

# Taekwondo Manitoba has 5 Candidates for 3 positions -“Director at Large” .

Let us introduce them to you with their qualification summaries:

## **MASTER MATTHEW ONYSCHAK**

Master Matthew Onyschak is currently serving on our Board as a Director at Large. He has allowed his name to stand to continue in his position, if re-elected ,at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

## **KRAHN,REBA**

I am excited to let my nomination stand for a member of the Board of Directors at Taekwondo Manitoba. In the past I have sat on several Boards as well as worked under a Board of Director which gives me an intimate understanding of how boards work and the importance of working together as a team.

I was the Secretary on the Board of Directors for Busy Nest Daycare from 2013-2015. In this role I oversaw organizing the agenda for the meeting, emailing Board members, taking notes during the meeting, and sending Board Members the meeting minutes.

During 2016 – 2017 I worked at the Valley Agricultural Society as an Administrative assistant. This was a unique experience as I was able to see another side to how to work with a Board of Directors. I was responsible for assisting the General Manager in all various administrative tasks that were required for running a large-scale event. I had to answer to a 12-member Board of Directors, all in charge of various portions of the event. This meant I had to learn to juggle the priorities of each Board Member while simultaneously do other aspects of my job.

I also currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Morris Wellness Centre. I am currently the Personnel Board Member and oversee the two part time staff that the Wellness Centre employs. I have been a Board Member since 2022 and plan to let my name stand for the next election. During my time with Morris Wellness Centre, I have been a part of assisting the Board in following Provincial Guidelines surrounding COVID-19, helping create a new member tracking system, working on contracts, and hiring staff. Recently, I was also responsible for facilitating a meeting and conversation for a potential collaboration effort between the Morris Wellness Centre and the Special Olympics.

Finally, I have been actively involved in the Taekwondo community for the better part of 7 years. In December of 2021 my daughter was awarded her Second Dan and I have played an active role in the sport along with her. I look forward to being more involved in the sport and I hope that I can assist Taekwondo Manitoba in their mission statement.

## **CAMIRE, BRENDA**

I have been practicing Taekwondo for over 18 years and have achieved the level of 2<sup>nd</sup> dan black belt. I am currently retired from the Provincial Government after 38 years of service , primarily in the field of corporate services. I feel the experience I gained during my working tenure would be a benefit to the Taekwondo Manitoba board in the administering of its policies and procedures.

I previously held a partial term as a director on the board with Taekwondo Manitoba. I am a P1 provincial Taekwondo referee and have participated in that capacity at several tournaments over the years.

## LIONEL BERNIER

My name is Lionel Bernier, a 73 year old who retired in 2009 from the employ of the Canadian Federal government. I am a graduate of the University of Manitoba in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Zoology and a minor in Botany. My academic standing among other attributes led to a five year career with Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) as a contract Fisheries Biologist from 1981 to 1985 doing research in the Canadian High Arctic specializing in the study of Arctic charr and lake trout and their uses by local Inuit and sport fishers. This work led to the publication of 15 scientific papers and reports plus assisting other scientists and biologists in the publications of 15 of their papers and reports. Surviving a helicopter crash on September 2, 1984 off the coast of Baffin Island was a very “memorable” experience for me. This mini fisheries career was eventually followed by a 20 year career as a Senior Environment Officer with Indian & Northern Affairs Canada starting in 1990. At that time, I was tasked to create an Environmental Unit for the department, the first of its kind in response to environmental legislation being applied to the Federal Government. I wrote almost 70 reports during this time for the department and the First Nations I served. The majority of the reports were on the Environmental Reviews of the Treaty Land Entitlement of Manitoba First Nations. In late 1988, Taekwondo came to the community of Lorette where I had moved to in 1986. Following a year of watching my son train in Taekwondo, I made the decision at 40 years of age to join him in late 1989 under the instruction of Vic Black. I earned my 1st Dan black belt in Kang’s Taekwondo Academy on February 15, 1992. Following months of illness in late 1994 and early 1995, I decided to step back from Taekwondo to concentrate on my environmental career. Fast forward 21 years to October 2015 when I accompanied my son and two grandchildren to join the Lorette Branch of Kang’s Taekwondo. I earned 2nd Dan in April 2017 and in April 2018, my family became one of a few families in Canada to have three active generations of black belts when my granddaughter, Rya, earned her 1st Poom at 7½ years old. I earned 3rd Dan in April 2019. This test was memorable for me since, with my son, Aaron, and two grandchildren, Gaiden and Rya, all testing at the same time, we became the first family in the world to have three generations testing with two grandchildren at the same time. Following an infection with the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus on March 8 of this year, I still felt ready to test for 4th Dan in April based on the exercise regime I maintained for many months at home. I was able to satisfactorily complete the test but certainly found that the disease did affect my performance which I was not fully satisfied with. Based on the issuance of my latest black belt certificate, my 4th Dan cannot be submitted to TC and the Kukkiwon for registration until early October, a month from now. .../2 Since October 2016 when I was involved in forming a new Taekwondo club, Spirit 1 Taekwondo Academy with Master Michael Tam, I spent my entire retired time in developing this club to the level of recognition it enjoyed up to the time of the pandemic in 2020. I created all of the documentation still used today, albeit in newer version forms, and spearheaded the processes for the smooth operation of the club. This included, but was not limited to, the financial accounting & documentation of the Lorette and Downtown branches, the process of student registration, the processes for colour and black belt promotion tests, the creation of certificates to promote student excellence and confidence after promotion tests and year end tournament winners, etc. To document this martial arts chapter in my life, I created a digitized book of over 500 pages to cover the years of Spirit 1 Taekwondo Academy spanning the years from 2015 to the present. Lastly, I made the decision to separate from Spirit 1 Taekwondo Academy on July 1st with full support from my branch and from my colleague, Melody Tardiff, who operates the Ste. Anne Branch. Canada Day, July 1st also represented a new beginning for both of us and the branches of our new club, Aethos Taekwondo. We are very comfortable with our decision as we can now focus our energies on developing the youth of our branches who make up the bulk of our students. I am especially proud of mentoring our young students, some of whom have become Poom belts and of mentoring my favourite TKD granddaughter, Elisabeth Fust, from a 12 year old white belt in 2015 to the holder of a 3rd Dan today and my lead instructor in Lorette Branch. I look forward especially to the day when she turns 20 next year and is eligible to test for 4th Dan. Although accepting this position, if I am fortunate enough to win it, may be a challenge at my “tender age”, I will devote energies to fulfilling the mandate of the position as presented

## **BHAKTA, KABIR**

I, Kabir Bhakta, would like to apply for the position of Director at Large within our very own Taekwondo Manitoba organization. I believe I would be a strong contender for this position because of the experience I have not just being practicing Taekwondo but being at various leadership positions within our own club as well as District Taekwondo Association. I was born in 2001 and started practising taekwondo in 2005 since then I have participated at various stages of tournaments such as Asian Junior Championship, World Junior Championship, World School Game Championship as well as number of national taekwondo championships held in India. I started my taekwondo journey in Mumbai, India. I also have National Referee Certificate from India. Being in the sport has given me plenty of experience with various core working of the organisation. I am willing to apply those experience and acquire more knowledge towards and from the organisation. Within my university, I have been part of multiple Student groups such as, UNICEF Manitoba, UMSU, Laskh Students Group, WICS (Women in Computer Science), as their committee member. With this experience being with me, it helps me work with a team in more productive manner. I would really love the opportunity to work with Taekwondo Manitoba and bring some exciting and benefitting ideas to our members and bring more awareness for Taekwondo in our province