

NFAA Annual Meeting February 14–16, 2010

Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

*Report of the Massachusetts Director
Paul E. Lewkowicz, Director*

I attended the above-noted meeting as the NFAA Director for Massachusetts. The following is my report of events, presented in chronological order.

Sunday, Feb. 14 – New England Section Meeting

In attendance were Councilman Ken Moore, Jim Lamoin (CT), Bruce Mulneix (RI), Pam Gallant (ME), Mike Wright (NH), and myself. The Directors for Vermont and the Archery Association of Europe (AAE) did not attend.

Ken presented a summary of the Council Meeting held on Saturday:

- The Riviera is in financial distress, so we may need to look for another venue. Negotiations for 2011 are on-going.
- NFAA Foundation is doing great work getting grants to continue to improve Headquarters. Covered shooting positions, restrooms & refreshment stand, outdoor lighting, sound system, fencing, etc. all in the works for the FITA range.
- The KOA campground will open in May 2010 and will be run by a separate company partly owned by the NFAA. The "Yankton Missouri River KOA" will lease the land from the NFAA and will pay a portion of the proceeds back to us.

Sunday Morning – First Plenary Session of the Board of Directors.

Bruce Cull, President, made the opening remarks and President's Report. Forty-six (46) states were represented at the meeting. States not in attendance were Vermont, South Carolina, Arkansas, Delaware, and the Archery Association of Europe (AAE). Total NFAA membership as of 12/31/09 was 11,597 shooters, a decrease from 11,802 members as of 12/31/08 (-1.7%).

- Easton Sports Development Foundation has donated upwards of \$700,000, making HQ the largest and best equipped archery-only training facility in the U.S.
- Gordon Composites has also donated \$65K and the ATA has donated \$50K

- HQ property now totals 80 acres and the Indoor Range (34 lanes, each 25 meters long), FITA Outdoor Range, four 28 target field courses, and a 30 target 3-D range are set up and operating year-round.

Our finances are still a concern because the income from the WAF is paying for the operational losses of the NFAA. Bruce notes that this was not the intention when the NFAA bought the WAF: the plan was that the NFAA operations would be self-sustaining and the WAF profits would help us grow membership and Field Archery as a discipline. The Council would like to move the NFAA to a more business-like footing where its own operations (excluding the WAF) pay for themselves. The Council has therefore proposed eliminating the Annual Meeting as an in-person gathering to save approximately \$60,000. (That sum is the cost of reimbursing Director's travel expenses, plus the meeting room and catering costs.) This recommendation is driven by the risk that a bad year (or years) for the WAF could cause the NFAA to go bankrupt.

Also mentioned was the potential for an "alignment" with USA Archery (also known as the NAA). NAA membership has doubled in the last year or two, to about 7000 members. Bruce believes that they could out-organize us and become the dominant player. The NFAA needs to find a way to ensure that NASP shooters (the largest group by far) transition to the NFAA too.

Sunday Afternoon – Committee Meetings. The various working committees of the Board met in separate sessions to review the proposals for Constitution and By-Law, changes.

I was on the Equipment Committee, which met for approximately two hours. As in all Committee meetings, many proposals were considered and recommendations were made as to whether to adopt, adopt as amended by the Committee, or “take no action.” These recommendations were recorded and presented to the entire Board of Directors beginning on Monday morning for a vote of the entire group. Note that even if the Committee voted to take no action on a proposal, any Director could move to consider the proposal at the plenary session. Such a motion only needs a second to open the issue to the floor. On the other hand, any proposal recommended for adoption by the Committee was automatically open for discussion in the plenary session and could be voted in or out.

The final results are discussed below.

Monday, 2/15 – Second Plenary Session.

Sadler Insurance Presentation. Our contact from Sadler, the NFAA's insurance provider, spoke on the NFAA Club Insurance program and answered questions.

- The NFAA requires Range Inspections in order to renew Club Charters, and Sadler requires them in order to write Club policies. In fact, a club must have a current Charter to get insurance - and Sadler checks with HQ.

- Directors and Inspectors are not liable for range safety problems if they make "every effort" to ensure safety and follow inspection rules. Clubs must follow rules. If clubs don't follow rules, the insurance company will NOT PAY OUT if a claim is made. Inspectors must inspect and Directors must make sure they delegate inspection duty responsibly.
- All shooters must sign release forms (waivers) at minimum once per year. Clubs must make "every effort" to get waivers. There is a \$2500 deductible if there is no waiver AND club made every effort to get it. If no waiver and club didn't try, there is NO INSURANCE COVERAGE.
- If a shooter refuses to sign the release/waiver, Sadler advises that you DO NOT LET THEM SHOOT, because they will be the ones who sue you.
- Sadler does NOT write shop policies -- that is business insurance and shops have to get their own according to state laws. So NFAA insurance does NOT cover shops hosting events.

Reports of the Committees. Starting with the Council, each Chair presented his or her Committee's recommendations on each proposal. This report discusses only the significant proposals that were adopted by the Board. For ease of reference, each proposal listed below ends with the Agenda Code assigned.

Various proposals were discussed to eliminate Crossbows, add Longbows, add or remove various classes and styles, and institute scoring the X ring as 6 points either for the Pros only or all archers. These proposal were not enacted.

A few other less-significant and technical changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were made as well; the interested reader should review the official Meeting Minutes at <http://www.fieldarchery.com/Documents> when they are posted. I would also be happy to discuss any and all of them with anyone. The following changes will go into effect as of June 1, 2010:

- A newly-elected Councilman will now take office on the first day of the month following his/her election. previously, there could have been an 11 month delay. (SE-4)
- The 3-D rules were amended to include the same 300 fps arrow speed limitation as our other games. NOTE: This changes was voted to be effective immediately, so that it applies to the May Marked 3-D Championships. (SE-3)
- A Pro Division-only Dress Code was adopted, banning jeans, swim suits, and obscene/vulgar pictures or slogans on clothing. (Pro-6)
- In all rounds below Sectional level, Traditional Archers may shoot from the Youth stakes. (NJ-1, as amended)

- Inside-Out Scoring was clarified to state that an arrow that does not touch the outer separating line of the scoring area scores the higher value. (MI-1)
- The Annual Meeting will become a Bi-annual Meeting for a two year trial. The 2011 Meeting will not be held in person. Instead, the Directors will vote on the annual budget by mail next year. We will have an in-person meeting in 2012 to consider adopting this change on a permanent basis. (MS-1, as amended to reflect the two-year trial)

Tuesday 2/16 – Third Plenary Session.

We had a presentation by Doug Engh of NADA, our partner in running the After-School Archery Program (ASAP), a mid-level course and club program to get kids who have been introduced to archery through school programs such as NASP to continue to build their form and enthusiasm. ASAP partners include ASA, NAA, ATA, and the Easton Sports Development Foundation. The ASAP has tremendous resources, such as lesson plans and skills development tools for training both Beginner and Intermediate-level coaches and archers. NADA membership also includes secondary liability insurance for coaches. See <http://www.fieldarchery.com/programs/asap/asap.cfm> for information; also see www.afterschoolarchery.org.

Financial Report: After much discussion of the NFAA's finances, including a lot of commentary that shows how few Directors actually understand finance, the Directors passed the proposed 2010/2011 NFAA budget, totaling approximately \$590,000. This is a decrease from the last budget of \$700,000 and, as before, excludes the World Archery Foundation, which is a separate entity.

The NFAA, excluding the WAF, had 2009 income (through September 30) of \$782K and expenses of \$763K, for a net gain of \$19K. The WAF had revenues of \$508K and expenses of \$462K, for a net gain of \$46K. On a consolidated basis, rolling up all of the NFAA entities and eliminating cross-contributions and charges, the NFAA as a whole had a net gain of \$65K.

2011 Tournament Dates:

- 2011 Vegas Shoot & World Archery Festival – February 11-13 at Las Vegas, NV
- 2011 Indoor Nationals – (Dates TBD) at Louisville, KY
- 2011 Outdoor Nationals – July 27-31 at Yankton, SD
- 2012 Outdoor Nationals – July 25-29 at Mechanicsburg, PA