



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Cleveland, Ohio, USA
8 August, 2014

1. President Alden Clark called the meeting to order and welcomed delegates.
2. Each person introduced themselves and what city they were representing. The attendance roster is attached.
3. The make-up of the current steering committee was announced, the open positions from several regions as well as the officers of IFR, the delegates that represent IFR at the Federation and GLISA and the additional elected positions of webmaster and communication officers.
 - a. Currently filled positions:
 - i. Region 1 (western states of the US) is Mike DeLeon from San Francisco
 - ii. Region 2 (central and southern state of the US) is Gary Fracassi from Orlando and is currently the Treasurer
 - iii. Region 3 (northeastern US) is Alden Clark from Boston and is currently President.
 - iv. Region 4 (Canada) is John Gazo from Ottawa
 - v. Region 5 (Europe) is Nick Eaton from Manchester and is currently Secretary
 - vi. Region 6 (Australia, Asia) is Chris Rauchle
 - b. Current vacancies are:
 - i. Region 7 (Mexico, Central and South America)
 - c. Also serving are representatives to the Federation of Gay Games and GLISA. There are two delegates to each, serving two-year terms, staggered for election purposes. Some of these positions are on the agenda for election.
 - i. Wayne Morgan from Sydney is representative I to the Federation.
 - ii. The alternate representative position is open.
 - iii. Reggie Snowden from San Francisco is the representative to GLISA.
 - iv. Greg Larocque from Vancouver is the alternate representative to GLISA.
 - d. There are two positions in IFR that are elected each year to support the club.
 - i. Webmaster (currently Brad Miyasato)
 - ii. Communications officer (currently vacant)
4. President Clark gave an update on the progress this past year. The only significant activity is the ongoing update of the website to include a mobile device friendly platform and to make club updates easier. There is also the conversion of some of the sight into other languages – currently French, Spanish, German as well as English.

4. Minutes of the prior meeting were approved.
5. Treasurer Fracassi presented the treasurer's report that covered the calendar year 2013 as well as the transactions from 1 January to 31 July 2014.

Several questions were asked:

1. How the dues structure came to be as well as what expenses we generally incur each year.
2. What is the status of the member clubs, particularly the small clubs that haven't yet updated their info so that they show current for 2014.
 - a. A suggestion was made to send an automatic reminder after a few months as well as follow up contact from the regional reps.
3. A question was asked as to the amount of money in the bank and what the plan was for future budgets.
 - a. Several ideas were presented about projects IFR could be involved in, ways IFR could provide assets to aid FR clubs to develop and grow.
 - b. Also, we agreed to budget for a longer period than the current year (perhaps 3-5 years to cover the quadrennial event cycle). In light of this, we agreed to defer the approval of the budget to new business, then ultimately from the AGM and allow the steering committee to work on it during their next meetings.
 - c. A motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer's reports. Those reports are attached.
6. Representative Morgan of Sydney is the current representative of IFR to the Federation of Gay Games. He provided the following report.
 - a. The current games registration is at about 7,000 participants, lower than expected. He also pointed out the concern by both GG9 and FGG committees about the low number of female participants.
 - a. There was a general discussion about the low numbers. Two main issues seemed consistent as heard by various club members. The economy (mainly a US issue) and the location (Cleveland not perceived to be world destination). There was also an agreement to avoid selecting cities where events will be geographically split.
 - b. The next event, Gay Games 10 will be in Paris. Wayne says that at about two years out, registrations should be open. Some events will have limits on the number of participants, although not likely that running will be affected. Representatives should advise their clubs to be aware of this for other events they may want to participate in.
 - c. Issues under discussion at the Federation:
 - a. Relay events and age groupings. The federation thinks this is a great idea and wants running/track & field to pilot the program and wants IFR to spearhead it. The ages of the participants will be added together to determine age bracket for medals. Question remains as to the spread of brackets – 20 years vs. existing 5 years.
 - b. Future talk of relay teams for the marathon/half-marathon events.
 - d. A question was asked about the federation's position on one merged event. Wayne advised that the discussions are progressing and seem more likely to produce a positive resolution.

- e. Wayne advised that the next Federation meeting will be held on Monday, 18 August after the conclusion of the games. He is unable to stay and has asked for a substitute to represent IFR.

7. Reggie Snowden of San Francisco is the current representative of IFR to the Gay Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA). He provided the following report.

- a. The last meeting of GLISA was an online meeting held in Toronto in June, 2014. New by-laws were approved. A presentation was made by Miami Beach regarding the upcoming World OutGames in 2017. The prior meeting was held in Antwerp at the 2013 World OutGames. Time was spent at both meetings dedicated to discussion of one quadrennial event (IQE). A working group exists of representatives from both GLISA and FGG. They hold regular conference calls and both sides seem to be committed to positive outcomes.
- b. The next North American Regional OutGames will be held in St. Louis in May-June 2016. The next World OutGames will be in Miami Beach in 2017.
- c. A question was asked as to the continental games and whether non-residents could participate and win medals. It does not appear there are any current prohibitions.

8. A point was made to both delegates to take back to the respective organizations – FGG and GLISA – that IFR supports the idea of one global event and strongly encourages both parties to work toward that goal.

9. Bids for subsequent Annual General Meetings. The process for selection was announced and that in the past we generally selected the host city a couple of years in advance. There were no bids presented at the AGM in Antwerp last year. In the absence of a host, we agreed that we would hold electronic meetings.

- a. AGM – 2015.
 - a. President Clark presented on behalf of the Colorado Front Runners in Denver information for their bid to host next year. The meeting would be held about this same time in August (13th to 16th). Their big concurrent event is the 27th AIDS walk and 5K run.
 - b. John Gazo presented a proposal to host the AGM in Montreal in August at the same time as the Pride Run or September during the Montreal race weekend.
 - c. The members voted to hold the meeting in Denver. President Clark will be in touch with our contact in Denver, Brian Eggert and will provide information to the steering committee and member clubs as available.
- b. AGM – 2016. St. Louis is very interested in hosting the 2016 AGM, tentatively scheduling it in May in conjunction with the North America OutGames, 27 May through 4 June.
 - a. A discussion of when to schedule the AGM at future events took place. In particular it was noted that traditionally we have met prior to the opening of the Gay Games/OutGames. Due to travel schedules it may hinder some participation. We discussed holding the meeting at some point during the week but we will need to work with the host committee and try to schedule around running events. One idea

was to meet the day after the opening event since the schedule is usually open that day. Reggie will work with the St. Louis committee to get the schedule as soon as available.

- c. AGM – 2017. World OutGames will be held in Miami Beach, 26 May through 4 June. Jerry Torres, Director of Culture, presented on behalf of the organization. A slide presentation is attached with some information about the suggested AGM events. He will send the tentative sport schedule so we can select a meeting date.
 - d. AGM – 2018. Gay Games 10 will be in Paris. Jérôme Walczak-Capèle of Paris Front Runners provided information about the games and will provide more information about the meeting during the time leading up to 2018.
10. Delegate and representative positions were discussed. At present there are three elections to be held for the regional representatives and one for the delegate to both the Federation and GLISA.
- a. Region 1 – Western US – Richard Ervais of San Francisco is elected.
 - b. Region 4 – Canada – John Gazo will continue as provisional representative until a permanent representative is elected.
 - c. Region 6 – Australia/Asia – Chris Rauchle will continue as this area’s representative.
 - d. Federation delegate 1 – currently vacant. No nominees were presented. The steering committee will continue to solicit for this position.
 - e. GLISA delegate 2 – Reggie Snowden is reelected to this position.
11. Election of the webmaster was held. Brad Miyasato was reelected to a one-year term.
12. Election of the communications officer was not held. We discussed the need for this position and since it overlaps many of the duties of secretary, we decided to not fill this position until it is needed.
13. New Business
- a. International Rainbow Memorial Run (and International Rainbow Flag Memorial Run). Wayne Morgan presented the history of the flag run symbolic of moving the “torch” from previous host city to host city for each of the previous Gay Games. Started by Brent Nicholson Earle. There is discussion about what IFR’s role is in this event. At the games, the organizing committee is responsible for staging the event since it’s a required part of the cultural program. IFR serves as “back up” to facilitate and coordinate the relay portion with local front runner clubs in prior host cities.
 - b. Fun event at games. In addition to a social event, we discussed something like the little black dress run or the pink flamingoes. The goal is to come up with something by Paris Gay Games or even pilot the event at the Continental or World OutGames in 2016 or 2017.
 - c. Inactive clubs. We discussed ways to get feedback and contact from what appear to be inactive clubs. Regional reps should reach out, Facebook follow up, develop an inactive club list (separate from active clubs), develop benefits of membership to encourage renewals, develop an active posting section on the IFR website, develop @fronrunners

email addresses, fix link for new club packets. Treasurer Fracassi will provide a list of non-renewals to the regional reps for their use as a follow up.

- d. Change to constitution. President Clark outlined the process for changing the IFR constitution. Several years ago, we added additional delegates to FGG and GLISA. At the same time we limited steering committee voting to regional reps only. Due to the extremely active involvement by the games delegates, we think they should be able to vote on the steering committee. Suggested language was presented and after discussion the new language of section 9.1 will read “The affairs and management of IFR shall be under the control of the Steering Committee, which shall consist of regional representatives and delegates to games committees. Positions may be added or deleted to the steering committee by a two-thirds majority vote and an AGM or Special General Meeting.”
- e. New boundaries for the US regions. President Clark displayed the current map with boundaries. To more evenly distribute clubs to the three regions it’s decided to move the boundaries for region 1 (western region) from a line east of ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX to west of those states. They will become part of region 2 (South-Central). The following state will move from region 2 to region 3 and will become part of the North-East region: OH, IN, KY, MI. This was approved unanimously.
- f. New region in Europe. Recognizing the surge of new clubs in Europe it is suggested that an additional region in the area may be necessary. The delegates agree subject to discussion with the current European rep at a steering committee meeting.
- g. Encourage clubs to join GLISA. Since GLISA allows individual city clubs to be members it was discussed that front runner clubs should be encouraged to join and participate. IFR will continue to hold its voting position as a sport organization so the individual clubs would not affect our voting position.
- h. Encourage individual club members to join IFR on Facebook. Clubs should be encouraged to promote the IFR page on Facebook to their individual members as another way to share information.
- i. Budget. We decided to defer decisions on the budget. Treasurer Fracassi will present a 3 year budget to the steering committee for their discussion and approval. To recap some of the suggestions presented during the meeting – strong consideration for social events at games as well as a fun event, the movie project on the history of Front Runners, advertising/promotion items such as trading pins and new banners, and increased delegate reimbursements.
- j. Steering committee meetings. We discussed unresponsive steering committee members. While there is no provision in the constitution to remove a member, it was agreed that absent any participation or response to email and contact, the person has implicitly resigned. We also discussed holding regularly scheduled meetings of the steering committee. It is decided that the committee will meet quarterly going forward. A tentative schedule of a 4-5PM Eastern US time slot on a Saturday may work for the majority of the world.

14. There was no further business and the meeting ended at 5:45PM.