

MEETING MINUTES
Western PA Division / US Fencing Association
Annual Meeting and Elections – July 17, 2016

A.) Call meeting to order:

- Meeting called to order at 1:24 PM

B.) Roll Call:

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name)

Erik Blank

Dave Theriault

Deb Theriault

Storm Walden

Olivia Weiss

Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last annual meeting on June 21, 2015:

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held June 21, 2015, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Storm Walden.

D.) Reports:

1.) Treasurer's Report: Deb Theriault provided the Treasurer's Report.

- As of 7/17/16, the ending balance of the WPD Treasury was \$10,304.46. The bank balance was \$10,485.45, with \$180.99 in outstanding checks.
- Total income for the 8/1/15 – 7/17/16 period was \$1,574.00 (meet fees, US Fencing dues share rebates, and other {WPD scoring equipment rental, armory clinic}).
- The US Fencing dues rebate amount included \$216.00 from the end of the 2014-2015 season and 408.00 from the beginning of the 2015-2016 season.
- Total expenses for the 8/1/15 – 7/17/16 period were \$1,568.36 (WPD rebates, clinics, website costs, meet expenses, scoring machine upgrades, and annual meeting expenses).
- WPD rebate program had 5 SafeSport partial rebates for the season.
- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's Report; moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Erik Blank.

2.) Year-End Review:

- Fifteen tournaments were held in the WPD this season.

- En Garde hosted 5 of these events; IUP hosted 2; USCFC hosted 1; Tiger also hosted 2.
- There were also two unsanctioned tournaments: 1 at WVU, and the Holy Grail at CMU.
- The WPD held Qualifiers for Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals; this was the first time in 5 years that there was fencing at both qualifiers.
- Tiger also held an RYC.
- Forty ratings were awarded this season: 1 B, 8 C's, 8 D's, and 23 E's. Of these, 14 were renewals, 26 were new ratings.
- Discussion went back and forth about college students and their division affiliation: whether they change it to WPD or retain their home division. Erik Blank suggested reaching out to the college clubs to encourage their members to join the WPD when they renew their membership.
- The possibility of amending the Safe Sport rebate policy was brought up by Deb Theriault, in order to benefit those college students who consistently help out at meets but still retain their home division affiliation.
- The issue of correct mailing addresses was discussed: the addresses that are given to the WPD from the National Office are not always valid by the time the mailing goes out for the WPD Annual Meeting. Updating addresses at meets throughout the season is a possible measure.

E.) Elections:

- Elections were held for the positions of 2nd Vice Chair and Secretary.
- The WPD Nominating Committee's recommended candidates were Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair, and Renee Weiss as Secretary.
- The election results were Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair, and Renee Weiss as Secretary.
- The current Executive Committee includes Olivia Weiss as Chair, Storm Walden as 1st Vice Chair, and Deb Theriault as Treasurer.

F.) Old Business:

1.) Membership Statistics:

- Olivia Weiss said that the membership statistics had already been covered during the Year-End Review, earlier in the meeting. There was general agreement on that.

2.) Equipment Inventory:

- Storm Walden had compiled a spreadsheet of all the WPD equipment (scoring machines, reels, floor cords, etc.

- Renee Weiss and Olivia Weiss had additionally catalogued the equipment photographically.
- The possibility of repairing some of the older equipment was readdressed at this time: Olivia Weiss said she had emailed Bogdan Haiko for a quote on what was repairable and what the costs would be for such repairs.

3.) Safe Sport Policy

- The WPD Safe Sport rebate policy was addressed (for possible revision) during the Year-End Review; currently it only provides for the \$35 partial rebate to WPD Division members, Deb Theriault felt that out-of-division college students should potentially benefit from this as well. Concerns were raised about the possibilities of people "gaming the system"; if the policy is revised, it needs to make this unlikely.
- Professional memberships with Safe Sport and background checks are now a requirement for "anyone who has the potential to come in contact with people under the age of 18 at a fencing related event": everyone was in agreement that clubs hosting meets need to have their club members who are in prominent organizational roles up to speed on this requirement.

G.) New Business:

1.) New saber rules and timing

- The Favero 01 and 05 machines have been updated with new chips which incorporate the new saber timing: Renee Weiss ordered and installed these.
- The new saber rules will be enforced at any Division events that include saber during the test period (until December 2016, when USA Fencing will make their decision on retaining that rule or not.)

2.) Division Officer meeting at Summer Nationals

- Olivia Weiss reported on the Division Officer meeting that was held in Dallas at Summer Nationals.
- All divisions seem to be addressing similar issues with referee numbers; divisions need to look at their demographics to focus workshops and clinics, and to plan their tournaments with an eye to increased attendance.

3.) Social Media

- The WPD Facebook page has gained dozens of followers: the posts from Summer Nationals in Dallas proved very popular.
- The WPD website is going to be revamped, according to Deb Theriault. She will update the club links and contacts as needed.

4.) Email Distribution List

- At this time, there are 95 people on the WPD email distribution list.
- Strom Walden suggested that we provide email sign-up sheets to the division fencing clubs, and also have email sign-up sheets at next season's competitions.

5.) Calendar and proposed competitions

- Fall 2016 events being planned:

IUP: Erik Blank said IUP was hoping to host a Halloween event to be held in October, as well as potentially an C and Under in December. The availability of IUP's gym for a fencing competition is always a concern.

TFC: Tiger has an RYC scheduled for October 22nd; they also are potentially holding an E and Under in the spring of 2017.

USC: Renee Weiss said there is E and Under competition planned for the fall; Walter Ullrich has requested a gym for November 12th. Additionally, he is requesting a gym for May 21st: that competition would potentially be a D and Under.

Corsair: Brendon Beatty wants to hold a Charles Murphy Memorial Tournament this season: he is hoping to schedule it in September. Kate Walker is filming her senior project at Corsair: for this, Corsair wants to run a Novice tournament in October. Brendon will submit the sanctioning requests shortly.

CMU, WVU, FSAI, NHFC, TRFC: No information available.

WPD: Junior Olympic Qualifiers will be held December 18th, 2016; Summer National Qualifiers will be held March 19th, 2017.

- Olivia Weiss brought up the possibility of clubs within the Division running some youth competitions, as there is only one RYC currently providing opportunities for younger fencers to compete. Erik Blank said this sounded like a good option for new referee training.
- Dates were considered for a fall referee seminar, to be run by Iana Dakova at Three Rivers: September 24th or 25th, October 1st or 2nd, October 15th or 16th. Deb Theriault will contact Iana to get a date scheduled.
- The WPD subsidy policy for WPD members that attend a referee seminar was discussed: the added incentive of \$25 being reimbursed for any person completing and passing all referee tests within one calendar year. Deb Theriault said that a lot of people attend the seminar and then never follow through with the exam and the practical.

- The possibility of the WPD contributing something to Corsair's Charles Murphy memorial tournament was tabled for the moment.

H.) Adjournment:

- Olivia Weiss made the motion to adjourn. Erik Blank seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.