

# Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

## Minutes

September 9, 2017

Brookfield East High School

**Voting schools represented:** West Bend, Mukwonago, Brookfield East, Marquette, Janesville Parker, Madison East, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Appleton East, Rufus King, Fort Atkinson, Muskego, Golda Meir, Menomonee Falls, Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Waukesha South, Homestead, North Division, Sheboygan North, Milwaukee North, Brookfield Central

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Cekanor at 10:00 a.m.

### Past President

Miloran Robinson described changes to the procedure for awarding scholarships.

### Secretary

Brian Devine moved the adoption of the spring minutes, which had been posted on the WDCA web site, and the motion was seconded. The minutes were **adopted by voice vote**.

It was decided to hold off on looking at the tournament schedule until printing is finished, later in the meeting.

### Treasurer

Tim Scheffler reported he had successfully obtained a single correct ID number from the IRS. He also reported that we have roughly \$8,000 in our account, which puts us in a little better position than a year ago.

### Novice Packet

Miranda Ehrlich explained that all the files for the beginning of the policy season have been given to coaches. She asked if coaches want a second counterplan on vouchers in addition to the states' counterplan. In response to a question from Dan Hansen, Matt explained that both counterplans could be used starting on the same date. Kedrick Stumbris expressed concern that it added to the confusion that confronts novices. It was determined that there is in fact no rule requiring that the CP being run unconditionally, and Dan suggested that language be added to prevent novices from running two counterplans at once. Miloran responded that teaching debaters not to do this would be sufficient. Further discussion occurred on this point.

A straw vote was held, showing most supported having two counterplans, and most also favored having language prohibiting that both be run at the same time, although the second vote was closer.

John Knetzger moved to add to rule 200.5.1 “Negative teams may only use one counterplan in a round, even when there are two counterplans in the packet. Penalties.....” and the motion was seconded. It was **approved by voice vote**.

Miranda moved to add a vouchers counterplan in addition to the states’ counterplan, and the motion was seconded. It was **approved by voice vote**.

## **Calendar**

Printed calendars were distributed. Two changes were noted. Golda Meir and Brookfield East had exchanged weekends. Also No Frills replaced Madison East on November 18.

Anton Shircel offered to host on November 18 in place of No Frills, and Doris Sexton agreed to this. Anton will notify us as soon as he knows for sure that he has the building.

Spencer Fretschel mentioned Mukwonago is now able to host anytime in October. There was discussion about the implications of offering a meet opposite any of the October meets.

## **New Coaches**

Stephanie King introduced herself and Miranda as the contact people for new coaches. She reported that a middle school has expressed interest, as has a homeschooled student. She is working with those people.

## **Media and Communications**

David Umstot reported that the web site continues to be kept up to date. The membership form is now live on the site, with Tim’s own address being the place to send the registrations and checks.

## **TPP**

John asked Doris to discuss for the state tournament. She passed out a food possibilities sheet. Because of personnel problems in West Bend, we need to decide what other option for food would be best. There were several options presented, and it was decided a poll of coaches would be conducted by email.

John said the invite would be posted in October and registration opens on November 1. He reminded coaches to read the invite carefully. He also discussed a judge training

initiative and said that this would be addressed at the Marquette Hilltoppers meet next week.

John moved passage of the following proposal to change the standing rules:

#### 340.10 NOVICE POLICY DIVISION

##### (1) Qualification Procedure

E. Students with identified exceptional educational needs may remain in the Novice Division beyond their first resolution at the discretion of the coach. Should this rule be invoked, the coach must notify the WSDT director by the registration deadline.

and the motion was seconded. It was **approved by voice vote**.

### **Judging Standards and Ethics**

Matt explained that Ben Hamburger, who was not able to be present, asked him to pass along his view that cell phone use by judges should be handled individually rather than by legislation.

