

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 11, 2010
West Bend High School

Schools represented: West Bend, La Crosse Central, Appleton East, Appleton West, Brookfield East, Mukwonago, Golda Meir, Madison Memorial, Sheboygan North, Janesville Parker, Bradley Tech, Rufus King, Waukesha South, Middleton, Whitefish Bay, Nicolet, Muskego, Reagan, Professional Learning Institute, Cedarburg, Destiny, Homestead, Sheboygan South, MacDowell

Kay Neal was present, representing WHSFA, and Jason Chapman was present, representing MDL.

IMMEDIATE BUSINESS

Past President Nick Bubb called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. He began by reading a letter of resignation from President Steve Finch and cited the applicable item in the constitutional bylaws.

Nick asked for a vote on accepting Steve Finch's resignation, and it was accepted by **voice vote**.

Nick then asked for a vote on accepting the immediate accession of President-Elect Doris Sexton to the presidency. It was accepted by **voice vote**.

The two candidates for the position of president-elect were introduced: John Knetzger of West Bend and James Hoggatt of Brookfield East. Each candidate addressed the meeting briefly.

Voting proceeded by paper ballot. **James Hoggatt** was announced as the new President-Elect.

Nick explained the ballot by which coaches were to express preferences for next year's topic. He also explained the forms for Coach of the Year and Hall of Fame and said that scholarship information would soon be available on the web site.

Doris assumed the chair as our new President.

PAST PRESIDENT

Doris suggested that the workshop may have been held too early this year and asked for input into when the workshop should be held. It was decided to postpone a decision until the spring meeting.

Doris explained that she had gotten information about today's meeting and workshop onto listserves for the librarians and principals throughout the state. Jason Chapman requested that such emails also be sent to the MDL.

Ken Sadjak moved that the duties of the workshop be moved from the President-Elect to the President. The motion was seconded. He did not present it in writing. Mike Traas moved to suspend the rules to allow the motion anyway. His motion was seconded and **passed by voice vote**. Ken's motion **passed by voice vote** and will be up for final approval at the spring meeting.

SECRETARY

Brian Devine moved the acceptance of the minutes from the last spring meeting. It was seconded and **approved by voice vote**.

TREASURER

Steve Sexton indicated that he has had trouble getting information from the former Treasurer but that there is more than \$4,000 in the WDCA's account. He also said that the Executive Board was discussing a change and clarification on the rules regarding dues collection. It appears that few schools are able to pay the future year's dues during the prior fiscal year. Also, he explained that there needs to be a clear consequence in terms of the state tournament for not paying dues.

Doris requested that schools get their dues paid by October 1. This was affirmed by the membership **by voice vote**.

Steve requested guidance on what the consequence should be for not having dues paid by the time of the state tournament. Ken moved to table the discussion until the spring meeting. This **motion to table was approved by voice vote**.

TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Tim requested renewal of the policy of allowing a non-WDCA tournament to count as one leg of a state tournament bid, with a requirement that at least three schools participate in the tournament to qualify, and provided that notification is provided ahead of time and that results are submitted afterward.

Tim explained that the Executive Board had reaffirmed that hybrid middle school teams are not permitted at the state tournament. He proposed that if a four-round tournament cannot be scheduled for the number of middle school teams, the division can be run as a three-round tournament.

He also introduced the idea of power-pairing the novice division at the state tournament.

He explained that logistics are being worked out with Ripon College for the state tournament to be held there in December. The mandatory use of Ripon's food service will require that lunches be ordered in advance. Judges' food will be served at the Congregational church to avoid the Ripon food restrictions.

Nick pointed out that the food costs can be included on the invoice for state tournament registration.

Tim expressed appreciation that invitational hosts had gotten their results to him in a timely fashion last year.

Tim explained that far more 4-person teams qualified because of the change that had been made in the qualification procedures. LD was negatively affected, while the other divisions were impacted less.

Tim mentioned that the NFL office might provide a place for Friday night check-in, which would allow people to see the NFL headquarters.

JUDGING STANDARDS AND ETHICS

Dan Hansen passed out copies of the new Judge Handbook and asked coaches to share these with their judges. He encouraged coaches to communicate with him with any concerns for the handbook for future updates.

Dan explained that a training video would be the project with this year, in cooperation with the NFL. There will be some waivers for students to be videotaped at the state tournament.

Ernest Chomicki mentioned that in the MDL, flows will be collected from judges. He suggested that this might help improve judging. Dan responded that while this is not being contemplated by his committee, there has been discussion of looking at ballots more carefully. Nick pointed out that at an Iowa tournament, there is an award for the best written ballot, and that this might be a better model.

A discussion ensued about how to handle poor judging. Dan mentioned that an FYI communication can always be made to him so he can follow up in a constructive way, if a formal complaint is not necessarily warranted. Doris encouraged follow-up with the hiring coach and with Dan's committee when there is a ballot concern.

NEW COACHES

Doris announced that Dave Denomie would now be the chair of the New Coaches Committee.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Doris announced that Nick Bubb would now chair this committee.

Nick indicated he will be putting things on the web site, and that coaches should send him anything they want put on there. He is also exploring outreach opportunities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cheryl Bachtell explained there are three middle schools currently active and explained that they would be participating in tournaments on Fridays in most cases.

HISTORY

Doris announced that Ken Sajdak would now chair this committee.

SPECIAL REPORT

Doris introduced Jason Chapman, the new interim director of the MDL. Jason explained that there is discussion within the MDL about their future affiliations, so his leadership and the scheduling of meets beyond December are not certain, but that there will be some form of an urban debate league continuing.

OLD BUSINESS

Doris announced that there is information on Joy of Tournaments that the Marquette Hilltopper tournament scheduled for next week has been cancelled. No representative of Marquette is present at this meeting, so it appears there will be no Marquette tournament next week.

Two schools (Whitefish Bay and Homestead) expressed a willingness to check on availability for next week and to communicate information back within the next day.

Whitefish Bay would be willing to host a meet on Teachers' Convention weekend if they do not host next week.

Doris announced that the judge wiki feature will be used again this year for state. Judges who posted last year do not have to repost unless they want to.

Nick proposed guidelines for paperless debate in Wisconsin. Ken moved to accept the guidelines with modifications and with an additional item requiring that a paperless team have a viewing computer with an adequate screen size.

Dan moved to add clarification that if an offending team is out of prep time during computer malfunction, it would come out of their speaking time.

The motions were separated. Ken's motion **passed by voice vote**.

Dan's motion that his item be added as #13 was then **passed by voice vote**. "In the event that a team being charged prep time due to a technical problem is out of prep time, the time needed to rectify the situation will come from their next speech." Significant discussion occurred. It was moved and seconded to rescind the previous adoption. The **vote to rescind passed 11-9**.

Dan requested clarification of what can be done on the viewing computer. Paige pointed out that most computers would just have a scrolling function for those viewing, but that some might have other abilities. Nick suggested seeing how it goes this year, with the responsibility of the team doing paperless to be accommodating to the other team.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim explained that a Christian homeschool league in Dane County has expressed interest in participating in WDCA events. They had between 15 and 20 switch-side teams last year. The Executive Board's guidance is that if the homeschool group can act as a school in its WDCA participation, WDCA should allow them to participate in that capacity, provided these students are not enrolled in any public or private high school.

Kay Neal expressed concern that there are rules in place that might preclude this, because principals have made it clear that homeschool students can participate through their local school districts and therefore should not be allowed to function as a separate entity. This information was taken under advisement.

Nick encouraged new ideas to recruiting more debate coaches and expand debate in Wisconsin. Jason offered his help regarding Milwaukee-area schools. The website <http://milwaukee Debate League.wetpaint.com> has more information for all those interested.

Doris explained that there are currently two \$300 scholarships presented to seniors at the state tournament. It is possible we could increase either the amount or the number of these scholarships. The Executive Board's preference would be to explore increasing the number of scholarships, and there was agreement of this expressed by coaches present. Ken moved to table the issue until the spring meeting, and **the motion to table passed by voice vote**.

Dan presented a proposal to power-pair the fourth round of the novice division. He explained some of the difficulties of the side power pairing that would be needed, but found that Tim feels it could be done. The three options would be 1. the current random method for round IV; 2. power-pairing, using leftover varsity judges for novice round IV; and 3. power-pairing, allowing judges to see the other side of a team they already saw. Mike Traas pointed out timeframe problems if the divisions do not align well time-wise. Tim responded that he could use a combination of methods 2 and 3 to make it work, and that he does not feel there will be a major problem regarding the timeframe, since power-pairing the novice division will take some time. He explained that it will also require a change in tie-breaking procedures, and criteria for selecting what varsity

judges would be placed into novice for round IV. Discussion ensued on the relative fairness of random pairing vs. the options of power pairing and also the impact of bringing varsity judges into the novice division. Mike suggested another option would be to hire a couple extra novice judges and to increase the novice registration cost by \$10 to cover them. Ken moved to table the discussion until the spring meeting, and it was seconded. The **motion to table failed 9-7**. Ken then moved to establish a Novice Championship Division, limited to one team per school. It failed due to lack of a second.

Discussion continued. Doris called for a specific proposal if the discussion was to continue. Justice Platt moved to implement power pairing for novice round IV with the dropping down of varsity-4 policy judges as needed. Dan offered a friendly amendment to include the tie-breaking procedures from varsity-4, with high-high power pairing, and Justice accepted this amendment. Ken moved to amend to remove protection from schools hitting other opposite teams from their own school. Ernest seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. **Ken's amendment passed 11-8**. Nick objected to the vote on the grounds that it was not presented in writing before the meeting. Doris overruled the objection. On the main motion as amended, **it was defeated by a 13-5 vote**.

Tim proposed to continue to allow local tournaments to continue to function as one leg of a state bid, and this **passed by a voice vote**.

Tim proposed to allow the tournament director at state to reduce Middle School to three rounds if needed to make the tournament possible, and this **passed by a voice vote**.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary