

Meeting Minutes
WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING
Annual Meeting and Election – July 17, 2022

A.) Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 4:39 pm.

B.) Roll call

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Erik Blank
Lucas Bolton
Harry Hardman
Andy Liu
Sarah Read
Deb Theriault
Olivia Weiss
Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 18, 2021

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 18, 2021, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Sarah Read, seconded by Olivia Weiss.

D.) Reports

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

- As of 7/17/2022, the ending balance of the WPD treasury was \$8,598.93.
- Total income for the 8/1/2021-7/17/2022 period was \$664.00 (Meet fees: \$220.00; USA Fencing dues share rebates: \$444.00.)
- Total expenses for the 8/1/2021-7/17/2022 period were \$962.98 (SafeSport policy partial rebates: \$275.00; Division computer hardware and software: \$147.98; Facility rental for Division equipment storage: \$540.00.)
- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's report: moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Renee Weiss.

2.) Secretary's Report: Renee Weiss provided the Secretary's Report. She summed up membership, club statistics, and ratings awarded within the WPD during the 2021-2022 season.

- WPD Membership statistics:
 - According to the most recent USA Fencing spreadsheet, there are currently 261 members of the WPD, an increase from last season's 115 members, but still not at pre-pandemic numbers (333 members for the 2019-2020 season).
 - Of these 261 members, 145 are under the age of 18. There are 86 women and 175 men.
 - There is a total of 93 eligible voting members, considering the cross-section of age and membership types.
- WPD club statistics:
 - There are currently 10 active USA Fencing Clubs in the WPD.
 - 4 Private Clubs: Corsair, PFC, Steel City, and Tiger
 - 3 High School Clubs: Aquinas, Pine-Richland, and USC
 - 2 College Clubs: Pitt and Allegheny
 - The last club is Fencing For Fun, which is registered as a club in the WPD but has no members.
 - Additionally, there is 1 club pending renewal: Bethel Park
- Ratings awarded in the WPD during the 2021-2022 season:
 - Across the 9 sanctioned tournaments held in the WPD during the 2021-2022 season, there was a total of 17 ratings awarded.
 - Epee: 3 new Es; Foil: 5 new Es, 3 renewed Es, 3 new Ds, 1 renewed D, and 1 renewed C; Saber: 1 renewed E
- **Motion:** to accept Secretary's report: moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Deb Theriault.

E.) Year End Review

- Olivia Weiss briefly summed up the 2021-2022 season:
 - There were 9 sanctioned tournaments during the 2021-2022 season, as well as the JO Qualifier and the SN Qualifier.
 - PFC held five tournaments, spanning from August to May.
 - Tiger held two tournaments, a D & Under in November and an E & Under in April.

- Corsair held two tournaments, a D & Under in November and an Open in March.
- In addition, there was CMU's Holy Grail, as well as an unsanctioned youth tournament at Tiger and an unsanctioned scrimmage at CMU.
- Both Division Qualifiers did not have to be held due to relatively low registration.
- The Junior Olympics Qualifier for the 2022 Junior Olympics Championships had 6 WPD members qualify over 5 different events; 2 WPD members fenced in Junior Olympics, held in Salt Lake City in February 2022.
- The Summer Nationals Qualifier for the 2022 USA Fencing National Championships had 13 WPD members qualify over 14 different events. All together, the WPD had 11 members fence at Nationals in 14 different events, held in Minneapolis in June-July 2022. (Three WPD fencers earned medals at Nationals: Barbara Shinn-Cunningham, 6th place in V50WS; Emily Michaelsen, 7th place in DV2WF; Olivia Weiss, 7th place in DV2WE)
- **Motion:** to accept Year-End Review: moved by Erik Blank, seconded by Sarah Read and Deb Theriault.

F.) Elections

- Elections were held for the positions of Secretary and 2nd Vice Chair.
- The WPD's Recommended Candidates were Renee Weiss as Secretary and Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair.
- The election results were unanimous: Renee Weiss as Secretary and Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair.
- The current Executive Committee includes Olivia Weiss as Chair, Sarah Read as 1st Vice Chair, and Deb Theriault as Treasurer.

G.) Looking Ahead

1.) Schedule for the 2022-2023 season

- **National Schedule**
 - There is no further information yet from USA Fencing on the National Events schedule for the 2022-2023 season.
- **Regional Schedule**
 - The Regional calendar for the 2022-2023 season is available through USA Fencing.
 - There was discussion of the Sledgehammer RYC/RJC, to be held in Monaca, PA (Beaver County), yet which is organized by out-of-

Division and out-of-Region parties, the club owners of Fencing For Fun.

- **Division Schedule**

- There have not been any sanctioning requests submitted yet to the Executive Committee.
- There was brief discussion of both IUP and CMU wanting to have sanctioned tournaments in the fall.
- Division-run events such as Fight Strong! and the Black & Gold HS Invitational are hopefully going to start up again during the 2022-2023 season.

2.) Updates to WPD website and forms

- Updates to the WPD website and accompanying forms were discussed.
- New webhosting and new file formats are planned to be implemented during the upcoming season.
- Developing and distributing a new tournament sanctioning form, preferably in a more accessible format, is a priority.

H.) Adjournment

- Olivia Weiss made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Sarah Read. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.