



USA
FENCING
MICHIGAN DIVISION

2021-2022 Michigan Division Annual Meeting Minutes

Approved 7/18/22

June 18, 2022

Bay Regional Fencing Alliance

- I. Meeting called to order @2:17 pm. Agenda (below) distributed and reviewed by Beth. In attendance were all MiDiv Board Members; Beth Vance, Zhen Yang, Laurie Lapp, Evelyn Gerson, and the following attendees Dale Karolak, Carrie Owens, Mary Diepstra, Lauren Hirsch, Paul Deibel, Trent Rohde, Jeremy Rohde*, Kayla Wirtz* (*non members). Evelyn also received and verified the following proxy votes 72 hours before the Annual Meeting from the following members, and as such, the quorum of 25 members was met:
 - A. Beth Vance (24): Limin Yu, Oleg Lukibowski, Keith Goodwin, Gabriella Hirsch, Bobbie Hirsch, Jonathan Hirsch, Miranda Freedman, Vitaly Neverovich, Mike Cho, Inga Cho, Polina McGrath, Adam Lincoln, Nathan Ritter, Michael Ramlow, Jeffrey Cotter, Jaydon Alojipan, Ann Marsh-Senic, Yifan Jiang, R.J. Cronkhite, Lucia Procopio, Wiley Dressell, Todd Dressell, Olivia Walz, James Donnellan
 - B. Evelyn Gerson (2): Noah Newhard, Jon Newhard
 - C. Zhen Yang (6): Kirk Dedenbach, Han Ding Wang, Alexander Ferencz, Viktoriia Shevchenko, Svitlana Shevchenko, Anatolie Senic
- II. Presentation of Iron Man/Iron Woman/Iron Youth Awards was done by Beth with help of Martha Griffin, the volunteer who helps keep track of the athletes attending the most Michigan-only tournaments. The prizes were iron skillets with a removable plaque. Winners for the 2021-2022 season were Iron Man Jeremy Diepstra (33 events), Iron Woman Elena Kelbley, and Iron Kid Trent Rohde. Elena was overseas and Beth will make sure that her award makes it to GRAFA.
- III. Laurie Lapp presented the annual financial report (see below and did not include the Division's revenue from the Championships weekend. She said a final report will be available in July. At the close of last July the Division had \$4,530.23 in the bank. As of 6/17/2022, the Division had \$3,144.02 income, \$1,245.07 expenses, and a balance in the bank of \$6,512.16. Revenue from membership was down from last year by \$357. There was a question about the number of members in the Division, and a breakdown of the types of membership. *Ev said that she would try to find this information out from the national office and report back.*



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- IV. Election: Ev ran the election as per the bylaws, after first thanking Lauren Hirsch for chairing the Nominating Committee and putting together the slate. Ev also thanked Zhen Yang for his service as Vice Chair during the past year. She also thanked Beth Vance for serving as Chair. Ev also introduced the slate of the 2021-2022 candidates as the following: Lucia Procopio, Chair; Beth Vance, Vice Chair; Laurie Lapp, Treasurer; Evelyn Gerson, Secretary. No other candidates came forth from the floor, so with an unopposed slate, the new board was approved unanimously.
- V. New and Old Business:
- A. Duel of the Realm: Beth announced that the Division would not be running this event next fall, but that a club or a group of volunteers is certainly welcome to use the Division's equipment (locked up in storage at the festival's fairgrounds) if they wish to run this event. The Division is not contractually obligated to be at the Ren Fest, and the new management of the festival is not very organized. Also, conditions last year were very unsafe and pose a liability for the Division and a safety hazard for athletes, bout committee, and referees.
 - B. Planning Session: The 2022-2023 season's planning meeting for the clubs in the Division will be held on Zoom on Sunday, July 24th, at 10AM. Zoom link will be sent out via email. USFA recently posted the regional calendar and we're excited that Michigan was awarded three events: 9/9-9/11 RJCC/RYC at Renaissance, 3/11-12 Grand Rapids Cup RYC/RJCC/ROC at GRAFA, and 4/14-4/16 Motor City SYC! Everyone praised the USFA new staff for a timely release of the regional calendar. The NAC calendar through the 2025 season was also recently released and although the places/events contested are not listed, we still have the dates to save for the upcoming national events.
 - C. Update the Bylaws: Last fall the National Office sent an email out to all Divisions indicating that a Bylaw revision was coming but this didn't happen. Martha Griffin mentioned that the last revision was done about 8 years ago. We discussed the idea of staggering 2-year terms so that instead of electing a slate of 4 new officers every year, members could vote for half the Board (unless more seats were vacant) to retain some "institutional knowledge", make on-boarding more efficient, and hopefully, improve the group's overall effectiveness. *Ev will contact the National Office to see if there is going to be another initiative to revise the bylaws of the divisions.*
 - D. Youth Circuit: Laurie discussed the idea of organizing an unsanctioned youth circuit as a way to promote fencing across the state. The hope is to introduce kids to the sport of fencing and offer a less formal way to compete and learn about the sport. Kids would not have to purchase a membership to compete and Referees would not have to be certified (other than SafeSport). The circuit venue would rotate to clubs around Michigan. A suggestion was made to promote the USFA Access membership at \$25 as a way to build the Michigan membership.
- VI. Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:42. Evelyn seconded this motion.



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Agenda MI Division of USA Fencing Annual Meeting June 18, 2022

I. Call Meeting to order, review Agenda – Beth

II. Iron Man/Woman/Youth Awards – Beth

1. Iron Man – Jeremy Diepstra 33 events
2. Iron Woman – Elana Keibley – 20 events
3. Iron Kid – Trent Rohde – 3 events

III. Financials – Laurie

IV. Elections – Ev

V. New and Old Business – Beth/All

1. Duel of the Realm – become club event
2. July 24 tentative date for next planning meeting
3. Update the bylaws
4. Youth circuit
5. Open discussion

VI. Meeting Adjourn – Beth

Annual Report - Last year 8/1/2020 through 6/17/2022

6/17/2022

Page 1

Category	8/1/2021- 6/17/2022	8/1/2020- 7/31/2021	Amount Difference
INCOME			
Uncategorized	217.02	0.00	-217.02
Event Fees	0.00	1,555.00	1,555.00
Revenue - Fencing Fees	1,582.00	288.00	-1,394.00
USFA Dues Rebate	1,245.00	1,602.00	357.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,144.02	3,445.00	300.98
EXPENSES			
Advertising	61.26	0.00	61.26
Awards	573.95	1,212.86	-638.91
Facilities Usage	0.00	597.50	-597.50
Meals - Competition	0.00	295.00	-295.00
Misc Expenses	200.00	\$12.77	-112.77
Office Supplies	0.00	172.84	-172.84
Postage	0.00	10.19	-10.19
Supplies	409.86	69.12	-340.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,245.07	2,671.38	-1,426.31
OVERALL TOTAL	1,898.95	773.62	-1,125.33

Account Balances - As of 6/17/2022

6/17/2022

Page 1

Account	6/17/2022 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Cash	0.00
Checking	6,512.16
TOTAL Bank Accounts	6,512.16
OVERALL TOTAL	6,512.16