

Agenda

Wisconsin Division of USA Fencing

2020 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 23 August 2020

I. Call to Order: Chair: Karyn Missimer

9:10 am, Sunday, August 23, 2020

II. Roll Call:

Present:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Brian Duckwitz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Nick Cahill | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Dan Torchia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Abbas Fadel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Margherita Guzzi Vincenti | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Jacob Kriegisch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Karyn Missimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Michael Garrison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Kevin Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Michelle Sharpswain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Dave Neevel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Alexandra Arkin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Not present:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ellis Grasse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Alden Grasse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Jim Voelz | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Mitch Hagopian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Anahit Campbell | <input type="checkbox"/> |

III. Proxies:

Mike Garrison holds the following proxies from verified WI Division USA Fencing Members:

Heinz Krug

Timothy Gillham

IV. Approval of Minutes from 2019 AGM

Motion: Karyn

Second: Mike Garrison

Vote: Motion passes

V. Approval of Agenda for 2020 AGM

Motion: Karyn Missimer

Second: Brian Duckwitz

Vote: Motion passes

VI. Officer Reports

Armorer: David Neevel – No change from last year. No reels purchased last year due to COVID.

Standing recommendation for new purchases. Neevel will need to check on best timing for

purchases to get the best deal and will notify others so that they can add to that order and maximize the cost benefits and save as much as possible on shipping.

Motion: To purchase the reels discussed last year - Karyn Missimer

Second: David Neevel

Discussion: Whether there is a current need to purchase equipment given the pandemic.

Consensus was that if the primary goal is to purchase to replace aging equipment with secondary benefit being that the division holds some extra equipment that clubs may use for larger tournaments then the purchase is worthwhile.

Vote: Motion passes.

Topic raised about equipment –

Karyn Missimer – We don't have scoring machines as a division?

David Neevel – Correct. Opinion – no current need for new scoring machines. Should be okay for now. Priority is the reels.

David Neevel – Everything is up to date in report. Division has adequate spare parts.

Discussion: Mike Garrison – Question – Is the National office selling old gear?

David Neevel – sale should be happening this year. Depends on a number of things and after this season. Big 10 cancelled. Lots of restrictions still in place. We will watch for this as an opportunity and inform members so they can participate.

A. Treasurer Report: Michelle Sharpswain –

Starting season balance for the division was - \$4166.13

No one submitted tournament fees for those held this past season. We have outstanding fees due to division.

Discussion about high school tournaments paying tournament fees to the division. Has not occurred in the past. Consensus was that the division will not change that.

Fees owed is then \$47 – For 2019 Turkey meet. Hosted by Abbas Fadel.

Rock co. Feb. 8 tournament hosted by Brian Duckwitz- \$44

Margherita cup hosted by Abbas Fadel - \$72 owed

Lawrence University October 19 tournament - \$40 owed.*Michael Hall is no longer there as coach. Unclear as to whether the division can collect this.

Total = \$163 adding to this year's revenue.

Discussion: Since Michael Hall is no longer at Lawrence. We should still attempt to collect the owed fee (\$40) from Lawrence. Suggestion is to contact the current Athletic Director for fee. Abbas Fadel volunteered to pay the fee if not collectable from Lawrence University.

Action Item: Abbas Fadel will forward Michael Hall's contact information. Michelle Sharpswain or Mike Garrison will follow-up in an effort to collect.

Regional events are taking referees and resources available for Wisconsin events. Have had referee events, but could we run more to make these resources available to increase number of certified tournaments.

Abbas – 2 of 4 referee tournaments were cancelled. (19-45 people in clinics). Two in Wisconsin.

How can we support more tournaments for revenue?

Goal is to have more tournaments.

Could we increase a couple more clinics each year to support participation and more tournaments?

Close to break even for treasury this season.

B. Secretary Report: Kevin Smith

1. Number of sanctioned tournaments: 5 (includes 0 qualifiers)

- Lawrence U. Open, Oct. 6, 2019
- The Margherita Guzzi Vincenti Cup, October 26-27, 2019
- CMHS Midwest HS Invitational, November 23, 2019
- Turkey Meet Open, November 24, 2019
- UW-W Rock County Winter Open, February 8, 2019

2. Membership: 131

This breaks down into 85 competitive, 46 non-competitive. Obviously, this is a significant drop yet again over last year. The pandemic has taken a toll on Wisconsin fencing as it has nationally. A check-in email to Bob Bodor indicated that, unsurprisingly, this is true at the national level as well. Numbers are down significantly.

Season Start	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Membership	294	212	175	185	233	177	174	131

General Discussion of ways to encourage membership. Several options discussed. No motions made. No action items.

C. Vice-Chair Report: Mike Garrison

Web update – changed from hired web vendors consolidated into one vendor. All in one place and one invoice. Now the web vendor is very responsive. It is a simple website, for which the division only pays for hosting and to update annual url/address registration. Anything needed on site members can send it to Mike. This is a “push” site for information. It costs 20% of previous costs. Send any updates to Mike they are easy to add.

Outreach to new clubs – more was done in 2018-2019. Ex. Sheboygan clinic that was scheduled for spring 2020 was cancelled. We still have plans for those, but not possible now due to the pandemic. We look forward to when we can add those again.

Many “fencing” clubs are not what the division would consider fencing clubs. Garrison has offered to do clinics or class with them. The response was along the lines of “We don’t welcome outsiders.” Strange response. Other clubs don’t always have openings for outreach. As a division we are currently doing more email outreach and this will continue regularly. We will make sure that they know and understand USA division availability.

COVID Update – WI is under mandatory mask order, limiting indoor groups to no more than 10 ppl. Outdoor limits – 25. Nature of transmission of COVID is major challenging for fencing for many reasons. County health dept.-based information. We have info. for other counties. Only sanctioned events from USA Fencing national office, where allowable from local municipalities.

Under fencing masks are available – of limited benefit.

No clear safe option for in-person fencing right now.

CDC percent positive reopening guidelines is <5%. Dane co. is about 9%.

Dave Neevel– Caliburn is in same state. Are in hibernation due to facilities and renting of space.

Abbas Fadel – any contact with others nationally? What are they doing/trying?

Dave Neevel– some doing virtual coaching. Some doing outdoor practice.

Mike Garrison – a couple of clubs are doing things in a limited way. Some require masks. Some acting as though nothing has happened with big classes and some with big classes outside.

Wide range of responses.

D. Chair’s Report: Karyn Missimer

Need to attract younger fencers. Could we go to schools, assemblies, etc. to get people excited. Post – COVID, of course. Could division funds help promote these options?

Michelle Sharpswain – after school programs often more open to these options. Getting access to schools can be challenging. Broaden the list.

Brian Duckwitz – demonstrations at boy scout camps. Phys. Ed. Teachers at schools offers option.

Michelle Sharpswain – independent schools may be easier to get access to.

Margherita Guzzi Vincenti – demonstration for home schoolers. Ran several classes.

Michelle Sharpswain – home school groups and organizations as options.

Karyn Missimer– do we need a committee later in the year?

Mike Garrison – committee to look into it, to report back to EC.

David Neevel – more people willing to be coaches. But many don’t have the time to be able to do that. Need to train up introductory level coaches as first step. Many coaches at limits of time commitments.

Michelle Sharpswain – willing to participate with the committee. Suggestion: add short, medium and longer-term goals for doing this. Break this into reasonable chunks for ppl to take on, with time-lines.

Old Business

Reaffirm 2019 Bylaw Changes: The 2019 Bylaw changes were not submitted to USA Fencing within 90 days of last year's AGM. I move we reaffirm the 2019 Bylaw changes and submit them within 90 days of the 2020 AGM. (Please put the actual Bylaw changes into the agenda.)

Bylaw Revisions: Karyn Missimer moves for the following changes to the bylaws.

Mike Garrison – Second.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion passes.

Bylaws Update:

Move following sentence from Article VI, Section A. to Article VI, Section E. and delete from Chair's duties. Delete second sentence (crossed out).

