

Colorado Division Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2018

JEFF'S HOUSE

MEETING CALLED BY	Ann Totemeier
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
NOTE TAKER	Maggie Barrett
ATTENDEES	Ann Totemeier, Jeff Miller, Maggie Barrett, Andrea Etchell, Michael Cain

Agenda topics

SECRETARY REPORT

DISCUSSION	Typo in January minutes to be corrected. Minutes look good otherwise. Jeff moves to accept minutes, Andrea 2 nd . Old minutes reviewed; Maggie moves to approve. Jeff 2 nd
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WEB REPORT

DISCUSSION	Haven't made any additional changes to website. Waiting on results of cost analysis of moving to wordpress or SquareSpace. It may be slightly more expensive, but it looks better, is mobile friendly, and is easily adjustable. NB: anyone can pick it up and change it; it's no more difficult than Facebook. So, in the future when the board changes, it will be easy for a new Webmaster to take over. Yes, it will sync with our current GSuite email system.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Call Andrea for info on current costs for hosting	Maggie	Next mtg
Make side by side comparison of options	Maggie	Next mtg

ARMORER REPORT

DISCUSSION	Inventory was emailed to board (and is attachment #1 on this document). Requests that the Division has a real Armorer's kit for competitions. Kit to include lame testing weights, weapon weights, shims, mask punch. Request was made by SDFA AE: The Division hires Seth on the assumption that he has his own gear. MC: Estimates cost at a couple hundred dollars. MC: I'm not asking for it; I'm just passing on a request. General meeting consensus is no, we don't need to furnish this.
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CHAIR REPORT

DISCUSSION	Members of the Division want more communication – what do we want/need to communicate to the clubs? (1) Communicate through natural connections. Should we establish a phone tree? (2) Monthly email with the minutes? Jeff will do, Maggie will furnish him with the necessary docs and contact list.
DISCUSSION	Should Karen still be on Safe Sport compliance checking since she is no longer an active member of the board? Pros: she knows what to do and who to contact. Cons: if she misses something, are we opening ourselves to a potential liability, since she is not on the board? Discussion: she is safe sport certified and has not had any issues in the past. She should finish off the season in this role, so as to not confuse clubs. We will look at who can take it on when a new EC is elected.
DISCUSSION	Ann started a vet foil email list. Who else should she add to it? Raffey, Anderson, Kissingford, Darricau?

TREASURER REPORT

DISCUSSION	The DFC pizza tournament cost the Division \$166. Not too bad. Spending about \$1200 on outgoing checks soon. Ordering medals and ribbons soon. Still haven't looked at details of changing to a credit union. Or of updating address to a PO box. Have not added Jeff as a signatory on the account yet.
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OTHER BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS	Jill's ref clinic: Feedback – Bill Oliver was supposed to teach, but had to suddenly leave. So Dilworth covered.
	Some people were annoyed that Oliver wasn't there. Also several people from MHFC registered but didn't show, and several who didn't register did show. Should we make people prepay to guarantee attendance? Refund (to make the clinic "free") would be given only at event.
	Discussion moves to lack of referees in CO. What sort of clinic would we need to have to get someone their "P"?
OLD BUSINESS:	Pizza events: Looking at survey results, no one attended Jill's pizza tournament specifically because food was offered. DFC was different (partially because pizza was specifically advertised?) – the fencers there were really into the pizza.
	TL;DR: this brought out a lot of fencers, gave out some ratings, and made fencers feel supported by the Division, repeat next season.
OLD BUSINESS	Scheduling Annual Open Division Meeting: June 9 or 10 after Natl's prep tournament? Or on a different day from a competition? This hinges in large part on USA Fencing's national/regional schedule. We should have that by the next meeting?
	Also what is the AFA schedule? Andrea will email Omar to find out.
NEW	CO Div Business Plan: Jeff put together ideas from previous meetings' notes (see attachment #2). Looks like he sees a large need for fundraising before we can move forward. JM: If we want to meet any of our goals, we have to tackle fundraising.
	Kroger cards, Amazon Smile, what other passive fundraisers can we do? Passive fundraising as much as possible. Discussion: Do we raise the event fees? They were just raised, so probably not yet. What about fast food fundraisers? Chipotle, Five Guys, Qdoba, etc?
	What about having a gala/auction? MB vetoes: we barely get our assignments done currently, planning an event sounds like a bad idea.
	Do we know any grant writers? Could we get funding that way?
	Andrea's continued exploration of owning a CO Div building: still haven't had time to look into what the cost would be. MB: We need to discuss more about <i>should</i> we buy a building and not so much about <i>could</i> we buy a building. From recent personal experience: owning a building sucks. There are lots of unforeseen obstacles, which will be compounded since none of us has ever worked as a contractor, building manager or landlord. In terms of changing use of a building, we will probably experience a lot of headache with that.
	Plus, we're a Division with a rotating board – what if we get into this investment, but get voted out next season? What if the next board mismanages it and throws us into massive financial issues? What if the next board turns around and sells it?
	Also, how do we pick a location? Denver proper is super expensive. How do we make it fair to fencers in Boulder or CO Springs?
	As an alternative: we should look more into replicating what Greg has done in the mountains, or into buying roll out strips and competition boxes rather than purchasing real estate. Let's prove that we can successfully and consistently hold competitions outside of clubs before we get mired in owning property.
	Ann: wants people to positively interact with Division. Wants that fencers have good opportunities in CO at appropriate levels. And wants that we have the structures in place to give clubs and fencers a voice in choosing what direction the division goes in.
NEW	We need a clear path for adding tournaments. Mike is concerned about achieving a "minimum level" of fencing to award people their E's. Jeff is concerned about having too many tournaments. Other tournaments won't have good turn out, and even if they do, the ratings awarded from them will be "artificial". Should there be a bylaw about how to add a competition? Jeff will go through old annual meeting minutes to see what rules (not bylaws) there are, if they are still in effect, and if they have changed. We will approve Greg for his mountain bonanza and Jill if she still wants to hold her foil/epee event. Should the CO Div exclude areas outside of the metro Denver-Boulder-CO Springs area from the stricter rules set? Ann: I think this is a good topic for the annual meeting.
	For the time being, add a competition like this: Email Ann/exec-committee 30 days before proposed date with competition idea; EC will have a simple vote over email (no response means yes); Ann will respond.
NEW	Does exec-committee email to all EC members still work? Jeff needs a hard reset of his password.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reset Jeff's password	Maggie	Next mtg
Research po box	Andrea	Next mtg
Get data & compare website options	Maggie	Next mtg
Send approved minutes to Jeff + emails for clubs	Maggie	Next mtg
Email clubs with updates and minutes	Jeff	Next mtg
Email Omar @ AFA about fall tournaments	Andrea	Next mtg
Research Kroger cards and receipts reporting (fundraiser)	Andrea	Next mtg
Research Amazon smile (fundraiser)	Maggie	Next mtg
Research fast food fundraisers	Jeff	Next mtg
Compile CO div rules handbook based off old annual meeting minutes	Jeff	Next mtg

Next meeting is Monday, April 9th 6:30 PM at Aspen Grove (either Panera or The Bistro)

[attachments]

Attachment 1

Armorer's inventory:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>
7	extension cords	
6	floor cords	
11	floor reels, assorted	two loaned to Breckenridge
3	ARM-05 scoring boxes	power supplies and remotes current timings at SDFC
1	ARM-01 scoring box	current timings at MHFC
2	Triplette scoring boxes	timings are not current (except epee, of course)
4	Suitcases for carrying stuff	one loaned to Breckenridge

Jeff's fundraising/business ideas:

<u>Goal</u>	Grow Fencing	Help People	Increase Strength	Buy Building	Have \$50,000
<u>Why</u>	Better serve clubs/ grow the region	Non-profit + Community service is good	Make CO fencing feared	Host more things, make logistics easier	Make everything else possible
<u>How</u>	Facilitate clubs to bring in and retain more fencers. Help more clubs start up in CO	Use our money/ influence to make it possible for under privileged people to fence in CO. Could also include involving the elderly or colleges	Use camps, clinics, and competition to help our fencers to be stronger. Also try to make sure all fencers in CO are receiving the highest possible training	Find and buy building. Some fund raising required. Partner w/ other Colorado sports to make it possible for a mixed use space.	Some fund raising required. Possibly restructure club fees/ ways we can profit from things that we do not profit from now.
<u>When is it possible</u>	Now	Later	Now	Later	To be worked on now Will happen later *Most Overarching Problem*
<u>Some Specifics?</u>	-Advertising? -Club improvements? -Media Relations? -Visible Competitions -Local teams?	-At risk youth -Wheelchair -Veterans (40+) -College teams/clubs -scholarships for fencing	-More Clinics -Camps? -Training for coaches? -Focus of retaining fencers	-Volley ball -Basketball? -Any other court sports -Need a large warehouse/old dept. store -Need lots of money/ a grant maybe? -Definitely doing this German style!	Fund raiding ideas: Restructure fees to make money? Sell CO fencing SWAG Beer/Alcohol * -Host competi net @ clubs