



South Carolina Division United States Fencing Association

Mike Strickland, Chair
Mitchell Lane, Vice-Chair
Mike Kelly, Secretary
Vince DiCarlo, Treasurer

Minutes of the 2007/2008 Annual Meeting Held April 12, 2008 at Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Division Chair Mike Strickland opened the meeting at 4:22 pm. Eighteen voting members were present. (The Division has 116 voting members.) Officers present were: Mike Strickland, Chairman; Mike Kelly, Secretary; and Vince DiCarlo, Treasurer. Officers not present were Mitchell Lane, Vice-Chairman. Executive Committee at-large members present were: Michael Green; Jane Littmann; and Matthew Parmer. Executive Committee at-large members not present were Rick Thompson, Max Virkus, and Ashley Walker.

Chairman's Report

Mike Strickland reported the following:

- ▶ The Division has equipment for four strips which includes nine reels. One reel went bad during the Sword in the Stone tournament and Rick Thompson took it for repair. One of the Division's shims disappeared this year at a Palmetto Fencing Club tournament. Mike has been testing a process / policy for tracking the Division's equipment as it changes hands. He will write a policy later this year.
- ▶ We very much need staff to help host the Southeast Sectionals, which will be held at the Jamil Temple in Columbia. We need many people to help setup on Friday, and several to help on Saturday and Sunday. A t-shirt has been designed. Mike has asked Bill Becker if the Division gets 100% of the money from t-shirt sales. He also asked Bill if we can sell concession and if so, what percent of the money we would keep. Bill has not answered Mike's queries. Alan Blakeborough said he would call Bill and try to get these answers.

Secretary's report

Mike Kelly reported that we currently have 185 members. Our membership at the end of last season was 249, which entitles us to elect three USFA Congress representatives this year. There are seven (7) USFA member clubs in South Carolina. Alan Blakeborough said that Knights of Siena Fencing Academy should also be listed as a South Carolina Division club but that USFA has them recorded as being a North Carolina Division club.

Treasurer's report

Vince DiCarlo reported that our beginning balance this year was \$5,885.43; and that we collected \$588 and disbursed \$99.73. Our balance as of April 12, 2008 is \$6,373.70.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New business

- ▶ Karen Blakeborough started a discussion about the need for the division to sponsor a **referee seminar**. Mike Strickland reported that Justin Mehan told him 20 people would have to take the seminar to make it cost effective. Mike Kelly suggested that a few general dates be identified (like late August or mid September) and that feelers be sent out to all clubs in SC, NC, and GA to see how many people might attend on each of the proposed general dates. An FOC Instructor could then be secured and a specific date could then be set.
- ▶ Alan Blakeborough suggested that the division establish a **referee pay scale** to be used at Divisionals and Junior Olympics. He said North Carolina has a good policy about this.
- ▶ Mike Strickland informed us that South Carolina fencers are eligible to fence in the **North Carolina State Games**. Georgia has dropped fencing from their state games.
- ▶ Jane Littmann suggested we have a **division championship tournament** and Karen suggested we could make this a circuit event.
- ▶ Alan Blakeborough started a discussion about **how the division should spend its money**. He suggested we have better trophies for Divisional Qualifiers and Junior Olympic Qualifiers; provide incentives to grow membership, increase referees, armorers and coaches. There was discussion about providing money to help Clemson attend the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs (USACFC) Championships.
- ▶ Michael Green suggested the division may want to have a **South Carolina college clubs tournament**.
- ▶ Alan Blakeborough suggested we show **equipment depreciation** on our financial report.
- ▶ Alan Blakeborough reminded Mike Strickland that **JO Qualifier finalists should have received medals or trophies** but they have not.

Elections

Note: It had been announced by email the week before the meeting that anyone who wished to run for a division office but who could not attend the annual meeting could send the secretary an email stating their willingness to accept nomination for specific positions.

The following were elected to serve as officers during the 2008-2009 season.

Chairman - Mike Strickland (Columbia Fencers' Club)
Vice-Chairman - Richard Capps (Knights of Siena Fencing Academy)
Secretary - Susan Hazel (Columbia Fencers' Club)
Treasurer - Vincent Dicarlo (Foothills Fencing Academy)

The following were elected to serve as Executive Committee members during the 2008-2009 season.

Karen Blakeborough (Knights of Siena Fencing Academy)
Mike Kelly (Columbia Fencers' Club)
Jane Littmann (Columbia Fencers' Club)
Matthew Parmer (Knights of Siena Fencing Academy)
Amy Sands (USC)
Corey Sanders (Clemson)

The following were elected as representatives to the 2008 USFA Congress.

Richard Capps, Michael Green, and Jane Littmann.

The following were elected as alternate USFA Congress Representatives.

Cynthia Jolley, Matt Parmer, and Philip Kath.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned around 6:00 pm.