

**Southwest Section Annual Membership Meeting**  
**May 14, 2005 6:50 pm**  
**Houston Athletic Center, Houston, TX**

**Attendance:**

Divisions represented: (Border had no representatives present)

Ark-La-Miss (3)  
Gulf Coast (11)  
Louisiana (3)  
North Texas (3)  
Oklahoma (3)  
South Texas (16)

Members present: (33)

Oscar Barrera	BJ Smiley-Goins	August Skopik
Giorgio Bassa	Dan Gorman	Scott Stevens
Jerry Benson	Bernadette Guerra	Christine Tadlock
Matt Delevoryas	Scott Harkey	Dorothy Tadlock
Dwight Devine	Louise Lepie	Bobby Thornton
Anjea Ehrle	Eric Mallet	Angela Torres
Rachel El-Saleh	Neil Mittal	William Trapani
Richard Exnicios	Paul Schimelman	Rhonda Trietsch
Bob Fiegel	Diane Sexton	John Trojanowski
Carolyn Fiegel	Ray Sexton	Nicole Trojanowski
Andrey Geva	David Sierra	Gary Van der Wege

Present but not voting (either proxy given or not valid):

Esparanza Barrera,	Terry Harkey	Kate Seiler
Deana Everett	Karen Johnson	Daniel Trapani
Terry Unrein		

Non-members present: Jason Ray

## **1. Information**

### **A. General Information and Organizational Items:**

Chair Angela Torres called meeting to order at 6:50. Angela suggested that rather giving a State of the Section address, she would refer to officer reports. She noted that she had been absent much of the year missing all the Southwest Section Circuit events because of family health issues. She thanked her fellow officers especially Vice-Chair David Sierra for standing in for her many times during the season.

Because the agenda had so many items and a contested election, she asked for nominations for Parliamentarian for this meeting only to maintain correct procedures.

**MOTION: Nominate Matt Delevoryas as meeting Parliamentarian**

**Seconded. No: 3 (30 w/proxies) Yes: 28 (approximately w/270 including proxies)**

**Motion passed**

## **2. Old Business**

### **A. Minutes approval:**

Discussion: Oscar Barrera noted the place of meeting was not included.

**MOTION: Approve minutes of Annual Meeting of 5/10/04 with the addition of the place of meeting, without being read since they've been available online for months.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

**Motion passed**

**B. Southwest Section Circuit Cup Commissioner Report** (The report is attached.)

David highlighted the report with the major successes for the season with introduction of several new things:

- 1) Free entry was provided for top 3 places in each event from previous season, the cost split between the section and the local organizers of each tournament.
- 2) Developmental events were included in several tournaments held after the SSCC fencing was concluded.
- 3) Referee Development was improved at the SSCC where referees were observed.
- 4) Men's and women's events took the place of mixed and women's events.

There were some problems:

- 1) Registration schemes did not work, but proposals are waiting to address this
- 2) Rolling points schemes gave too much weight to those in SSCC and skewed seeding.

Athlete Liaison Report was read (The report is attached)  
(prepared by Evelyn Scarborough, read by Anjea Ehrle Ray)

Coach Liaison Report was not read (The report is attached)  
In the interest of time, Paul Schimelman said his report was much the same as what had been discussed already and asked to waive reading it.

**MOTION: To accept ALR report without personal comments.**

**Seconded. No: 1 Yes: Everyone else**

**Motion passed**

David then asked the membership what additional data they would like to see included in the final report. Requests included: SSCC Final report, SSCC budget, Breakdown by weapons, Historical data.

**MOTION: Approve SSCC Commissioner's report including Athlete and Coach Liaison reports**

**Seconded.**

Discussion: Some felt the personal comments offered were good because Evelyn was not available to attend the meeting and give her report, but for the final report should omit the personal comments.

**MOTION: To amend the motion to exclude personal comments from Athlete Liaison report.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

**Amendment passed:**

**MOTION: (continued) Approve SSCC Commissioner's report including Athlete and Coach Liaison reports minus personal comments**

**Unanimous**

**Motion passed**

**C. Treasury report approval**

Anjea offered her verbal report (included below) and reminded that a full report isn't available until after the sectional is concluded. It will be available in about 2 weeks.

**MOTION: Approve treasury report with final available on line in about 2 weeks.**

**Seconded. No: 7 Yes: over 100**

**Motion passed.**

**3. New Business**

## **A. Chair**

1. No new business from chair continuation of the SSCC discussion on improvements.

## **B. Southwest Section Circuit Cup**

Discussion followed regarding proposals for future season for the SSCC. Some constructive criticism was offered along with potential solutions. Many ideas were discussed. Some of the issues fencers expressed concern over included:

- Seeding criteria using SSCC points – how to do this
- To reduce the number of no-shows, some pre-registration scheme involving some sort of pre-payment to be established by the incoming EC
- Event format – mixed or men. This seemed to be the most excited discussion and it basically came down to two camps.
  - 1) Separate events violate women's opportunities to fence strong fencers,
  - 2) Competition between opposite sex is fruitless since they don't fence alike it doesn't help in the national and international level.

