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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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## **The Cutting Edge, November/December 1998, Vol. 9 Issue 5**

The Society of American Fight Directors

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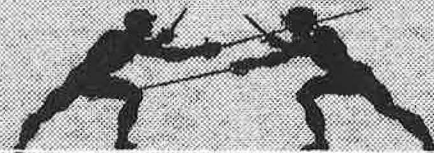


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# The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors



Volume IX, Number 5 - November/December 1998



## NEW ADDRESSES

**Jeff Jones** and his wife, Lisa have moved. Their new address is: 1240C Hamilton Court  
Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 388-8945

**Michael Chin** has a new e-mail address. It is  
Nscwboss@aol.com

**J.R. Beardsley** has a new e-mail address. It is:  
Intljr@aol.com

**Richard Ryan** has a new e-mail address. It is:  
RRyanISCW@aol.com

**Paul Dennhardt** has new info:  
1513 Waunona Way  
Madison WI 53713  
608 226 9540  
Chefprd@aol.com

**Colleen Kelly** has a new phone number: 334-271-5300

**A new Regional Workshop is entering the mix.** The **RUMBLE IN THE ROCKIES!** Coordinated by Geoff Kent. Sponsor: The Denver Center for the Performing Arts  
Date: Dec. 19th and 20th,  
Instructors: **FM Dale Girard,**  
**CT Aaron Anderson,**  
**D.C. Wright, SAFD A/C**  
Assistants: **Geoff Kent,**

**Joe Manussier**  
Fees: \$75 per student  
\$50 for single day  
25% discount to current SAFD members; 25% discount to Denver Center students  
Classes: Western and Eastern Unarmed, Knife work, Arnise (stick work) "Embracing mother earth" (falls), Acting the Unarmed Fight  
Call: 303-266-3215 to register

## This is it! The much-anticipated Election Issue

Well, Elections are upon us. Within this issue, you will find statements from the nominees for the various offices, as well as a ballot, and a return envelope (postage IS required). Please take a moment and read the various statements and vote. Please note that although there are three of the candidates that are running unopposed, your input is still desired. The candidates will have a better feeling for the needs of the society if you respond to this ballot.

The candidates for office are: Dale Girard, for President (unopposed); Paul Dennhardt, for Vice President, (unopposed); Geoff Kent and Michael Anderson for Secretary, and Julia Rupkavis for Treasurer (unopposed. Here are the nomination statements from each of the candidates for office.

For the Office of President,  
**Dale Girard:**

As we stand on the brink of a new century, I feel that we have become more of a "Society" than ever before. I truly believe that this is due to the efforts of our President, Drew Fracher, his officers, and the countless members who have banded together to insure the quality of our work, set a standard for our membership, and therefore make the SAFD a recognizable force in the entertainment industry.

This year marks the end of the six year (2 term) Presidency of Drew Fracher. It has been an amazing time for the SAFD and we all owe him a hearty ovation for his tireless labor. Sadly, Drew cannot accept another term as the chief executive of our ranks. What he has done, and the example he has set, however, can and will be continued if I am elected President. I will do my best to continue Drew's efforts to reach every member of the Society and in that capacity help develop a communication system that allows everyone to be an active part of our growth and development. The foundation has been laid, and it is now time for us to build the Society, to build relationships

with the unions, to build association with film and television, to build a reputation that carries the weight of knowledge and expertise into the entire entertainment community. As a "Society" this can be done. With your confidence and support, I would be honored to represent you as President, joining forces with our officers, representatives and membership to lead the SAFD into the professional and academic arenas of the next century.

For the Office of Vice-President,  
**Paul Dennhardt:** It has been my privilege to serve for the past two and a half years as secretary of the SAFD. During that time, under the leadership of President Drew Fracher and the Governing Body, the SAFD has made great strides as a professional society recognized in the industry as promoting the highest of ethical and artistic standards. As we move into the 21st century I hope to, as Vice-President, continue to serve the SAFD by working to maintain, develop and raise our standards for excellence while responding to the ever changing needs of our membership.

For the Office of Secretary,  
**Michael Anderson:** I am honored to accept the nomination for Secretary of the SAFD. I have periodically lent a hand to Paul Dennhardt during his tenure so I am somewhat familiar with the job. My primary objective will be to speed the processing of all member information and providing an efficient conduit for that information. I look forward to serving the membership with integrity and professionalism.

**Geoff Kent:** As an active member of the SAFD since 1994, I am excited to be nominated for the position of Secretary. In recent history I have attended several regional workshops including the 1997 Advanced Actor/Combatant workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada. Recently, I am a member of the "Update the Certified Teacher BFB" committee and I'm currently planning Colorado's first regional SAFD sponsored

workshop, "Rumble in the Rockies." My work as the regional representative of Colorado has included keeping my local members of the society informed of recent goings on, meetings to discuss Colorado stage combat needs (which prompted the workshop) and a few opportunities to share workshop experiences with the rest of the Colorado membership.

I feel the main focus of the new SAFD secretary should be twofold: Communication and Organization.

