



美國國術總會

United States Kuo Shu Federation

P.O. Box 927

Reisterstown, MD 21136-0927

U.S.A

President: Huang, Chien-Liang

Email: info@usksf.org

Phone: (443) 394-9222

Fax: (443) 394-9202

www.usksf.org

January 31, 2024

Greetings!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday break. I wish you a happy Chinese New Year! In the spirit of new beginnings, the USKSF is ready to commence a new chapter as we celebrate our 35th annual tournament on July 12-14 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

As you may have heard, in late October of last year, we were notified by our previous venue, where we spent the past 20+ years hosting our event, that they would be repurposing the property and that we would need to find a new venue for the following year (2024). As an organization, we embarked on a swift quest to find a suitable venue. Since we were notified by the property so late, many venues were already booking for 2025. Our search expanded from Maryland to Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC.

Our last out-of-state visit was in Pennsylvania, where we spent over seven hours looking at multiple locations. At our first site, we found a venue within our budget and with the dates we wanted. On the one hand, it was a relief after investing so much time in locating a venue. On the other hand, it reminded me a lot of our previous venue, creating some concerns and red flags. I could easily see this property being our venue for a couple of years and then having the property repurposed a few years later. At our last site in Pennsylvania, I sat down and thought to myself, "What are we doing?" We are essentially putting a Band-Aid on something and will have to go through the whole process again. I asked myself, "Why are we doing this in the first place?" We host one of the world's best tournaments, and we do it at a subpar venue. Despite all the hard work we put in year after year, the venue never matched the quality of the tournament we provided. Change was needed.

So, we returned to the drawing board and re-revisited the hundreds of properties we had combed through to see how we could provide the best venue possible for you. So, after an intense four months and hundreds of hours later, we came back full circle and chose the Bethesda Marriott.

With anything new, there will always be changes and tweaks along the way. We tried our best to maintain our old model, but it just wasn't possible. Deciding to host the tournament on a beautiful property meant there would be new benefits and challenges we never encountered. The good news is that we have a venue that will be around for many years to come. The property is in a prime location within a short distance from



美國國術總會

United States Kuo Shu Federation

P.O. Box 927

Reisterstown, MD 21136-0927

U.S.A

President: Huang, Chien-Liang

Email: info@usksf.org

Phone: (443) 394-9222

Fax: (443) 394-9202

www.usksf.org

Washington, DC, in the comfort of the suburbs. However, this decision comes with its own set of challenges, particularly in terms of cost. For perspective, our journey began with an initial increase of \$120k in venue-related costs before we could negotiate it down. This left us with no choice but to increase our tournament fees to reflect the new costs to us.

We understand this may raise some concerns and we will do our best to keep an open dialogue. We hope you appreciate the dedication and effort in securing this facility. Everything we have done, was done with you in mind. As a non-profit organization without government funding, we continue to dedicate ourselves to providing the world's best Chinese martial arts tournament.

Thank you for being the heart of our community and the driving force behind what we do. Your loyalty over the past 35 years is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Master Michael Huang
USKSF General Manager

P.S. We understand you may have questions or concerns and encourage you to share them with us. We value your input and we will do our best to relay new information to you as soon as possible.

Phone: 443-394-9200

Website: <https://usksf.org/contacts/>

Email: info@usksf.org