

MEETING MINUTES
Western PA Division / US Fencing Association
Annual Meeting and Elections – July 15, 2018

A.) Call meeting to order:

- Meeting called to order at 1:15 PM

B.) Roll Call:

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name)

Erik Blank
Emma Bolton
John Carroll
Leah McCord
Sarah Read
Deb Theriault
Storm Walden
Olivia Weiss
Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last annual meeting on July 16, 2017:

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 16, 2017, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Erik Blank, seconded by Sarah Read.

D.) Reports:

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

- As of 7/15/18, the ending balance of the WPD Treasury was \$9,498.82. The bank balance was \$9,758.22, with \$259.40 in outstanding checks.
- Total income for the 8/1/17 – 7/15/18 period was \$719.00 (meet fees: \$170.00; US Fencing dues share rebates: \$549.00)
- The US Fencing dues rebate amount included \$108.00 from the end of the 2016-2017 season and 441.00 from the beginning of the 2017-2018 season.
- Total expenses for the 8/1/17 – 7/15/18 period were \$744.40 (WPD rebates: \$175.00; FOC clinic: \$450.00; website costs: \$119.40.)
- Some additional expenses for the 2017-2018 season have not been submitted (annual meeting expenses, miscellaneous meet expenses, miscellaneous admin expenses); receipts for these will be sent to Deb Theriault promptly, so she can finalize the Treasurer's Report.
- WPD rebate program had 5 SafeSport partial rebates for the season.

- Deb Theriault commented that, looking back on the finances for several years, the WPD annual income has continued to be less than the annual expenses; one way to partially offset this would be to institute a sliding scale of meet percentages, i.e. \$3 up to X number of participants, \$5 over X number of participants being paid to the WPD after each tournament. Discussion on this matter was tabled for the moment pending further review of tournament numbers.
- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's Report; moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Renee Weiss.

2.) Year-End Review:

- Olivia Weiss presented data from the 2017-2018 season.
 - Tournaments: fourteen tournaments were held in the WPD this season. Corsair hosted 5 of these events; IUP hosted 2; North Hills hosted 2; Tiger hosted 1. There was also one unsanctioned tournament: the Holy Grail at CMU. The WPD held Fight Strong! Fencing for the Cause to raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and held a youth tournament. The WPD also held Qualifiers for Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals.

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 unanimous: Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair and Renee Weiss as Secretary.
- The current Executive Committee includes Olivia Weiss as Chair, Sarah Read as 1st Vice Chair, and Deb Theriault as Treasurer.

F.) Old Business:

1.) Membership Statistics

- Olivia Weiss stated that the Division once again has a significant number of youth fencers and a significant number of high-school fencers who are an underserved component of the Division. These members are not voting members, they do not attend the meetings, and there are also no events held for them to compete in.
- Leah McCord brought up that there are two RYCs scheduled for this season, which provides a few opportunities for youth fencers. However, both are scheduled within the space of a few weeks.
- Renee Weiss mentioned the possibility of the WPD hosting a high school tournament, as set forth by USA Fencing. She will be in touch with Bob Bodor about this.

- Olivia Weiss stated that once the academic year begins, she will reach out to the high-school and collegiate coaches to find out what their plans are for the season, and how the Division can better serve their needs.

2.) SafeSport Policy and reimbursement

- The WPD rebate policy for SafeSport expenses was once again addressed for revision.
- The revision of the SafeSport partial rebate policy was tabled until clarification on the new structures and standards is received from the National Office: an Executive Committee vote on the revision will be conducted by email.

G.) New Business:

1.) Calendar and proposed competitions

- 2018-2019 events being planned:
 - Division competitions (Fight Strong! is scheduled for Sunday, September 30th, qualifiers are scheduled for Sunday, December 2nd and Sunday, March 17th.)
 - Regional tournaments (Tiger RYC is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st; PFC RYC is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd and Sunday, November 4th.)
 - Local club competitions (projected Corsair dates, North Hills dates, and IUP dates were discussed.)
 - Out-of-Division tournaments (Fencers Attacking Diabetes, Arnold, NACs) that could potentially impact WPD events were discussed.
- A referee seminar was under discussion for the fall; date and venue were as yet unconfirmed.

2.) Club Communication

- Olivia Weiss brought up the need to foster greater club communication. In order to host regional events that draw consistent numbers, clubs will need to work together as well as work with the WPD when submitting a bid.

3.) Division Officer meeting at Summer Nationals

- Olivia Weiss reported on the Division Officer meeting that was held in St. Louis at Summer Nationals.
- The issue of youth fencers dealing with the changes in qualification paths had been addressed there: the possibility of the WPD being reassigned to Region 2 (which begins at the Ohio border) from Region 3 (which extends through New Jersey) was put forth. This would greatly increase the opportunities for WPD fencers to actually compete in regional events without a 6-hour drive.

4.) Updated club listing/contact information

- Deb Theriault will update the club listings on the WPD website as needed; some of the clubs have changed their contact information and their social media links. Olivia Weiss will contact the clubs to provide Deb Theriault with their updated links, etc.

5.) Foil chest protector rule change

- Olivia Weiss distributed handouts with information about the rule change.

H.) Adjournment:

- Olivia Weiss made the motion to adjourn. Storm Walden seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.