

2016 Arizona Fencing Division Annual Meeting June 12, 2016

Attendance:

11 members in attendance – Daniel Kingsley, James Fowler, Kaitly Fowler, Mark Fowler, Rolly Arroyo , Catherine Bolton, Michelle Becker, William Becker, William Becker III, William Becker Ives, Nina Linder.

14 members were unable to attend but assigned proxy votes.

Call to Order 10:17AM

Meeting was called to order at 10:17am.

Division Chairman Bill Becker thanked everyone for coming.

Financial Report – Treasure, Mark Fowler (Attachment included)

\$1576.00 received in USFA Membership Dues Rebates.

Total revenues in the division checking account are \$15,183.49.

The largest expense stemming from requirements of hiring a referee outside of the division for the Summer Nationals Qualifier.

OPEN DISCUSSION ON DIVISION FINANCES:

Nina Linder reminded the group that Grand Canyon State Games are always a wash for the division. This event is set up as a partnership with the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission to promote fencing in the state and has never “cost” the division money. The awards and t-shirts are supplied for the event. Referee costs are deducted from the moneys collected; the facility for the past three years has always been donated. So it makes the financial statement as provided look skewed.

Mark Fowler followed up commenting that the financial report reflects the totals in revenue and expenses as an overall picture and does not directly reflect that the GCSG state games are a wash. The Entry Fee’s collected without the GCSG were \$840.00 and the Competition Expenses without the expenses for the GCSG were \$1800.00.

Rolly Arroyo inquired if some of the division moneys that were just sitting there if they could be used for something. Bill Becker commented that a year ago the division did use some of the money to help anyone interested in attending the referee clinic. As a reminder, US Fencing now requires a standard fee to attend a referee clinic – prior to that requirement, some people offered the clinic for free (AZ) but other hosts or divisions charged a variety of prices.

Rolly suggested that given that this is an Olympic year the division could do some advertising. All clubs could benefit from the use of a general advertisement for fencing in AZ. Bill agreed it was a great idea and said that the new board, when elected, should address it. Nina reminded everyone that when clubs renew their membership they need to contact the secretary so that the website can be updated with the necessary documentation so that they will benefit by any moneys spent by the division.

Membership is encouraged to send any ideas or suggestions so that the new board can move forward with cost effective measures that will benefit all.

Parents Magazine was discussed as a strong possibility. While it is not cheap it does have a huge readership and distribution. Looking at maybe a ½ to full page advertisement with maybe a map with * of locations or just listing the division website as a place to get more information about clubs near the individual reader.

Harkins & AMC Movie theaters were also discussed as possibilities. Costs for movie advertisements are approximately \$1400.00/month.

Demonstrations were also discussed as an outreach. Rolly stated that has not been a successful venture for him or his club in the past in terms of use of their time, energy, and efforts. Individual clubs can certainly continue to pursue this if they feel it is beneficial but the consensus was that the return on the invested time has not been beneficial.

Mark also discussed the division trailer. He was tasked with trying to get the trailer listed for sale. Unfortunately, that has not been an easy process. The current board did not receive any documentation regarding the purchase of the trailer, nor the title for the trailer when it was purchased. He has tried to get information on the trailer or get a new copy of the title but the state is saying that the Arizona Fencing Division is not listed as the owner of the trailer. The state cannot and will not tell Mark who IS listed as the owner. Rolly said that Pia Douglas was given moneys from the division to purchase the trailer for the division. It is believed that the trailer might be in her or the Douglas' estates name – similar to the problem the division had with the website name and hosting with Go Daddy. Mark will call the state back and ask if it is listed in the Douglas' name to see if they can provide us with that confirmation. Rolly will try to check inside the trailer to see if the paperwork is there. To get a new title, and have it titled in the division name, the division would need to take the trailer to the DMV, the DMV will record the VIN # and the division would take the information to the sheriff's department. It will cost the division \$400.00 and the Sherriff will post it for 60 days. If no one comes forward to claim the trailer then we can have it titled in the Division name. Rolly will first double check the inside of the trailer to ensure there is no paperwork or documentation inside and then take care of the removal/disposal. The division has not ever compensated him for the storage of the trailer. It was agreed that any proceeds he may potentially make on the removal or disposal will be equitable for payment of his efforts given the cost the division would incur with the title problem given the cost and that the wheels and hubs are bad and it cannot be transported as it is.

Secretary Report – Nina Linder (Attachment included)

Division Membership for the 2015-2016 season was 12 member clubs. A total of 380 members: 120 female (32%) and 260 male (38%). The division clubs hosted a total of 16 competitions this season. 3 additional events were hosted by the division – The Grand Canyon State Games, JO Qualifiers, and Summer National Qualifiers. We also had an SYC, and ROC and a Men's Junior Saber World Cup that took place in our division.

