

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 7, 2013

Rufus King High School, Milwaukee

Schools represented: Madison Memorial, West Bend, Muskego, Waukesha South, Nicolet, Janesville Parker, Ronald Reagan, Rufus King, Brown Deer, Brookfield Academy, Appleton East, Sheboygan North, Sheboygan South, Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee Hamilton, Brookfield East, Middleton, Bradley Tech, Homestead

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by President John Knetzger.

President

The workshop is slated for September 21 to coincide with the Sheboygan South meet. Dave Henning indicated it would be a one-day tournament. John explained that there would be stop-action debate at the workshop for purposes of instruction.

John explained that coaches will soon be receiving ballots to indicate their preferences for next year's topic.

President-Elect

Information about the spring meeting will be distributed later.

Past President

Mike Traas explained the forms for Coach of the Year and Hall of Fame awards (due January 6) and scholarships (due December 15). He told us he would be using the past three Coach of the Year winners as his scholarship selection committee. Coaches who have a student in the competition for scholarships would recuse themselves on that rating. Mike offered copies of the forms to any who wanted them.

Secretary

Brian Devine moved approval of the spring minutes, and this was seconded and **approved by voice vote.**

The calendar has taken shape. The MDL for December 14 will be held at North Division High School. Dave will also have a meet that weekend in Sheboygan. Tournament hosts responded to a number of inquiries as to what would be offered at their meets.

Treasurer

Steve Sexton reported that we made about \$1,500 last year. Lauren Oswald indicated she was donating the time and effort she put into the web site design and implementation, so we have made money.

Steve explained that one expenditure would be the purchase of ballots for policy and public forum. He said that ballots were available today for those tournament hosts needing them.

There is one outstanding debt from the state tournament, and that coach says he will pay. Several schools have already paid their dues for this year. Steve made membership forms available and explained that they are also available on the web site.

TPP

Nick Bubb drew our attention to the schedule of tournaments and gave hosts an additional opportunity to clarify their offerings and answer questions. In response to a question about accessing information about meets, Stephanie King mentioned that by clicking on a tournament on the WDCA web site, one can go to the Tabroom information for that meet, provided it has been set up by the particular host. Nick recommended always double-checking the actual invitation, as it may reflect updates and changes to what is being offered.

Nick reminded us of the action at the spring meeting that resulted in the addition of an NSS division at the state tournament. He indicated that this has raised a new possible problem for scheduling at state. He recommends giving NSS and N4 three random rounds before power-pairing begins in round 4. Mike moved the adoption of this change, and the motion was seconded. Nick explained that this would allow better management of the novice division. In response to a question from Brian, Nick explained that this would require the changing of one sentence in the standing rules. There being no objection, **the motion was passed.**

Nick brought up the issue of whether the rules for determining when elimination rounds begin (octofinals or quarterfinals) should be the same in NSS as in VSS (winning records advancing). Steve Sexton asked why the novice division would be treated any differently from the varsity. Mike responded that there are usually more novice teams than varsity, so that varsity would be done before novice. This could move the final novice round to a very late hour. John pointed out that novice rounds usually do not take as long as varsity rounds. Steve Goetsch moved to have all winning record novice teams break to elimination rounds, and the motion was seconded. Mike mentioned that this would mean holding novice judges longer than we have in the past. The question was called, and the call was approved, so we moved to the vote on the motion. **The motion passed on a vote of 10-3-4.**

Nick then raised the question of what to do if either the N4 or NSS division were too small to function, although he does not anticipate this happening. Under current rules, the matter would be decided by the Executive Board. A special policy for this exists for V4, but Nick feels it is not advisable to have a special policy like this for novice, when it is not even likely to be a problem, given that the Executive Board could handle an unexpected contingency.

The state tournament will be at UW-Whitewater again this year, with registration through Joy of Tournaments. Nick reminded tournament hosts of the winning record recording tool, and that this must be updated within a week after the meet is held. Shawn Matson pointed out that coaches need to report changes in registration (substituting one student for another) so the correct winning records get recorded.

New Coaches

Lauren introduced several new coaches and potential coaches.

Novice Committee

Dan Hansen was not able to be with us. John explained that the novice files are posted on the Google group and that he can send copies to coaches in other formats as needed.

Mike moved to accept the novice limits and packet. The motion was seconded. John clarified the rules for the novice limits. He mentioned that the counterplan (which will be permitted after November 1) will be available soon. The motion was **approved by voice vote**.

Old Business

John reviewed his proposed new PF ballot, featuring individual speaker points and a clear layout. Shawn moved to accept the ballot, and it was seconded. Steve Sexton expressed the view that we should not print new ballots until we needed to because of the expense, since we have an abundance of the old ballots. Nick expressed the view that he would like to have these available for power-pairing purposes at the state tournament. Stephanie asked if we could go ahead and buy the new ballots in bulk and only replace the old ones (other than at state) when needed. The motion was **approved by voice vote**.

New Business

John thanked Tim Scheffler for reformatting the standing rules to resemble statutory numbering style, rather than the old outline style. This will make it easier to make modifications. Tim explained that this required some rearranging and renumbering, but that no content was changed.

John encouraged coaches to join the WDCA facebook site.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary