Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

**Minutes**

September 7, 2019

Fort Atkinson High School

**Voting schools represented:** Middleton, La Crosse Central, Middleton, Fort Atkinson, West Bend, Rufus King, Janesville Parker, Madison Memorial, Golda Meir (John Tao—proxy),Madison East, Homestead, Brookfield East, Sheboygan North, Madison West , Brookfield Central, Reagan, Marquette, Appleton East, Waukesha South

The meeting was called to order by President Ben Hamburger at 9:05 a.m.

**President**

Ben H. set a deadline for scholarship applications of December 15, Coach of the Year January 1, Hall of Fame March 1. These will be online, and there will be reminders.

Ben H. announced that Kedrick Stumbris had resigned as coach at Appleton East. He is therefore no longer eligible to hold the position of Past President. An election for that office will be held later in this meeting if the proposed constitutional change to eliminate that position does not pass.

Ben H. then introduced John Tao to discuss the findings of his investigation into financial irregularities of the organization. He distributed some copies of a summary of his report.

He then walked us through the report and explained his findings as well as his recommendations to the WDCA on changes to reduce the risk of any future problems of this sort.

Ben H. assured the membership that determining what changes to propose implementing would be a priority of the Executive Committee in the days ahead. He also explained that the Executive Committee has engaged the law firm Davis and Kuelthau on a pro bono basis to explore options for attempting to recoup the lost money from former Treasurer Miloran Robinson.

Todd Le expressed the view that legal action should be strongly considered based on the damage that has been done. Ben H. responded that the Executive Committee had discussed this and felt that trying to recoup the money should be the first priority, but that legal action is also a possibility if it is determined to be necessary. Ben Sauer pointed out that the legal action that would be required would likely result in a lot of difficulty getting the money recouped in any sort of short-term scenario.

Dan Hansen reminded the membership of the generosity of the MDL in loaning money to the WDCA, in particular so that scholarships could be distributed. Ben H. explained that a plan for repaying this loan would be drafted soon.

Annabelle Arney offered to try to coordinate some type of online fundraising for the organization. Ben S. offered to let it go through the MDL to take advantage of their non-profit status and its tax-deductibility advantage. Ben H. pointed out that we will have a sufficient cash flow to cover expenses, particularly if we increase the fees for the WSDT.

**Secretary**

Brian Devine announced that the spring minutes had been posted to the web site and moved their approval. The motion was seconded and was then **approved by voice vote.**

Brian then presented the calendar and asked for any changes or questions.

The North Division meet on September 21 is cancelled.

NSDA Qualifier and Last Ditch on January 4 are both at West Bend.

Milwaukee CFL qualifier is at Fort Atkinson.

WSDT is at West Bend.

**Treasurer**

Dan hopes we will be able to have the MDL repaid within two years.

Dan reported that the WDCA had been administratively dissolved by the state but that we have been reinstated as of yesterday.

He also told us that he had been in discussion with BMO Harris Bank about getting a non-profit business account opened with them. What is still needed is a copy of our Articles of Incorporation. He has ordered this from the Department of Financial Institutions and should be able to open a fee-free account within a month.

Dan reported that Stephanie King was able to get some undeposited checks from Miloran, so we will have some money to put into the new account.

Dan will be taking steps to make sure we can get 501c(3) status to gain the tax exempt advantage.

**TTP**

John Knetzger advised us that entry fees for WSDT would likely be rising by $10 this year. We might also scale back a bit on the expense on trophies, without sacrificing some high quality.

He told us that we will probably have to move deadlines up to get dues in. He reminded hosts to get their results submitted in a timely manner, and he reminded coaches of other ways in which TPP can be helpful to them.

**Novice Packet/New Coaches**

Dan reported that the core files are all posted, and that the counterplan and kritik will be posted within a month. Dan thanked Ben H., Andi Peterson, Becky Hansen, and any others who helped Todd and himself write the files. Becky mentioned that a rules primer would be made available once the standing rule votes were taken later today.

Stephanie welcomed the new coaches. Also, she said that Ken Dunbeck is starting a program at Cudahy.

**Media/Communications**

David Umstot encouraged people to contact him if they are not on the email list.

**Judging Standards and Ethics**

Stephanie reported that Adam Jacobi had circulated a ballot for the first round of choosing the national policy topic, and she encouraged everyone to vote.

She gave us an update on the judge training and testing materials and also reminded us of the need for judges for the WSDT to post a paradigm.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Inclusion**

Brittany Newman reported that the committee met over the summer to set goals. A recommendation will be to provide a safe space at future WSDTs along with a list of adults that student can talk to if they are having some type of problem. Judges will be able to indicate on a form if they would be able to be listed. It will also be recommended that a gender-neutral bathroom will be made known in the invitation for the WSDT.

She also recommended a rule that recording could not take place unless all parties were aware of it.

The committee would like to have a list of rules regarding conduct that was not allowed. She encouraged coaches to contact the committee with any input they would like to offer.

Becky shared her presentation on Equity in the Debate Space with the membership. A number of questions and comments were addressed.

**Old Business**

Dan is serving as Treasurer on an interim basis. An election is needed to complete the term. Ben S. nominated Dan, and the motion was seconded. Dan accepted the nomination. **Dan Hansen was elected by voice vote.**

Stephanie moved the adoption of the constitutional bylaws changes proposed at the spring meeting, and the motion was seconded.

In response to a question from Brittany, Stephanie indicated that she withdrew her proposed change to the sexual harassment language in order to await the ad hoc committee’s eventual findings.

Stephanie then walked us through some of the other changes and made sure we understood the reasons for them.

Ben S. moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called.** **The constitutional changes were adopted by voice vote.**

**New Business**

John K. moved a change to 240.20.5 regarding sharing texts, and the motion was seconded. Ben S. spoke in opposition in that it should be a theoretical argument in-round rather than a rule. John K. moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The motion failed 4-10-3.**

Tim moved consideration to add the following as 220.10(2):

At the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament, judges in all divisions must disclose their decision before exiting the room to the competitors. Judges should complete their ballot before disclosing. When disclosing, judges must indicate the side and entry code of the winning team. If there is a mistake or possibility of mistake, the judge should notify the tabroom immediately. Judges do not have to defend their decision or provide an oral critique but may do so at their own discretion. If a judge does not disclose the school who hired the judge will be immediately assessed a $15 fine.

and the motion was seconded. He spoke to issues that came up in at least two rounds of PF at WSDT and how having this rule would have prevented it. Several questions were answered clarifying current practice. Ben S. moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved to add two paragraphs to 200.50:

1. All debate divisions will use the current speech time limits and speech order of the National Speech and Debate Association.

(3) Preparation time in Policy Debate shall be 8 minutes. Preparation time in Public Forum and Lincoln Douglass shall follow the NSDA established times.

and the motion was seconded. Discussion focused on current changes in times and how coaches might handle it at their invitational meets. Ben S. move to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved to eliminate a parenthetical phrase from change to 330.40.C:

1. In a manner and by a deadline prescribed by the WSDT Tournament Director, judges in preferenced divisions ~~(LD, Novice Policy, and Varsity Policy)~~ must submit a paradigm for the division in which they will be judging. Failure to submit a paradigm by the deadline may result in the hiring school’s inability to preference judges in that division, at the discretion of the WSDT Tournament Director. The WSDT Tournament Director may require a judge/coach to edit a paradigm which does not meet the definition in (B) above.

and the motion was seconded. Stephanie explained that this is a streamlining move. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved to change to 330.30B.i to read:

In Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Novice Policy and Varsity Policy, judge preferences should be entered and verified for all teams utilizing ordinal ranks with the weighting recommended by the tabulation software. First Year out judges shall be appropriately labeled by the hiring school in its registration.

and the motion was seconded. John K. explained what the change would do, including the need for paradigms for PF. Ben S. moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved a change to 240.20.3 regarding wireless communication, and the motion was seconded. Stephanie explained what the change would do, and she replied to concerns that Ben S. raised about what effect this would have. Annabelle moved to table, and the motion was seconded. **The motion to table passed 7-4-5.**

John K. moved to change 200.10(1)A to read:

The tentative schedule will be set at the WSDT. To host a tournament, a school must have attended three sanctioned WDCA tournaments in the immediately preceding year. A school may keep their “traditional” weekend if the school’s Tournament Director completed the required steps outlined in 200.30. “Traditional” weekend is defined as a weekend in which tournament was hosted in the immediately preceding year. This does not refer to previous or past years.

and the motion was seconded. Stephanie explained the purpose of the change. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved to add 200.51(4):

Until a date determined by the Executive Committee, novice teams are limited to arguments found in the packet. Teams are permitted to use different evidence provided the evidence contains the same warrants as the original evidence.

and the motion was seconded. John explained that this clarifies the novice restrictions. There followed a discussion about the effect of having a novice packet and what effect these various rules have on how novices learn and how their rounds proceed. Todd moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The motion passed by voice vote.**

John K. moved to strike a phrase from 310.30(2):

If the WDCA annual membership dues are not paid prior to December 1~~, before the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament,~~ a fine equal to the amount of the annual dues will be assessed in addition to a school’s annual dues.

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

**New Business**

John K. moved to add sections to 330.30.D (previously mislabeled 330.30.F), so that it reads:

Individual trophies will be presented to all teams who participated in the elimination rounds. In addition, trophies will be presented to the top ten speakers.

i. Policy team tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: wins, total points, ranks, high-low points, high-low ranks, double high-low points, double high-low ranks, opposition wins, a random variable. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum team tie breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: wins, total points, high-low points, double high-low points, opposition wins, a random variable.

ii. Policy Debate speaker tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: Total points, Total ranks, high-low points, high-low ranks, Judge Variance, Double High/Low points, and double high-low ranks. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum speaker tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: high-low points, total points, double high-low points. If a tie still exists, duplicate awards will be given.

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

Stephanie introduced a constitutional change to be voted on in the spring regarding moving the responsibility for notifying the membership of meetings from the Secretary to the President.

We need to elect someone to the position of Judging Standards and Ethics chair. John K. nominated Stephanie, and the nomination was seconded. **Stephanie King was elected by voice vote.**

Becky moved to change the word “and” to “or” and also to add an additional sentence to 200.51(1) so that it reads:

Plan texts in the novice division are restricted to those in the official packet. Until a date determined by the Executive Committee, the counterplan and kritik may not be run. Negative teams may use only one counterplan ~~and~~ **or** kritik in a round, even when multiple counterplans or kritiks are contained in the novice packet. **Negative teams may not alter the text of the counterplan, the concept being kritiked, nor the alternative of the kritik.** The penalty for reading two counterplans or two kritiks in the same debate round is a loss per (2) below.

and the motion was seconded. Becky explained her rationale for introducing this. Discussion about the pros and cons of having these limits on novices then proceeded.

Ben S. moved to amend by removing the change from “and” to “or” from the motion. **The amendment passed by voice vote. The main motion then passed by voice vote.**

Becky moved a change to 330.10, to provide for novice divisions in PF and LD, and the motion was seconded. Tim Scheffler raised a concern that it could make the WSDT unworkable and that this was not really needed given how well first-year students have done in PF and LD. In response to a question from Justin Flynn, John K. indicated this change would cause a significant increase in the cost of trophies. There was a good deal of back and forth as to our goals and what this change would do to advance or fail to advance them. Ben S. moved to call the question, and the motion was seconded. **The question was called. The main motion failed on a voice vote.**

Ben H. announced that UW-Madison will not be able to host on September 21. Andrew Yep said that he will see if he can get his school available for that date, and he will let us know.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary