

New Jersey Division of the United States Fencing Association, Inc.
Executive Committee Meeting

Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981
Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Vince Paragano, Chairman
Tom Tishman, Vice Chairman
George Bowden, Treasurer
Glenn Pantel, Member
Gene Packer, Member
Agota Balot, Member
Bill Nunley, Member

Not Available:

Paul Apostol, Member
Mark Holbrow, Member
Steve Sobel, Member
Jennifer Yamin, Member

1. Settlement Discussions

The liaison for the NJ Division to our lawyer, Glenn Pantel, and the other side have begun settlement discussions for a comprehensive agreement, which would include:

- a single slate of 13 Executive Committee Members, including four officers, that are agreed upon by both sides that would run unopposed
- ballots, proxies and procedures, that follow the NJ-USFA's by-laws, national USFA by-laws and NJ election law.
- money settlement

Caputo submitted ballots and proxies for us to peruse. He stated there must be cumulative voting for the National Congress Representatives, as per the national USFA by-laws. We do not want to give a very long time for the proxies to be valid.

A status conference in front of the new judge for Caputo-Delaney vs. NJ-USFA was attended by our lawyer, Fred Biehl, Tom Tishman, and Steve Caputo, plaintiff. Ted Maciag, attorney for the plaintiffs, did not show up.

2. Balance Sheet and Income Statement

George Bowden presented a balance sheet as of August 1, 2009, and an income statement for August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009, for the NJ-USFA. The Division's expenses exceeded its income by \$19,000 for the season and at season's end the Division had \$47,700 in cash. It was agreed that this should be posted on the website for all members to see since it could not have been distributed at the disrupted annual meeting, which was never held.

3. Meeting regarding Garden State Games

Attending the meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, were Steve Sobel, Chairman of GSG, Gladys Berardi, Fencing Chair of the Garden State Games, Gene Packer, Tournament Committee Chairman of the NJ-USFA, Tom Tishman, Vice Chair, NJ-USFA. Tom suggested we wanted to work with and help the GSG succeed. We don't want to run the Games. We think that for them to succeed the date should be moved further away from US Fencing's Summer Nationals and should be the same weekend each summer. In addition, a consensus developed around running only a senior and a junior event in each gender-weapon. In addition, we reminded that Ms. Berardi that getting a date set on the NJ Division's calendar very early would allow us to keep clubs from scheduling events on the same weekend.

Steve said that the GSG will not be signing a Memorandum of Understanding as though GSG was a club. They could not.

4. Division Officers' Reports for 2007-08 and 2008-09

George Bowden explained that the USFA will pay the Division, \$2 per member after we file the Division Officers' Report for a particular season. This amounts to approximately \$4,000 per season since we have about 2,000 members. George has filed the 2007-08 report and is going to file the 2008-09 report.

5. Back-up Webmaster

Dirk Goldgar declined to become the back-up webmaster. Bill Nunley agreed to see if he could do it. Tom Tishman will notify Jeff Savit to expect contact from Mr. Nunley.

6. Filling Open Executive Committee Membership positions

Tom Tishman brought up that the current Executive Committee because of resignations has 2 openings. The by-laws call for 13 members and there are only 11. Filling the spots was tabled.

7. Disciplinary Situation at BCAF Foil Tourney

Two fencers, Ambika Singh and Sarah Parmacek, walked out of a mixed-gender foil open at BCAF on August 23, 2009, early before they were knocked out of the direct elimination round. They left after making the round of eight, ostensibly helping to make the tournament an A1-rated event. Glenn Pantel, a NJ-division member, would have re-earned his B-rating. However, the national USFA has refused to award the competition an A1-rating and, therefore, Glenn, a B2009 rating. The wrong fencer(s) is(are) being punished in this case. There has been to date, no punishment handed out to the offending fencers. (continued)

Tom Tishman thinks that the NJ Division should take action because this both affected a NJ Division member and occurred in a NJ Division club, although it was a Philadelphia-sanctioned tournament. He thought we should make the Disciplinary Committee of the USFA aware of the situation for further sanction of the two fencers. Gene Packer, as Tournament Committee Chair, will make inquiries of the Philadelphia Division to see if we can jointly do this.

8. Possible date and location of Next Executive Committee Meeting

The Members generally thought this was a convenient place to meet since it was just off Route 287 in Whippany. The same room, the Public Meeting Room of the Morris County Library, has been booked for Thursday, October 15, from 6:30-8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Tishman
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