EUROPEAN FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

United by true passion

Hello everyone

Summer is already over and we can look forward to some great autumn fishing. I personally love this time of year the most. The rivers are slowly calming down again and the magnificent colors of the landscape allow me to fully enjoy the absolutely fine fishing.
A lot has happened this year in various areas:
Various homepage updates have been made and the new regulations regarding data protection have just been implemented. On the internal page, everyone can change their personal address, telephone number or e-mail address.
Now you can also see **until when you have paid your membership fee**. If something is wrong in your profile, please report it to Ferdy. Mail to: geerd060@planet.nl

Some passages in the statutes have also been prepared and will be put to the vote. You will be informed about the final text.

In short version:
Fly fishers up to 18 years of age can now join the EFFA free of charge. We are thinking here especially of members who have daughters/sons who share the hobby with them. It remains to be mentioned that they have no voting rights until the age of 18.

If a member reaches 75 years of age and has been with EFFA for more than 5 years, he/she will be exempt from the fee.

Members who have served on the Board for 3 terms or more (9 years) are exempt for life.

In connection with the new elections for the Board next year, this proposal will also be put to the vote:

Until now, it was only possible for the President to be from Switzerland. The reason for this was that the association was founded and run according to Swiss law. This is no longer in the spirit of EFFA, as it puts suitable candidates from abroad at a disadvantage.

The most important thing first:
The president can now come from any affiliated country, but a board member must be resident in Switzerland. The association will therefore continue to **be governed by Swiss law** and the registered office **will remain in Switzerland**.

We have had a respectable growth in our association in the past years and are pleased that we currently have members from 26 countries - compared to 23 before. The number of members has also doubled, which is additionally very pleasing. This means that we are well connected and informed about everything related to our passion. A small drop of bitterness, however, is that the legal situation and the associated regulations in the countries do not follow a common direction. We can exert some influence through our members and try to avert something worse. That is why it is also extremely important to expand the EFFA lobby and to try to pursue a Europe-wide thrust. In order to promote exchange across certain countries regarding good destinations, EFFA's annual events have taken place in the following countries in recent years: Italy, Bosnia, Slovenia, Luxembourg and the Czech Republic. Currently we are already planning the next event.

There is also some important information about next year's elections.
In a long-term strategy, we filled the board with younger people 2 years ago to initiate a generational change. Now it is time to complete the renewal and fill the following positions:

Membership Secretary Ferdy Geerdink- 11 years in office.
President Daniele Di Fronzo- 9 years in office

This means that Ferdy and I will hand over our offices. We are happy to support the new players (office bearers) in the first phase, in the transition process after the election, to ensure the transfer of know-how. The other members (Massimo Matteuzzi, Christoph Zimmermann and Christian Gubler) have agreed to continue their work and to take the reins together with the new Board members.
According to the existing bylaws, any member who feels called can apply for the various positions. So if you are interested in a job on the Board, please apply. You are welcome to contact me in advance to clarify the general conditions.
Mail to: d.difronzo@bluewin.ch

A survey is also currently being conducted among the country representatives who are standing for re-election for the new term of office. Everyone has the right to apply and stand for election. If there are more candidatures than vacant seats, the majority of the votes received will count.

Here I can already announce the following vacancies:
CH After 6 years, Fredy Illien and Marco Flury have decided not to stand for election. Many thanks to them for their work over the past years. By November we will know more if there will be further vacancies. So if you are interested in getting more involved in the organization, please contact me in advance.
Mail to: d.difronzo@bluewin.ch

Now a few words about my future retirement from the Board in the spring 2024:

When I took on this task, I had planned to focus more on the members. Everything was too strongly focused on our certification program and instructors. Personally, it seemed more important to me for the future to create a network across borders and thus a lobby that could enter all areas of fly fishing. To create a culture where not only the skill, but the passion came first. Through events such as EFFA on Tour - fishing together across borders - this goal was certainly achieved to a large extent. The culture of discussion, which is unavoidable, has also improved a lot in my opinion and we have learned to be able to live with other opinions.

The focus on the bigger picture and not just favoring one's own country interests, persons, etc. has changed thanks to the support of my board members. Today's EFFA is certainly not as polarizing as it was years ago and the added value of the organization is more apparent. Of course, I also had critics in many areas. Some had a problem with my German, others with my English and still others with my direct language and my appearance in general. But in my eyes, this has no relevance to the job as President. Despite certain shortcomings, I think I have achieved more good things together with my board members than bad things. Of course, there have been mistakes and I have lost companions through certain decisions and their implementation for the good of EFFA. That is regrettable, but all in all I have probably gained more friends than I have lost. No one is born as president, but you grow into this role. It is important to communicate well and, if necessary, to implement unpleasant discussions/decisions in the interest of all. This inevitably always brings headwinds and is occasionally unavoidable if you have to successfully implement something for the good of the community. All the decisions I made together with the Board were always aimed at advancing fly fishing through the EFFA community of interest.

What I mean by this is that one cannot be perfect in all areas and may also have certain deficits. The most important criterion for a president should be that he is a balanced personality who leads the organization without being a self-promoter and thus generates majorities in the different countries / departments / board. With this statement I hope to have encouraged some possible candidates to apply for this not always easy job. I am happy to accompany the new President on his way with my knowledge and experience from my last years.
After almost 9 years, it is time to hand over the leadership to a new leadership. We have already consciously built up 3 new board members in the last few years. The last step will now be taken with a secured know-how for the tasks and challenges of the next years. Of course it would be convenient for EFFA to re-elect the "old" President, but in my eyes not forward-looking.
Thank you very much for the trust and goodwill you have shown me over the years. Unfortunately, I was not able to satisfy everyone with our decisions, but it was never directed against individuals, but always with the intention of moving the community forward.
In some form or another, I will continue to be involved in the further development of EFFA in the future.

Daniele