Many potential remedies and other paradigms were offered for several of the issues.

**MOTION: A non-binding straw poll be taken two ways: 1) individuals present (no proxies) 2) everyone including proxies. Results would be submitted to the EC for their information.**

**Seconded. Unanimous.**

**Motion passed.**

**Straw poll results:** Mixed Events – for or against (with against meaning separate events)

**Individually:** FOR: 19 AGAINST: 14

**With proxies:** FOR: 152 AGAINST: 157

Obviously, whatever the EC decides, it is a 50/50 issue. Mixed received more votes with those who were actually present, separate received more votes for everyone represented by proxy votes.

## **C. Referee Development**

The referee development greatly improved this year with 3 examiners and observers available (Amgad Badawi, Jerry Benson, and Gary Van der Wege. The following successes were noted.

- 1) Nine seminars were conducted this season
- 2) Ninety participants
- 3) Fifty newly rated refs
- 4) Five new nationally rated refs (5+)

The difference between developmental referee and training referees is what has happened this season. Developmental referees are already rated referees who wish to improve their rating and are observed most of the time they are serving. The tradition of the past of throwing unrated referees into a pool and if they survive giving them an arbitrary rating has passed.

Discussion: There was dissatisfaction with the idea of these new referees being used at a sectional, SSCC was generally fine, but the qualifiers should not use low rated referees.

**MOTION: Future sectional qualifying events will use referees rated 6 or above.**

**Seconded.**

Discussion: The point was made what if we don't have enough refs rated 6 or above?

**MOTION: To amend the motion so that if there are not enough refs rated 6, we'll drop to 7 to complete the cadre.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

**Amendment passed. (Motion became: Future sectional qualifying events will use referees rated 6 or above. If there are not enough refs rated 6, we'll drop to 7 to complete the cadre.)**

**Motion passed.**

#### **D. Election of officers**

For the first time in 10 years, there was a contested election. Since the bylaws offer no assistance in this process, the officers agreed to conduct the contested nominations in this manner. A panel of tabulators will be selected by the membership. These people will not be able to vote and should be considered balanced with those for and against various candidates, or disinterested parties. The offices that are contested will be voted on by secret ballot. This ballot will be given to each validated member. The member will write their name on the ballot, along with the number or any number less than the number of proxies that has been validated (this number includes the voter) and then the name of the candidate for whom they are voting. These ballots will be collected by members of the tabulation panel who will immediately process the data. One candidate at a time will be considered.

Tabulation panel members chosen: Deana Everett, Kate Seiler, Karen Johnson

Those candidates who were unopposed, would be the first ones to be considered. Known anticipated nominees include:

Chair

David Sierra  
Scott Stevens

Vice Chair

Rachel El-Saleh  
Rhonda Trietsch

Secretary

Terry Harkey  
Marty Wysoki

Treasurer

Anjea Ehrle Ray  
Rob Janca

USFA Rep

Jerry Benson

Nominations for USFA Board of Directors Representative

Jerry Benson

**MOTION: Since there are no other nominations, accept Jerry Benson for the 2005-2006 USFA BOD rep by acclamation.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

Nominations for treasurer

Anjea Ehrle Ray

**MOTION: Since there are no other nominations, accept Anjea Ray for 2005-2006 Southwest Section treasurer by acclamation.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

Nominations for secretary

Terry Harkey

Marty Wysocki

**Terry Harkey received the majority of the votes and is duly elected as the 2005-2006 Southwest Section Secretary**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

Nominations for vice-chair

Rachel El-Saleh

Rhonda Trietsch

**Rhonda Trietsch received the majority of the votes and is duly elected as the 2005-2006 Southwest Section Vice-Chair.**

**Seconded. Unanimous**

Nominations for chair

David Sierra  
Scott Stevens

**Scott Stevens received the majority of the votes and is duly elected as the 2005-2006 Southwest Section Chair.**

**MOTION: Have one of the tabulation panel burn the ballots immediately following the end of the meeting, as is common practice with secret balloting**

**Seconded. Unanimous.**

**Motion passed.**

**F. Designation of next season's Southwest Section Championship**

Rotation for Sectional next season falls to Ark-La-Miss.

**G. Adjourn.**

**MOTION: To Adjourn.**

**Seconded. Unanimous.**

**Meeting adjourned - 10:50 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Harkey  
Southwest Section Secretary