Retreat Minutes: TFA EC Meeting, July 19, 2013

Meeting begins at 9:07 AM. Present: Uhler, Nash, Warren, Baker, Denny, Brandenburg, Mast, Waddell, Silva, Shepard, Hahn, Hinkle, Hindman.

Uhler: Welcome to Brent Hinkle and M’Liss Hindman. Appreciates their expertise in TSCA and the digital world. I went to TSCA retreat in Corpus Christi and it was a very productive/positive meeting. I want to be part of something within TFA that is supportive of TFA. Want TSCA to know that during my admin, I want to help TSCA grow. A healthy relationship is very important, willing to do whatever it takes. M’Liss and Russell very receptive of that.

Hindman: Current VP of TSCA. Convention Planner, putting together all of the programs. One goal is to make sure programs are satisfactory for groups, including TFA.

Hinkle: I am Brent Hinkle and I have a computer program on the side.

Uhler: What is TSCA’s role for TFA?

Hindman: We can help one another. TSCA offers an opportunity for growth and meeting for TFA. Great programs ideas brought forth by Joe. In return, what can TFA do to help us both grow?

Waddell: What is TSCA doing to help protect teachers with new legislation?

Hindman: Russell is on top of that?

Waddell: Is there something TFA can do to help?

Nash: As part of the committee, we are doing that, getting information out there to contact SBOE representative. Committee members are expected to contact their own members directly. My SBOE contact was at FFA all last week. I’m walking tight-rope to speak to him. They are meeting today. Russell says the agenda today is not about making the law. Legislators are talking to them about what is being done in this legislative session. There are other things being addressed. Lacey and Russell are there to have a better idea.

Hindman: They are going to stay on top of this. Russell is keeping us informed by emails.

Uhler: Other than people like Kirsten, who serves on committees, what else can be done?

Hindman: Make sure TFA membership knows to get involved with committees.

Uhler: Other questions in roles of TFA-TSCA?

Nash: If we ae considering using a college for TFA State, TSCA has connections with colleges about who might want to host. We don’t have HS large enough to host. I can see TSCA might be asked to help us find a location for our state competition.

Hindman: I can tell you that TIFA could be an organization that might help.

Nash: Having a representative from those schools at the state meet would help build those programs.

Waddell: A University would be more beneficial for hosting, not that HS don’t do a great job.

Nash: An opportunity to build programs.

Hindman: I think a lot of people in TIFA would love to judge. A few years ago I was turned down to judge.

General discussion.

Uhler: Anything we can do, other than reach out to college coaches, that we can do?

Hindman: No, just keep new members coming in. Randy Cox at UT has worked on several documents on the importance of forensics, meant for college, but your programs could use as well. Reach out to him, for that information. He had great research.

Waddell: Is there a way to make it financially viable for some schools to join that don’t because they don’t have funds.

Hindman: We don’t have ways of knowing who isn’t going due to funds.

Waddell: I’m working on the HUDL, and they don’t financially have means to come to convention, join groups.

Hinkle: I’d answer two ways. Officers would be amendable to requests made by schools in need. We are in a financial position where we can do this.

Waddell: Can I send information to you?

Hindman: Yes, of course.

Hinkle: I do know that there are many schools, almost 30, that didn’t join TFA because of late fees. It’s not a pleasant conversation.

Warren: Does TSCA have a cut-off deadline?

Hinkle: No, they can join all year long.

Warren: Is there a fee charge?

Hinkle: No, they can join any time of the year.

Silva: This is about idea of organization. Are we about competition or service.

Nash: The October 31st deadline is about hosts. So we know that schools who host tournaments are counted towards the state meet.

Brandenburg: Are these just TSCA member teachers or coaches who want to compete?

General discussion.

Hinkle: The only thing the TFA $70 does for you is to compete at state.

Brandenburg: Who gets the late fee?

Hinkle: TFA.

General discussion.

Hinkle: People aren’t happy with late fee being $500. I don’t have opinion one way or another, I just wanted you to be aware.

