled with dancing and prancing and delicious food/dessert as well as some wonderful demonstrations from the All Stars and Hapkido groups. My only hope

is that we don't repeat kicking Mr. Bhoir's glasses off! I hope everyone that attended enjoyed the party as much as I did and for any newcomers, I welcome you to one of the most enjoyable gatherings of Vaughn's Dojang that keep getting better each year!



More
photos on
next page



2023 Christmas Party (Continued)



Changes to the Dojang

By Master Lipstein

By now, I'm sure all students and instructors have noticed the change in the Dojang, as we have removed our 25-year-old carpeting, and replaced it with a vinyl faux wood flooring. The carpeting had served us well but was now so old it was impossible to keep clean. The new flooring will be much easier to maintain, as dirt and other particles will not imbed themselves into the flooring.

The flooring work was done over the holiday break, and necessitated a cleaning out of all the areas in which the new floor would be installed. This gave us the chance to "clean house," as we realized we have been holding onto "stuff" for upwards of 25 years. The result was two dumpsters full of things we no longer needed to keep. We're not done yet. There are still some boxes of stuff which

need to be sorted through, and more dumpster fill is certain to come out of those. The end result is a cleaner studio, in which it will be much easier to find what we need due to reduced clutter.

Other improvements made during the holiday break include painting various areas of the back of the Dojang, including a new coat of paint in Grandmaster Vaughn's office, as well as new paint along the hallways. The bong racks in the hallways also had a new bamboo backing installed to protect the wall behind the racks. Master Painter installed new dividing pegs in those racks to help keep the bong storage in a more orderly fashion.

Still to come: the runners along the rail wall are to be replaced in the near future. These will be replaced with new

carpet, to allow for transit from front to back without stepping on the mats. Also under consideration is a plan to brace the rail wall with ½ inch plywood to reduce the bowing in the wall, and to give more stability to the railing.

Many thanks to those members of the Dojang who gave up part of their holiday time off to move things in and out of offices, the copy and equipment rooms, and the changing rooms. As Grandmaster Vaughn has often said, "many hands make light work," and this was never more true than during this time period. All the help turned the chore into a fun, bonding experience, and showed our pride in our Dojang.



Testing Your Knowledge

By Scott Thompson, Sah Dan



1. The Korean term for Grandmaster is...
 - a. Sah Bum Nim
 - b. Ko Dan Ja
 - c. Kwan Chang Nim
 - d. Sun Bae
2. The word "Do" in Tang Soo Do means...
 - a. Art or way of life
 - b. Knife hand
 - c. Hammer fist
 - d. Punch or strike
3. What is the Korean term for side defense?
 - a. Yup Cha Ki
 - b. Soo Do Mahk Ki
 - c. Hup Hu Ryo Cha Ki
 - d. Choong Dan Yup Mahk Ki
4. The 4th code of Tang Soo Do is...
 - a. Loyalty to country
 - b. No retreat in battle
 - c. Honor friendship
 - d. Obedience to parents
5. The Korean term for arm is...
 - a. Bahl
 - b. Chu Mok
 - c. Da Ri
 - d. Pahl
6. Grandmaster Shi was born in the year...
 - a. 1936
 - b. 1945
 - c. 1941
 - d. 1953
7. Which of the following techniques is in Pyung Ahn Sah Dan?
 - a. Tollyo Cha Ki
 - b. Dwi Tollyo Cha Ki
 - c. Ahp Cha Ki
 - d. Yuk Soo Do
8. The Do Bohk can be traced back to about _____ (year)
 - a. 18 B.C.
 - b. 600 A.D.
 - c. 1390 A.D.
 - d. 900 A.D.
9. The dates of the World Tang Soo Do Association Charter Convention were...
 - a. Nov. 13-14, 1982
 - b. July 15-16, 1986
 - c. Nov 12-13, 1984
 - d. December 20-21, 1968
10. The Japanese occupation of Korea took place from...
 - a. 1941-1945
 - b. 1936-1953
 - c. 1945-1958
 - d. 1909-1945

Answers: 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. d 6. a 7. c 8. b 9. a 10. d

Thank You from the Bethesda Project, 2023

By Master Altire

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."—Helen Keller

Again this year, our students and their parents graciously donated to the Bethesda Project. We "adopted" this organization over 20 years ago, after we served the homeless in Philadelphia breakfast on a Thanksgiving morning. Right then, we knew this organization needed our help. Together, we will make a difference in so many lives. Just think the next time you are outside on your way to school or work and it is 20 degrees and you have no gloves or a hat; it would be a difficult day for you if you were unhoused. But thanks to your generosity, we will make a positive difference in these less fortunate lives. We donated coats, gloves, socks, sweatshirts/pants, shower shoes, thermal shirts and underwear, back packs, shaving cream, razors, soap, etc.

We are trained to be Tang Soo Do warriors, but we are also trained to have a servant's heart. Helping others is what we are all about. Thank you again for your generosity. I realize folks are on budget, so your kindness is truly appreciated.

The photo below provides a small sample of the items you donated. THANK YOU!



Thanksgiving at My Brother's House Men's Shelter

By Rick Braun, Sam Dan



This past Thanksgiving, Master Altire, Master Altire's friend Russ, and I served breakfast at My Brother's House Men's Shelter. Vaughn's Dojang has been doing this for many, many years and it is always very gratifying to help those in need. This year we served breakfast, helped to prepare the Thanksgiving dinner, and cleaned up the pots and pans and food preparation area. Helping at My Brother's House has become a tradition for many of us and it is something that I look forward to every year.

KIDS

IDS

KIDS

D
I
K

Kids' Corner

Five Codes of Tang Soo Do Word Scramble

By Anoushka Yadav, E Dan

Unscramble the following phrases to find
the Five Codes of Tang Soo Do!

Rearrange the letters to form words, and then rearrange the
words to form the Five Codes! Then, for an extra challenge, put
the Five Codes in their correct order. Good Luck!

A. TETRARE NO IN ATTLEB

B. TO APTSREN EIEEOCDNB

C. GTIIFHNG NI CSEOOH HTWI DAN HNORO NSEES

D. SEIPHDNFRI OOHNR

E. TYOCURN YLALYTO OT

Now put the codes in order. Write the letter that is next to
the codes above in order from FIRST to FIFTH:

FIRST - _____ - FIFTH

Vaughn's Dojang 2023 Major Accomplishments

DAN PROMOTIONS—TANG SOO DO

- 5th Dan - Master Winsko
- 3rd Dan - Aarya Bhoir and Dwayne Gable
- 2nd Dan - Pranavi Bhagavathula, Ryan Clark, Ridham Khambhati, Ajay Mohanraj, Saanvi Prasad, Jahnavi Vatsal, and Vaishnavi Vatsal
- Cho Dan - Lucia DeGele, Yatharth Gawda, Arjun Pelleti, Aarav Prasad, and Swagath Ramprasad

DAN PROMOTIONS—HAPKIDO

- 3rd Dan - Bhushan Bhoir
- 2nd Dan - Dwayne Gable and Dr. Stephen Pulley
- Cho Dan - Ryan Clark, Don Otto, Kyle Robertson, and Siarhei Skokau

AWARDS

- The Vaughn's Creativity Team won 3rd Place at the Region 8 Fall Championship on October 21
- Many of our students won medals at the various Championships in 2023
- Ms. Teresa Otto was awarded a \$3,500 Region 8 Scholarship
- Ms. Vaishnavi Vatsal was awarded a \$5,000 WTSDA Grandmaster's Scholarship

INTERESTING FACTS

- Grandmaster Vaughn has been training in WTSDA for almost 55 years
- Grandmaster Vaughn is a 9th Dan in Sin Moo Hapkido
- We have been teaching TSD at the Phoenixville YMCA for over 35 years
- 4 of our instructors have been training with KCN for over 30 years
- 6 of our instructors have been training with KCN for 20-24 years
- 21 students were promoted to 1st Degree Black Belt or higher in TSD or in Sin Moo Hapkido
- Mr. Clark scored 100% on the Black Belt written exam and several of our students scored 90%+ on the exam
- Conducted approximately 20 training sessions at Freedoms Foundation
- Published quarterly newsletters
- Aarya Bhoir, Phalith Moza, Akanksha Palod, Saanvi Prasad, Aradhana Sahu, and Krisha Shinde were selected to participate in the TSD Rising Leaders program
- Our school is one of the few TSD Schools that offers a Special Needs program

REGIONAL AND WORLD TSD DUTIES

- GM Vaughn, Master Lipstein, and Master Winsko hold positions on the WTSDA Board of Directors
- Master Rosenkrans is leading the WTSDA Strategic Planning Initiative (WTSD50); Masters Lipstein and Painter are on this committee
- Dr. Thompson leads the Region 8 Scholarship Committee; Masters Altieri and Painter are on this committee
- Dr. Painter is on the WTSDA Publications and Legal Affairs Committees
- Mr. Mentley is the Region 8 Treasurer
- Ms. Luneau is the Region 8 Instructors Class Secretary, the Region 8 Social Media Co-Chair, and the Asst. Judging Coordinator

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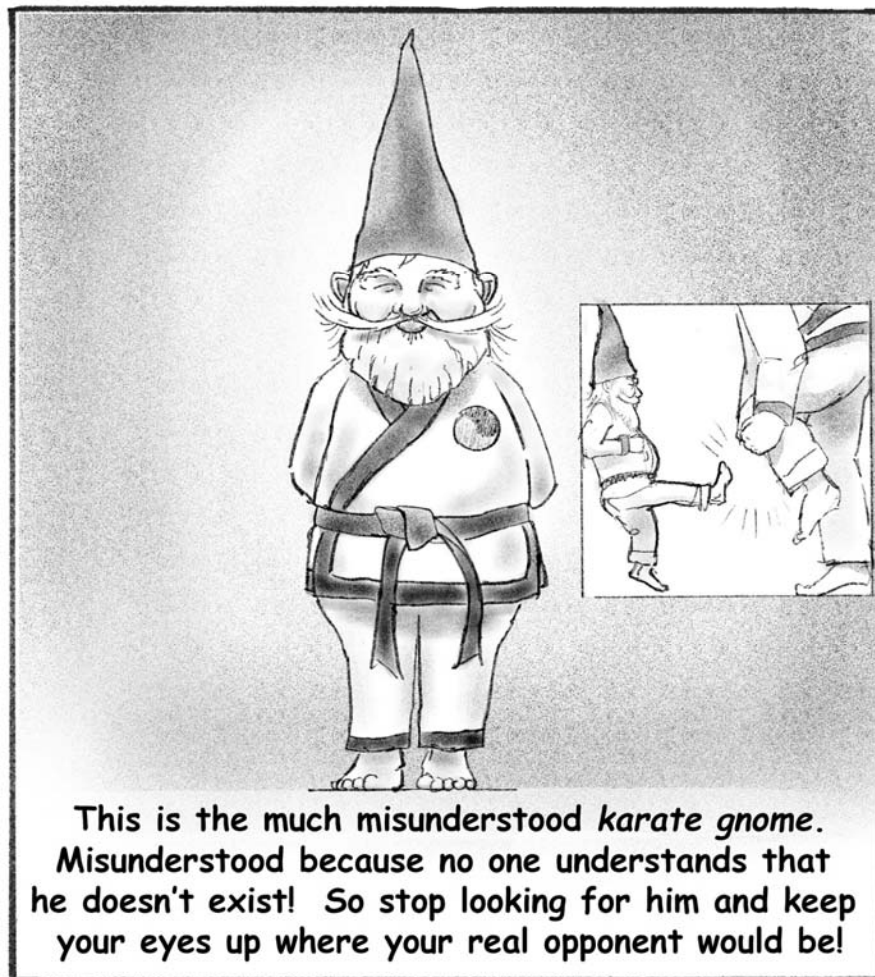
2023 Accomplishments

(Continued from page 7)

ACTIVITIES

- Collected items for the Bethesda Project (for the homeless of Philadelphia)
- Conducted several women's self-defense programs
- Hobby Day
- Cleaning the Dojang project
- Black Belt Camps and Masters' Clinic
- Region 8 Championships
- Halloween party
- Pizzazz Training (with pizza)
- Served breakfast on Thanksgiving at the Bethesda Project
- In-house tournament
- Phoenixville YMCA Fun Fest
- Car washes and bake sales to raise money for the Demo Team
- Dojang refurbishment

JUST FOR KICKS



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Congratulations!

To:

2023 Instructor of the Year –
Mrs. Lisa Mentley



2023 Family of the Year –
The Singh Family



2023 Student of the Year –
Miss Isabelle Voight



**2023 WTSDA Grandmaster's
Scholarship Recipient–**
Miss Vaishnavi Vatsal

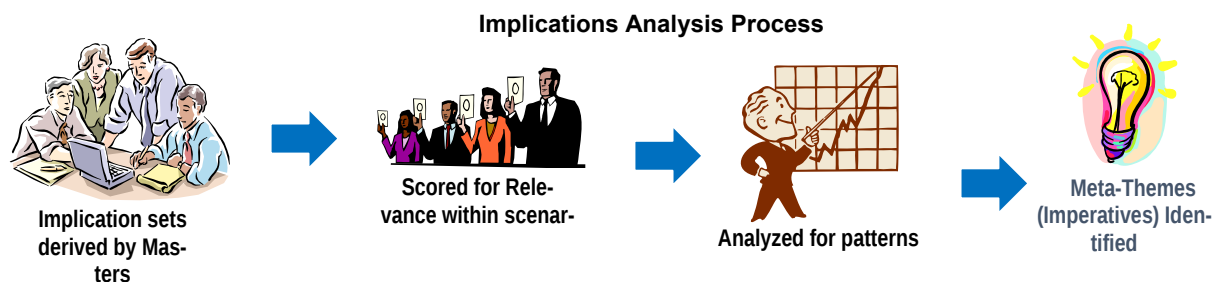


Creating the Fifteen Year Strategic Plan for the Association—the WTSD50 Project: Part 4 Implications to Imperatives

By Master Wayne Rosenkrans, Oh Dan

This is the fourth in a series of newsletter articles that are exploring the Strategic Planning activity for WTSD and its outputs. Part 1 described some background concepts. The next pair of articles were linked (Parts 2a and 2b) and examined the specific WTSDA implementation and process, in particular the creation of key driving elements and several scenarios. Part 3 discussed how the scenarios were analyzed for their implications to WTSD, while this part examines the creation of strategic imperatives from those implications.

Having identified the key future drivers (see part 2a in a previous newsletter), a small set of well-differentiated scenarios that were plausible, yet challenging and adequately defined the possible space of the future, were created (see part 2b in the previous newsletter). The implications portion of the process was a role-playing exercise which took place in March of 2019 at the annual Masters' Clinic at the University of North Alabama. A group of some 60 WTSDA Masters spent a day and a half in small teams discussing the strategic implications of succeeding in the WTSD50 scenarios, facilitated by WTSD50 members and a group of volunteer recorders capturing all commentary for later analysis. These discussions yielded over 250 separate implications from the seven scenario teams which were all captured by the recorders into Excel spreadsheets for analysis. These implications for success in each of the scenario worlds were then further analyzed and a detailed evaluation conducted (see part 3).



Directly out of the analysis grids, these raw sets of implications must be further studied to evolve them into a true set of priorities which will ultimately be prioritized and developed into high-level action plans associated with moving each forward. After considerable discussion by the WTSD50 team, the initial raw imperatives directly constituted by the workshop-derived implications evolved into a more operative set of imperatives. Listed below are those final imperatives and a few of the operating principles contained within them (not the exhaustive list).

Imperative Themes – Guiding Principles, Supporting the application of WTSD Mission and Vision in our work

- Build a better world by developing leaders in a safe and welcoming environment through traditional Korean martial arts addressing the needs of a diverse society while reducing barriers in a family-oriented environment.
- Connect students directly and concretely to our values, i.e., mottoes, codes, tenets, and virtues.
- In an increasingly diverse world, want to help all types of individuals discover their own paths, (paths that work with their age, gender, religion, etc.) to becoming one with nature.

Imperative Themes – Image/Branding, Communicating our values and what differentiates us from others

- Be sensitive and aware of the needs of our communities — (parents, schools, community agencies e.g. YMCA, Scouts, Boys and Girls clubs etc.) and be adaptive to our clientele, promote community service.
- Enable the Association to take a bigger role (bully programs, business, diversity, etc.) through uniformity in support of training, objectives and use of technology to transfer information to all.
- Generate a broad (societal — local, national, international) understanding of who we are and how we can fit into multiple spheres of a diverse community.
- Others see us as teaching self-defense but we teach values, traditions of worth, and principles in health, wellness, and conflict prevention and resolution.

Imperative Themes – Marketing, Promoting our services and products while building relationships with our customers

- Create marketing strategy to show value, safe environment, and investment in future.
- Develop market awareness and an understanding of the tools to reach them (new technologies, social media, nontraditional communications channels, traditional media).
- Develop programs to understand local demographics and proactively go to where potential students are — e.g., churches, schools, senior centers — with communication strategies and offerings that meet their different needs.
- Strengthen social relationships through more in-person events within Regions including community service events to bring the studios and the communities together.

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WTSD50 Project*(Continued from page 10)***Imperative Themes – Center of Excellence**, *Providing leadership, standards, and policies in particular area(s) to support our decisions and activities*

- The Association and regions provide business analysis, marketing, support for innovative marketing strategies, and business operating advice for struggling studios.
- Create a community of experts to provide studios with expertise they need in various areas, leverage online communities.
- Create a strong foundation of leadership (WTSD, RD) to develop standardized training, business training, programs and leading-edge systems to continue the growth of our studios in service of our diverse communities.

Imperative Themes – Information Management/Technology, *Processes and systems which support the flow of information within and beyond the organization*

- Create mechanism for Studio owners to share data with HQ identified to support decisions for WTSD future.
- Embrace technology, lead in redefining the classroom using technology to meld technology with brick and mortar to reach the maximum number of students (situational VR classroom).
- Explore where people are (and will be) getting their news and information and how to reach subsets of the local community (elderly, Spanish-language media, etc.).
- Offer virtual Instructor classrooms that deal with a variety of issues, government, instruction, business, training in a uniform, standardized and professional manner.

Imperative Themes – Professional Development, *Supporting the professional growth of employees, studio owners, and instructors*

- Allow for free flow of creative ideas and innovation to all studios/instructors to enhance service capabilities.
- Create a strong foundation of leadership (WTSD, RD) to develop standardized training, business training, programs and leading-edge systems to continue the growth of our studios in service of our diverse communities.
- Instill more cultural adaptation for teaching. In order to serve the communities in which you are located, you need to know those cultural requirements.
- Provide ongoing training of instructors and studio owners to adapt to technology and needs of students and potential students, make use of social media — in a positive way.

Imperative Themes – External Partnering, *Relationships with our community, vendors, governments, and others*

- Look for partners in the community who have the shared goals and work together delivering our services, achieving more recognition by the government/community.
- Partner with education organizations and associations -- and their subsidiary organizations such as the PTA, PTO, booster clubs , etc.
- Partner with silver sneakers and similar organizations for inclusion in their programs.

Imperative Themes – Risk Management, *Supporting our following laws, regulations, standards, and ethics appropriate for our organization*

- As an international organization, we should seek to understand local rules and regulations to support our global studios.
- Create a toolbox of resources to help studios with understanding regulations and maintaining certifications
- Develop a strategy to be better prepared for and deal with new laws and regulations that impact the martial arts business — both positive and negative, a WTSDA advocacy function to keep us ahead of the curve.
- Standardize and validate processes to protect studio, student, and the association — includes first aid, CPR, and instructor certification.

(Continued on page 12)

WTSD50 Project

(Continued from page 11)

Finally, a visual model of the imperative strategies and the revised Mission and Vision statement was created:

Final Imperatives Model



The final article of this series, part 5, will focus on the post-pandemic assessment and restructuring of the model in response to the major "Black Swan" event of the COVID pandemic.