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Sharon Burns, Australia
President, WEKAF International Executive Board
Term: 2008-2010

WEKAF leadership in the USA

The World Eskrima, Kali, Arnis Federation (WEKAF) is an International Organization registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Philippines. Its purpose is to help spread and support the Filipino martial arts. It does this through competitions and seminars, with the primary event being the WEKAF World Championships, which are held biannually.

Following a pre-organizational meeting in the Philippines in 1987, the first World Championship was held in 1989. Bylaws and an organizational plan were agreed to and adopted. Attending members from different countries were officially recognized and country Directors, were chosen or appointed. The Directors were to be responsible for the growth of WEKAF in their own countries. They were free to appoint assistants and encouraged to organize under the WEKAF charter. The exact method of doing this was left to each Director. As each national chapter grew, they were encouraged to have their own regional and national competitions.

Under the WEKAF charter, there is only one Director and one Organization authorized to act on the behalf of WEKAF in each country. Each country director is the final authority over WEKAF functions and events, including the promotion and organization of any competitions, the selection of team members eligible to represent their country in the WEKAF World Championships, compliance with organization rules, the collection of any country and member fees, and communication to the International Organization.

As new countries apply for membership, they are invited to bring a team to the next World Championships, and choose a director for their country. The country directors act as the board of directors for WEKAF. An executive board is chosen to oversee the board of directors. These are the voting members over international WEKAF matters and concerns.

Thus under the WEKAF charter, there is one Executive Board, overseeing one Board of Directors. The board has one Director per member country, and this Director is the only person recognized to represent WEKAF in their country.

There is one and only one Organization in the US with the authority to represent and act on behalf of WEKAF International. That (sole) Organization is WEKAF USA, Non-Profit, of which the recognized Director from 2006-2008 was Sonny Napial. This Organization elected Gabriel Rafael as the new Director for 2008-2010. Gabriel Rafael was accepted as the official (and sole) US Director at the WEKAF world congress in 2008 in Cebu, and was given documentation to verify that role.

To be more specific, in 2008, Sonny Napial had the sole responsibility and authority to oversee the selection of the new director. According to the rules of WEKAF USA, Non-Profit, the US regional Directors developed and agreed to a plan to vote for his successor. That plan was followed, and Gabriel Rafael won that election. At the request of Sonny Napial at the 2008 world

congress, the process was reviewed and audited by Stephan Jerzenbeck, the outgoing president of the WEKAF International Board. He verified the findings by me as the incoming President. We confirmed that Sonny Napial acted within his authority, the process they used was fair and unbiased, the outcome was correct, and Gabriel Rafael was properly the Director for the US under the WEKAF International charter. There weren't any complaints made to the International Board about this process or the outcome.

According to WEKAF International, please be advised of the following:

Gabriel Rafael is the US Director of WEKAF. He is the sole person authorized to represent WEKAF in the US (www.wekafusa.org). The Organization he heads is WEKAF USA, Non-Profit. WEKAF USA, Non-Profit is the sole Organization authorized to represent and sanction WEKAF events in the US.

Alfredo Bandalan is not the US country director for WEKAF. He does not hold any position, appointed nor elected- under WEKAF International. He does not have any authority to act on behalf of WEKAF International in any manner. This includes any representation, any collection of fees, any advertising or other claims.

His Organization, "WEKAF USA Inc." is not recognized or authorized by WEKAF International. WEKAF International will accept no acts performed under this Organization, including team selection. No fees are authorized or will be accepted from this Organization. No competitors from this Organization will be accepted at WEKAF International events.

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