

Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Division, USA Fencing  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Georgia Southern University RAC, Statesboro, GA  
Call to order : 4:30 p.m.

**Officer Role:**

Chairman, Rudy Volkmann  
Vice Chairman, Gene Gettler  
Secretary, Kathleen Ferrara  
Directors:  
Collin McCoy  
Earl Shapiro  
Stuart Johnson

Not Present:  
Treasurer, DJ Martin  
Directors:  
Brent Neiman  
Julio Diaz

**Reports:**

Secretary:  
No report

Treasurer:  
See attached

Endowment Fund:  
See attached Treasurer's report

Vice Chair:  
We had a very successful Junior Olympic Qualifier in January at North GA Fencing Center.

**Old Business:**

Division Championships will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be put out to bid. It should have a minimum of 6 strips. What events should be held?  
Men's and Women's Epee, Foil, and Saber, Veteran? Youth? What age groups for youth?  
Team? Mixed Senior?  
Earl Shapiro moved that a committee be formed to determine which events to offer.  
Stuart Johnson seconded. The motion passed.  
Committee: Gene Gettler, Frank Pratt, Bill Lanier, Stuart Johnson

## **New Business:**

Pre-payment at division tournaments:

We have had a recurring problem with people signing up to fence at divisionals and JO qualifiers, then not showing up. This causes us to have to cancel events right before they are supposed to have been fenced, which is extremely unfair to the fencers who have traveled long distances to attend.

Ed Nolan moved that pre-payment be mandatory for all division tournaments. Collin McCoy seconded. The motion passed.

Payment for the tournaments will be offered both on Ask Fred and by mail. If payment is not received by the deadline, the fencer may pay a triple fee at the door if the tournament director agrees to let him or her fence. This will be determined by the number of entrants already registered and the availability of strips and referees.

Marketing Fencing:

Carlos Balhana suggested that there is a need to market fencing more heavily throughout the state. He proposed that if this was done at the divisional level, the individual clubs could split the costs. A committee will be formed to explore this issue.

Committee:

Carlos Balhana  
Blake Watson  
Kathleen Ferrara  
Craig Harkins  
Collin McCoy

Referee Clinics:

We need more trained referees in the Georgia division, but clinics that have been offered are very poorly attended. This makes it not cost effective to bring in outside trainers like Bill Becker.

Gene Gettler proposed that the training should initially happen at the club level during local tournaments. It should follow a mentoring system.

Rudy pointed out that in order to keep from having regional biases, the training should start out at the club level then progress to a division level. This way there will be consistency throughout the division.

A training venue needs to be created at the division, and the testing can then happen at the USFA level. Ed moved that such a system be set up by the executive committee, and Kathy Vail seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Election of Officers:**

Chairman: Rudy Volkmann  
Vice Chair: Gene Gettler  
Secretary: Kathleen Ferrara  
Treasurer: DJ Martin  
Tournament Director: Stuart Johnson  
Directors:

Bill Lanier  
Collin McCoy  
Frank Pratt  
Earl Shapiro  
John Terris  
Kathy Vail

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Ferrara