

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

May 8, 2010

Congregational Church, Ripon

Schools represented: West Bend, Brookfield East, Waukesha South, Janesville Parker. Mukwonago, Marquette, Madison Memorial, Rufus King, Cedarburg

Adam Jacobi of the NFL and Deano Pape of Ripon College were present as our meeting hosts.

President Nick Bubb called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Officers and Committee Reports

President-elect

Steve Finch was not present.

President

Nick Bubb explained that he wrote a letter to elected officials in Wisconsin and representing Wisconsin in Washington, DC. The letter is available on Wisconsin Forensics Daily. He expressed concern about the viability of high school debate in the state.

Nick is also exploring the idea of finding a way to fund seed grant money to help get programs started in schools.

Adam Jacobi shared that the NFL has been active in working with the NCA to support a speech/communication graduation requirement, and that the issue is on the NCA's agenda for their fall meeting. The NFL has also organized a tax-deductible donor's site for those who wish to contribute to speech/debate programs that are members of the NFL.

Past President

Bill Batterman announced that there were at least fifteen very good scholarship applications received and that it might be worth considering seeding additional scholarships or redistributing available funding among more students.

Steve Sexton will be inducted into the WDCA Hall of Fame at the fall meeting

Secretary

Brian Devine indicated that he had difficulty getting the names of coaches who had not paid their dues and expressed hope that the future Treasurer will be able to look into this.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the spring meeting minutes. The motion **passed by a voice vote.**

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Treasurer

Eric VanErt was not present. Nick announced that Eric is not running for re-election as Treasurer.

Tournament Practices and Procedures

Tim Scheffler explained that there was inconsistent enforcement of the rule against hybrid teams in the middle school division at the state tournament.

Tim said there was a delay in preferencing in the varsity policy division because of late posting of paradigms. He suggested there needs to be stronger enforcement of this policy.

Tim indicated that he received invitational results in a timely manner from all hosts.

Tim expressed satisfaction with the trophies obtained from Rudig. He said that because of lower costs with this vendor, it will be possible to give individual awards to all award-winning students this year, as called for by the standing rules.

Tim also explained that there are incomplete guidelines for judge assignment procedures: no indication of BC-CB and no indication whether preferencing is to take precedence over clean judges in elimination rounds.

There were more novice and V-4 teams this year due to our new qualifying procedures. PF numbers declined slightly, as did LD. VSS numbers were approximately the same as the previous year.

Nick Bubb discussed the results of a survey that was administered to coaches on the Saturday of the state tournament. Copies of the comments were distributed. Nick expressed satisfaction with the Joy of Tournaments process as well as the wiki paradigm posting process. He mentioned that the Executive Committee was satisfied with the Saturday-Sunday format.

Ken Sajdak expressed dislike for the Saturday-Sunday format because he felt it caused Saturday to be run in a more lax manner.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Dan Hansen said he did not have to field any formal complaints this year but did troubleshoot in some individual situations.

A streamlined judges' handbook has been prepared and will be posted online after final editing. It features not only policy, but also PF and LD information.

Media and Communications

Jon Voss was not present and has resigned the position of Chair of Media and Communications.

History

Doris Sexton said that she has posted highlights of the year for the organization online.

New Coaches

Steve Gargo and Ernest Chomicki were not present.

Middle Level

Cheryl Bachtell was not present.

Elections

Doris Sexton was nominated for President Elect and was **elected by voice vote**.

Steve Sexton was nominated for Treasurer and was **elected by voice vote**.

Proposals

It was proposed that item in the standing rules that states “No judge should see a team previously seen during the preliminary round.” be changed to “No judge should see a team more than once in preliminary rounds” and that “No team should meet the opposite side of a team previously met in the first three rounds.” be changed accordingly. There was discussion about whether there should be a rule about a judge who has issued a loss in V-4 should not judge the other side of that V-4 team. It was decided to study these proposals and bring them back to the fall meeting.

The Executive Committee has proposed that the judge assignment order should be AA, BB, CC, AB-BA, BC-CB, AC-CA. Nick reported that independent tournament director Tim Dale has recommended that AB-BA be placed before CC in judge preferencing. Tim Scheffler reported that there were many CC assignments in LD this year. It was decided to hold this over to the fall meeting.

Bill Batterman has submitted a proposal to change Article B, Section VI, Part B of the standing rules, which currently reads: “*All evidence read must be available in hardcopy to both teams and the judge at the time of presentation. If a team cannot produce a hardcopy of the evidence read in the round, that piece of evidence is forfeited and dropped from the round.*” Bill proposed to strike “in hardcopy” and to change the second instance of “hardcopy” to “copy.” He indicated a team could have a third computer called a “viewing computer” which can be used to show evidence to the other team. Bill explained that air travel is made very expensive by the transport of tubs, and that notebook viewing computers are not very expensive. Ken Sajdak expressed concern about the impression that will be given that the teams that go paperless will risk causing judge bias. Bill responded that there he has seen no evidence of judge bias in favor of schools using technology. Considerable discussion followed. Ken moved to adopt Bill’s proposal with guidelines to be approved at the fall meeting. The motion was seconded. It was **approved by voice vote**.

Dan Hansen proposed to create a new Article B, Section I, Part A, Number 8 of the standing rules, to read: “While mavericks are disallowed at the WSDT, directors of invitational tournaments may allow mavericks to compete. However, such debaters are not eligible to win any rounds debated as a maverick.” It was moved and seconded to adopt the language. It was **approved by voice vote**.

Paige Pritchard communicated that the new leadership of the MDL is willing to schedule their tournaments in a way that they do not conflict with WDCA meets that are in the Milwaukee area. She also reported that MDL is planning to add a middle school division.

Discussion

Adam Jacobi and Deano Pape explained to the group that Ripon College would work for the state tournament on a Saturday-Sunday format with the various buildings used for the different divisions. Doris Sexton spoke about the outstanding job Ripon College has done hosting state forensics tournaments over the years. Deano was called to the meeting on very short notice, so he said he would need to verify with the college that the specific weekend of state was available.

Nick Bubb went through a proposed calendar. The calendar was tentatively set as follows:

Sept. 10-11 Fall Meeting and/or Workshop at West Bend

Sept. 17-19 Marquette Hilltopper Classic

Sept. (24-)25 Nicolet

Oct. (1-)2 Brookfield East

Oct. (8-)9 Madison Memorial

Oct. (15-)16 Mukwonago

Oct. (22-)23 La Crosse Central
Cedarburg

Nov. (5-)6 West Bend

Nov. (12-)13 Sheboygan North
Waukesha South

Nov. (19-)20 Sheboygan South

Dec. (3-)4 Appleton East
Rufus King

Dec. 11-12 State Tournament at Ripon College

Jan 8 Northern NFL (policy and PF)
Southern NFL (at least LD and PF)

Jan. 15 Southern CFL at West Bend

Jan 21-22 Northern CFL

Dan Hansen explained that his committee will work with MDL to create a judge training video. He proposed that a voluntary certification process could be included.

Ken Sadjak expressed discontent with the mandated novice plan texts being too general last year, potentially giving the affirmative an unfair advantage given the negative's limited packet. Nick and Bill indicated this would be taken into consideration as the decisions regarding novice packets were made.

Tim Scheffler inquired about the possibility of having a special PF topic for December, possibly one applying specifically to Wisconsin issues. Steve Sexton suggested the November topic be extended to include the first weekend in December, so that there would be a special state topic for the state tournament. Nick Bubb added that it might be wise to contact college/university professors in the state to select the topic. It would be required to change Article B, Section I, Part D of the standing rules to add "The topic for public forum will be determined by the Executive Committee after appropriate outreach." It will be discussed as Old Business at the fall meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine
WDCA Secretary