

Minutes of the 2010 USFA Central Florida Division Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Record by Jason R. Seachrist, Division Secretary

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ken Lauver, Chairperson, at 1:31 PM. All officers were in attendance, with the exception of Jim Campoli, Vice Chair.

2009-10 Minutes

Jason Seachrist, Secretary, highlighted minutes from last year's annual meeting. As approved by majority vote, the bylaws were changed to permit absentee voting. The executive committee was formed (an outstanding issue from 2008). The Division Championship has now been separated from the Summer Nationals Qualifier.

All approved business from the 2008-09 annual meeting has been complete. However, the relocation of four (4) complete strips to Orlando has not occurred. In response to the membership's desire to have more, low-cost tournaments in the Division, the officers held a special meeting in December to discuss options. It was decided to move 4 strips to Orlando so that clubs in that area and on the east coast could host small, one day competitions.

Account Status

Kirk Rowley, Treasurer, presented the account status. The current cash balance, as of 05/08/2010, is \$1233.00, down from \$2069.00 at last year's meeting. The Division also holds a certificate of deposit worth \$10,931.00.

Elections

Elections were held in the following order. For Chair, Kenneth Drewke ran unopposed and was unanimously elected. For Vice Chair, Jim Lane was elected over Richard Georgia, 40-15. Ballots were included and were counted by the Secretary and Treasurer. For Treasurer, Kirk Rowley ran unopposed and was unanimously elected. For Secretary, Brett McDonald ran unopposed and was unanimously elected.

Brief Discussions (no vote)

Ken Lauver discussed the history behind splitting the Division Qualifiers and Division Championships and indicated he was not pleased with attendance at the Division Championship. He also noted the reason for pre-payment for qualifiers: (1) saves the participants time and money from travelling to the tournament when events are cancelled, (2) enables the organizers to properly schedule officials and strip requirements.

Ken Lauver, Jason Seachrist, Kirk Rowley, and the membership discussed the merits of having members pay for events on AskFred or having the ability to pay using a credit card.

Ken Lauver gave an update concerning the failed bid for the 2010 NAC B and putting in a bid for the Summer Nationals

Ken Lauver announced a new annual Division trophy that would be given to the club winning the most points at the Division Championship. Points would be awarded to the top 8 fencers in each event. The award has been named for James Campoli in honor of his many years of dedicated support to Central Florida fencing. The trophy will be kept at the winning club during the next fencing season and given to the winning club at next year's Division Championship. The trophy will have each winning club's name engraved on a small plaque on the front.

New Business

Increase Per Fencer Fee to Division

Jason Seachrist, Secretary, motioned to discuss increasing the per-fencer fee, paid by organizers to the Division, from \$1.00 to \$1.50. The motion was seconded. The fee had not been increased in the last decade and the Division was in dire need of augmenting its revenue stream. Ray Blair pointed out our aging equipment and the need to save money for its eventual replacement. Brett McDonald then suggested increasing a full dollar. The Secretary motioned for a vote which was seconded by Jim Lane and approved unanimously. The per fencer entry fee is set to \$2.00 starting August 1, 2010.

Remove requirement to use “parcel post”

Jason Seachrist, Secretary, motioned to discuss removing all verbiage in the bylaws requiring the Division to send notice of the annual meeting and championship via parcel post. The motion was seconded by Ken Lauver. Contrary to popular assumption, the bylaws do not require such a notice to be sent to each member, only member clubs. Since every club in the Division has a valid email address, and traffic to the web site has increased, it is a waste of time and money to send notices “snail mail”. Ken Lauver suggested that the verbiage be changed to allow member clubs the opportunity to request parcel post, if needed. The Secretary motioned for a vote which was seconded by Brett McDonald and approved unanimously. The verbiage will be changed as described and will take affect August 1, 2010.

Relocating four (4) strips to Orlando

Jason Seachrist, Secretary, motioned to discuss the failed effort to relocate four (4) strips to Jim Burcham, the selected care taker in Orlando. The motion was seconded. At a special meeting in December, it was decided by unanimous vote of the officers to send four (4) complete strips (strips, machines, and cords) to Orlando. Tournament organizers in that area could then retrieve and return the sets to Jim, without incurring the costs of transporting the gear from Tampa. The Division appears to not have enough equipment to spare 4 strips and still meet the demand of its membership, the other Florida divisions, sectionals and the state games.

Purchasing four (4) new strips and machines was discussed, and inquiries were made regarding our current inventory. The Division owns an undetermined number of strips and machines, while some scoring machines are owned by Chuck Allen, Armorer, and some strips are owned by Kirk Rowley, Treasurer.

Deenis Beecher inquired about associated costs should the gear need to be transported to Tampa for repair. However, no clear answer could be given. It was decided to table the issue until the next administration could address it.

SYC Points and Age Requirements

Brett McDonald motioned to discuss problems with the way the USFA accumulates SYC points and the age restriction on higher level events such as DV3 and DV2. He would like the Division to present his recommendations to the USFA at the annual meeting in July. Brett pointed out the following:

- 1) The USFA does not update Youth (Y10/Y12/Y14) NRPS points with SYC results until April. This prevents accurate seeding at SYCs / NACs and causes problems with fencers trying to prove eligibility for older age restricted events.

- 2) The exemption for fencers under 13 trying to fence in non-age restricted events is too difficult to meet. This is preventing highly qualified youth fencers from competing in events that they are otherwise qualified to fence in.

Ken Lauver also indicated that these two items would be further discussed by the executive committee. The merits and proper verbiage were to be worked out by them prior to forwarding them to the USFA National Board by our Division. Arrangements to hold an executive committee meeting by conference call would be made in the near future. Copies of both proposals were given to all committee members to review beforehand.

Youth Representative on Executive Committee

Charlie Johnson motioned to discuss adding a youth representative to the committee. The motion was seconded. This non-voting position would be occupied by a person under 18. Ken Lauver moved for a vote which was seconded by Randall LeMaster and approved unanimously. However, it should be noted that no decision was made regarding how to select the representative.

Meeting Closed

Ken Lauver, Chairperson, closed the meeting at 3:00 PM and fencing resumed.