

TFA EC Retreat - July 22-24, 2016

Friday, July 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER – 12:31pm Friday, 9:37am Saturday

ADJOURN – 7:26pm Friday, 4:16pm Saturday

IN ATTENDANCE – Noah Recker (President), Perry Beard (Vice President), Gay Hollis (Past President), Jason Warren (Treasurer), Wendi Brandenburg (Secretary/Website/Social Media), Region Reps: Ryan Lovell (1), Rhonda Smith (2), John Mast (3), Kirsten Nash (Archivist), Yolanda Silva (Reg5 Rep)

GUEST: Brent Hinkle, *Joy of Tournaments*

NOT IN ATTENDANCE – Grant Hahn (IQT Coordinator), Debbie Waddell (Reg4 Rep), **MEET THE NEW EC for 2016-17:* <http://txfa.weebly.com/officers.html>

(Recess Friday 2:40-3:05pm)

(Recess Saturday from 11:05 to Noon for lunch, checkout)

AGENDA

I. Relationship with TSCA

1. Noah attended a meeting this summer with TSCA
 2. TSCA would like to contribute to TFA State Tournament, would like some Signage, Donor ad in Poop Book, etc. (if money is used for food, acknowledge food money came from TSCA)
- Signage at TFA State
 - Broader Partnership (Workshops)
 - We suggested 8 panel ideas last December, but they were somehow not included at Convention for this October
 - Tournament software, Hosting a Tournament, Transitioning from Novice to Varsity LD, New Coach workshop, Meet the EC, Extemp, and other TFA-suggested panels.
 - Better communication lines between TFA and TSCA Officers may be needed.
 - Brainstorm TFA Panel Ideas for 2017 Convention
 - TFA suggests the following panels for October:
 - Extemp
 - Congress basics

- New Coaches
- TFA EC open forum

II. NFHS

1. Send a TFA Representative to Oklahoma City Aug 5-7 (Noah and John would like to attend)
2. Papers are presented, discussion, and TFA should have a voice/presence to offer suggestions for wording of Policy topics for the following year. Texas also gets a vote at this time, and we would also like input in the crafting of the wording, etc.
3. **Motion to approve \$1,000 for purposes of sending Reps**
4. **Motion carries 7-0**

NOTE: We need to gain more access to TSCA/TFA membership lists, paid members, etc. Is this Brent? LuAnn? This is unclear.

III. Update on any Joy of Tournaments Issues (Brent)

1. Brent Hinkle has retained ownership of Joy of Tournaments
2. JOT will remain available for the State and other tournaments.
3. JOT will continue to store IQT points and Squad Reports, as well as go back to updating and maintaining the TFA Calendar of Tournaments on the Tournaments Page of the Website: www.TxFa.org
4. Discussion with Brent about viability of School Codes, from a JOT and Rich Edward's programs standpoint, and eliminating the school names on postings and on Judge ballots.

IV. Issues from Regions

• Region 1

- Why don't we use codes on postings at TFA State for Debate?
- Discussion about publishing codes
- Should there be more unanimity or why have codes?
- Agreed that students may still create a code list on their own, but at least our duty should
- Jason moved that software should generate **anonymous codes in all events at TFA State** (caveat that software can create this). Rhonda seconded.
- **4-1-2 motion passes (NOTE: during our discussion with Brent, this may not be feasible to do, without sacrificing Warm Room, etc., therefore, the motion stands in case this does become a possibility, but if March State Tournament comes, and it cannot be done, the motion will be rescinded)**
- MJP (mutual judge preference) concerns for smaller schools
- Ryan offered the idea of judge strikes for Debate at State
- TFA Body would have to vote in October whether to change the status quo on MJP.
- Lengthy EC discussion, based on these concerns, included merit of MJP, balance, fairness, educational nature, etc. Questions include, what is the merit of allowing students to "design their rounds" and choose judges who already agree with them, prefer their style, etc. which you would not be able to do in "the real

world?” and “If CX and LD have this option, why do the IEs, Congress, not have the option to choose their judges?”

- Proponents and Opponents to MJP on the EC discussed their views, advocacy, suggestions, oppositions, etc.
 - Should we offer an EC-recommended amendment? What should it say?
 - Lots of good discussion about judges at State- regional balance, “honor judges,” working backward from Finals to assign judges, and other suggestions.
 - Agreed that the Body needs to be able to voice their concerns, a committee/discussion group needs to be formed in order to discuss Judge issues, including any MJP concerns, etc. that is Regionally balanced.
 - Wendi proposed that we place this on the TFA Business Agenda for *time-limited* discussion on MJP-related Judge issues, so that the Body can voice their opinions before it goes to a committee.
 - **Motion made by Noah to form an Ad Hoc Committee called “Judging Assignments at TFA State” so that after discussion from the Body, the action item will be to “Refer to a Committee.” The Committee will be chosen by the EC/Region Reps.**
 - **7-0 motion passes**
 - Ryan expressed the concern from his Region that some items on the Congress docket for State are very similar, etc.. Discussion.
 - Discussion included concerns about schools not receiving “feedback” about how the legislation they submitted was chosen, or not chosen, how they were ranked by the Committee, what they need improvement on for their next submission, etc. Agreement that Coaches should receive Ranking Scores, Critique Sheets, or something to give feedback and disclosure about Criteria for legislation being chosen by the Committee. This could reduce the number of poorly written, out of format, not debatable, pieces of legislation offered to the Committee.
 - **Jason moves to ask the Congress Committee to provide a Rubric/Criteria, to be posted on the website (the ranking sheet the Committee uses to rank legislation, not the template or congress website guide for writing legislation- those are already posted on the Congress page of the website), and provide feedback to the submitting school**
 - Ryan seconded.
 - **7-0 motion passes.**
 - Wayland Baptist needs to change school name, and Nov 12-Jan 28 (moved, seconded, 6-1-0 passes
 - Committee members who need to change
- Need for **Judges/Coaches/Students CODE OF CONDUCT STANDARDS** was brought up (will move to new business).
 -
 - **Region 2** –
 - Salado HS issue- Region 2 or 3?
 - How are Region borders determined? Old map used Area Codes, however, Regions now are determined by geography, as well as simply where a school has always been or grandfathered in with the area code changes over time, etc..
 - **Region 3** –
 - Northside ISD
 - Coach moved from Brennan to Stevens, requesting change of school, along with membership and tournament weekend

- **Region 4** (Perry representing for Debbie)
 - Tournament changes submitted by email
 - Checking on schools paid fees
 - Westside HS on Dec. 9-10 (7-0 passes)
 - Brennan shifted to Stevens, along with Coach's membership (7-0 passes)
 - Debbie is attending the School Board/Administrator Convention as a voice for TFA and Speech & Debate. *personal note- Yay, Thanks, Debbie!!
- **Region 5**
 - Cost of the TFA State Tournament entry fees

V. **TFA State 2017** will be March 9-11, 2017 (year 43!)

- Location
 - Plano West has put in a request with her district to host
 - **Motion to approve**
 - **5-0-2 motion passed, host approval for Plano West Sr. High School**
 - Keeping the new UIL/One Act Play competition dates in mind when creating the TFA State schedule
 - Discussion followed further about possibly offering a more permanent location for State each year, such as a university, etc. rather than burdening high schools each year.
 - Schools would be able to budget, plan, etc.
 - Revisited discussion on the size of the State Tournament, which also impacts location choices, etc.
 - Discussion about removing the TFA Point system, and moving to a bid/leg system, and other ideas for qualification. (see tournaments who utilize a bid/leg system)
 - Constitution states (p. 73) that the EC has to go through several steps in order to reduce the size of the State Tournament.
 - For the EC to propose a leg system, or any other "better" system than our current Point System (that tends to cause coaches, teams, students to compete more often and cost more money, more weekends away, burnout, etc.) the Body would have to propose an amendment to abolish that section of the constitution and discuss a new type of qualification system.
 - Once Plano West sees how many rooms are available, we may not have a choice but to limit event entries, or go to a leg system, etc.
 - The EC is committed to analyzing numbers and how different systems will have impacts on the size of the State Tournament.
 - Wendi would like to set a goal for a "cap" on how many rooms a school would have to have available in order to host State, and then choose a qualification system that will match that goal.
 - Noah will contact the Body to get feedback on how many coaches/programs UIL OAP will effect for the State schedule, qualification system changes, etc. and then make decisions about qualification limitations, if any.
- **IQT State Qualification Point System changes**
 - Change congress from 10-25 to 10-24 – passed
 - Debate- column 2 would be inserted and say 16-24 (move CX to its own schedule to stay the same, but change LD and PF to new points) – 5-1-1 passed
 - **Motion to eliminate 7-8th places 4-2-2 passed, but add points for semis in 51+ (as amended - 5-0-3 passed**

- *New IQT Point Chart will be posted on the www.TxFA.org website under “Quick Links,” as well as on the TFA State page of the website.*
- **MJP** (see conversations above)
- **Honor Judges** (*see discussion and motion under Region 1, as well*)
 - People who have coached a number of years, retired, distinguished Alumni, Emeritus, etc. identified by Region Reps
 - Expense of bringing in these judges- concern by Gay
 - Set goal at 3 to bring in, they can choose whether to judge the entire tournament or just come in for Final Rounds. The judges would take the place of the Regionally balanced judge on a panel for that event.
 - They should be able to judge other rounds during the tournament, but will also serve as special finals judges who would be introduced, thanked, and will not appear on the Strike List.
- **TFA Reporter**
 - The feeling from the Coaches, Judges, Students is that they miss it.
 - We will bring it back! TFA Secretary typically creates/edits/publishes issues.
 - Noah suggested posting it online, rather than printing/copying on paper to stay environmentally friendly, and then Tweeting out when each version is available on the Website to go and enjoy! ☺
 - Wendi will create a special page on the Website for the TFA State *Reporter*, and will publish 4-5 issues during the State Tournament.
- **Officially put names on scholarships**
 - Constitutional change (no amendment needed) to include the name for whom each scholarship is named,
 - Student scholarship winners will also be listed in the constitution after the champions, after Congressional Debate Awards, beginning 2015-16.
- **POI and Informative**
 - Currently TFA consolation events for the 2015 State Tournament *ONLY*.
 - There might be amendments from the Body to make these permanent main events, following success from the NSDA National Tournament final rounds, coaches judging the events, and having some performances to teach/reference going into this season.
 - Discussion about moving some of the “free” events around, eliminating Poetry and including POI, eliminating the Senate and including INF, and some other suggestions, ideas, etc.
 - Noah will include this discussion on the “Honest Talk” Google Doc to the Body the first part of August, so we can get a feel for preferences before Convention in October.
 - INF and POI and Prose and IMP could all be consolation events, with room allowances during out-rounds (would have to be approved by the Body in October) if the Body approves POI and INF as qualifying events, then there would only be two consolation events (for qualifying students only)
 - New amendment: (p.87 current wording) Strike “as a pilot program...tournament,” replace with two consolation events, POI and INF” (Jason will email Wendi the wording, will be introduced as an **EC-recommended amendment (SEE BELOW)**).
 - Brent indicated that offering more consolation choices will not significantly impact room count, tournament size, or anything that will cause much change to the State Tournament, simply would offer more choices for students and judges during out-rounds of Main Events.

As a pilot program for the 2015-16 State Tournament, replace Prose Interpretation and Impromptu Speaking with Program of Oral Interpretation and Informative Speaking. At the 2016-17 State Tournament, the events will return to Prose in odd years, Poetry in even years, and Impromptu

This will now read:

As a pilot program for the 2016-17 State Tournament, add Program of Oral Interpretation and Informative Speaking as consolation events. Speaking unless otherwise amended.

- Accept EC-proposed amendment - Vote: 7-1-0 passed
- **Ensure a room near tab for protests**
 - Rhonda will plan for that.
- **TFA Merchandise**
 - Robert Shepard indicated that there is merchandise at Del Rossi
 - We will change the website to remove the “TFA Store” but the photos will remain as items that may be available at TSCA/TFA Convention and/or TFA State.
- **Student Code of Conduct**
 - JOT will now include an “Agree
 - Committee to draft the Code – John (chair), Ryan, Kirsten, Gay, Debbie – present to the EC via email for approval, present to the Body for approval to include this document as part of the JOT Registration process (check box indicating Coach and Students have read, and agree to, the Code of Conduct. Without checking this acknowledge box, registration will not be allowed and the process will be incomplete- In other words, Coaches/Students/Sponsors may not register for State without checking the acknowledgment box).
 - 7-0 passed
- **School Judge Code of Conduct**
 - Sub-Committee to draft the Code – Perry (chair), Jason, Yolanda
 - 6-0-1 passed
- **Judge Bonds**
 - Jason moves to change the Judge Bond to \$200 from \$500
 - Discussion includes making sure people still fulfill their judging obligations
 - Noah suggested amending to \$300
 - Region Reps indicated that some schools/people have a harder time coming up with \$500, have to use personal checks, etc.
 - **Motion- lower the judge bond from \$500 to \$300 – VOTE 6-1-0 – passed**
 - There is a need to lay out a clear, concise “contract” with coaches/judges indicating how a Judge Bond can be revoked.
 - Constitutional change? Part of the Judge Bond page on JOT? (new committee will create this list during their meetings)
- **Committee rotation**
 - President can appoint/change committee members.
 - Committees are regionally balanced.
 - Some have served on a committee for a long time.
 - Other coaches, new coaches, would like to serve but have to wait a long time to get a turn.
 - Sometimes there is no interest from people to serve, other reasons committee members stay on

- Noah's plan is to request that anyone wanting to serve on a committee, contact him and let him know, so that he can work on a rotation and allow new members to serve.
- **Extemporaneous Debate**
 - Students love it at Nationals, Coaches often use it to teach debate format, there is a lot of interest
 - The concern is that it would create too many rooms/judges and size issues
 - Discussion about pros/cons, scheduling, etc.
 - Jason created a sample schedule to include it so we could look at logistics of offering Debaters and alternative consolation event, and presented it to the EC. Discussion followed.
 - Cannot be feasibly done this year.
- **Schedule for TFA State**
 - 1520 students attended State last year 2015 in Pflugerville, TX
 - Depends on rooms at Plano West.

VI. Constitution

- **Emeritus vs Hall of Fame** (page 10 of the constitution addresses these considerations and guidelines)
 - Emeritus were not recognized as HOF coaches
 - Technically they should be included in the HOF
 - Wording in the constitution is incorrect- 2011 the Committee meant for each to be honored, merge Emeritus and HOF honorees.
- **Fixes**
 - **Quick fixes**
 - QUESTIONS for discussion
 - Page 37, 39 – Prompting philosophy
 - Page 42 – be sure your Congress students know they CANNOT change rules contradictory to TFA constitutional rules in their sessions at IQTs or the State Tournament (*ex. Suspending the rules to allow the contestants to give 10 minute Pro speeches, when the TFA rule is 3 minute speeches, etc.*).
 - Constitutional Committee needs to meet to clean up the constitution before Convention.
 - **Weekend language**
 - Holding tournaments on other days besides a Friday/Saturday or Saturday-only.
 - Holiday weekends
 - Tournament “week” would have to be “Monday to Sunday”
 - Pg. 58 #3 addresses this issue, refers to “weekends,” etc. here and there, but no mention of not being able to have a tournament on weekdays, holidays, etc.
 - **Motion: Change #3 of page 58, from “weekend” to “week” or “week of”**
 - **Vote: 6-1-0 passed**

Page 58, Section 3: Change all weekends to week.
Change 'week of the 4th Monday of August' and the second week of February.
A week shall be defined as Monday-Sunday.

Section 4: All weekends change to week.

- **Other Concerns:**
 - Small schools may feel under-represented at times
 - Do we need to consider adding an EC member for certain school populations?
 - Not all districts/regions/judges/tournaments abide by, and enforce, rules specified in the TFA constitution.

 - Constitution needs to say the IE coaches get a **strike**
 - Currently talks about MJP, etc. in Debate section
 - Nothing about strikes in the constitution, none for IEs
 - EC will decide how to handle strike lists, it may change from year to year, needs to stay flexible.
 - We want to be sure coaches still get judge strikes
 - **EC-recommended amendment** (vote: 7-0-0 passed)
 - **Strike system** – pg. 77 (Judging)

Add page 77 item 3

3. Strike System: The Executive Council may, at its discretion, offer a strike system of its own design at the state tournament. The Executive Council also has the right to ignore or suspend the strike system in the event of unforeseeable circumstances.

- When, how, where... Debate Coaches get to make out-round strikes
- **Change Log Confusion**
 - Needs to be cleaned up
 - Needs to be compared to old versions
 - Needs old wording vs. new wording
- **4-1 clearing standard**
 - Do we need a number of rounds mandate/fix, etc.
 - Host schools cannot always guarantee 6 round schedule, etc.
- **15-minute DQ rule**
 - Needs to be in the constitution
 - Need an EC-recommended amendment
 - Discussion - Competitors may be DQed for arriving 15 minutes or more to their round. This ruling may be appealed to the Tournament Director at IQTs, or to the EC at TFA State.
 - Some said that Tournament Directors should have their own rules for round tardiness at IQTs, it should not be in the constitution. This was agreed upon; no language shall be mandated specifically for IQTs about the 15-min rule in the constitution- it is expected, under Professional Standards, that they should keep rounds and the tournament running on time. Competitors should be on time for their rounds-- **Tournament Directors** may set their own rules in their JOT or tournament invitations about when competitors may be DQed for time/tardiness/absence.

- General Tournament Operations for IQTs
- Page 14 – Tournament Hosts are responsible for keeping rounds/tournament running on time.
- **EC-recommended amendment:** (vote 7-0-0 passed)
State Tournament Operations p. 72

Add to page 72

Rounds are expected to start on time. Contestants arriving later than 15 minutes or more, with the exception of students coming from a cross-entered event, will be marked last in the round or forfeit the debate. Contestants arriving less than 15 minutes late to the round, with the exception of students coming from a cross-entered event, may be penalized at the discretion of the Executive Council.

- **Length of a Congress Round at State**
 - 8 hours of preliminary Debate
 - 3 hours at regular IQTs
 - **Move from two 4-hr to two 3-hour sessions of prelims (6-1-0 passed)**
 - The EC will offer these to the Congress Committee, as well.
 - Current Rule for Semi-finals
 - Problem - Giant cut from prelims to semis currently
 - Suggestion – (now it's 2 chambers of semis) **change to up to 4 chambers created with two 2-hour sessions-** “Session” is defined in the constitution. **VOTE: 7-0-1 passed.**
- **Regionally balanced judge panels**
 - Region Reps currently send recommended names for finals panels to the Vice President.
 - Sometimes, regionally balanced panels are not possible.
 - Panels of 5, ideally consist of the 5 regions in TX, according to the TFA Region Map (<http://txfa.weebly.com/region-map.html>).
 - Important to note that TFA does not guarantee there will be someone representing each region on final round panels. The attempt will occur when at all possible, however.
 - Suggestion – EC, Tabroom staff, will be slated as Emeritus or Honor judges to serve in a pool when needed.
- **Awards Ceremony concerns**
 - Special awards speeches are lengthy, students get restless
 - Several events, lots of awards to give out
 - Suggestions?
 - Possibly having an “Opening Assembly”
- **More Coaches Judging**
 - 6 round obligation, should be available the entire tournament, rather than certain days only, choosing time slots, etc. This is too hard to fill judge assignments.
 - Final round panels
- **Judges tables at State**
 - Should be for those ballots ONLY
 - Separate tables for Debate tab

- When Region Reps are trying to take in ballots, debate tab people need more space to juggle judge names, hand out/take in ballots, etc.
- Suggestion: to have separate Debate ballot tables from the IE ballot tables, and also to add adults to the debate tables who are familiar with debate events, judges, how to check incoming ballots, etc.
- **Dance Cards (judges assignments) concerns**
 - Are judges paid for not being used in assigned rounds?
 - Judges should be used for stand-by in case another event needs judges.
- **Items to get to Brent ASAP**
 - **REGION REPS** – send any/all IQT dates, coaches, paid status, etc. to BRENT for the website page.
 - **JASON/TREASURER** – send payment status updates for tournament hosts and members periodically so Brent may update the IQT paid status on the website page.
 - **NEW EC COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (formed here at Retreat) – send your results/wording of Student, Judge, Coach Codes of Conducts to BRENT, as well as the list of ways Judge Bond can be revoked.
- **IE judge changes at State**
 - Add one more computer for IE Tab that can be posted down at the Judges' Tables.
- **NO STRIKES** for Consolation judges will be allowed at the State Tournament.
 - ALSO, IE Tab Staff may be moved to Consolation Judges Tables and Tabroom
- **GoFundMe contribution from TFA**
 - Flood-affected debate coaches
 - Motion is to bring up the GFM funds - bring total to \$250 for each of the 2 coaches (Angie Richard and Bonnie Bonnette). (Vote 8-0-0 passed)
- **Tab sheets/Tabulation Report, along with the JOT files**
 - Be sent to Grant/IQT Coordinator
 - Tabulation done incorrectly is not currently being checked/verified/audited (*ex. The tournament ran Congress with too many competitors in sessions, was never fixed etc., items that are run contradictory to standing TFA constitutional rules, event rounds were not paneled, etc.*).
 - Justification: Attempt to be more proactive, rather than catching mistakes after the fact, etc.
 - Discussion- concerns about differences in tournament variations in tabrooms, consequences for honest mistakes made, concerns about tournament hosts not reading the rules correctly, etc.
 - Proposal is to divvy up the audits to members of the EC as a check on the tabulation results, not necessarily for consequences, but for feedback to the coach/tournament directors in an attempt to avoid mistakes in the future.
 - Discuss with the Body in October, the issues that have been a problem, and discuss some of the concerns and suggestions.
 - Decision – Tournaments must submit IQT Report, post full tournament file, not just results on JOT.

- **Website**
 - Move Quick Links to top, streamline more
 - Cleanup and link Archives page (link back to old TFA website to retrieve Archives from 2004-2013 or before)

- **TECHNOLOGY CLARIFICATION**

- **Wendi** is the web *designer*- **content only** (announcements, photos, officer and committee name changes, active links, document and form posting, ballots, etc.)
- **Brent** is the web *master*- **IQT Calendar** and all **JOT-related content** (invitations, Codes of Conduct agreements, etc.)
- Be sure to contact **REGION REPS** for specific issues, questions, concerns, who can also route issues to the correct Tech person (Wendi or Brent or Grant) for specific parts of the webpage – www.TxFA.org – or IQT Reports.
- **Grant** is the *IQT Point Coordinator* – neither Brent nor Wendi can verify, make changes to, update any school or student TFA State qualifying points, correct names, or anything on the “Squad Reports” pages.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!!