

MINUTES OF THE 2011 GEORGIA DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

Call to order: 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Gary DiMaggio welcomed the attendees and established that there was a quorum as per the definition in our bylaws.

Officer Reports:

Chairman – Gary DiMaggio

This has been a productive year, there has been a lot of growth in the division and we continue to grow. Some say that we are growing too much and that there are too many tournaments. Gary's goal as chairman was to keep the division on track and to help foster a better feeling of support between the clubs. Supporting each other's tournaments helps each club and creates better fencers in the division. We had two successful national tournaments, a Div1A and Summer Nationals. We continue to have a great need for more qualified referees within the division, and to that end, Bob Calvert is working on the schedule for next year to allow for open weekends to hold referee clinics. Gary is in touch with Mary Mahon to schedule a FOC clinic on April 30th and May 1st.

Vice Chairman – Gene Gettler

The main job of the Vice Chairman is to run Junior Olympics Qualifiers. We had a successful JO Qualifier this year. Gene also echoed Gary's sentiment about fostering more cooperation and good feelings between the clubs and also added that as people post emails on the list server and post on fencing forums they should keep out the contentiousness and personal attacks out of them.

Treasurer – DJ Martin

See attached documents

Secretary – Kathleen Ferrara

No report

Old Business:

A committee was formed to update the bylaws and the policies and procedures document. Initially they said that there were no changes needed, but it was pointed out that the job descriptions are out of date and that Division Championships is not mentioned. This committee will work on those updates. Other committees were formed to look at increasing media exposure for the sport of fencing and the endowment fund.

Referee clinics:

Stuart pointed out the need for experienced, better skilled referees to teach beginner referees. He felt that this is more important than expensive FOC clinics. Pete pointed out that the problem with this is that we wouldn't be able to give FOC ratings or exams. Gary pointed out that these should be done at the club level, then the division can sponsor FOC

clinics as the next step. Matt Cole suggested that another way to help new refs in training is to have them shadow experienced referees at larger tournaments. DJ added that these refs in training could score-keep or keep time as part of the shadowing process. Gene and Stuart pointed out another problem in that existing rated referees have their ratings decay because they don't work at national tournaments. Andy pointed out that there are other opportunities to increase ratings – sectionals, or larger regional tournaments where higher FOC refs can observe. It was decided that two lists will be generated on the Divison website: one of a list of experienced referees, and another of people interested in shadowing and working with experienced referees as a way of training before attending an actual FOC clinic.

Gene detailed an ongoing issue with the tournament committee chairman not taking office until August 1st, and consequently not setting the following season's schedule until then. It was pointed out by Gary that the outgoing tournament committee chair should be working with the incoming tournament committee chair to begin setting up the schedule far earlier. In the case of this year, the incoming committee tournament chair will take office immediately to fill the void left behind after this year's tournament committee chair resigned.

New Business:

Stuart Johnson asked if there was an existing archive of board discussions via email. He pointed out the possible need for this if anyone ever asked to see them. Kathleen Ferrara verified that she does keep an archive of all Board discussions and votes via email.

Elections of Officers:

Gary made a motion that we proceed to elections, DJ seconded. The motion passed.

DJ called for nominations from the floor for Chairman. Andy Quattrociochi nominated Matt Cole. Pete seconded. Matt accepted the nomination. Stuart moved to close nominations for the office of Chairman. Gene seconded. The motion passed. Matt Cole was elected Chairman.

DJ called for nominations from the floor for Vice Chairman. Pete nominated Gene Gettler. Andy seconded. Gene accepted the nomination. Pete moved to close nominations for the office of Vice Chairman. Gary seconded. Gene Gettler was elected Vice Chairman.

DJ called for nominations for the office of Tournament Committee Chairman. Kathy Vail nominated Stuart Johnson. Pete seconded the nomination. Stuart accepted the nomination. Pete moved to close nominations for the office of Tournament Committee Chairman, Gene seconded the motion. Stuart Johnson was elected Tournament Committee Chairman.

DJ called for nominations from the floor for the office of Treasurer. Andy nominated DJ Martin. Gene seconded the nomination. DJ accepted the nomination. Gene moved to close nominations. Gary seconded. DJ Martin was elected Treasurer.

DJ called for nominations from the floor for the office of Secretary. Stuart Johnson nominated Kathleen Ferrara. Gary seconded the nomination. Kathleen accepted the nomination. Andy moved to close nominations. Gene seconded the motion. Kathleen Ferrara was elected secretary.

DJ called for nominations from the floor for additional directors. She reminded everyone that our bylaws allow for us to elect a number of additional directors equal to our allotted number of congress representatives by USFA. Because of the number of members in our division, this number is 7 this year. The following people were nominated from the floor:

Earl Shapiro
Kathy Vail
Gary DiMaggio
Andy Quattrociocchi
Pete Appel
Rudy Volkmann
Bob Calvert
Craig Harkins

Other names were suggested, but the above listed were the only people to have verbally accepted the nomination. After individual votes, the following were elected as additional Directors:

Earl Shapiro
Kathy Vail
Gary DiMaggio
Andy Quattrociocchi
Pete Appel
Rudy Volkmann
Bob Calvert

DJ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pete seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.