TFA Executive Council Meeting: June 26, 2014

Meeting Begins at: 9:09 AM

Present: Nash, Uhler, Hahn, Baker, Hollis, Shepard, Brandenburg, Silva, Mast, Denney

Nash: Meeting is called to order. General issues addressing plugs, ants, and space at table.

Baker: Secretary Report discussion on ideas for newsletter.

Nash: Transitions, changes of staff at various schools, how Texas did at nats, convention information

Denney: Will send you convention information. Paul McCartney is performing that weekend, so reservations need to be made soon.

Denney: Region 1 Report. Possible ideas for hosting state in 3 years. Discussion is already occurring.

Bradenburg: Region 2 Report. Congrats to success at Nats.

Mast: Region 3 Report. None.

Region 4 not presented at this time.

Silva: Region 5 Report. Discussion on TFA State next year. Airfare rates are being worked on.

Shepard: Archivist Report. If TFA would like to have txfa.co domain, it is now available.

Brandenburg: Brent has to keep site to allow drop-down options. There is money involved.

Shepard: Sales. They worked. Do we want to push web-sales part or just sell at state and convention. Need approval to order more:

T-Shirts, sold 34, all. Hooded sweat-shirts: 24, tumblers sold 30, win-shirt sold 13. Wrist-band sold 11. Stickers sold over 200. Nash gave others away at Texas State Party, sold 19 highlighters. Silicone speaker did not work, sold 13. Pens sold about 20 of each. Website was used. People did go to it to look at items, but did not buy. Power charges are the new hot item. Where do we go from here?

Uhler: TFA State had a long line for people to pay and go through the registration process. One thing people could do while waiting for the registration process is to have more merchandize to engage attention.

Hollis: Interesting idea for us or anyone else who wants to sell. This is what they do at nsda.

General discussion about an expo during registration. Lines are long, due to payment issues, etc.

Brandenburg: How did the on-line script turn in work?

Uhler: Overall, great. Helped.

Uhler: A buzz about an expo might bring more students. Items are available.

Hollis: We should have items, state shirt extras, others to come.

Nash: hard to get colleges there with their schedules.

General discussion on possible ideas for the sales during TFA State registration. Expo ideas.

Shepard: We would like a mini-expo/vender fair at registration. Publishing companies. Ozark Lollipops, World’s Finest Chocolates, Samuel French, Interp Store, Writing 4 U, College programs, summer camps, Perfect Performance, Forensic Files, Prep, and others who are at NSDA expo.

Uhler: Registration becomes more NSDA registration.

General discussion on what this would look like.

Should we limit this to just TFA merchandise now? Can we find cheaper options for kids: pens, buttons, etc…

Nash: T-shirts, phone chargers, remaining items to sell til we are out. Highlighters, etc…

General discussion on items to offer from TFA.

Denney: Put ad for items in newsletter at beginning of the year.

Nash: Need to order a gross of tech tattoos (stickers). T-shirts, reversed print shirts need to be re-ordered.

Shepard: We want merchandise table at TSCA.

Nash: order small jump-drives. The rest bring what we have and sell as we can at convention.

Nash: Committees. Discussion of changes, names, etc… for the committees.

Hahn: Harassment policy of NSDA should be looked at… other policies should be looked at by convention.

Nash: TFA committee meetings are on Thursday. Attendance is poor.

Committee discussion on names, by region, are discussed.

Discussion on term-limits for committee memberships.

Nash: Suggestion: Committee members should be changed every two years, unless there is no regional members desiring the position. In that case, the region rep may recommend a prior representative. Each new President sets new committee members, at the recommendation of the region rep, when they begin his/her term.

Name changes made, as needed.

Elections: Secretary, VP, and Odd Regional Reps (1, 3, and 5). Vicky Beard plans to run for Secretary. VP: candidates include Lili Ogunbanjo. Others, not formally announced, discussed.

Nash: Takes a moment to appreciate the EC. Discusses change and how we move forward.

Calendar Issues:

Discussion on address for Warren: it was correct. Districts often send to former addresses. Warren also offered a paypal account.

Changes approved by EC at this meeting:

Add: Saint Mary’s Hall to October 24-25, 2014

Move: Lady Bird Johnston to February 6-7, 2015

Move: Tom C. Clark to January 30-31, 2015

Add: Edcouch-Elsa to February 6-7, 2015

Add: Hanks to January 16-17, 2015

Add: Abilene/Abilene Cooper Swing to December 5-6, 2014

Add: Loretto Academy to October 17-18, 2014

Move: Brandeis to September 6, 2014

Add: Corpus Christi Moody to January 30-31, 2015

Add: Corpus Christi Ray to November 7-8, 2014

Add: Sandra Day O’Connor to September 19-20, 2014

Add: Dimmit to February 7, 2015.

Add: Donna North to October 17-18, 2014

Add: Mountain View to November 21-22, 2014

Regional Pilot was unsuccessful across the state; therefore, it will not be repeated in 2014-15.

TFA State 2014 Reflections.

College Recruiting was successful. We had several schools donate judge rounds. Multiple colleges donated judge rounds to the meet. Ballot scanning was successful.

Hahn: No more interp scanning ballots, just return. Continue to scan debate.

Shepard: People want the Reporter.

Nash: People will miss it less as years go on.

Discussion on how information will be disseminated at future TFA state meets.

We can use Remind (Remind101) in pools to help contact people.

Paradigm Book for judges. Lots of hours. Will be easier for future use. People can use their previous information. New ones for new judges/updates only.

Need to create a release for students who compete at TFA State.

Use NIETOC form to create release for TFA State. Will up-loadable for TFA State.

Create a check-list for TFA State Registration Process.

Fix for 2015 TFA State.

Judge Card Station.

Dedicated person in front of tab room.

Separate pools in debate events. Judges were in multiple pools and taken from one group to another.

General discussion on MJP.

3 hours of Congress Prelims? Change to 2 3-hour sessions.

Discussion of stacked finals of extemp at TFA State.

Need to dedicate a person to Sweepstakes at the TFA State Meet

Site Visit:

Silva: Counted 181 rooms for TFA State 2015. Does not include Counseling are which could also be used. Which could add 3 more rooms, if needed.

Nash: Great site. Admin was super supportive.

Silva: 181 is not getting creative, we can grow bigger, if needed. Some places in library can be used, as needed. Everything is falling into place. Lots of food, Walmart, etc…. right across the street.

General discussion on options and ideas for 2015 TFA State.

Specific directions on traffic will be given. Region reps will have to make sure schools follow these directions.

Work Weekend:

Nash: It has been suggested that not everyone goes to WW. We could have different cells of work: Dallas-Shep, Grant, Cheryl, Jason for documentation check, congress, and finances. El Paso should be Nash, Hollis, Uhler, Silva and Hinkle. Baker, Brandenburg, Denney, Mast and Waddell will be on-call.

Tasks to accomplish by end of WW discussed and evaluated from Nash document.

Discussion on Pro/Con flip cards. Issues with PF ballots and decisions.

Service Project:

Nash: We would like to re-enforce idea of service to community. Asked Silva and Falco what could be done.

Silva: We provide back-packs full of food to kids during the weekend. Discussion of local area demographics.

Nash: Have a focus on poverty in Texas. Posters, ideas, etc…. not a focus just on the local area, but across the state.

Baker: couldn’t IMP topics be on social issues, like poverty.

Mast: Extemp could be the same way.

General discussion on social issues impact on TFA State.

Great Communicators Opportunity:

Discussion on the feasibility of this as a consolation debate event at the state meet.

Will be forwarded to another organization due to inability to host this along TFA State.

Lunch break at 12:32 PM.

Meeting resumed at 1: 11 PM

Precedence & Realignment

General discussion on realignment corrections needed. Committee suggested allowing a 3rd tournament per region.

Nash: We are the only state that competes as much as we do. We are killing ourselves. We lost our courses. We may lose jobs. We don’t have time to save our jobs, if we keep pushing ourselves like we do. We need to advocate for ourselves. Young coaches aren’t staying in the profession. Do the hours we put in translate to success? Programs are expensive. Reduction of season would save money.

Hollis: We need lobbying representation in Austin, which is why other course areas have lobbyists working for them.

General discussion over political issues surrounding these issues.

Issues raised: funding, education vs. competition, new coaches, training, precedence, schedules, at-large system.

TFA Sanctioned tournaments vs TFA Endorsed tournaments. Differences between the two.

Lengthy discussion over various ideas, arguments for and against precedence, scheduling conflicts, shortening of the season, etc.

Discussion of new precedence discussions and needs that will occur in 2015-2016 schedule, if we shorten season from October-January.

If shortening of the schedule occurs, we could lower qualifications to 10 points.

General discussion of related scheduling issues.

Warren: Treasurer Report. We took in roughly $108,000. We spent more. Full report will be put in newsletter in August.

General discussion over NSDA Texas Party

Waddell: Region 4 Report. All is well. Congrats on NSDA Nats.

Video Project:

Nash: After talking to Aaron Timmons, we need to have history of TFA. Tim Cook, coach at Salado, team was successful in videography. They won competitions for their efforts this past year. Wouldn’t it be cool to make a video on TFA. Cook’s idea: Past, Present, Future. Document with former coaches, current coaches, new coaches and also allow students to give snipets at TFA state before awards in El Paso.

Also, live-streaming the awards ceremony.

Tim needs a hotel room for crew, disc available on-line, what percentage would he want, then TFA owns video.

Proposal to provide monies for this venture.

Motion: Hollis, Provide funds for venture, not to exceed $2,000. Second: Baker

All in favor, motion carried.

Return to Precedence & Realignment:

General discussion on issues resume. EC helps Nash attempt to create a new precedence chart for 3rd tournaments/tournaments moved by shortening of the season.

Precedence issues include: years hosted, years coached, years on weekend, number of qualifying events, size in previous years, geography, prior financial history, cancellation/moving, code of conduct.

General discussion of whether or not the EC would endorse a shortened season amendment.

Nash: Motion to propose an EC-sponsored amendment to limit season to October-January and allow 2+ tournaments per weekend in a region using new precedence system above and the number of qualifying point system will be reduced to 10 for qualification. Second: Denney

Favor: Mast, Brandenburg, Denney, Nash, Warren. Opposed: Baker, Hollis, Waddell, and Silva.

Meeting ends at 4:53 PM.