

March 2019 Newsletter  
**Goju-Ryu Karate-Do Kyokai**

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### Annual Dues

By Ed Myers

Hello GKK members, Dojo Leaders and National Directors,

It is once again time to collect the annual dues and update the active member list. Dan ranks are \$25 and Kyu ranks are \$15. Dojo Leaders are to send this to your National Director. For example, Frank Matt (Dojo Leader) of the Corinth Goju Dojo in New York will send their dues and active member list to the USA Director, Dwight Scales. The National Directors are to send the active member list (in Excel or Word) and dues to Ed Myers (CEO) This is all due by April 1st.”

### Annual Spring Seminar

By Dwight Scales

Our annual Spring seminar, business meeting and tournament will be held the weekend of May 17th and 18th in Toledo Ohio. Location for these events is yet to be determined. Details to come soon.

Friday, May 17th, will be our promotional event. School leaders please submit the names of any candidates, along with the necessary information, to Sensei Myers and Scales no later than May 1st.

Saturday, May 18th, Yamakura Shihan, will conduct the Spring seminar. Dinner and our business meeting will follow the conclusion of the seminars.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in Toledo!

### History of Kanryo Higaonna

Submitted by Kim Barrington

**K**anryo Higaonna, often referred to as the father of Naha te was the teacher of the legendary Chojun Miyagi. Born in 1853 Kanryo was fascinated with martial arts even from a young age. He was born into a relatively well off family. They owned a business that involved the selling of firewood and received a royal stipend as well. Hard times would fall on them later as they lost this royal status and had to rely on the firewood business only. Kanryo's initial exposure to martial arts was likely through Arakaki Seisho. He was Kanryo's first karate instructor. During Kanryo's youth it is said his father was attacked and killed by a mugger in front of young Kanryo. This spurred him to travel to China to further his martial arts training. The other version is that he simply went to China on business and decided to stay to learn martial arts more in depth. In 1870 he would set sail for Fuzhou China.

Life in China was hard for a foreigner. Kanryo was also disadvantaged by the fact that he was illiterate. It was difficult to be accepted into a martial arts school. He eventually came to the school of Ryu Ryu Ko, who was a master of white crane kung-fu. However Kanryo was not accepted initially. There are a few different stories about how he started training. One is that he did many chores for months before Ryu Ryu Ko began to teach him. The other is that he





saved Ryu Ryu Ko's daughter from drowning during a flood. No one knows which one is true for sure. Regardless he studied with him for about ten years or so before returning to Okinawa. The training in China was reported to be extremely severe. Sanchin would be practiced many times over each day. Later on when Ryu Ryu Ko was getting old Kanryo himself would perform some of the teaching duties.

Kanryo would finally return to his homeland, Okinawa in 1881. Kanryo wouldn't begin teaching right away though. It wasn't until about 1902 that he would start to accept students. This was about the same time that Anko Itosu started teaching at the high schools and karate became popular in the public. Kanryo decided he would start teaching too. Many students did not stick around for long. Teaching

only Sanchin, most found it to be boring and left. It wasn't until later that a young Chojun Miyagi would walk in through the doors. Seiko Higa would arrive many years after Miyagi did. His other two notable students were Kyoda Juhatsu and Kenwa Mabuni, the Shito-Ryu founder.

Kanryo was well known by the people of Okinawa and Naha. The style he was teaching came to be called Naha-Te meaning "Naha-Hand". He had a very powerful physique and was known for his strength and power, as well as his speed. His nickname was "Legs Higaonna" for his strong kicking technique. He was reported as mild mannered in his everyday life, but a taskmaster when teaching.

Kanryo also later began teaching at the local Naha high school and Chojun Miyagi would often assist him. Kanryo eventually fell ill though, and Miyagi took him in to his home to care for him. Kanryo would pass away at the young age of 63 in 1915. Chojun Miyagi would later develop Goju-Ryu, while Kyoda Juhatsu created Toon-Ryu. Kanryo Higaonna's teachings and legacy live on through these styles.



**M. Yamakura**  
**Ed Myers**  
**Dwight Scales**  
**Eric Naujock**  
**Bill Kane**  
**Deb Crawford**  
**Angie Monday**  
**Bill Handren**

Chairman  
 CEO  
 USA Director  
 Webmaster  
 Program Development  
 USA Business Manager  
 Merchandise Administrator  
 Newsletter Editor

3763 Old Creek Road, Troy, MI 48084  
 11568 Reed Road, Whitehouse, OH 43571  
 1940 Bobolink Lane, Toledo, OH 43615  
 2146 Queensdale Ct., Maumee, OH 43537  
 7 Shalimar Lane, Maple Glen, PA 19002  
 5705 Northlake Road, Springfield, IL 62711  
 6030 Davida, Toledo, OH 43612  
 115 West North Street, Dwight, IL 60420

[chairman@goju.com](mailto:chairman@goju.com)  
[myerse@tmdinc.com](mailto:myerse@tmdinc.com)  
[1940dscales@gmail.com](mailto:1940dscales@gmail.com)  
[webmaster@goju.com](mailto:webmaster@goju.com)  
[wmkane@comcast.net](mailto:wmkane@comcast.net)  
[sharpda71@msn.com](mailto:sharpda71@msn.com)  
[angie.monday@yahoo.com](mailto:angie.monday@yahoo.com)  
[yokagawa2002@yahoo.com](mailto:yokagawa2002@yahoo.com)

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