Denny: Does this affect you, Grant, as you track IQT?

Hinkle: No, we track either way.

General discussion on membership fees and options for costs.

Uhler: Is there anything more with TFA and TSCA membership that we can do? Do you have a wish list, M’Liss?

Hinkle: My comment is that I wish we would pick up the phone more, instead of email hate list. TFA says TSCA isn’t cooperating, TSCA say TFA isn’t cooperating. Emails are sent, no one responds, then it’s collectively thrown at each other. Some memberships, some finances, etc…. we just need to have conversation on the phone. General comment. Let’s pick up the phone, not just an email. Be aware that people have things going on in their lives.

Hindman: I am available on phone or email. Joe does a good job of getting in touch with me.

Brandenburg: New TSCA website is great. Thank you, Brent.

Uhler: Okay, 2013 Convention… what can we do?

Hindman: Pass around new schedule for convention. Thursday-Saturday. This is not final, but think it might be. General discussion on schedule issues.

All present review the schedule provided by Hindman.

Uhler: What’s registration going to look like? At convention last year, we suggested a lot of tables with people getting information. I’ve had request from debate camps if they can have tables at registration?

Hindman: Absolutely. Always looking for new venders.

Waddell: How much is a table?

Denny: $100.

Uhler: Can TFA have a table?

Hindman: Of course, free of charge.

General discussion on new members’ table for registration.

Uhler: Logistically speaking, how does schedule work for EC? Any concerns?

Silva: How late do we have these meetings?

Hindman: As late as you need.

General discussion.

Hindman: I brought a draft of programs.

General discussion of program ideas submitted for 2013 Convention.

Uhler: We talked about securing success in the future. Want to talk about collection of dues and membership lists. With how the two communicate and share information. I spoke to Lou Ann, Russell and Brent, all conversations went well.

Hinkle: I’ve only talked to Mike Jones.

Uhler: Do not know M’Liss’ experience with collecting dues.

Hindman: Brent will know more.

Hinkle: For M’Liss’ purposes, TFA would like fees to be collected differently this year about TFA monies to go directly to Jason.

Uhler: Or straight to TSCA, but Jason has an accurate sense of who has/has not paid.

Warren: We are having trouble finding out who is/is not a member. We don’t want to bug Brent every time.

Waddell: It’s a list of membership issue.

Hinkle: I’ve added a list of members. We’ve never had an issue before. Never had a list. I put a list on the TFA website now, so people know they have or have not paid.

General discussion.

Hinkle: Even with the list, you will need to talk to Lou Ann at times. At convention, this list will not be correct. Some is not on-line yet. As secretary, I’ve gone to TFA membership. I know some checks are not entered, some on the way, etc…. still must speak with Lou Ann about membership, if a membership arises.

Uhler: Thank you, Brent. Do we need anything else from M’Liss?

Hindman: I will sit here and go through program and see if there are any problems.

Hinkle: Do we still need to address the monies?

Uhler: Are emails current?

Hinkle: It’s what I have based on their memberships?

Uhler: Is it better to have by name or by school.

Warren: Is there a way to delineate between institutional member or individual member?

Nash: No button to distinguish types of memberships.

Hinkle: Friend is not an issue. As far as institutional or individual member is tied to your TSCA membership.

Hindman: Is there a difference between the two for you?

Nash: I can see a benefit to be a personal member of TSCA, but institutional for school.

Hinkle: The real answer is what the book-keeper at the school will write a check for?

General discussion.

Warren: What is the benefit of NHFS? What does membership get us?

Hinkle: It’s a TFA thing. It’s your insurance.

Uhler: We could drop that. TSCA has no vested interest.

Hinkle: I think you need to look at what agreements are behind that connection. See what happened in 1972 to make the connection.

General discussion.

Uhler: I will look into it. Debbie is going to call Bill English to find this out. Anything else?

General discussion on technical issues.

Brandenburg: Is there a way at convention to double-check personal/contact information?

Hinkle: If there is a volunteer, then we can do it.

Nash: Is there a way to add additional contact information for multiple coaches that may not have paid for individual memberships…. Also goes to every email listed?

Hinkle: I will look into that.

Uhler: If were to send out an email to the body, will it only go to currently paid?

Hinkle: No, everyone that we think is in the region.

Uhler: Could there be an option to only email “paid members”?

General discussion.

Warren: Can a notice be given that you are not a member?

Hinkle: Almost impossible.

General discussion.

10 minute break at 11:02 AM.

Meeting resumed at 11:17 AM. (Hindman left meeting).

Uhler: We need to address 2013 TFA State, 2014 TFA State, and talk to Brent about regional meets. Multiple issues. Start with scanning.

Hinkle: I don’t think hiring someone from JOT is effective.

Warren: Can we ask a coach to do it as their coaching assignment.

Nash: It can’t just be anyone. Bull-headed. Will be strong-willed.

Warren: A ballot is a form of communication between judge, coach and student. Ballots were scanned that said some pointed criticism, etc… now public documents. Once it’s on-line, students see it, even if password protected.

Silva: Ballots are mine, I don’t think it’s for someone else.

Shepard: TFA State is an open forum.

General discussion, Nash discusses the pros and cons of ballot scanning.

Mast: Is there way to scan the master ballots, instead of the individual ballots for IEs? Debaters have Teflon coating against comments. Does that meet verification for IEs without having individual ballots?

Warren: Biggest mistake at tournament is master ballot vs. individual ballot.

General discussion.

Mast: Can we scan debate ballots and let the body decide what to do with IE ballot at convention?

General discussion.

Uhler: We piloted it last year at state, we can ask the body to decide what option for this year’s TFA State? Uhler will present this.

Nash: Motion-allocate monies for 2 scanners. Warren: 2nd. No objections.

Uhler: Brent, from your perspective, what do you think?

Hinkle: You are the only ones who have done it with speech?

Shepard: What is your thought on master ballot?

General discussion.

Uhler: Discussion about informing the body regarding time limits for rounds. We did that just before TFA State last year. Given all interested parties. Seemed to go very well. Very few complaints.

Baker: I think everyone is fine, if they know in advance.

General discussion.

Brandenburg: Concern that CX was late and then early.

Silva: Will discuss this later in the agenda.

Hahn: Can we make an amendment to make Duet Acting just 10 minutes?

General agreement, Warren will make amendment for EC to present at convention.

Warren: TFA EC has exclusive right to videotape finals rounds.

General discussion.

Silva: Intent is wonderful, but idea may not work.

General discussion.

Baker will look into the RTV program from Cy-Creek to videotape final rounds at TFA State.

General discussion of positive and negatives of videotaping.

Uhler: Texting in rounds is a problem.

General discussion.

Nash: Conversion of 6s and 7s to 5s in rounds?

Warren reads an EC amendment to clarify this issue to present at convention.

Nash: Roberta’s concern: Is touching allowed in Duo?

General discussion. No action at this time.

Nash: Roberta’s concern: Emergency Contact Info of Coaches.

General discussion. Will have emergency card at registration for TFA State.

Nash: Roberta’s concern: Extemp back-to-back draw.

General discussion.

aSilva: State issues- don’t run debate round 6 and doubles back-to-back.

Nash: We told them it was an issue since we ran round 6.

Silva: Do we go back to only 5 rounds?

General discussion.

Silva: I was yelled at because judges were on stand-by. We should have that information sooner. We

use to, but not now. If they were indicated as stand-by, a list could be made.

General discussion.

Silva: Make sure no-show forms are ready. They weren’t this last year. Judges didn’t know what

debate pool they were in.

General discussion on pooling of judges. Issues concerning logistics of judges.

Silva: A phone charging station.

General discussion of issues for hosting.

Silva: Mic in the gym? Sound system. Wireless mics? Make sure they are present.

General discussion.

Silva: Wording of judge assignment sheet needs to be addressed.

General discussion.

Hahn: Making sure final round judge panels are regionally balanced.

General discussion on judges to use in final rounds. Multiple issues discussed on strategies to prevent

issues from happening again.

Silva: Another issue, judge sleeping in CX round.

General discussion on judges, expectations, pools at TFA State.

Nash: Can we make judge sign-up sheet where they can only choose 1 debate, but list others?

Hinkle: We have a rule, if you have a CX team, you must fill out a paradigm. Same in LD. We have a lot of judges not where they want to be. Need to consider rules.

Warren: Nash’s suggestion would help.

Mast: Then, Nash could talk to them.

Nash: We can talk to people, but that happens hap-hazardly.

Warren: Rule says you must fill in paradigm. You could be moved.

Hinkle: Rule is in invitation, not constitution.

Nash: When there is a strike, are there those that are striken by so many…

Hinkle: Yes.

Nash: Are those the ones being moved by so many?

General discussion.

1:40 PM-10 minute break.

Returned at 1:52 PM.

Uhler: Sweepstakes sentence being added and submitted by EC at convention.

Warren: We need to add points to doubles in debate.

General discussion.

Uhler: Roles of TFA State. 2014.

Hahn: request Brian Eanes for IE Tab.

Baker: Who will cover Reporter?

Uhler: Communications person can cover, or I will appoint.

Silva: Can Reporter go on-line?

Baker: That and twitter.

General discussion on ballot handouts, etc…

Uhler: Extemp Commentary as a supplemental event at TFA State.

General discussion on positives and negatives of extemp. commentary and expository.

No action taken.

Uhler: 2014 State Site

Baker: Creek is excited. We are good.

Nash: We have 183 rooms raw.

Hahn: Go around to each room for Duo/DA.

Warren: Schedule issues. You could be eliminated completely on day 1. Or have to sit for a day before consolation events.

Baker: Not sure about schedule.

Warren: Senate/Congress is the issue.

General discussion on issues and schedules for TFA State.

Silva: If we end on one category, we should start with the other. Give some break, if possible.

Warren: After we know schedule, we should look at spreading it out some.

Baker: Did we decide how many rooms we need for the block?

Uhler: About 400 rooms. Okay, with regards to registration at TFA State, can we make it faster?

Hahn: Do registration like Harvard, open a time block of 2 hours, but do on-line. It’s unfair to coaches who work registration.

General discussion on an on-line registration with a shorter time-frame for pick-up info.

Uhler: Service Project at 2014 TFA State. Love this idea. Not sure what can it be.

Warren: If we killed registration, when will there be time to do it?

Nash: Think outside the box. We can do things during the tournament. Service Project ideas will be created by Cy-Creek.

Baker: Options for rooms for student relaxation, coffee lounge or game room.

Nash: Concern is when admin comes with me, what do they think of this?

General discussion over concerns into rooms.

Hahn: Should EC have their membership be paid for by TFA?

3:01 PM Break.

Resume at 3:18 PM

Uhler: Regional Tournaments.

Hahn: Who is going to host?

Shepard: The Region Rep would be the host, but not always the school of event. Using 2009 numbers, you would only have 78 DIs that compete in all 5 regions. DX 103 kids would be eligible. This is very do-able.

Silva provides a schedule to happen in a single day.

Warren: What is the harm in letting all 5 do it?

Silva: Top 3 students in each event will qualify. No minimum entry. Single entry. Must have 4 points in the event. 15 or fewer in event, no semis-just finals. Minimal entry fee. No trophies.

General discussion.

Hahn: Can we now go back to the entry system and fix points to align debate with IES?

General discussion.

Hinkle: Apples to oranges in numbers from previous year’s equity.

General discussion on issues that influence points.

Warren creates an optional debate point system. General discussion.

No action taken on point scale.

Uhler: Every region will host a regional tournament?

General discussion.

Waddell: Are we going to consider changing the name of TFA, as in light of NFL name change?

General discussion.

Recess at 4:20 PM until 10:00 AM Saturday morning.