

ANNUAL MEETING  
 CAPITOL DIVISION, USFA  
 28 July 2013  
 DC Fencers Club  
 Silver Spring MD

**Attendance:**

| <b>2011-2012 Executive Committee</b> |                           | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Officers</b>                      |                           |                |               |
| Chair                                | Cindy Sirico              | X              |               |
| Vice-Chair                           | Melanie Carr              |                | X             |
| Secretary                            | Bettie Graham             | X              |               |
| Treasurer                            | Rebecca Chimahusky        | X              |               |
| <b>Representatives</b>               |                           |                |               |
| Chevy Chase Fencing Club             | Jeff Hayden               |                | X             |
| DC Fencers Club                      | Nick Ferrara              |                | X             |
| NIH Fencing Club                     | Larry Pinkus <sup>1</sup> | X              |               |
| Rockville Fencing Academy            | Malcolm Patterson         | X              |               |
| Half Shell Fencing Club              | Ozymandias Fallick        | X              |               |
| Royal Fencing Academy                | T.J. Safai                | X              |               |
| National Capital Fencing Club        | Todd Bukowski             |                |               |
| National Fencing Foundation          | T. Mark Miller            | X              |               |
| Members at Large                     |                           |                |               |
|                                      | Diane Trice—DCFC          | X              |               |
|                                      | Raymond Finkleman—CCFC    | X              |               |
|                                      | Valerie Asher—DCFC        | X              |               |
| <b>Capitol Division Members</b>      |                           |                |               |
| Chevy Chase Fencing Club             | Kathryn Holmes            | X              |               |
| DC Fencers Club                      | Jim Adams                 | X              |               |
|                                      | Byron Neslund             | X              |               |
|                                      | Amanda Sirico             | X              |               |
|                                      | Lewis Slotter             | X              |               |
|                                      | Janusz Smolenski          | X              |               |
|                                      | Alex Walker               | X              |               |
| Half Shell Fencing Club              | Kathryn Wong              | X              |               |
| Royal Fencing Academy                | Maggie Brasted            | X              |               |

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

1. **Introductions.** The Chair opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their advice and support during her first year as chair. She stated that the

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<sup>1</sup> By telephone

Division had achieved its mission during the year by increasing its membership, increasing the number of clubs in the Division, hosting a successful referee clinic (11 individuals received ratings), starting a development program for fencers who compete internationally, and providing development grants to clubs.

- 2. Summary of the Grant Programs.** Valerie reported on the two grant programs she shepherded during the year. Ten grants were made to fencers who traveled to international events and six clubs took advantage of the development grants. The fencers who attended the meeting or sent letters all expressed their appreciation for having received the grants. The funds were used for travel, subsistence, etc. More importantly, the funds allowed them to compete at the international level which is important in gaining valuable experience and increase their fencing skills. They also indicated that it was nice to know that they were recognized by the Division for their hard work. The International Travel Grant awardees present were Kathryn Holmes, Amana Sirico, and Alex Walker. Fencers who sent letters of appreciation were Brooke Sirico and Nina Moiseiwitsch. Byron Neslund and Jim Adams spoke about the importance of the grants.

It was the consensus of the group that the program was a success and should be continued. It was noted that no other Division provides such support for their fencers.

- 3. Election of Officers.** The nominating committee, which is composed of one member from each club in the Division presented the following slate for the 2013-2014 year:

Chairperson: Cindy Sirico  
Vice Chairperson: Melanie Carr Knight  
Treasurer: Rebecca Chimahusky  
Secretary: Bettie Graham  
Members at Large:

- Ray Finkleman
- Valerie Asher
- Colleen Baldry

The slate was approved unanimously by all members present.

- 4. Financial Report.** The treasurer gave a very brief report and will submit a final report later. As of September 2012, the Division had \$17,624; as of August 2013, the Division had \$15,684. The reductions were attributed to the grant programs, the referee clinic, and the purchase of medals.

- 5. Safe Sport Policy.** USFA has initiated a Safe Sport Policy ([http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/3380/USA\\_Fencing\\_Safe\\_Sport\\_Policy.Approved\\_7.17.13.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/3380/USA_Fencing_Safe_Sport_Policy.Approved_7.17.13.pdf) ). Valeria noted that the policy was overly burdensome and appeared not to be appropriate for the sport of fencing. She circulated a letter that she had drafted to be sent to USFA expressing her concerns and asking for clarification. She invited members to sign the letter if they agreed with her concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm