Fly Tying Group

2009 Annual Board Meeting

July 28, 2009

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Fly Tying Group Board of Governors Meeting Minutes 2009

The Board of Governors (BOG) met on July 28, 2009 at the FFF Conclave in Loveland, Colorado. Board members present included: David Nelson (chair), Gene Kaczmarek, Jim Ferguson, Bob Bates, Oscar Filiu, Steve Jensen, Leslie Wrixon, Mike Stewart, Dave Duffy, and Al Beatty. The meeting was open to observers, and several were present.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, David Nelson. Introductions were made and a discussion about the bylaw requirement to elect officers at the meeting resulted in the following results:

Chair: David Nelson
Vice-Chair: Gene Kaczmarek
Treasure: Steve Jensen
Secretary: Jim Ferguson

Minutes of the 2008 annual meeting were presented and approved.

David Nelson summarized the history of the Fly Tying Group (FTG) and its charge:

1. FTG is charged with representing and promoting the interests of tiers at the local, regional, national, and international level.

2. When the FTG was formed, the issue of certification of fly tiers was addressed and this is specifically excluded from the activities of the Group. In addition, the Board this year has
unanimously approved a resolution stating that tier certification is not in the best interests of fly tiers and that the Board is against any fly tier certification. In addition, the Board declines to consider the matter further, as it has been evaluated multiple times with the same result, and feels its energies should be devoted to other topics.

3. Membership in the FTG is open to any FFF member, without consideration of fly tying skill.

4. Board membership is via a nominating committee, which seeks nominations from Council Presidents. Any FTG member can recommend someone to their Council President for nomination. Direct recommendations can be sent to the Nominating Committee, but preference is given to the nominations from the Councils.

**Treasures Report** - submitted by Steve Jensen

FTG account was $1,293.50 thru June, 2009.

Ending balance of $1,000.00 starting July, 2009

It was noted by the David Nelson that the FTG is responsible for raising their own funds, and the FFF is not expected to fund the FTG projects. The need for a budget report from the FFF office was discussed, in order for the FTG Treasure to have access to information regarding our account held by the national office. David Nelson agreed to see that this occurs. Reports will go to both the Chair and to the Treasurer.

**Committee Reports:** The following committees gave a report on their work done since last annual meeting.

1. **Fly Tying Instructor’s Resource** - Jim Ferguson reported on what materials have been collected to date for inclusion. He has purchased Dreamweaver, Photoshop Elements 7, and a laptop computer to help in working on the Resource, which will be an online reference for tying instructors. The website will be created with the help of David Nelson. Meeting times with committee members will be scheduled during this Conclave to help in roughing out the format for the website. The website will be a resource for fly tying instructors to access information, suggestions, and samples of class offerings to assist in the design of their fly tying class.

2. **Standing Committee for the Annual Meeting** - Gene Kaczmarek outlined the job of standing committee chair as having a 3 year commitment. Under that chair, there should be a local tier chair at the Conclave site. The local tying chair is to be solicited from a list of volunteers in the area. Gene has

   a. collected a conclave fly tier data base of over 100 tiers.

   b. taken recommendations for tiers from Council Presidents or local presidents but reported response has not been great. An improved method to getting a flow of recommendations from Councils is needed. Many Councils do not have a VP for Flytying.
3. **International Committee** - David Nelson reported for Hans Weilenmann.

a. Hans attended several European tying events but failed to recruit any tiers for Loveland Conclave, essentially due to the cost of travel and the current worldwide economy. Even Hans, who had been planning on attending, was prevented from coming for this reason.

b. The Board reviewed the proposal put forth by Hans last year and implemented this year to assist international tiers to conclave by providing a local flyfisher to function as a local host and problem solver. The local host is not expected to pay for any of the guest’s expenses, but at a minimum to be in contact with the prior to Conclave to help plan their stay, including taking them fishing on local waters. At the host’s option, they may want to extend an invitation to stay at the host’s home. Expense has been a deterrent to getting international participation, and lacking a budget to give them financial assistance, this program would be the next best thing in encouraging international participation.

4. **Evergreen Hand Committee** - Jesse Scott, founder of the Evergreen Hand and Evergreen Hand Committee Chair, was not present. Information was forwarded that

a. the Evergreen Hand, a one-handed tying device, costs $25 to build.

b. goal is to now refine the design of the device.

c. an on-line presentation is available on the FTG website.

d. the device is for anyone with limited use of one hand. Demonstration will be available at the FTG Liars' & Tyers' BBQ this year as well as throughout Conclave.

5. **Framing Committee** - Steve Jensen discussed two directions for this committee's efforts

a. Develop a guide for framing on the Internet.

b. Build Fly Plates for organization fundraising.

Steve expressed a concern that we need to have a fundraising system to help with the high and rising costs of materials required to perform archival quality framing.

6. **Youth Outreach** - Sister Carole Ann Corley, Chair, was not present. She had communicated to BOG she had tried to use organization to approach other groups to get support or sponsorship for youth program but has not met with success.

7. **Digital Archive** - Leslie Wrixon, Chair, reported

a. The project goal was to have an on-line archive including a history of all flies in the possession of the FFF.

b. Gene Kaczmarek, Bob Bates, and Hans Weilenmann have volunteered to help.
c. A number of boxes from the museum was brought to Conclave for the Committee to catalogue, and were distributed to Committee members to review. Some of the flies are in dreadful shape, as they were stored in plastic bags and flattened.

d. Much of the FFF fly collection has been moved to museum at Montana State in Bozeman, Montana since the FFF museum in Livingstone was closed.

e. The movement of FFF museum materials to the Montana State Museum and legal right to do such was discussed. Discussion ensued around the need to preserve and provide access to our fly resources in that collection. Steve Jensen referred to an International Plate Series containing foreign flies that went to the federation to offer access to US and Canadian flies. The Montana State Museum should be able to store and protect items turned over to its care but the BOG members did express a strong concern that we keep on top of the ownership and access aspects of the physical move of the collection. Comments were made that the monetary crunch of the organization was the driving force behind the closure of the FFF museum and with possible FFF Board action at this Conclave some of our concerns may be addressed.

f. Project is on-going, and no budgetary requests are being made at this time.

**Review of Accomplishments for 2008-9:**

1. Statement on Certification - The BOG of the FTG again, as in 2005 thru 2007, reviewed the topic of tier certification. A resolution was unanimously approved stating that tier certification is not in the best interests of fly tiers and that the Board is against any fly tier certification. In addition, the Board declines to consider the matter further, as it has been evaluated multiple times with the same result, and feels its energies should be devoted to other topics.

2. Bylaws - We have accepted the Bylaws and we need to have them OK’d by Jim Schram, the FFF attorney.

3. Website - The FTG website had originally been located on one of David Nelson’s websites. It had been moved to the FFF website where it belongs, among other reasons, so that the FFF can have ownership as well as control over the site and the material. However, the FFF is having significant problems executing their website program, including difficulty/inability to access and update it. It was found impractical to host the FTG web material on the FFF website, and with much duplication of effort, the material was moved back to David Nelson’s server. The FTG may decide to buy another URL, place the ownership in the name of the FFF, and avoid the current impasse. The current FTG website is linked, in multiple ways, with the current FFF website.

4. Election of New Board members - The FTY had its first Board election, to replace retiring and resigning members. Board members resigning over the year included Monte Smith, Henrika Prescott, Anthony Hipps, Jon Uhlenhop, Henry Hoffman, and Stan Fudala. Nominations had been solicited from all Council Presidents as well as from FTG members, who were requested but not required to route their nominations through their Council. The nominations were vetted by a Nominating Committee (consisting this year of only the Chair, lacking any other
volunteers), by asking the nominee if they wished to serve and how they felt they could contribute to the Group. All nominees recommended by Council Presidents were approved and then submitted as a slate to the FTG membership and all were elected. The FTG welcomed Mike Stewart, Frank Flowers, and Dennis Reed to the Board. Only Mike Stewart was able to attend the meeting. David Nelson asked permission from the Board to nominate further Board members, with all nominations subject to Board approval, so as to bring our number to the required number of 21. The Board approved the request unanimously.

5. Tiars’ & Liars’ BBQ – The Board had approved a proposal by David Nelson to hold an event to be called the Tiars' & Liars' BBQ, to help create identity among the fly tiers and to promote collegiality among the tiers. It was decided to hold the event at the beginning of Conclave, with the hope that this would facilitate friendships and collegiality for the rest of Conclave. The BBQ was advertised via an article in the FlyFisher, on the invitation to tie sent to all prospective tiers, and via email to the full FTG membership. The decision was made by the Board to make it free to all FTG members, and to fund it via bucket raffle's at the BBQ, with the goal of the event being budget-neutral. The event planning had been successful, and the event was scheduled for after the Board meeting.

6. Funding - The FTG had been successful in raising their own funding, via auction items, sales of FTG pin, and memberships.

7. Workshops - A workshop was held this year for organizers of Fly Tying Classes.

**Review of Failures for 2008 - 9 :**

1. David Nelson discussed the lack of communication and participation by the majority of the members of the Board and the effect this has on the functioning of the Group. Lack of program and/or committee reports made it difficult to forward to national what we are accomplishing. The Board members present agreed to be active in answering email. The proposal was made to try using conference calling. Several Board members have been using conference calls within their Council and found them effective. The Board agreed to try quarterly conference calls as a means of uniting the Board and accomplishing its business.

2. Problems with getting a quorum was discussed, given the fact that the Board is distributed across the country, only one face-to-face meeting is feasible, and the majority of the Board do not respond to email. The Bylaws state a quorum is 7, which would make a majority 4. In the past year, out of necessity, the Chair solicited opinions or agreements from an ad hoc “executive committee” consisting of the Chair (David Nelson), the Treasurer (Steve Jensen), Jim Ferguson, Gene Kaczmarek, and FFF Board senior advisor Herb Kettler, in order to make decisions for the BOG. Completion of the election of officers will create an official executive committee composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, and active participation of the Board should allow functioning of the Group.

3. A review of what to do about board members that are not participating took place. BOG members present expressed the idea that the problem of getting rid of un-responsive board members would take care of itself by lack of nominations from informed Council presidents. At
the present time the BOG members are appointed for 1, 2, or 3 years. It is very difficult to assess the true contributions without an active communication set-up. Conference calls may address this issue. Prior to elections, present BOG members can be asked if they wish to continue and if they will work better at participation.

4. E-mail courtesy was again suggested to help eliminate overloads, and members were instructed to consult the e-mail courtesy protocol previously adopted. Some of the e-mails are being forwarded to all members, when they were only directed to one member. Some general distribution of emails assists the flow of ideas among the Board, but some e-mails should be directed only to those involved.

Committees For 2009 – 10 and Their Goals:

1. **Fly Tying Instructor's Resource Committee** - Jim Ferguson, Chair; Don Van Buren, Cliff Sullivan

Work on developing the Resource, deciding on composition and structure, and to begin to develop a website format.

2. **Annual Meeting Standing Committee** - Gene Kaczmarek, Chair

Develop a replacement in line for chairperson, develop a 2010 Committee Chair and 3 worker bee's, then attend to the 2010 tier list and the details of the 2010 Annual Conclave, including the Learning Center project, which is a teaching area near the demonstration tying.

3. **International Committee** - Hans Weilenmann, Chair; Oscar Feliu

Address development of local host chair, local hosts, and invitations. Hans will be attending several fly tying events in the UK and on the continent.

4. **Evergreen Hand Committee** - Jesse Scott, Chair; David Nelson, Gene Kaczmarek, Steve Burkett, Richard Diamond, Gary Jones, Ed Huff, Jerry Lorang, Cecuk Guidry

Continue development of the Evergreen Hand, including design, funding, publicity, and distribution.

5. **Framing Committee** - Steve Jensen, Chair

Finalize the material for the website; Steve will run a framing workshop at Conclave every other year, and find someone to run one in the off years.

6. **Youth Outreach Committee** - Sr. Carole Ann Corley, Chair

Goals not outlined.
7. **Digital Archive Committee** - Leslie Wrixon, Chair; Bob Bates, Gene Kaczmarek, Hans Weilenmann

Examine material brought to Conclave and develop a plan for the future, including identifying material available for the Archive, and funding.

8. **Website Committee** - David Nelson, default Chair, looking for volunteer

Continue development of the website, find it a home.

9. **Membership Committee** - needs a Chair

10. **Communications Committee** - needs a Chair

11. **BBQ Committee** - needs a Chair

12. **Raffle Committee** - Oscar Filiu (chair??)

**Proposed Programs for 2009 - 10**

1. Discussion centered around our need for a "Tier as Teacher" Chair, as David Nelson has his hands full with developing and directing the FTG and the Board. We need to continue the Conclave workshops on How to be a better demo tyer and on organizing fly tying classes. This project also provides assistance in developing handouts, displays and organizing your demo tying area.

2. Selection of the Buszek Award. A discussion was started by David Nelson noting that at the present time, the Council Presidents choose the Buszek recipient, yet they often have no knowledge of fly tying. He suggested that the FTG BOG was the most qualified group to choose the Buszek recipient, and there was general agreement. A motion was made by Gene Kaczmarek, and 2nd by Bob Bates, to make a request of the FFF BOG that the FTG BOG take over the task of electing the Buszek recipient, with the Nominating Committee continuing to handle the nominations process. The motion was passed unanimously. The Chair will take this motion to the FFF BOG.

The meeting was adjourned

James H. Ferguson, Secretary BOG FTG