### **Old Business**

John moved the adoption of the already discussed constitutional amendment, which was modified slightly to address a concern about the timeline:

Revise Section II—STANDING RULES to read:

“Procedural guidelines outside of these Bylaws are Standing Rules. Standing Rules can be amended by a simple majority at one meeting, provided the rule change is submitted in writing to the President and is published at least two weeks before a business or special meeting. The President shall publish all submitted proposals on the WDCA Website, via email, and by another appropriate means. Rule changes not submitted by the deadline may be discussed but not voted upon.”

The amendment was **approved by voice vote**.

### **New Business**

Stephanie presented the restructuring proposal. She explained it has become difficult to fill all committee positions and explained the rationale for each part of the proposed changes:

## **Proposed Constitutional Changes Introduced Fall 2017**

### **Article III Section 1:**

Current:

The President shall preside at all general and special meetings and shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President shall have the authority to appoint committee chairs and shall become an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall conduct the fall workshop. After completing the term of office, the President shall become the Past-President.

Proposed:

The President shall preside at all general and special meetings and shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President shall have the authority to appoint committee chairs and shall become an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall chair the awards and nominations committee. After completing the term of office, the President shall become the Past-President.

Rationale: With the loss of the workshop a few years ago, the President has few duties during the season. This also leaves the Past-President as a member of the executive board.

### **Section III**

Current:

PAST-PRESIDENT The Past-President shall serve as the chairperson of the Awards and Nominations Committee and actively seek nominations for the WDCA Hall of Fame, WDCA Coach of the Year and the WDCA Scholarship. The Past-President shall appoint and oversee the webmaster for the WDCA website.

Proposed:

The Past-President shall serve in a capacity to be determined by the President.

Rationale: The Past-President remains as an advisor and holder of institutional memory without having defined responsibilities.

### **SECTION IV –**

Current

SECRETARY The Secretary shall record, transcribe, and distribute the minutes of all meetings and shall issue meeting announcements. Meeting announcements should be distributed three weeks prior to a given meeting. The Secretary shall maintain and publish a membership directory, revise and make available the Bylaws and Standing Rules, and aid the President with standard correspondence. The Secretary is the chair of the handbook committee.

Proposed:

SECTION IV – SECRETARY The Secretary shall record, transcribe, and distribute the minutes of all meetings and shall issue meeting announcements. Meeting announcements should be distributed three weeks prior to a given meeting. The Secretary shall maintain and publish a membership directory, revise and make available the Bylaws and Standing Rules, and aid the President with standard correspondence. The Secretary is the chair of the history committee.

Rationale: The Handbook Committee is moving to TPP and the Secretary will chair the history committee.

### **Article VI**

Current:

The WDCA shall have the following standing committees: Executive, Awards and Nominations, Handbook, History, Judging Standards and Ethics, Media Communications, Middle School, New Coaches, Novice Packet, and Tournament Practices and Procedures.

Proposed:

The WDCA shall have the following standing committees: Executive, Awards and Nominations, History, Judging Standards and Ethics, Media Communications, New Coaches/Novice Packet/Middle School, and Tournament Practices and Procedures/Handbook.

Rationale: Merging committees will streamline work and allow the association to fill all chairs more easily.

**SECTION II – AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS** The Awards and Nominations Committee shall be chaired by the Past-President and consist of at least two other WDCA members. The committee shall determine scholarship winners, Hall of Fame inductees, and Coach of the Year recipients through the process outlined in Standing Rules Article D.

Proposed:

**SECTION II – AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS** The Awards and Nominations Committee shall be chaired by the President and consist of at least two other WDCA members. The committee shall determine scholarship winners, Hall of Fame inductees, and Coach of the Year recipients through the process outlined in the Standing Rules.

Rationale: The President will chair this committee. Also, there is no Article D in the standing rules.

### **Section III**

Current:

The History Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and other members appointed by the chair. The committee shall keep a history of the WDCA, make available the history to members.

Proposed:

The History Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary, and members appointed by the chair. The committee shall keep a history of the WDCA, make available the history to members.

### **SECTION IV – JUDGING STANDARDS AND ETHICS**

Current:

The Judging Standards and Ethics Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and two members appointed by the chairperson. The committee shall research judging standards and debate ethics and be responsible for ongoing judge education. The committee shall administer the Ethics Grievance Procedure as outlined in Standing Rules Article B Section IV.

Proposed:

**SECTION IV – JUDGING STANDARDS AND ETHICS** The Judging Standards and Ethics Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and two members appointed by the chairperson. The committee shall research judging standards and debate

ethics and be responsible for ongoing judge education. The committee shall administer the Ethics Grievance Procedure as outlined in the Standing Rules

## **SECTION V – MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS**

Current:

The Media Communications Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and other members appointed by the chair, including the webmaster. The committee shall publicize debate and the WDCA to the general public and may publish a newsletter for the association. The committee shall issue press releases and notify school administrators of significant team or coach accomplishments such as Wisconsin State Debate Tournament 1st-3rd place winners, officer elections, Hall of Fame winners, scholarship winners, and the Coach of the Year winner.

Proposed:

**SECTION V – MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS** The Media Communications Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and other members appointed by the chair, including the webmaster. The committee shall publicize debate and the WDCA to the general public and may publish a newsletter for the association. The committee shall issue press releases and notify school administrators of significant team or coach accomplishments such as Wisconsin State Debate Tournament 1st-3rd place winners, officer elections, Hall of Fame winners, scholarship winners, and the Coach of the Year winner. the Media Communications Committee will oversee the WDCA website and social media.

## **Section VI, VII and IX**

Current:

**SECTION VI – MIDDLE SCHOOL** The Middle School Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and two members appointed by the chair. The committee shall provide support to middle school programs and coaches.

**SECTION VII – NEW COACHES** The New Coaches Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and two members appointed by the chair. The committee shall provide services and programs to encourage and support new coaches.

**SECTION IX – NOVICE PACKET** The Novice Packet Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and at least two members appointed by the chairperson. The committee shall research and produce the Novice Packet for use in policy debates.

Proposed:

Section VI New Coaches/Novice Packet/Middle School

The committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, and at least two members appointed by the chairperson. The committee shall provide service and programs to encourage and support new coaches, research and produce the Novice Packet for use in novice policy debates, and provide support to middle school programs and coaches.

## **SECTION VIII – TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

Current:

The Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, who serves as Tournament Director of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament. The committee also consists of an Operations Director and another member appointed by the President. A fourth member of the committee might be the Tournament Host, as selected by the Executive Board. The committee shall research tournament practices and procedures and be responsible for providing support to members on tournament operations. The committee shall assist the state Tournament Director in the administration of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.

Proposed:

Section VII TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES/HANDBOOK

SECTION VIII – TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES The Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee shall consist of a chairperson, appointed by the President, who serves as Tournament Director of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament. The committee also consists of an Operations Director and another member appointed by the chair. A fourth member of the committee might be the Tournament Host, as selected by the Executive Board. The committee shall research tournament practices and procedures and be responsible for providing support to members on tournament operations. The committee shall assist the state Tournament Director in the administration of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament. The committee shall also create and update a handbook for coaches and tournament directors.

It was explained that a special meeting would be held during the state tournament to vote on this constitutional change so that it could be operative by the spring elections.

Stephanie discussed the proposal that has been made to offer five choices for policy topics for 2020 with a non-USFG actor for each option. Stephanie was asked to get feedback on this proposal and asked that coaches contact her with their views.

She also mentioned that Milwaukee could host a topic selection meeting. The main role of the host organization is to organize a fun night for the attendees, with \$3,000 provided to the host. This would be a joint endeavor with the WHSFA. Stephanie asked for feedback on this as well. There was consensus that this should be pursued.

Stephanie distributed a proposal to make the scholarship scoring procedure more uniform and objective. She explained the process and the rationale for the changes. There was some discussion, with questions for Stephanie. She clarified that she would intend for the scoring rubric to be available on the web site. She took some suggestions for editing and will make the updated edition available to coaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary

