

# Sep 15, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

## Agenda:

- Discuss how to proceed with election in the case of a tie that results in more candidates being "voted in" than there are available seats.
- Discussion and vote on a proposed grant opportunity with the U.S. Embassy in Algiers regarding a Fencing outreach initiative for women in the country of Algeria in partnership with the Boston Fencing Club.

## Minutes:

Meeting (via Zoom) called to order: 8:05 PM Eastern Time

Directors present (Quorum met):

- Vickie MILLER
- Jennifer OLDHAM
- Cathleen RANDALL
- Heather SHANKWILER
- Kathy VAIL
- Rich WEISS
- Taro YAMASHITA

Directors absent:

- Adeline CHUNG-FEDER
- Carissa HAMMONDS

## Election 2024: What to do in case of a tie?

- Background:
  - With more candidates than seats to fill, it is possible to have a tie for the final seat (or more).
  - There are no provisions for how to handle a tie situation in either North Carolina law or the WFencing Bylaws

- The plan, in case there is a tie:
  - Contact the tied candidates, inform them of the tie and the need for a run-off election. (In the case that one or more candidates concedes at this point, removing the need for the run-off election, then the remaining candidates can be seated as if voted in.)
  - Announce at the Annual Meeting of the Membership on Thu 9/19/2024:
    - The clear winners of the election (directors to be seated)
    - The need for a run-off election between tied candidates for the remaining seats.
    - The dates of the run-off election:
      - Thu 9/19/2024: Notice of Run-off election
      - Sun 9/29/2024: Open voting period for run-off election (satisfies minimum 10-day notice period required)
      - Sun 10/5/2024: Close voting period for run-off election
  - All directors present are in agreement with and in favor of this plan of action.
- Taro recommended to board that a future project be to update the WFencing Bylaws to codify this course of action for future elections, should it be needed.

## Applying for a US Embassy Grant to promote women fencing in Algeria

WFencing was invited by the US Embassy to apply for a grant (here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QOFsAGYiDow-grok4sPzr1kJliouUWQB/view>) to develop a camp to build and to grow fencing, specifically for women, in Algeria.

Background given (Vickie MILLER):

- US Embassy reached out to WFencing to apply for this grant
- Original application deadline is today, 9/15/2024. It has been extended with a “drop dead” deadline of 9/21/2024.
- Grant amount could be up to \$50,000.00. Additional resources could be available from the US Embassy, such as help with finding and securing space for the event, and organizing lodging in Algeria for participants.
  - Anything directly related to the content (fencing-specific) of the camp would be the responsibility of WFencing (as the applicant) to organize.
- Competitive athletes in Algeria do not have avenues to pursue fencing, including at the college level, as we do in the USA. Algeria would like to start to change that.
- Desire is to have USA-based coaches, and competitive athletes travel to Algeria to put on a camp (week-long) to help grow fencing and to boost women in Algerian fencing/coaching.
- Original contact came in part through contacts at the Boston Fencing Club (Nina Sayles).
  - To apply for this grant, the applicant must have a SAM ID, which Boston Fencing Club does, but WFencing does not.

- Boston Fencing Club has decided to step back from this opportunity in order to stay focused on their regional and local endeavors.
- Jennifer OLDHAM found out on Fri 9/13/2024 that her employer, Cleveland State University, has a SAM ID number, so she is investigating if a partnership with CSU and WFencing might work.
- The vision and plan:
  - Using the overall framework of Athena Project (budget, organization, format), adapt it for use in Algeria
  - The timelines for this project are tight only on the application side. The grant is good for up to five years.
    - Application deadline: 9/21/2024
    - Possible camp dates: summer of 2025 or 2026
  - Scheduling with Athena Project and WFencing Colloquium: These all can be done on alternating years. Athena and Colloquium are already planned to be alternating, so this project could fit into such a schedule.
  - As with Athena Project, and given the importance of the doing this in a more socially conservative country, the desire is to have all of the people directly on hand at the camp to be women, though allies can help with the organization and planning behind the scenes.
  - Summary:
    - There is no cost, other than time, to apply for the grant
    - The idea of this project is aligned with the mission of WFencing
    - While the timeline for applying for the grant is tight, the time to develop and organize the camp is reasonable
    - Jennifer OLDHAM and Cathleen RANDALL have the necessary background and experience to make a good, fast attempt at writing a strong grant proposal; there is basic sentiment that the US Embassy wants this to succeed, so will likely look favorably upon the application, even if it lacks some polish.
  - **Motion: commit WFencing to applying for this US Embassy grant and to develop the project if the grant is won.**
    - **APPROVED unanimously.**

**Adjournment 8:46 PM ET.**

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