

Agenda

Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

April 7, 2011 via Teleconference

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General announcements

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

II. Minutes of the February 19, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the February 19, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (distributed separately)

III. Finance and Budget

Financial Reports (Greg Dilworth and Sunil Sabharwal)

IV. Updates from the Executive Director (Greg Dilworth)

V. International Update (Sunil Sabharwal)

VI. Legal Update (Donald Alperstein)

VII. Election Committee Report

VIII. Committee Appointments

IX. Hall of Fame Nominations

X. One-Day Membership Fee Increase

XI. Executive Session

XII. Adjournment

Motion (Mr. Baker): To adjourn the meeting.

Appendix A Veterans Committee Minutes, Veterans Meeting, March 12, 2011, Detroit, MI

Committee members present: Paul Levy, Jude Offerle, Drew Ridge (chair), Delia Turner

1. Drew Ridge reported on some demographic data he gathered through the USFA. According to the data, the oldest competitive member is 109, though this is open to question; the oldest documented competitive fencer is 100. The oldest classified foilist is 86, the oldest classified epeeist is 78, and the oldest classified sabre fencer is 75. There are 2700 competitive veteran-age fencers and 400 veteran-age life members. The classifications break down as follows:

314 veteran-age sabre fencers, including 8 A's, 26 B's, 42 C's, 80 D's, and 150 E's.
624 veteran-age foilists, including 19 A's, 48 B's, 120 C's, 250 D's, and 280 E's.
810 veteran-age epeeists, including 96 A's, 132 B's, 216 C's, 180 D's, and 250 E's.

Recent data delivered to me by Peet Sasaki from AskFRED covers vets who've fenced in the last year. The numbers differ, but the "take home message" doesn't change. [DR]

*Sabre: 7 A's, 27 B's, 31 C's, 42 D's, 61 E's, 154 U's
Foil: 20 A's, 46 B's, 72 C's, 57 D's, 84 E's, 194 U's
Epee: 79 A's, 105 B's, 125 C's, 67 D's, 94 E's, 209 U's*

The conclusion is that there are many veterans who fence and who are classified, and that while the people in the room at the veteran meeting may think of themselves as the veteran community, they are not necessarily representative. It behooves us to get in touch with those members.

Drew Ridge has asked the USFA for e-mail addresses but they were not made available. We will continue to look for ways to get in touch with all of the veteran-age fencers, not just the ones who come to meetings or compete in veteran events. One suggestion was that even if USFencing couldn't provide the e-mail addresses, we could ask the organization to send the e-mail out from the office instead.

2. Gaby Weisz, chair of the Canadian veterans association, presented on the Can/Am Veterans Cup in Kingston, ON, Canada May 14-15, 2011. The Venue is Queen's University close to the downtown area. The Kingston Fencing Club is the host organization for the tournament, which has individual and team events in all weapons. Age groups may be combined depending on numbers, but medals will be awarded to bronze for all age groups. Genders will be fenced separately. The original deadline for registration has been extended a month, to April 18, and fencers may register via AskFRED (though the complete preregistration list does not show on FRED).

3. USFA Position on fundraising for and from veterans: Funds raised and designated for veterans when donated to USFencing will go veteran fencing. The Veteran Committee can advise on how the money is spent, but does not control the allocation.

4. Veteran Worlds. This year, the Veteran Worlds are being held in Morocco. Though Morocco seems to be one of the most stable countries in that part of the world, other countries in the area have experienced substantial political disorder. There was some

discussion of safety issues. The US State Department website is a good source of information about warnings for US travelers. Once the team is named, some information will be forthcoming from USFencing about travel, but the veteran fencing chief of delegation may be a more significant source of information, as USFencing basically certifies the eligibility of the team rather than sending the team per se. Drew Ridge would welcome suggestions of names of people who would be a good chief of delegation. Drew doesn't speak French, is somewhat undiplomatic, and intends to concentrate on fencing.

5. Blue Gauntlet. Blue Gauntlet is sponsoring the veteran world team by donating a tester to every member of the US team. The committee encouraged all veterans to stop by Blue Gauntlet and thank them for their support.

6. Transgender fencers. USFencing abides by the IOC's Stockholm Statement regarding transgender fencers. Drew Ridge queried the FIE, and they invoked the Stockholm Statement. However, while there is information about the effect of testosterone on performance, the IOC has little information on the performance effect of fencers taking exogenous estrogen in comparison with fencers who are peri- or post-menopausal and who therefore have reduced estrogen levels. A formal request has been made to Peter Harmer as to whether there is any advantage provided by exogenous estrogen. There seem to be very few studies available. Jude Offerle made some information available, and Val Asher will provide some more references that will be available through the Veteran Fencing website. If anyone knows of any other studies, they can send a link to Drew Ridge at drew.ridge@fccc.edu.

7. Peter Folgner. Paul Levy spoke in remembrance of Pete Folgner, who died this year. He grew up in Germany and came to the US, where he fenced three weapons and was a professional ski instructor who also worked in construction. He was always cheerful, one of the kindest people in fencing, and he will be missed.