For being one of the smaller divisions we have really has some amazing national and international success. Congratulations to Bill Becker and Ruth Dodge on their 2015 Vet World Team membership, and Kara Linder for both the Cadet and Junior 2016 World Teams. This season both the division website and the division Facebook page were used to increase communication and to highlight the successes of the athletes in our division. A recap of the Junior Olympics was provided – our division had 35 entries and one team event. The 2016 Summer Nationals / July Challenge looks to be another strong representation. Event recaps for the Arizona representatives will be posted on the division website and FB page as the competition takes place. We had 3 athletes named to the 2015 All-Academic Teams and hope that there will be even more when the 2016 teams are announced on July 3, 2016.

We are working with the National Office to have our division bylaws updated. They are currently with the legal department and should be ready to be presented at the General Meeting and then voted on at the Annual meeting next year as outlined in the current bylaws.

Chairman Report – Bill Becker

Next year the bids were accepted for the same events an SYC & ROC and an RJCC was added. FCAZ is also hosting a Junior Men's Sabre World Cup. Having these events in our backyard is a big cost saving so that people do not have to travel to get some great experience, and to see some high level fencers at the World Cup. There are 4 SYC's "nearby" (California, Colorado, and Texas), but fencers can attend anywhere an SYC is being hosted; only one result (the best result) per age group will count for national points. ROC's - fencers can attend anywhere but only the best 3 results will count towards the regional point total. RJCC's - fencers will only earn points within their own region (region 4), all points earned

will count in the regional points accumulation. These points are another path that may help fencers qualify fencers for Cadet and Junior events at JO's and/or the July Challenge.

US Fencing just had their election. The three athletes elected to the Hall of Fame were Molly Sullivan, Cody Mattern and Greg Massialas. Don Anthony was re-elected as the President of the Board with over a 50% margin. It is the first time that a President has been elected for a second term. Further information and results are posted on the US Fencing website.

There are a lot of changes coming. The FOC is revising from 13 members to 5. There will be a president and 4 VP directly in charge for a particular area. International, Domestic Development, Domestic Assignments, Ombudsman – complaints etc there will be 6 people that work with that person and then the Chair of the FOC. Interviews and decisions are taking place now and should be announced by the end of Summer Nationals.

There are rule changes coming for the upcoming season. Please make sure you have read up on them. Info and links to the US Fencing posts have been posted on our division page, the division FB page. Epee wiring changes, Timing changes for sabre so you will need to have your club equipment updated (when the chips are available the division will have to update the boxes we have), and the biggest change for sabre is the test being done the first half of the season with the back foot on the on guard line at the start of the bout.

There is an upcoming USFCA Coaches Academy and AGM at Redlands Fencing Center in Oklahoma. They hold 4-5 seminars per year its a week long clinic. Epee – Abdul Azzese (sp), Foil – Peter Buchard, Sabre – they asked me. The information about the week long seminar/clinic is posted on askfred.

General Discussion, *Motions/voting:

Statutory Agent:

Mark Fowler brought to the attention that the division is a non-profit and because of this a Statutory agent must be listed. Our current SA is Phillip Richey, who no longer lives in the state. The SA does not have to be a board member but needs to be someone that lives in the state. He offered to be the permanent SA going forward to make things easy stating he has no intend of moving or relocating out of the state of Arizona.

A motion was made by Nina Linder to make Mark Fowler the Statutory Agent for the division going forward; Rolly Arroyo 2nd the motion. All in favor - the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Upcoming Competitions:

Flagstaff would again like to host a competition in August. They questioned where or not there would be enough interest in a foil event to have the YMCA extend their hours to accommodate. Discussions took place that there are not any guarantees. There were additional questions about self refereeing for pools and Bill said that yes that is okay.

*The motion was made by Bill Becker to allow Flagstaff to host their competition in August; motion 2nd by Mark Fowler. All in favor -the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

*Bill Becker made a motion to allow Prescott to host their Labor Day competition; motion 2nd by Mark Fowler. All in favor - the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

There is a \$5.00 fee that the division charges for hosting events. For the past several years we have always voted to waive the division fee because the division has plenty of reserve funds.

*Nina Linder made the motion to waive the \$5.00 division event fee; motion 2nd by Rolly Arroyo. All in favor – the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Medals:

The division is in need to place an order for medals. We only distribute medals for JO Qualifier and Summer National Qualifiers. Bill recommended that medals again be ordered in bulk to save money for the division – that is what has previously done – this last purchase has probably been used for the past 5 years but the supply is about out with the exception of a lot of 3rd place medals. We do not typically have ties for 3rd so we have may left overs. We will need to work with Crown, the company previously used to purchase a bulk order but mostly golds and silvers.

