

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 8, 2012

Homestead High School, Mequon

Schools represented: Mukwonago, West Bend, Golda Meir, Muskego, Appleton East, Brookfield East, Middleton, Janesville Parker, Homestead, Waukesha South, Madison Memorial, Rufus King, Sheboygan South, Sheboygan North, Cedarburg, Marquette, Nicolet, Port Washington

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by President Mike Traas.

Secretary

Brian Devine thanked Nick Bubb for his help with getting everything on the web site from the spring meeting. Brian moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were **approved by voice vote**.

The proposed calendar was presented to the membership. Dave Henning indicated the Sheboygan South meet on January 12 is definite and will be held in conjunction with the Green Bay CFL qualifier.

The Milwaukee CFL qualifier will be held at West Bend on January 12.

Tim Scheffler announced that he will attempt to host the NFL qualifier at Madison Memorial. He indicated he would be willing to relinquish the December 14-15 date if someone else wanted it.

Stephanie King explained that the September 22 meet at Whitefish Bay will be a joint meet with the MDL, and MDL teams and judges will be mixed in with others. All levels of policy will be switch-side.

It was moved and seconded to accept the calendar, and the motion was **approved by a voice vote**.

Treasurer

Steve Sexton announced that we had a profit of \$808.99 this year. He went through the income and expenses for the year. It was moved and seconded to accept the report, and the motion was **approved by a voice vote**.

On the issue of PF ballots, Nick Bubb brought up that the NFL is moving in the direction of speaker awards for PF, which may lead us to want to tabulate individual speaker points at the state tournament. Mike pointed out that this helps avoid speaker point ties during the pairing process. Mike asked Nick whether he would want this change to

occur for this year's state tournament by means of executive order, if NFL were to make the change before then. Nick indicated that he would, even if our ballots do not reflect the change.

President and President-Elect

Mike reminded us that the workshop is next Saturday at West Bend and that the registration deadline is Tuesday. He is still looking for presenters. Doris Sexton said there has been little interest in having a meet on the day of the workshop. Mike will try to run demonstration PF and LD rounds.

John Knetzger addressed an email that Bill Batterman had sent out regarding NDCA membership and explained the benefits of this for policy coaches.

Past President

James Hoggatt announced that the forms for nominations and scholarships are on the web site and that they can be sent to him. The due date for all these forms will be December 15.

Mike asked Nick whether he could include links to those documents on the page for state registration. Nick indicated that he would do this.

Novice Packet Committee

Dan Hansen explained that seven people were involved this year in preparing the novice packet and gave a description of what is in the packet and how it can be used.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Tim pointed out that most of the complaints last year were quality issues rather than ethical ones. Dan is putting together a packet for teaching new judges, including a quiz. The materials will be available for anyone to try.

Tim explained that concerns should first be brought to the tournament director, but complaints can also be brought to Tim to work out concerns.

New Coaches

Miloren was not available today, but Mike indicated that she has materials for new coaches.

Middle School

Cheryl Bachtell announced that she will host a middle school state tournament at Golda Meir in December.

TPP

Nick announced that the state tournament will be held at UW-Whitewater on January 19 and 20. Doris Sexton has been assigned the responsibility of working with Whitewater to improve the food situation at the state tournament.

Nick explained that there is a new tournament reporting requirement to avoid problems we had with this last year. He will show tournament hosts how to use the new online procedure. This will replace last year's Google document method. This will allow students to see online whether they have qualified very quickly after a meet occurs.

Nick indicated that he has been working with Lauren Oswald, who runs a web site design company, about improving our organization's site. Mike explained that our current web site is something that originated with WHSFA and that we really ought to have our own distinct web site that is very useful to the debate community in the state. Nick explained that a new web site could be made far more user-friendly than what we have at present.

Nick moved a capped amount of \$1,500 for engaging in a web site re-design. The motion was seconded.

Steve explained that the amount was based on a \$75 per hour consultation rate from Lauren's company. He said he had originally favored putting it up for bidding, but that he now favors the motion because Lauren knows the needs of the WDCA and is comfortable with the \$1,500 cap.

The question was called, and the motion was **approved by voice vote**.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mike reminded the membership that all members were welcome to speak with him about leadership roles in the organization.

Dan recommended that we ought to look at improving the policy ballot. He cited the example of the categories for the assignment of speaker points having been taken off when they may have served a purpose.

Cheryl suggested that a committee work on this and bring something back to the next meeting. Nick responded that the current ballot is not restrictive and that judges are free to give a lot of feedback, and that he would rather see a concrete proposal for a change rather than a committee to come up with changes that may not really be needed. Mike

pointed out that the ballot is required for the state tournament and available to invitational hosts, but that those hosts are not required to use it.

Considerable discussion ensued.

Nick emphasized that while tournament hosts are welcome to use a different ballot for any given division, they should not give judges a choice of ballots within a division at any one meet.

Mike appointed an ad hoc committee to explore the issue, chaired by John Knetzger. Committee members are Dan Hansen, Cheryl Bachtell, Dave Henning, and Tim Scheffler.

Nick raised the issue of a true convention style fall meeting at a hotel being a good idea in the future. Mike pointed out that this would raise the expense of the fall meeting significantly. In response to a question from Doris, Nick explained that this format might cause a gradual expansion of debate in Wisconsin, and that we could seek sponsorship as well support from governmental and educational authorities for professional development.

Mike took a straw poll and found that there was some consensus that the round table (or a convention-style format) ought to continue to be in the fall rather than in the spring. There was concern expressed by several members about expanding to a two-day format due to many other teaching and non-teaching responsibilities. Several members did support the idea of an expanded one-day format that would allow for learning and professional development of coaches.

Some support emerged for an August date for professional development. Steve pointed out that we have only 25 member schools and that it might be very hard to get a significant number of them together in August. Mike mentioned that only about a third of WFCA members attend their expanded meeting in the spring.

Discussion continued on the question of whether and to what extent the WDCA meeting should be coordinated with the WFCA meeting. Linda Burgen suggested that WDCA meet on Sunday after the Saturday WFCA meeting, and there was some support for this.

A motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The motion was **approved by voice vote**, and the meeting ended at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary