

President's Report

By Juha Jalovaara

WFDF Congress
Ithaca, NY, July 8th, 2007

Preface

The purpose of this report is to give WFDF members a general overview of the state of the corporation and its activities in the preceding year leading up to this Congress. More detail on specific items will be presented in separate reports.

Board of Directors

The WFDF annual election was held electronically in December, 2006, with a total of 20 member organizations submitting votes. The 2006 election was the most competitive in WFDF history and posted the a field of 11 superb candidates. Seven new directors were elected to two year terms, one of them being Jesus Loreto (Venezuela) who was elected to serve a one year term as an At-Large Board member, serving out the board member term previously filled by Rue Veitl who was elected as the Team Events Chair.

The composition of the current WFDF Board:

		Term ends
President	Juha Jalovaara	2008
Secretary	Melle Clark	2008
Treasurer	Nob Rauch	2007
Team Events Chair	Ruediger Veitl	2008
Individual Events Chair	Paul Francz	2007
Board Members	Fumio Morooka	2008
	Jonathan Potts	2008
	Kate Bergeron	2008
	Todd Demetriades	2007
	Dan Engström	2007
	Dave Nesbitt	2007
	Jesus Loreto	2007

Personnel

In September 2006 WFDF initiated a search for a new part time Executive Director with an outline for a work schedule of 20 hours per week on average to be performed, within the similar budget guidelines for administrative work approved for 2006. An announcement for the position was released in early September and it resulted in 12 applications, including several strong candidates. The ad-hoc Executive Director Selection Committee consisting of Board members Juha Jalovaara, Nob Rauch, Todd Demetriades and Dave Nesbitt short listed four applicants for interview calls. After a thorough evaluation process the Board approved the recommendation of the Selection Committee to contract Anne-Marie Carey of Vancouver, Canada as the new WFDF Executive Director.

Anne-Marie has served as WFDF Executive Director on a part time basis of approximately 85 hours a month since December 2006.

The duties of the Executive Director consist of the following activities:

1. WFDF administrative support

- membership application processing
- membership dues invoicing and processing
- membership census
- outreach programs
- Congress arrangements
- WFDF election arrangements

2. Communication

- Day-to-day communication with member organizations
- maintaining WFDF contact lists, handling e-mail and other correspondence
- communicating with GAISF, IWGA, WADA and other external organizations as directed by the Executive Committee
- website oversight and preparation of newsletters to WFDF members
- PR and media activities
- Read all correspondence on wdfmemberlink mailing list

3. Event management

- WFDF event coordination activities with WFDF Committee Chairs and tournament directors
- event bid processing and evaluation
- event organization support and event marketing
- event procedures development

4. Organization

- ExCom and Board administrative support (meeting briefing books and minutes, etc)
- WFDF archives and records management
- Coordination of WFDF's involvement with official agencies
- Managing the calendar and tickler systems for the volunteer staff and officers
- Read all correspondence on wdf-executive mailing list

In addition to the Executive Director, WFDF has maintained a consulting contract with Dan "Stork" Roddick. Stork's activities have consisted of:

- maintaining WFDF World records and advising on record attempts
- maintaining the list of approved discs
- maintaining WFDF history
- supporting the Individual Events Committee
- specific strategic work for the Board

Finances

At the end of the fiscal year 2006 the financial position of WFDF was satisfactory. Our net operating cash flow for 2006 was a surplus of USD 33,352 compared to a budgeted surplus of USD 8,909. This surplus was mainly a result of not having the administrative staff available, which had originally been budgeted. This lack of resources was absorbed mainly by volunteer work by the Executive Committee.

At the end of the fiscal year 2006 WFDF had total cash assets of USD 80,405 and no liabilities. Outstanding membership dues payments through the year 2006 are a total of USD 5,136 (this is the status on June 30th, 2007).

More detail on the fiscal year 2006 is given in separate financial reports. Unfortunately, due to schedule constraints, it is not possible to present an audited report to the Congress. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is for Congress to accept the draft 2006 report pending final review by the auditors.

An unaudited intermediate financial report for the first two quarters of 2007 is included in the Congress materials. The net operating cash flow for the first six months of 2007 shows a deficit of USD 1,130. The budgeted deficit for the full year of 2007 is USD 18,630. At the present there are no indications that WFDF would not be able to keep the deficit well within the budgeted sum.

Board Resolutions

The most notable resolutions made by the 2006 Board were:

- Approving the report of the WFDF Finance Task Force
- Approving the establishment of the new Executive Director position and contracting Anne-Marie Carey for that position
- Approving the mission statement for the WFDF Anti-doping Task Force
- Awarding of the WFDF World DDC Championships 2006 to Team Banzai from Phoenix, Arizona
- Ratification of the new WFDF Rules of Disc Golf

And in 2007 to date:

- Ratification of the new WFDF Rules of Ultimate
- Approving a new sub-committee structure for the Ultimate Committee
- Awarding of the WFDF Pan-American Ultimate Club Championships 2007 to Mexico
- Awarding of the WFDF Asia-Oceanic Ultimate Championships 2007 to Chinese Taipei Flying Disc Association
- Reaffirming the current schedule of WFDF Ultimate events through 2010
- Changing some of the bid deadlines of upcoming WFDF events
- Tasking the Ultimate Rules sub-committee to create a suitable set of hand signals for use in World Games ultimate play

Board and Executive Committee Activity

During 2006 the WFDF Board has held three teleconference meetings to date and kept in touch between the meetings through the use of a Yahoo discussion group. The minutes of Board meetings are available upon request to members in good standing. The Board has met twice in 2007 so far.

During 2006 the WFDF Executive Committee, consisting of President, Treasurer, Secretary General, and Executive Director met by teleconference a total of 15 times. The lack of administrative staff throughout most of the year severely burdened the Executive Committee, which responded with an unprecedented number of meetings and volunteer hours to this crisis. The Executive Committee has met four times in 2007 so far.

Rewriting of WFDF Bylaws

The rewriting of the WFDF Bylaws has progressed within the WFDF Executive Committee to a stage that we are almost ready to present the key issues for membership discussion and input. A proper platform to organize that discussion is yet to be determined. Currently we are expecting to use a web discussion forum with access restricted to membership representatives only.

External Relations

WFDF continues as a member in good standing in GAISF (General Assembly of International Sports Federations) and IWGA (International World Games Association). Two of our Board members, Fumio

Morooka and myself attended the SportAccord Congress in Beijing in April, 2007. SportAccord is the annual event that hosts the annual general meetings of GAISF, IWGA and the International Olympic Committee. In addition to the meetings, the event hosts an exhibition that attracts hosts and bidders of major future sporting events such as the Olympic Games and representatives of media who work with sports coverage. Fumio's attendance was covered by the Japan World Games Association, while the funds for my own travel came out of the WFDF budget. SportAccord provides free accommodation for 3 representatives from each international sports federation for the duration of the event.

During the week, I took part in the annual meetings of IWGA and GAISF and a smaller meeting concerned with electing a representative of non-IOC recognized sports to the GAISF council. Paul G. Höglund of Sweden, president of Ju Jitsu International Federation was elected. WFDF voted for Tomas Eriksson (also from Sweden) who is the president of the International Floorball Federation.

In addition to the meetings, I heard presentations on the progress of the preparations for World Games 2009 in Kaohsiung. I also had a number of very useful private meetings and discussions, including talks with president Ron Froelich and sports director Joachim Gossow of the IWGA, and several people on the Kaohsiung Organizing Committee.

I believe that in spite of the travel expenses involved in attending SportAccord, the continued participation of WFDF in that event is necessary, if we are to make use of our ties to the international sporting community. The meetings and networking at SportAccord help lay the foundation of our participation in the World Games and will very likely result in exciting media opportunities at some point in the not so remote future. It is also extremely useful for us to try to learn from the experiences and successes of other sports. Even though we may believe disc sports are unique, there are actually many sports out there that face similar issues to ours. Discussions with the leaders of other sports give insight into how they have handled various challenges and growth pains.

WFDF Events Program

In 2006 WFDF sanctioned the following events:

World Junior Ultimate Championship 2006, Devens, MA, USA, August 14th-18th.

World DDC Championships 2006, Phoenix, AZ, USA, November 9th-12th.

World Ultimate Club Championships 2006, Perth, Australia, November 11th-18th.

In 2007 WFDF is sanctioning the following events:

World Overall Championships 2007, Ithaca, NY, USA, July 9th-14th.

Pan-American Ultimate Club Championship 2007, Mexico, August 6th-12th.

Asia Oceanic Ultimate Championships 2007, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, December 7th-9th.

More information on our Events program, including bidding and upcoming events is available on our web site www.wfdf.org and in the Team Events Committee report.