

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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1 August 2021

Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Families and Friends,

Happy New Fencing Year! The USA Fencing calendar extends from August 1 through July 31. Typically, the last major event of the season in the Summer National Championships held around the July 4th weekend after which time fencing clubs and coaches often take a bit of a break. This year USA Fencing squeezed in an extra national tournament to make up for lost time with the COVID-19 pandemic. All our coaches have been busy with a flurry of extra North American Cup (NAC) events and with summer camps for our fencers. Because it is a new fencing season, please remember to renew your USA Fencing membership.

It has been very exciting in the world of fencing this year as we finally got to see our Olympic fencers take to the world stage. I hope you had a chance to see at least some of the fencing events. Lee Kiefer earned the gold medal in women's foil for Team USA. She is not only an amazing fencer but also a terrific role model. The men's foil team earned bronze yesterday. They are also a wonderful group. The level of fencing for all three weapons has been breathtaking.

While it has been a challenging year with the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to express my gratitude to all our families and friends in making the extra effort to keep our community safe. Thank you for following all the protocols we have in place. So far, our fencers and families have done a great job taking care of each other. I think that we will need to continue all our efforts as cases increase due to the delta variant.

In addition to keeping each other safe with COVID-19, we have ordered an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) with the generous support of donors. We are working on setting up cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training which we plan to open up to our members for a nominal fee. We are waiting for some dates in September from the instructor. Once I find some time, I will update our web site with the names of our donors for the defibrillator.

Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit, and we continue to rely on the generosity of our members. Our board members are all volunteers who care deeply about our club. I wanted to thank Deborah Li who will be stepping down as treasurer after 5 years on the board of directors for our club. I wanted to thank Joy Kim who is moving closer to Seattle and has stepped down from her board position as an at-large board member. We have a number of volunteer coaches. I especially wanted to thank Coach Joe Jasper and Coach Andy Glynn; they both have given their time generously and run wonderful classes for many years. A number of our youth instructor assistants have stepped in to fill in for classes when needed. Thank you. For information about our board members, coaches, and supporters please go to our web page www.tacomafencing.com.

There are many ways you can contribute to our club as well. Some families give a donation to our club annually. Others give for specific needs or projects. Seven of us volunteer to serve on the board of directors. Others help with special projects (the floors, storage boxes, and air filters were projects by volunteers)—while we just renewed our 2-year lease for our current space, we will need a group to look for a larger space in 2 years as we are growing in membership and anticipate that our current location will be too small for us soon. And I am sure that the coaches would welcome any help that was offered.

I wanted to acknowledge our three wonderful full-time coaches without whom MTFC would not be the same. They put in more hours for our fencers than we can count. I cannot wait to see what they have planned for all our fencers this coming season. I need to thank Yukiko who is our part-time administrator who seems to work full time for our club managing the schedules, billing, taxes, and everything else that goes in the background to keep our club running smoothly.

And finally, I wanted to thank you and your family for being such an important part of our community. You can reach us at info@tacomafencing.com with any questions, comments, or concerns.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toby Lee".

Toby Lee, MD on behalf of Diane Bartels, MD, Ji Yon Kim, Deborah Li, Scott Poehlmann, Jose Porras, and Lisa Wonneberg
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) Board of Directors