First and most importantly is communication. The SAFD membership is constantly growing and has recently made several changes to the policies and procedures. It is the secretary's job to communicate this information using direct mail, postings to the cutting edge, updates to the website and sometimes a simple phone call. All our members should feel they are an active part of our growth and development and that they know and understand how the Society works.

Secondly, the Secretary needs to be organized. The Secretary has information tossed at them from all corners of the globe and it is their job to disseminate this information and quickly pass it on to the membership. My current situation gives me Thursdays and Fridays of every week to tackle this type of information and my current employment as an intranet consultant and publisher has given me the skills needed to do so. In addition, several workshops have recently added the "Discount to SAFD members in good standing" and workshop presenters should have a resource to contact for up to date member information.

I feel Mr. Paul Dehardt has done an excellent job as Secretary (Lord knows he has answered more than a few of my questions last few years) and I'm honored to have the opportunity to run for his footsteps.

Finally, the office of Treasurer:

**Julia Rupkalvis:** I'm very excited to have been nominated for Treasurer of the SAFD. My background's an interesting one for someone in the performing arts, and it's prepared me to take on this challenging role as the society moves forward.

I've been a professional fundraiser, and that's one area in which I'd like to see the society advance. I'd love to see us in the position to fund new equipment, new and existing events, and even scholarships for the National Workshop. To stand out in the competition for dollars, continual effort must be made to have accurate and exciting objectives and financial records. The treasurers that came before laid some great groundwork; I'm here to keep our forward momentum going. I'll use my knowledge and contacts to tap into the artistic fundraising network and share our creative vision with a larger community.

I hold a Ph.D. in Theatrical Hopology, and I'm an enthusiastic writer. I'm an actor and technical advisor here in Los Angeles and I've worked on a number of film and television productions, although my heart lies with my roots in theatre. I'm the membership coordinator of the National Women's Martial Arts Federation, and I've worked with the technical support companies "Warriors, Inc." and "Stunt Grunts Inc." Currently, I'm beginning a school of martial acting called "Axe of Courage."

I'm a big fan of the Society and the vision that we hold. I've supported fundraising activities in the past, and currently serve on the research committee. I'm very excited about the caliber of nominees we have for this election and hope you'll elect me to work with these fine people toward the future of the Society.

Balloting procedure:

Please take a moment and complete the ballot on the reverse side of this

page. Mark your choices for officers, especially that of Secretary, where we have two candidates. Make sure your name and membership level is legibly written in the appropriate spaces. Place the ballot in the enclosed envelope, seal it, write your return address and name across the back flap of the envelope in ink, put a stamp on the envelope (postage IS required) and drop in the mail before December 10, 1998. Ballots must be postmarked not later than December 1 for us to count them.

Questions? Call Paul Dennhardt at: 608 226 9540.

Thanks.

# Ballot

Please mark your votes. **FILL IN YOUR NAME AND MEMBERSHIP LEVEL.** Place the ballot 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 December 10, 1998.

## For the Office of President of the Society of American Fight Directors

Dale Girard \_\_\_\_\_

## For the Office of Vice-President of the Society of American Fight Directors

Paul Dennhardt \_\_\_\_\_

## For the Office of Secretary of the Society of American Fight Directors

(Please choose one)

Geoff Kent \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Anderson \_\_\_\_\_

## For the Office of Treasurer of the Society of American Fight Directors

Julia Rupkalvis \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level \_\_\_\_\_

# Back-word

This regional report just came in from **Michael Johnson**. **Brad Waller's** Globe Fighters Guild recently performed at the Kennedy Center's Open House which was well received.

**Michael Donahue** and **Michael Johnson** directed the fights for VPSTART CROWS' *TWELFTH NIGHT* and a new translation of *CYRANO* written in iambic pentameter. **Donahue** also performed in both shows. Vpstart Crow is run by **A/C Joyce Peifer** and her partner **Tim Shaw**.

**Michael Johnson** also got a chance to teach a multiple attackers class for NYFE and teach at the second annual SUMMER SLING for the newly formed group called FIGHTS 4 headed by **Michael Chin, J. David Brimmer, "Tink" Tuftee** and **Ricki Ravitts**. Both sessions were major hits.

The NOBLE BLADES are now performing their annual show for Scottish Festivals and the Maryland Ren Festival. This year's show is titled *THE RENAISSANCE DATING GAME*.

The martial arts committee is now in the process of creating a knife-fighting discipline to be presented at next year's FDC. I've sent a proposal out to THE TWENTY (committee and advisory board) for their perusal. I expect to get their input fairly soon. We're also asking for input from martial artists outside of THE TWENTY and even the SAFD.

Virginia Rep **Spenser Humm** wanted us to know that he'll be creating a Regional Directory that will be placed on the WEB by December. It will include every member from Delaware to Virginia. The tentative title will be the SAFD MID-ATLANTIC Directory.

## The Cutting Edge

is concocted bimonthly by  
David Doersch.

*The Cutting Edge*  
is a publication of the  
Society of American Fight Directors

Submissions should be sent to:

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