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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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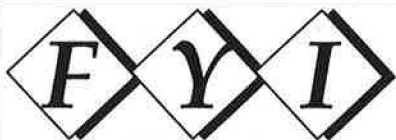
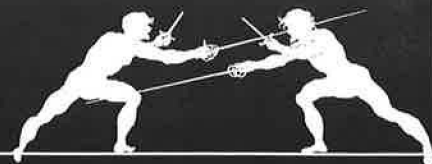
The Cutting Edge, April/May 1997, Vol. 8 Issue 2

The Society of American Fight Directors

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CHANGES

Folks, lately I've been receiving a bunch of change of address stuff for all of you. While I find it very interesting and love to hear from everybody, I don't have the mailing list. Paul Denhardt, our illustrious Secretary does. So please, send that stuff to him. If you haven't been receiving the Cutting Edge, talk to him. If you haven't been receiving the Fight Master, talk to him. He is the man with the list.

DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time. If you haven't sent in your dues yet for 1997, please do so immediately so that your membership won't be interrupted and so that Paul doesn't have too big a headache in keeping up the mailing list. Dues should be sent to:

Paul Denhardt
2014 E. Taylor St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 662-8352
or (309) 826-9689

NO E-MAIL

My wife has accepted a teaching position at William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. As such, I'll be moving at the beginning of May. So, my e-mail will be down for a few months as of May 1. You can still send stuff to me at the old address (it will be forwarded via US Mail) but please don't try to e-mail me after May 1. I'll post my new address & e-mail address in the next Cutting Edge. For now, send all submissions to:

David Doersch
1177 Highway 334
Oxford, MS 38655

It would also help if you marked your letter with "Please Forward." Sorry for the inconvenience.

Special Edition! New Bylaws for Membership Voting!

Dear Members,

At long last you have in your hands a complete revision of our bylaws and two amendments to our articles of incorporation. My first task is to thank Vice President, Colleen Kelly, for her tireless work on this document. Without her savvy and dedication none of this would be happening. We're mighty lucky to have her on board. Now to the rewrite.

I called this a complete revision, but in reality it is simply an attempt to take the original bylaws and articles of incorporation (that are 20 years old this year) and bring them up to date. We looked at several not for profit arts organizations that seem to be thriving, and in combination with Roberts Rules of Order, have attempted to update in several ways. First, to legitimize our operation in the eyes of the Federal Government and the legal eagles of this world. Secondly, to bring us up to speed for an organization moving into the new-millennium, and finally, to spread the balance of power out to better represent the entire membership. There are actually only a few real changes to the document as it exists now, which I will spell out for you. If anyone is interested in comparing this rewrite with the old ones, a copy of the originals can be requested from Secretary Paul Denhardt. You can call him at (309) 662-8352 and he'll send them out to you. Much of the document has been left purposely open ended so that the officers and executive board can fill in the blanks with specific policy and procedure to fit the way in which the organization is now being run, with an eye toward growth for the future. I will attempt to outline for you the most sweeping changes that we are proposing and why.

1) Establishment of a Board of Directors within the organization. In the past the organization has had a board of directors who have served in a strictly honorary and advisory capacity. The

voting power of the organization has been in the hands of the elected and appointed officers and the Fight Masters. It is our desire to establish a new Board of Directors within the Society that will be made up of the Governing Body and an Advisory body (see article vii). This puts the power of voting for policy and procedure in the hands of elected officers and elected member representatives from each level of status within the Society. In doing so the entire membership is represented and has a voice in the workings of the organization. The day to day machinations of the Society will still be run by the officers as it is now (article viii), but any real changes to the policy and procedures will be undertaken by this body of eight elected members of the organization (the officers and the member representatives). The Fight Masters will become a part of the Advisory board (section 3, article vii) and will continue to have input into every aspect of the Society's life.

2) Establishment of FIGHT DIRECTOR as a level of status. After much discussion it has become clear that many of our members at the higher levels are working as Fight Directors on a daily basis with a great deal of success. Up to now, the Fight Masters have been the only level of membership that have enjoyed support from the Society as choreographers. We have created a new level of status entitled Fight Director. The criteria for attaining such a level of status are still being discussed, but approximately 31 of our Certified Teachers have qualified to be "grandfathered" into this level. The Fight Master level has moved up to become a more honorary title, reflecting a high degree of professional work and years of service to the organization. The Fight Masters will now be designated the College of Fight Masters, and will serve on the Advisory Board to lend experience and expertise to the officers. New members to the College of Fight Masters will be

Letter from Drew, con't

tapped to join by the existent members and the professional level of status will become Fight Director. Being that we are called the Society of American FIGHT DIRECTORS, it seemed high time to designate the status and get behind those that qualify.

3) Nominating Committee. We will establish a nomination committee to take nominations of individuals for upcoming elections. This committee will serve to see if the individual nominated is interested in serving and will narrow the field down to those that are genuinely qualified and interested. Elections will be held for officers every three years as they are now and for member reps. every two so that there is not a complete turnover every three years. This will insure some continuity in terms of policy from administration to administration.

Those items listed above constitute the most sweeping changes that we are proposing. We need to hear from each of you via your vote as to whether you approve or no. It is my sincere hope that you will get behind these changes as we have and know that we are looking to make the organization more vital and more influential within the industry. A great deal of what this document is designed to do is simply bring us into the 90's and beyond in terms of language and dynamic as an organization.

You are being asked to cast two votes, one for the new bylaws and one for amendments to the articles of incorporation. The articles of incorporation is a document filed with the state of Washington, originally filed by Maestro Boushey when he founded the organization in 1977. This document simply states who we are and what we do and qualifies us for not for profit status.

The proposed changes are designed to make our statement of purpose better fit what we do nowadays (the original one didn't cover the teaching and training aspects of what we do) and to legitimize us in terms of dissolution should the need ever arise. It may feel strange voting on changes to a document that you don't have to compare to, but this is why I have endeavored to outline for you what the real changes are. Otherwise, the changes are simply about rewording so as to sound more legit in the eyes of the professional world. Send your vote to Jeff Koep by June 1, 1997 using the ballot provided. Many thanks to you all for your continued support. I know that this will help to make the Society a stronger force to reckon with and with your help we will continue to grow and prosper. Be well and fight safely.

Drew Fracher, President SAFD



And now a note from the Editor as to how the voting should proceed.

Enclosed within this mailing, you should find a pre-addressed envelope with a space on the back for your return address to be written **ACROSS THE SEAL**.

- Tear out the two ballots, mark your vote accordingly, **DO NOT** sign them.
- Place them both in the same envelope, then seal the envelope and fill in your return address. **PLEASE DO NOT REOPEN THE ENVELOPE ONCE YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR NAME.** To do so would invalidate your ballot. Likewise, please do not include more than one person's vote in one envelope. Each envelope should include two ballots (one for the articles of incorporation and one for the bylaws).
- Place a stamp on the envelope and

drop it in the mail so that it is postmarked by June 1, 1997. We are busting our butts to try to get you this issue in time for that to be possible. If, however, you should receive this issue too late to make that deadline, go ahead and vote anyway. If the mail should delay this issue so that June 1 is impossible, the officers will probably decide to extend the deadline. So whatever you do, vote, even if you think it is too late.

I'm with Drew on this one folks, 100%! Let's all get behind these changes and help bring our organization into the 21st Century.

David "Pops" Doersch
Editor



On another note, and while I've got just a little space to mention it. Don't forget to order this new SAFD T-shirt. All profits from the sale of this shirt will go to the Michael Anderson Hospital Fund. The shirt will look something like this.



THE SAFD...
WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.

Contact Alex Daye at: 305-826-9250
(Sheep's Clothing) to order yours today!



Proposed Changes and/or Amendments to the Bylaws The Society of American Fight Directors

PROPOSED CHANGES AND/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FIGHT DIRECTORS

ARTICLE I

The name of the organization shall be **THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FIGHT DIRECTORS (S.A.F.D., SAFD)**

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society of American Fight Directors is to promote safety and foster excellence in the art of directing staged combat/theatrical violence. The Society recognizes the staged combative arts as an integral part of the entertainment industry and is committed to providing the highest level of service to the field through:

1. initiating and maintaining guidelines for standards and quality;
2. facilitating the application and practice of said guidelines;
3. providing education and training at all levels;
4. promoting scholarly research;
5. working in cooperation with related organizations and associations;
6. encouraging communication and collaboration throughout the industry.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Society shall:

1. be open to individuals and organizations interested in the combative arts and in support of the Statement of Purpose;
2. be classified by divisions through qualification standards established and published by the Governing Body;
3. become effective upon payment of current dues and/or fees.

Section 2. Members of the Society shall be classified into the following divisions:

1. **Fight Master.** Individuals who have successfully fulfilled the requirements of Fight Master as established and published by the Governing Body and awarded recognition by the current body of Fight Masters (College of Fight Masters). Individuals must be members in good standing and engage in continued active service to the Society.
2. **Fight Director.** Individuals who have successfully fulfilled the requirements of Fight

Director as established and published by the Governing Body. Individuals must be members in good standing and engage in continued active service to the Society.

3. **Certified Teacher.** Individuals who have successfully fulfilled the requirements of Certified Teacher as established and published by the Governing Body. Individuals must be members in good standing and engage in continued active service to the Society.
4. **Actor/combatant.** Individuals who are supportive of the Society and are currently recognized as having passed a Skills Proficiency Test administered by the Society.
5. **Friend.** Individuals who are supportive of the Society.
6. **Organization.** Organizations who are supportive of the Society.
7. **Honorary.** Individuals who have been awarded this title by the Governing Body in recognition of their contribution to the Society and/or the field of combative arts.
8. **Emeritus.** Individuals who are no longer active within the Society who have been awarded this title by the Governing Body for their contribution to the Society and/or the Society and the field of combative arts.

Section 3. Failure to pay dues terminates membership in the Society. Failure to meet specific divisional requirements and/or pay divisional fees terminates association in that division.

Section 4. Any member may resign from the Society using written notification to the Governing Body.

Section 5. Any member of the Society who has been determined, through the right of deliberative assembly, to be in violation of the spirit of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules, or Policies and Procedures may be expelled.

ARTICLE IV DUES AND FEES

The Governing Body of the Board of Directors shall review, establish, and publish dues and fees on the advice of the full Board of Directors and in accordance with the financial status of the Society.

ARTICLE V VOTING

Section 1. All members with the exception of Organization and Honorary shall have the privilege to vote in the following instances:

Proposed Changes (con't)

1. election of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer;
2. changes or amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Society;
3. any issues put forth by the President.

Section 2. In addition to the above:

1. an actor/combatant may vote within the Actor/combatant division for a Membership Representative;
2. a Certified Teacher may vote within the Certified Teacher division for a Membership Representative;
3. a Fight Director may vote within the Fight Director and Certified Teacher division for Membership Representatives;
4. a Fight Master may vote within the Fight Master and Fight Director divisions for Membership Representatives.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the members at such date, time and place as the Board of Directors shall designate.

Section 2. Written notice of time, date and place of holding such annual meeting shall be given to the membership not less than ten nor more than ninety days before such meeting.

Section 3. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors present, or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for that body. Five percent of the membership present, or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a business meeting.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of a Governing Body and an Advisory Body.

Section 2. The Governing Body shall be elected by the membership and have the power of vote. The Governing Body shall assume responsibility for administration, policy making and planning. The Governing Body shall be composed of an Executive Committee and a Membership Representative Committee.

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of four officers elected by the general membership;
 - a. President (candidate must hold the rank of Fight Master or Fight Director within the Society)
 - b. Vice President;
 - c. Secretary;
 - d. Treasurer.
2. The Membership Representative Committee shall be composed of four representatives elected by and from the divisions of:
 - a. Fight Master
 - b. Fight Director;
 - c. Certified Teacher;
 - d. Actor/combatant

Section 3. The Advisory Body shall function as a Committee and serve on the Board of Directors without power of vote, but shall advise and make recommendations to the Governing Body. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of:

1. The Past President of the Society;
2. The College of Fight Masters;
3. individuals appointed by the Governing Body to serve a term determined by the Governing Body.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall act for, and have the power of the Governing Body in the interim between annual Board of Directors meetings, but any action taken under this authority must be reported to the full Board of Directors at its next meeting. This Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President.

ARTICLE IX

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall:

1. serve as Chair of the Board of Directors and the principle Executive Officer of the Society;
2. supervise and execute control over the business and general affairs of the Society as authorized by the Board of Directors;

Proposed Changes (con't)

3. keep the Board of Directors fully informed, and shall freely consult with them concerning the activities of the Society;
4. preside over the selection of individuals appointed to the Advisory Body of the Board of Directors;
5. preside at all meetings of the membership;
6. call and preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee;
7. create committees and appoint chairs of committees as he/she deems necessary;
8. be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nomination Committee;
9. develop and maintain close contact with other organizations and foundations that might give support to or require assistance from this Society;
10. travel, when necessary, representing the Society;
11. perform such other duties as normally pertain to the President of a Society.

Section 2. The Vice-President:

1. shall serve on the Board of Directors;
2. perform the duties of the President when designated to do so by the President or when the President is unable to fulfill such duties; and when so acting, shall have all of the powers of the President and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President;
3. shall secure from committee chairs written reports prior to the Board of Directors meeting;
4. solicit current operations manuals for all ongoing Society functions;
5. maintain an accurate and updated record of each Certified Teacher and Fight Director;
6. be responsible for coordinating the transfer of any fees collected to the Treasurer;
7. perform such duties not specifically herein enumerated as customarily pertain to the office of Vice President;
8. perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Vice-President by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

1. serve on the Board of Directors;
2. keep a full and accurate record of the proceedings before the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the annual membership meeting and any special meetings as requested by the President;
3. be responsible for updating changes to the Articles, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures;
4. be responsible for the dissemination of information either publicly or within the Society;
5. be responsible for accepting new dues and membership data and coordinating transfer of monies to the treasurer;
6. keep records of the holdings and assets of the Society and all data pertinent to Society affairs;
7. perform such duties not specifically herein enumerated as customarily pertain to the office of Secretary;
8. perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Secretary by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

1. serve on the Board of Directors;
2. have custody of all funds and securities of the Society which may come into the Treasurer's hands;
3. be responsible for maintaining and filing all financial records required by law;
4. keep or cause to be kept full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of the Society;
5. deposit all monies and other valuable effects of the Society in the name and to the credit of the Society in such banks or depositories as the Board of Directors may designate;
6. at all times exhibit the books and render a statement of accounts to any Officer or Director of the Society;
7. perform such duties not specifically herein enumerated as customarily pertain to the office of Treasurer;
8. perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Treasurer by the President or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. The Membership Representative shall:

1. serve on the Board of Directors;
2. act as liaison between the Board of Directors and the membership division they represent;
3. present the views and concerns of their membership division to the Board of Directors;
4. furnish leadership for the membership division which they represent;
5. file reports of the work of the respected divisions on the dates requested by the Vice-President;
6. perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

Proposed Changes (con't)

ARTICLE XI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. A Nominations Committee, chaired by the Past President, shall present a slate of officers for election. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to fill, until the next regular election, any vacant elected office created by death, resignation, disability or inability to fulfill the duties and/or term of office.

ARTICLE XII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees of the Society shall be:

1. Executive Committee;
2. Membership Representative Committee
3. Advisory Committee;
4. Nominations Committee.

Section 2. The President shall have the power to create special committees and appoint the chairperson of committees whenever he/she deems necessary.

ARTICLE XIII

FISCAL POLICIES

Section 1. The funds of the Society may be retained in whole or in part in cash or be invested as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Society will begin the first day of January in each year.

ARTICLE XIV

DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all of the assets of this Society shall be distributed by the Board of Directors to some other similar non-profit educational organization or public charity exempt from payment of federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the 1954 United States Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XV

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the Society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Articles, Bylaws, Rules, Policies and Procedures or special rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any changes or amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the Society shall require approval by two-thirds votes.

Section 2. Any changes or amendments to the Bylaws of the Society shall require approval by majority vote.

Ballots

Please cut out the ballots below along the dashed lines. Mark your vote. DO NOT SIGN THE BALLOTS. Place both ballots within the enclosed envelope and seal the envelope. Please write your return address on the envelope ACROSS THE SEAL. Put a stamp on the envelope and mail it immediately. Ballots should be postmarked by June 1, 1997.

Concerning the Changes and/or Amendments to the Bylaws The Society of American Fight Directors

I vote for _____

I vote against _____

Concerning the Changes and/or Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation The Society of American Fight Directors

I vote for _____

I vote against _____

T H E C U T T I N G E D G E

Proposed Changes

(con't)

PROPOSED CHANGES AND/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FIGHT DIRECTORS

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society of American Fight Directors is to promote safety and foster excellent in the art of directing staged combat/theatrical violence. The Society recognizes the staged combative arts as an integral part of the entertainment industry and is committed to providing the highest level of service to the field.

ARTICLE VI DISSOLUTION

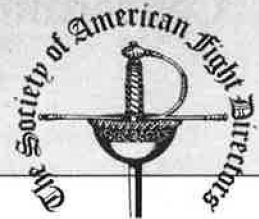
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The Cutting Edge

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