

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

April 23, 2016

Golda Meir Upper Campus Library

Voting Schools represented: West Bend, Sheboygan South, Waukesha South, Golda Meir, Bradley Tech, Marquette, Brookfield East, Sheboygan North, Janesville Parker, North Division, Mukwonago, Middleton, Madison East, Madison Memorial, Rufus King, Milwaukee Vincent, High School of the Arts, Milwaukee Hamilton, Madison West, Homestead

The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Miloran Robinson at 9:24 a.m.

President

Miloran read a letter of resignation from President Shawn Matson and assumed the office of President as per the constitutional bylaws.

Secretary

Brian Devine indicated that he sent an email to the coaches' list with the fall meeting minutes attached. Coaches responded that they had not received the email. Nick Bubb pointed out that they had also been posted to the web site. Brian suggested a postponement of the approval vote until coaches had a chance to review the minutes.

The proposed calendar for 2016-17 meets was presented:

September 10—Fall meeting
September 17—Lakeland University
September 24—Rufus King
September 30/October 1—Waukesha South
October 8—Mukwonago
October 15—Brookfield East
October 22—Golda Meir
October 29—La Crosse/Appleton West?/North Division
November 5—West Bend
November 11/12—Badgerland
November 19—No Frills
December 2/3—Appleton East
December 10—Sheboygan North
December 17—Sheboygan South
January 7—NSDA qualifiers*
January 14—CFL qualifiers*
January 21/22—Wisconsin State Debate Tournament

Past President

Stephanie King announced that Joe Klopotek of SPASH is being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

President Elect

Miloran reported that she has been carrying out many of the duties of the President during the past year.

Treasurer

Nick shared a printed report. The state tournament made a profit. He pointed out that eliminating four-person saved money. Steve Sexton raised a question regarding the way the report showed two different amounts for lunch costs. There was discussion about lunches having been provided for tab staff, late extra orders, larger portions being taken by some from the buffet, etc that could account for the difference.

Nick discussed the higher costs of meetings in the last year, because of the spring and fall meetings in 2015 being held outside the Milwaukee area.

He presented a proposed budget. There were no additional questions.

Tournament Practices and Procedures

Tim Scheffler reported that a number of fines had been earned by schools, but one school in particular—Whitefish Bay—had earned a large fine because they were missing an entire judge. Tim mentioned that the fines were figured using MPS judge rates. He pointed out that several coaches allowed their judges to leave before they should have, making it difficult to fill final rounds in all divisions. He fielded questions about how missing judges typically affect the tournament, especially as it regards preferencing.

In response to a question from Ernest Chomecki, Tim responded that there were no disqualifications at the state tournament.

New Coaches

Steve Goetsch reported that a potential coach in Door County had contacted to him. Appleton West, Appleton North, Neenah, and SPASH have been rumored to need new coaches. Steve said he is also looking for an assistant coach at Waukesha South. Matt Cekanor added that Marquette needs a new head coach.

Novice Packet

Nick reviewed the Georgia packet and how it is used in several states. He explained that if we wanted to contribute to that effort, we could then benefit from the high-quality packet put out from Georgia.

Ernest raised the option of doing away with the novice packet entirely, as we did use one in the past, pointing out that most of us learned to debate without such a thing. Miranda Ehrlich responded that while open evidence is theoretically a good resource, it is helpful to provide guidance to novices. She indicated that she has offered to assemble a novice packet. Stephanie explained that the current practice is to provide plan texts and overviews as a resource, and that we are not requiring that novices only use one specific set of evidence.

Dave Henning spoke in favor of the Georgia packet because it provides such an excellent introduction to how to prepare good evidence. Matt spoke in support of a packet, but with the freedom to use other evidence so that novices learn how to research. Wendy Larson pointed out that as a coach who did not herself participate in debate, the packet is a valuable resource.

In response to a question from Miloran, Nick explained that the advantage to supporting the Georgia effort is that we will get the packet right away and that we ought to defray some of the costs that Georgia incurs by doing this work.

Discussion then ensued about the history of the novice packet for the benefit of those who were not familiar with this history.

Anton Shircel asked how using the Georgia packet would affect the selection of novice topic areas. Stephanie and Nick discussed how the novice topic selection process could be integrated with the supported development of the Georgia packet. They pointed out that Georgia offered two aff plans last year and that they were quite similar to each other.

Dave suggested trying this for a year and then deciding whether to continue in the future. Stephanie pointed out that the NDCA is also assembling a novice packet this year as well. Nick suggested that we give direction to the Novice Packet Chair and the Executive Board and then allow them to act this summer, depending on what we find out about what Georgia offers in their packet. Stephanie pointed out that she would like to have an indication of the topic areas by the end of July since she (and possibly other coaches) begins working with her students in August.

Ernest suggested that we consider moving the fall meeting to August. Considerable discussion took place over the reasons why the fall meeting has always been in September. This included everyone being in their schools by then, more of the vacancies filled, and knowing whether programs would even run.

Stephanie recommended that there be a special meeting for policy coaches the second week of August to decide on novice topics/packet. Powell agreed and stressed the value of having novice packets by August 15 to enable more schools to prepare for the upcoming season.

Nick moved:

- The Novice Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee at the Summer Executive Committee regarding the direction of the Novice Packet. (To use the Georgia Packet entirely, to use a part of the Georgia, or to use the novice limited plan texts).
- If a packet is produced, that packet will be available by August 1.
- If a packet is produced and available by August 1, that there is a coaches meeting for policy debate coaches to discuss the packet by August 15.

The motion was seconded and then **passed by voice vote**.

Judging Standards and Ethics

Miloran read a letter of resignation from Chair Emily Summers.

Miloran explained that there were some complaints about judge conduct that were not able to be resolved, both at individual meets and at the state tournament. Stephanie spoke to a case of alleged judge intervention involving her novices at state.

Miloran announced the appointment of Mike Traas of Appleton East as the new Judging Standards and Ethics Chair.

Miloran announced a 10-minute break.

Old Business

It was moved and seconded to approve the fall meeting minutes, and this **passed by voice vote**.

New Business

Since Shawn is unable to be Past President, the Executive Board has appointed Nick Bubb to be Past President, and the membership was asked to confirm this.

Steve Sexton raised a concern that as Nick is not a coach or an assistant coach, he is not constitutionally eligible to serve. Miloran pointed out she is not an official assistant coach yet serves as President. Considerable debate took place regarding who is and who is not an assistant coach in the eyes of the organization. Brian suggested that coaches be required to list any assistant coaches on their registration form. Annie Robinson pointed out that so long as the administrators of the school would recognize the person as coming into the school to work with students, they should be seen as an assistant coach.

Doris moved to confirm Nick as Past President, and the motion was seconded. The motion then **passed by voice vote**.

Steve moved to amend the constitutional bylaws Article III Section VII to read:

Any coach or assistant coach, **as indicated on the membership registration form**, whose school holds a voting membership shall be eligible to hold an elected position.

The motion was seconded and then **passed by voice vote** and will need to be voted on again at the fall meeting.

We proceeded with the election of a Treasurer. The candidates were Zack Vrana and Tim Scheffler. Each candidate was invited to speak. Members were allowed to ask the candidates questions, and the candidates responded. The vote was taken by secret ballot, and **Tim Scheffler was elected Treasurer**.

We proceeded with the election of a President Elect. Miloran nominated Matt Cekanor, and he accepted. Ernest nominated David Umstot, but he declined. Steve Goetsch moved to elect Matt by acclamation, and the motion was seconded. The motion **passed by a voice vote**.

The following appointments were made for committee chairs:

Novice Packet- Miranda Ehrlich
Judging Standards and Ethics Committee- Michael Traas
TPP- John Knetzger
Historical Committee- Doris Sexton
Media Communications/Website- David Umstot

Ernest suggested a concerted effort to get programs started. Stephanie suggested that Ernest join the New Coaches Committee, and Steve Goetsch said he would be welcome. Doris suggested that the Media Communications committee work with this effort to communicate with school districts about getting debate started. Nick pointed out that the New Coaches Committee constitutional duties would cover this. Ernest and Steve Sexton both spoke to the advantage of sending someone to the school boards' convention and possibly presenting there.

Steve Goetsch floated the idea of hosts offering novice PF divisions, given the growing field of this division. Doris responded that she agrees that it is a good idea to offer this at individual meets, but not at the state tournament. Tim spoke from his perspective in running the state tournament that Doris's response represents the best approach. Dave suggested a novice break-out final round at state.

Ernest suggested that we not allow schools with outstanding fines to participate at state. Tim responded that in the case of the missing judge, he would agree that the matter should be pursued, but that in the other cases it might be better to get things better organized and stated for next year so we can then be stricter about enforcing it. Stephanie argued that it would not be fair to pursue the one school but not others. Zack expressed doubt, based on his experiences, that we would succeed in getting money from Whitefish Bay. There was considerable discussion about this.

Stephanie moved to try to collect fines that were incurred, and the motion was seconded. The motion **passed by voice vote**.

Stephanie then proposed that we change the standing rules 430.10 to award three scholarships rather than two, and the motion was seconded. Ernest asked whether we will continue to have enough money to fund this, and Nick indicated we likely would have money available for this for the foreseeable future. Zack questioned whether there is sufficient interest in scholarships to justify spending our money on another scholarship rather than spending related to debate programming.

Ernest moved the previous question, and the motion was seconded, and it **passed by voice vote**. The main motion then **passed by voice vote**.

Steve Sexton moved to recommend that the WSDT be held in West Bend on January 21 and 22, 2017, and the motion was seconded. The motion **passed by voice vote** and supports the decision of the Executive Committee to choose West Bend.

Nick asked for historical information to be loaded to the web site. He also pointed out that last year we spent money to send Stephanie to the national topic selection meeting. WHSFA has generally supported letting us send someone. Nick has budgeted \$500 for this year, and Stephanie will pay the rest of the cost herself. Doris asked why Stephanie has to pay for part of it, and Nick explained the history of this arrangement, based on WHSFA not paying anything. There was considerable discussion about this. Doris moved to cover Stephanie's entire cost for the meeting, and the motion was seconded. The motion **passed by voice vote**.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine
WDCA Secretary

