

# **YET TO BE APPROVED**

**WISCONSIN FORENSIC COACHES' ASSOCIATION  
2004 FALL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
APPLETON EAST HIGH SCHOOL  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004**

*Meeting called to order at 1:09 PM by President Mary Knutson.  
Representatives from 20 schools were present and introduced.*

**I. SECRETARY REPORT: Christopher Zoch:** *Minutes of Spring 2004 business meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously. Calendar for 2004-5 season approved, contingent upon availability of 2 remaining schools. Calendar to be posted on website on/around October 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**II. TREASURER REPORT: Doris Sexton:** *Written reports. Financial Report to General Membership presented. Treasurer still advocates strategy to cut expenses at this time versus raising dues. \$3300 savings in last year's expenses via eliminating Handbook printing/postage, fewer paid helpers at State Tournament and only a 1 night stay for this year's convention. Other areas to investigate include: getting a higher interest rate on our CD, taking bids for State tournament trophies, alternate tournament site, and greater recruitment of new members. Motion made by Gary Wegner, seconded by Mary Wacker to approve treasurer's report. MOTION PASSED. Comparative membership totals presented from '97-8 to the present (membership ranged from 188 in '98-9 to 144 in 2003-4).*

**III. PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mary Knutson for Ron Steinhorst:**  
*Clarification made that Chelmo scholarship is to be presented to a student from a school with a smaller enrollment (perhaps Div. II or III under current guidelines). Bylaw change would be necessary here to delineate this. There was an omitted nominee for the Hall of Fame award last year. Upon committee approval, recipient will receive award this year.*

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mary Knutson:** *President-Elect Deb Weiher-Traas (Appleton East), TPP Chair Jan Riordan (Messmer) and Program Assistance Chair Tom Hardin (Madison Memorial) introduced. Ripon College has shown great deal of enthusiasm for hosting WFCA State Tournament! More communication regarding logistics needed to finalize details. Hopefully decision can be reached by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Call made for greater recruitment. Deb Weiher-Traas thanked for*

*assistance in switching this meeting's date from 09/18 to 09/11 to better accommodate debate coaches.*

**V. PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT: Deb Weiher-Traas:** *Due to decreased membership, lack of WDCA, WCA and WHSFA involvement and necessity for extensive committee planning, it was decided to forego the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the WFCFA convention in favor of focusing efforts upon greater recruitment and outreach. Potential sites for convention include Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dells. Dates of convention will be the weekend of May 6-7, 2005. Site will hopefully be determined by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Suggestion made that future Fall Meetings be held in conjunction with the State Teachers' Convention in late October.*

**VI. STATE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Christopher Zoch:** Deadline for State Tournament registrations is Tuesday, April 5, 2005. State Tournament dates: April 15-16, 2005 (WHSFA conflict), regardless of site. Discussion ensued on the issue of three divisions of sweepstakes awards at the State Tournament. Major points included the origin of the "original 650" cutoff for the old method of splitting divisions, the potential to "opt up" divisions to ensure competition in desired higher division only, and the "school in the middle" syndrome (incl. benefits to mid-sized school who are dwarfed by larger schools' point earning potential). Proposal outlining the splitting of duties for the State Tournament Director and the Site/Facilities/Preparations Director presented for inclusion in the WFCFA Constitution. Motion made by Rick Braun, seconded by Bev Kingma to approve duties split as presented. MOTION PASSED. Application form for the Site Director position to be forwarded to webmaster for website posting. Tab Room etiquette Committee to garner opinions via e-mail.

**VII. STATE CONGRESS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Lynda Luce:** Deadline for State Congress legislation is Monday, April 4, 2005. Congress Director will coordinate efforts with Site and Tournament Directors regarding Congress implementation at a potential new tournament site.

**VIII. CATEGORY COMMITTEE REPORT: David Loos:** Written report. Recommended adjustments or changes to rules as well as topic areas (where applicable) outlined in report presented. Noted that WHSFA leadership to undergo changes with the retirement of J. Peter Shaw. Reported that WHSFA agreed to all proposed rule changes.

1. Motion made by Mary Wacker, seconded by Gary Wegner to adopt the proposed topics / time period / occasions for Moments in History, Public Address, Special Occasion and Storytelling. MOTION PASSED.
2. Group Discussion: Paul Seymour and Lyn Luce aided in revisions of this year's Homeland Security Discussion topics. Noted that potential future debate topic may center upon this issue. Motion made by Mary Wacker, seconded by Anita Fleisch to approve Group Discussion topics as submitted today and that the State Tournament topics NOT be used by any other tournament director. MOTION PASSED (16 AYE - 2 NAY - 1 ABST.).
3. Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Discussion surrounded the future of L/D at the State Tournament. Motion made by Doris Sexton, seconded by Tom Hardin to keep L/D at the WFCFA State Tournament. Discussion centered upon pros: random pairings, no cost concerns, WDCA instability may cause L/D to be lost, especially at WFCFA invites and to smaller programs. Cons: tabulation/pairing issues, viability of competition and having multiple State L/D champions. MOTION PASSED (10 AYE - 4 NAY -

5 ABST.). Motion made by Tom Hardin, seconded by Paul Seymour that on the Saturday of the State Tournament to conduct an L/D tournament whose entries are NOT included in a team's maximum of 25 entries NOR counted toward sweepstakes awards. MOTION PASSED (16 AYE - 1 NAY - 2 ABST.).

4. Duo Interpretation: Motion made by Bev Kingma, seconded by Mary Wacker, that Duo Interpretation be included at the WFCFA State Tournament, using NFL rules. Discussion centered upon pros: ease of preparing entries and NFL vs. NCFL rules. Cons: adding another category to our already large number of competitions. MOTION PASSED (8 AYE - 7 NAY - 3 ABST.).

A. Motion made by Adam Jacobi, seconded by Mary Wacker that the evaluation sheets be made similar to those used for WFCFA interpretation events. MOTION PASSED (16 AYE - 1 NAY - 1 ABST.). Adam Jacobi to give template of evaluation sheet to TPP committee for development of Duo evaluation sheet.

Committee chairman requested that all committee members be present at the Spring Business Meeting.

IX. PROGRAM ASSISTANCE REPORT: Tom Hardin: Potential for 4 Fall Workshops this year: Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at Brookfield East, Madison Memorial to host (date TBA), Potentially Eau Claire North (date TBA) and Waupaca (date TBA). Video library to be maintained, including a waiver form so that materials are only used within member schools. Suggestion made for each member coach to invite a non-member school to the State tournament. Letter to be drafted to all Wisconsin high school principals/forensics coaches to introduce WFCFA and to invite to the State Tournament free of dues. Committee is in the works to investigate the regionalization of the State Tournament. Coaching vacancies to be posted on the front page of the website. Potential to have WFCFA represented at the State Superintendents' Meeting (Sept 22/23) and the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (Jan 19-25, 2005).

X. PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: Adam Jacobi: Fall Newsletter will be sent out soon. This is a full Handbook year, and it will be posted on the website. Hard copies can be requested from Treasurer Doris Sexton for \$10. Orders for pins and stopwatches continue. Committee will strive to educate about the forensics activity itself as well as the organization.

XI. TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES REPORT: Mary Knutson for Jan Riordan: Motion made by Adam Jacobi, seconded by Mary Wacker that Constitution Article VI, Section IV #2 be amended at the end to read, "at the State Tournament the TPP Committee shall have power to disqualify a contestant per the Operating By-laws." MOTION PASSED.

*TPP committee will begin the investigation toward potentially modifying evaluation sheets by examining Public Address and Prose. The issue of timekeeping in the final round at the State Tournament was discussed. The WFCAs Executive Committee presented 3 scenarios for examination:*

- 1. Independent timekeeper in the round and time signals available to contestants. Times announced to the judges.*
- 2. Independent timekeeper in the round and time signals available to contestants. Times only given to TAB officials. If performance deemed overtime, contestant's rank dropped by 1 rank.*
- 3. Eliminate timing in the final round altogether.*

*Motion made by Lyn Luce, seconded by Anita Fleisch that with the exception of Radio and Extemp, scenario #2 be adopted and contestant's rank be dropped by 1 rank if that contestant was ranked #1 in the round. Discussion centered upon finding coaches, etc. for recourse from changing ranks, responsibilities of timekeepers, and whether the judges themselves could still time the rounds. MOTION PASSED (6 AYE - 4 NAY - 4 ABST.). Motion made by Mary Wacker, seconded by Adam Jacobi to eliminate time signals from the final round at the State Tournament. MOTION PASSED (14 AYE - 0 NAY - 4 ABST.).*

## XII. NEW BUSINESS:

*A. State Tournament Trophies: Motion made by Gary Wegner, seconded by Mary Wacker to eliminate the COACHES Team trophies at the State Tournament. MOTION PASSED (15 AYE - 1 NAY - 2 ABST.).*

### B. Sweepstakes Divisions:

- 1. Motion made by Chris Zoch, seconded by Tom Hardin to adopt the 3 Division scenario for State sweepstakes awards into the Operating By-laws. MOTION PASSED (13 AYE - 2 NAY - 1 ABST.).*
- 2. Motion made by Mary Wacker, seconded by Anita Fleisch to allow schools to opt up 1 or 2 divisions for State sweepstakes competition, regardless of enrollment by stating their request on the State Tournament registration form. MOTION PASSED (10 AYE - 2 NAY - 4 ABST.).*

*C. Letter of Congratulations: Secretary to send letter of congratulations to Mark Kohl of Lodi HS for recently being named Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year.*

*D. Executive Committee to consider elimination of a category at Winter Meeting.*

*E. Committee Memberships and potential New Business needs to have enough prior leeway to foster more involved debate.*

*Meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Christopher Zoch, Sheboygan North High School  
WFCA Secretary*