

2010 SOUTHWEST SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

April 17, 2010

Transformation Fitness Center

Edmond, Oklahoma

I. The meeting was called to order by Allan Curry, Chairman, at 5:31 p.m.

II. Credentials Report: 15 members present with 1 visitor. 159 proxies. (divided between 8 proxy holders)

III. Attendees were reminded to sign in.

A. In Attendance:

Justin Meehan (ALM), Marietta W. Towry (BTX), Bill Towry (BTX), Amgad Badawi (NTX), Allan Curry (NTX), David Sierra (NTX), Gary Spruill (NTX), Jerry Benson, USFA VP, (OK), Greg Dilworth (OK), Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel (OK), Bob Fiegel (OK), Tim Robillard (OK), Chris Rose (OK), B.J. Smiley Goins (STX), Christine Tadlock (STX), and Katie Sorensen, visitor.

IV. Chairman Curry called for additional agenda items.

A. Two were added to the New Business portion of the meeting.

V. Jaimie Alshire's 2009 SWS minutes, were presented at the meeting.

A. Allan Curry entered a motion to dispense with the reading and to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Gary Spruill.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

VI. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer, Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel presented the Treasurer's report.

Bill Towry questioned why the sectional tournament was losing money. The answer from the floor was that the attendance is down due to impart to the new ability to qualify through the ROC's (Regional Open Circuits).

This brought a discussion on the future of the section. (See further discussion under Board of Directors Representative section). There are no divisions and sections in a sense in the USFA's current bylaws. BJ Smiley Goins asked about the money that would be left if there was no longer a need to hold a sectional qualifier. Jerry Benson

answered that the USFA believed that the monies of the section (and divisions) were being held in trust for the USFA. If we wished, the section could hold a section tournament and award some very nice prizes to use up the money, and no, we could not hold a big party. The section does have the option to equally disperse its money to the divisions in the section.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

B. Secretary, Christine presented the Secretary's report.

Secretary's report was accepted.

C. USFA Board of Directors Representative, August Skopik was not present at the section meeting nor had attended any BOD meetings. He did not present a report.

David Sierra, as alternate, did attend the Memphis BOD meeting. Although, as alternate he was not allowed to vote at the meeting. David spoke of items coming down the pike, particularly the new bylaws that are up for adoption at next BOD meeting in July. The members present at the SWS meeting were asked to encourage others in the fencing community to read the new bylaws and soberly assess them. Voting on the bylaws will be at the annual members meeting with proxy voting. In late May or early June the members should expect the proxy package to arrive in the mail. We were asked to please read the material and vote. We were also asked to separate hyperbole from honest criticism when we assess the bylaws. Jerry Benson added a comment that the USFA members are lucky to have the people who were on the task forces that established the bylaws. We were encouraged to ask the Bylaw Task Force members for further information.

Greg Dilworth stated that the bylaws should be posted by end of this week. (Secretary's Note: the proposed bylaws can be viewed on the USFA website, 4/19/2010). BJ Smiley Goins asked if they thought this was a good direction for the USFA. Greg answered that the USOC had been pressuring for an organizational change that would not work for the USFA. He also stated that the USFA needed to change to a smaller board that has specifically reserved slots, for an athlete, an elite coach, a parent of age group fencers, an elite fencer, and at large spots, for club owners and volunteers, bout committee, and referees. This is our best idea, and is probably not perfect. Again we were encouraged to vote for the new bylaws, or the USOC might get nasty with us.

David Sierra stated one thing that was kept in the new bylaw version was the ability for the membership to change the bylaws. Jerry Benson commented that the task force did listen to the membership. Also that the association had been run "backwards" for a long time and with the new organizational structure the USFA will be more in line as to how a corporation is run. We were getting too big.

David Sierra spoke to the future of the sections. There will be no need to qualify for

U-19 in 2011. The ROC task force is working to develop the qualifying model post sectional organization. The number of ROC's have increased from 4 to 8 to, in the next year, 12 tournaments. (Secretary's Note: the ROC bid packet can be downloaded from the USFA competition page, which includes a map of the Region system).

The new organization of the Regions model was discussed. There are to be 6 Regions. The old Southwest Section will be in the new South Central Region. It will encompass all of Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The Regions were designed to be more geographically equal for ease of travel, and recognizing population centers. The plan is to take qualifying away from a single event to a long qualifying path with a point system. The plan is still under review. David Sierra stressed how important it would be to have a voting representative at the upcoming July BOD meeting.

Chairman Curry thanked Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel and Bob Fiegel for their incredible effort in organizing the 2010 SW Sectional tournament and Christine Tadlock for her services this year.

Attendees concurred.

VII. New Business

A. SSCC Commissioner's Report

The SSCC Commissioner's report was recognized. Justin Meehan stated he thought that the circuit would be dead soon with the ROC system becoming stronger. David Sierra mentioned that the plan is to have satellite tournaments around the ROC events, and these are intended to be like the old SSCC events.

Motion by Jerry Benson:

That the Section discontinue SSCC.

It was discussed that we don't have the power to do that. The SSCC is separate from the section. Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel stated that the monies made by the SSCC are collected separately. Some members commented that the rules and requirements are onerous for the fencers.

Motion: to ask the EC to send its recommendation on what to do the the section circuit. Amended.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

B. Designation of division for 2011 sectionals and Problem of scheduling events on same weekend of sectionals.

South Texas is next in the rotation to hold the 2011 sectionals. They have requested to stave the decision until after their division meeting in 2 weeks. If they choose to decline, then the Ark-La-Miss division is next in line.

Jerry Benson questioned whether the SW membership should take any action toward a division that scheduled a tournament in conflict with that of a qualifier.

Motion by Gary Spruill;

That any division that sanctions a tournament on the same day as of the sectional

qualify can and will lose its place in the sectional location rotation. Seconded, Allan Curry. No discussion.

Vote: approved

Point of Order: members can suggest this motion to the EC.

BJ Smiley Goins suggested the motion be sent to EC to do as they wish. Note: For the EC see the displeasure of the members attending the meeting on this issue.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

C. Creation of a Vendor Task Force

Motion by Jerry Benson:

To establish a 3 person task force to be assigned the task of writing a policy for the choosing and the operations of vendors at sectional events. Bob Fiegel, Brenda Waddoups, and Paul Schimelman are nominated for this task force. The chairman is to contact the nominees. It is up to the nominee to find replacements if they can not serve. The task force is asked to have the policy in place by Sept. 1st.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

D. Election of 2010-2011 Southwest Section officers.

Jerry Benson and Katie Sorensen were non-voting official counters.

It was recognized that one member had more proxy votes than all of the other attendees combined. The counters were not needed.

Chairman:

BJ Smiley Goins nominated Allan Curry

Gary Spruill nominated Andrew Lambdin-Abraham

Vote by majority vote

Allan Curry elected Chairman

Vice Chairman:

Amgad Badawi nominated Rachel El-Saleh

Jerry Benson nominated Justin Meehan

Vote by majority vote

Rachel El Saleh elected Vice Chairman

Secretary:

Gary Spruill nominated Christine Tadlock

Vote by majority vote

Christine Tadlock elected Secretary

Treasurer:

Allan Curry nominated Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel

Vote by majority vote

Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel elected Treasurer

Board of Directors Representative:
Bj Smiley Goins nominated Amgad Badawi
Gary Spruill nominated Justin Meehan
Vote by majority vote
Amgad Badawi elected Board of Directors Representative

Motion by Jerry Benson:

To replace our current representative ,August Skopik, with David Sierra, and that Mr. Sierra will represent our section at the Board of Directors meetings with full voting rights for the remainder of the current year, effective April 17, 2010.

Motion seconded by Gary Spruill, no discussion

Vote: Approved unanimously.

VIII. Good and Welfare / Adjournment

A. Bill Towry moved to close elections motion to close. Seconded by many.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Meeting end at: 7:45 PM