*Nina Linder made the motion to purchase additional medals; motion was 2nd by Will Becker. All in favor - the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Division Equipment:

Division equipment was brought up by Mark Fowler. Because he and Kaitlyn are in Tucson it is difficult to inventory, manage and/or fix. There should be some money and time dedicated to fixing it or just sell it. Bill stated that the division needed to keep the equipment, many of the smaller clubs rely on the division equipment for their competitions (both Prescott and Flagstaff were good examples) and the division is here to help them with that. He agreed that spending the money to keep it up to standard is necessary especially since new timing chips are required. Mark said that he felt the division needs a chair or a committee to be accountable for the equipment and to make repairs. Big Will said that he has been working on the stuff and would be happy to assist if and when he has time. There are currently 5 boxes that need chipped due to the new timing rule but that the chips have not yet been available for purchase.

*Mark Fowler made a motion to spend up to \$500.00 to fix the equipment for the 2016-2017 season; motion 2nd by Rolly Arroyo. All in favor - the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

*Mark Fowler made the motion that a Division Armor position be created and that Big Will would fix the equipment; Dan Kingsly 2nd the motion. A vote was held, 9 approved 1 abstention (William Becker), 1 against – Big Will was the NO vote.

Big Will stated that his problem was that he did not want to commit to do something that he might not have time for and that he did not want to let anyone down. Rolly said that he felt that Big Will should be paid for his time and effort and wanted to know how long Big Will thought things might take. Mark said he disagreed that this should be a volunteer thing. Nina asked the group if anyone was willing to take the task on or if they knew of anyone else in the division that we should approach for the task and everyone looked to Big Will who was shaking his head no.

*Rolly made a motion to pay the position \$200 a year for fixing the equipment and Daniel Kingsly seconded the motion. 3 opposed (Mark Fowler, Jay Fowler, and Big Will), Bill abstained, and as the all in favor votes were being counted Nina stopped the discussion from going further and pointed out that we were voting to have a person do something and that person was not willing to do the task and that we should have further discussions. Motion Stopped – not adopted

*Mark made the motion to revisit the vote, Kaitlyn Fowler 2nd the motion. All were in favor with the exception of 1 abstention (Bill Becker). Motion passed.

Discussion continued: Big Will said that he has been working with the armor Michael Mergs to learn to get things fixed he just was concerned about the time it would take because he is learning not the expert. He said a reel will take him about 20 minutes to fix, he has to work with Mergs on the boxes and it will be about 5-6 hours to get him up to speed and the stuff done. He does not want to take the divisions money if it does not take him that long but at the same time if it takes him a lot longer he cannot commit that kind of time. Rolly Arroyo stated that he should be fairly paid for his time and efforts. Catherine Bolton asked Big Will what he thought a fair hourly wage might be for him and it was suggested a rate of \$20/hr. Big Will said he really

did not know how long it would take him and he was not trying to get more money he just really did not want to over commit.

*Mark proposed creating a division armor position and paying a retainer of \$200 a year, if the number of hours exceeded 10 then the position holder gets paid \$20/hr over the 10 hours on the retainer. Hours will be logged monthly and turned into the Division Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary) Rolly Arroyo 2nd the motion. All were in favor with the exception of 1 abstention (Bill Becker). Motion Passed.

*Mark Fowler nominated William Becker-Ives (Big Will) as the Division Armorer, Kaitlyn Fowler 2nd the motion. All in favor with one abstention (Bill Becker). Motion Passed.

Officer Election:

Voting for division officers for the 2016-2017 took place.

Bill took nominations from the floor.

Treasurer – Mark Fowler was nominated by Kaitlyn Fowler and seconded by Bill Becker. There were no other candidates nominated – all in favor, Mark was elected.

Secretary – Michelle Becker was nominated by Kaitlyn Fowler, and seconded by Mark Fowler. Rolly Arroyo asked Nina Linder if she was wanted to be re-appointed and Nina responded that due to personal reasons she was not able to be considered for the position for the upcoming season. There were no other candidates nominated - all in favor of Michelle Becker, Michelle was elected.

Vice Chair – Kaitlyn Fowler was nominated by Mark Fowler, and seconded by Will Becker. There were no other candidates nominated – all in favor, Kaitlyn Fowler was elected.

Chairman – Bill Becker was nominated by Mark Fowler, and seconded by Will Becker. There were no other candidates nominated – all in favor, Bill Becker was elected.