

(Draft)
WISCONSIN FORENSIC COACHES' ASSOCIATION
SPRING BUSINESS MEETING
MORAIN PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by President Bonni Knight. Representatives from 30 schools were present and introduced.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Michael Traas: The minutes of the Fall 2007 business meeting were reviewed and approved.

Tentative calendar was presented as created at the Calendar meeting prior to the general meeting. Questions were raised about the first weekend of March, and whether the grandfather clause had been correctly applied to the tournament hosts planning tournaments in the first week of March 2009.

STATE TOURNAMENT REPORT : Written Report

- Move of impromptu to main campus was successful
- One error in Poetry tab – student was not put in at semifinal, and was added to the final round.
- Tab room put together a rubric to determine when semifinals went to three sections and they worked well.
- Thanks to behind the scenes helpers, as well as Deano Pape from Ripon College and Jodi Becker for site coordination.
- Motion” “To retain our state trophies at their traditional size”. After discussion, motion passed 20-7-3
- Bonni Knight shared comments recorded at the president’s listening sessions at state:
 - Kudos to the Ripon College students for their assistance
 - Coaches were vocal about their unhappiness that all semifinalists were not on the main campus
 - Asked for workshops on how to keep kids committed to the activity at the end of the season
 - Primary topic was judge quality and how to get the best comments:
 - Training judges – especially asked for more examples of good and bad critiques. Tell them what we expect.
 - Online training was requested – tutorials that can be accessed.
 - Workshops on judging and workshops on how to train judges.
 - Judge accountability – how do coaches monitor their “employees” work?
 - Increasing communication between coaches when there are problems with a ballot. To that end, an online directory of coaches would expedite this communication.
 - Design of the ballot that encourages specific comments and key factor in rank.

Knight asks that the TPP form a committee to address these concerns. Comments were also offered that ballot table personnel who review the critiques and ask for more completeness can have a positive impact on solving this problem.

PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT: Jodi Becker

Election of new officers:

- Nominees for President Elect: Mariah Hootman (New London), Adam Jacobi (Rufus King), and Rachel Rosenthal-Garza (Hartford Union)
 - First vote resulted in a tie for first place between Hootman and Garza.
 - Final vote elected Rachel Rosenthal-Garza as President-Elect for the 2008-09 year.

- Nominees for Treasurer (2-year term) are Kelsey Palmer (Whitefish Bay) and Emily Dittmar (Clinton).
 - Result of the vote is new Treasurer Kelsey Palmer.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Doris Sexton: Written Report

Bills still coming in for state tournament, so the amount of cost listed on report is partial.

- Motion to accept the treasurer’s report (Strathman) and seconded (Wegner). Unanimously passed.
- Letter of thanks from the Kocher family for memorial was read.
- Letter was received from the Bradley Foundation has received our request and will let us know when we can provide further information for the requested \$10,000 grant.

PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Steve Sexton

Hall of Fame Award was given to Clif Morton (Hortonville High School). Morton spoke eloquently of the spirit of cooperation in the WFCFA that has sustained him and the organization for the past almost 40 years, meeting his wife in Forensics, and his illustrious history from new coach to the Hall of Fame. Congratulations were warmly offered from the membership to this highly deserving award winner.

Four Retirement awards were given this year:

1. Robert Wahl of New Glarus HS
2. Anita Fleisch of Marquette HS
3. Ron Steinhorst of New London HS
4. David Loos of Algoma HS – whose retirement award may be premature.

Sexton requested the second vote of confirmation on the motion passed at the Fall 2007 meeting confirming the Constitutional By-laws change regarding posting of changes three weeks in advance of action at general meetings. Motion to approve made by Wacker, seconded by Kingma. Passed unanimously.

CATEGORY COMMITTEE REPORT: David Loos: Written report

Thanks to those who served on the committee. Summary of changes was presented.

Considerations for next year:

- Process of selecting Group Discussion questions. There was an attempt to keep the questions more current by setting ½ of the questions in summer with others to follow. Practically, this did not work well. Thanks to Paul Seymour and the Executive Committee for his assistance in completing the task.
- Examine the uniformity in the rules for each category.
- Developing new critiques with Reason for Rank, and inclusion at state tournament.
- State Tournament status of number of team entries. It may be time to look at how we score and rank the teams. Perhaps the TPP needs to look at this process, in light of a decrease in numbers of students involved in our school and how that affects the “25” full team number.

TOURNAMENT PRACTICES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT: Fr. Gary Wegner:

Issues brought to the TPP through the year were explained. Wegner noted that there may be areas where we have unnecessary verbiage in the critique sheets that can be eliminated by a review process in the Category Committee.

State TPP committee was thanked and it was noted that internet access was very helpful to the TPP for checking the validity of challenges to material. It was noted that coaches were unfailingly professional in their receipt of the news of disqualifications and challenges.

There was discussion of the issue of timekeepers and the instructions they are given in final rounds at state. Motion (Luce, seconded by Luterbach, friendly amendment by Emily Dittmar seconded by Luterbach) **“to instruct timekeepers in the final rounds at state to announce the times of all students, including amount of music in the performance, and a reminder that students may not be ranked first if they go overtime, after students have left the room.”** Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Written report

Kingma noted that an error was found in the rank instructions to rank all students in power rounds 1-5, rather than 1-last, and asked that the correction be reflected in the new handbook.

Thank you letters to tournament hosts have been sent to principals.

Kingma is soliciting volunteers to plan for the 40th Anniversary of the WFCAs, in Spring of 2010. Motion was made (Wacker, second Becker) to create an ad-hoc committee to plan the 40th Anniversary Gala. Passed unanimously.

Kingma asked for press contact information from coaches for the purpose of sending press releases.

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE REPORT: Mary Wacker: Written report

STATE CONGRESS REPORT: Adam Jacobi: Written Report

Report was delivered by Steve Sexton, as Adam Jacobi was not in attendance.

Action Items:

- Chamber Size: Recommendation to reduce the size of the chambers from 13-25, reducing the maximum number to 25 from 32. A question was raised about the numbers of the 2008 congress. As a result, the motion was tabled to the Fall, 2008 meeting.
- Recommendation to investigate the Wisconsin State Capitol as a venue for the 2008 State Congress. Motion made by Sexton, second by Zoch. Passed unanimously.

Motion to create a committee to brainstorm ways to increase the participation in the State Congress. Moved by Luce, second by Hootman. Discussion included concerns about the demise of the novice house. It was noted that there were fewer students overall at the state tournament. Passed unanimously.

WEBMASTER REPORT: Scott Peterson

This is YOUR web site, so please take advantage of it. Send results, announcements, corrections. Scott will take some time this summer to analyze content and improve content. Scott is willing to create email distribution lists for committees or the organization as a whole. State tournament invitation was emailed only this year, and will be in the future. Discussion of future use to register for tournaments online.

No expenses this year as we were on a 2-year subscription. There will be cost this year, \$6.95/mo for 24 months at a time. Domain registration will also come due this year.

Calendar will now go online not just as a list, but also as a visual calendar.

OLD BUSINESS

Questions from Bonni Knight:

- Did this time schedule (Saturday morning meeting) work out for members present?
- Do any members have unmet needs or wishes at this time? If not brought forward today, please forward

Bonni Knight thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Coaching ethics. Recommendation that the WFCAs contemplate creating a code of ethics to revisit the issues of respect and ethics.
2. Jodi Becker passed out handouts to encourage communication among membership.
3. Jacki Martindale (contact at elumn8@charter.net, (608) 318-0551) presented information about Poetry Out Loud. Poetry Out Loud is a competition that may be of interest to member schools, and offers monetary prizes. It is a national contest. Handout provided. Coaches are encouraged to explore participation.
4. Contact information for Rachel Rosenthal-Garza, New President-Elect, is (262) 670-8669 (home), (414) 732-5551 (cell), mail: 1285 Kennedy Dr., Hartford, WI 53027
5. Contact information for Kelsey Palmer, new Treasurer, is Kelsey.palmer@marquette.edu, phone: (262) 424-9331.
6. Kelsey Palmer distributed brochures for a summer camp to be run by Kelsey and Tyler Beattie in Brookfield in late July. Cost is \$300. No housing is available.
7. Gary Wegner recommended that the past president review the bylaws to remove all language pertaining to LD Debate and 30 second grace period.
8. Gary Wegner expressed concern to tournament hosts who offer double and triple entry that we are sending the message that audience and listening is not important.
9. Recommendation to put all written reports online with the minutes.

Motion to adjourn (Chomicki, second Wacker) at 12:54 pm.