• Be responsible for the custody and maintenance of all equipment owned by THE DIVISION. ~~This responsibility may be assigned to the DIVISION Armourer.~~

Add the following bullet:

• Be responsible for all policies and procedures regarding DIVISION equipment.

- **Replacing Saber Trophy:** The trophies need a new home. Currently in storage at UWW-Rock. Would like them visible somewhere. If there is nowhere to display the trophies, does replacing the saber trophy make sense? If replacing the saber trophy makes sense, any progress on an estimate?
Mike – can keep them safe but not display.
Brian – they are safe and locked up, but not displayed.
Karyn – leave it as it stands for now and continue to look for better options.

Reels: Were they ever purchased? No. See above.

What is the status of the closed FB group? Division will continue with emails and topic threads for now instead.

Margherita Guzzi Vincenti – suggests interactive Google doc to limit of chain emails.

Karyn – will look into that option to make voting easier.

- What is the status of Strategic Planning Committee? Do we need this committee? Is the committee fully-appointed?
Michelle – yes. Need to look forward beyond COVID for the division and goals.
Mike – have a committee.
Michelle – can still commit to some level of activity.
Karyn – what should we be doing in this committee?
Mike – perfect place to set up a Google document.
Michelle – start with survey of what people would like to see as options for division priorities, with specifics.

Call for other old business: None offered.

New Business

Reimbursing Officer Memberships: Motion to reimburse Kevin Smith and Michelle Sharpswain for their 2020 USA Fencing memberships.

Motion to reimburse Kevin for his 2020 membership, should he be re-elected.

Kevin and Michelle decline reimbursements.

Other new business:

Abbas Fadel – Can we pay for Margherita’s USA National membership expenses as part of her efforts towards competing with the Olympic team in 2021?

Motion – Abbas Fadel

Second – Michelle Sharpswain

Discussion: None

Motion passes. Congratulations to Margherita!!

Scheduling/Sanctioning of Tournaments

Discussion for the 2020-2021 season: The division goal will be to make as much effort to hold a similar schedule of tournaments as in previous two seasons. At this point there is no need to schedule or consider sanctioning tournament due to pandemic restrictions. The division agreed that when the opportunities are available we will schedule and sanction ad hoc in a timely manner.

Budget Report - Sharpswain

Nothing new to add outside of the treasurer’s report.

COVID-allowed – would be great to get a minimum # of tournaments, and eventually add more.

Good goal to get new Lawrence U. coach involved.

A. Elections

- i. Chair: Call for nominations
- ii. Motion – Mike Garrison nominates Karyn Missimer.
- iii. Second – Brian Duckwitz
- iv. Votes: Motion passes

- v. Vice-Chair: Nomination: Issue - Mike Garrison as sitting Vice Chair, is nominated for Treasurer.
- vi. Discussion – Mike will retain web duties if elected as treasurer leaving only duties for Vice Chair as serving as second if chair is unavailable. Other duty has been as outreach.

- vii. Dan Torchia volunteers for Vice Chair position.
- viii. Karyn Missimer: Seconds.
- ix. Vote: Motion passes

- x. Secretary: Karyn nominates Kevin Smith as secretary.
- xi. Second: Mike Garrison
- xii. Vote: Motion passes

- xiii. Treasurer: Nomination for Mike Garrison by Brian Duckwitz
- xiv. Second: Karyn Missimer
- xv. Vote: Motion passes

- xvi. Armorer
- xvii. Nomination of Dave Neevel by Karyn Missimer
- xviii. Second: Brian Duckwitz
- xix. Vote: Motion passed

Executive Committee Nominations:

- xx. Karyn – nominates Alexandra, and present members
- xxi. Second: Brian Duckwitz.
Discussion: Abbas Fadel suggests to add Alden and Ellis Grasse, Jim Voels and Mitch Hagopian.
Karyn: Nominates suggested additions.
Abbas Fadel: Second
Vote: Motion passes

3. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn: Karyn Missimer
Second: Dan Torchia
Vote: Motion passes

Wisconsin Division AGM Adjourns at 12:17 pm.