

TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 2017 – 10:00 AM

Northwest Guilford High School

Minutes¹

2016-17 COMMITTEE MEETING

In attendance:

Scott Bennett -- NW Guilford High

Chris Harrow – Ardrey Kell

Shannon Jarman – Cumberland International

Mary Morales – Charlotte Catholic

Jonathan Peele – Charlotte Latin

Ann Peterson (Alternate member) -- Pinecrest

Keith Pittman – Asheville

Jeff Welty – Durham Academy

Bob Wieckowski – Myers Park

Brigitte Cain -- Treasurer

- I. Call to order (10:12 AM)
- II. Treasurer's Report (Cain) - handouts presented. Discussion regarding tablecloths perhaps embroidered with logo. Also, committee should look into ordering a few signs with logo to place prominently at state tourney.
- III. Committee and Staff Reports (if applicable)
 - A. Strategic planning (Jarman) - none
 - B. Constitution (Harrow) - none
 - C. Merchandise (Morales/Bennett) - \$220 loss mainly because of late sales and white t-shirts not selling
 - D. NCASA liaison / Middle School liaison (Peele) - bidding open to host MS tournament. Regional tournaments are small (25 classrooms or so).
 - E. Webmaster (Walker) - KP passed along that new website is completed along with this coming season's schedule.
- IV. Final Committee Actions - Motion to approve \$800 plus expenses dating back to May 2016 to Mrs. Cain for treasurer services over two years (SB), 2nd (SJ), approved.
- V. Recognition of outgoing members (Bennett, Kingaby-Hyser, Walker)

¹ The minutes of the 2016-17 Committee Meeting were taken by Scott Bennett, Secretary for 2016-17. The minutes of the 2017-18 Committee Meeting were taken by Jeff Welty, Secretary for 2017-18.

VI. Adjourn - Motion to dissolve and adjourn (SJ), 2nd (JW), approved.

2017-18 COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the 2017-18 Transitional Year Committee

Chris Harrow – Ardrey Kell

Shannon Jarman – Cumberland International

Mary Morales – Charlotte Catholic

Jonathan Peele – Charlotte Latin

Ann Peterson (alternate member) -- Pinecrest

Keith Pittman – Asheville

Jeff Welty – Durham Academy

Bob Wieckowski – Myers Park

I. Call to order (by Keith Pittman, temporary Presiding Officer)

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.
- The committee members in attendance were:
 - Chris Harrow
 - Shannon Jarman
 - Mary Morales
 - Jonathan Peele
 - Keith Pittman
 - Jeff Welty
 - Bob Wieckowski
 - Ann Petersen, alternate
- Scott Bennett attended as a guest.

II. Officer Elections

- The following officers were elected:
 - Chair: Keith Pittman
 - Vice Chair: Shannon Jarman
 - Secretary: Jeff Welty
 - Historian: Jonathan Peele
 - Treasurer: Brigitte Cain has served as Treasurer for many years but needs to transition off due to increased work and personal commitments. No committee member expressed interest in taking on this role. Brigitte was elected as interim treasurer to allow people to identify possible candidates, including coaches, parents, or affordable professional bookkeepers.

III. 2017-18 TFL Calendar

- Keith stated that the calendar is now on the website, with tournaments hosted by TFL member schools marked with the TFL logo.

IV. Constitutional amendment transition

- Keith noted that the committee will be larger next year, so committee members should encourage others to be involved.
- Keith stated that the new constitution requires the committee to recommend policies and standards for consideration by other tournaments throughout the year. The committee needs to start working on that. Jonathan suggested that there may not be much to do beyond suggesting that tournaments operate under TFL tournament rules. Keith proposed that a committee consider this issue further. Chris and Shannon agreed lead this effort in their roles as co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee. Keith and Bob agreed to participate as well. The co-chairs will ask non-committee members to be involved and Keith will send out an email soliciting input.

V. Term limit issues (Constitution Article IV-B-2)

- Keith noted that if everyone who is elected next year is re-elected to a second term, term limits will force 100% turnover in 4 years. That could be challenging from a continuity standpoint. However, the group discussed that the scenario isn't likely to happen, and could be avoided by having a member or two resign early if necessary.

VI. Candidate votes per school (Constitution Article IV-E)

- Keith noted that there will be nine openings on the committee this year, so each school will have nine votes. That is a large number of votes. The group discussed that schools will need to consider their votes carefully.

VII. TFL Constitution Subcommittee—continue or dissolve?

- Keith asked whether there was a need to continue this committee given that the constitution was just amended. Chris opined no, because the TFL has made the changes that the committee hoped to make. He observed that we could revive the committee in the future if needed. A motion to dissolve the committee was made and approved.

VIII. TFL Website

a. Additions/changes improvements.

- Jonathan suggested that the webmaster share the login information with the Chair so that if the webmaster is too busy, someone else can update the site. The committee agreed by consensus.

b. Appointment of webmaster for 2017-18

- John Walker was unanimously elected in absentia to continue. Keith noted that he works for Wells Fargo and they won't allow him to accept a stipend for his work.

IX. East/West relations

- Shannon recounted that at the state tournament, a couple of West coaches expressed to her a feeling that East coaches don't like the West. She also observed that some East coaches fear that West judges aren't fair to East kids. In discussion, other members

suggested that the divide is much smaller than in the past. Conversation then turned to ways to bridge any remaining gap. Jonathan stated that one solution is for teams to attend tournaments in the other half of the state. A discussion about travel costs and start times ensued. Keith proposed that the TFL conduct judge training similar to what the Dogwood league does. Further discussion of this item was tabled until a later meeting.

X. Friday/Saturday vs. Saturday/Sunday state championship format

- Keith reported that he did not hear any complaints from attendees about the Saturday-Sunday format. However, he did hear from three coaches at smaller programs who didn't attend because they can't attend Sunday tournaments. Jonathan argued that Saturday-Sunday is a much better format because it allows 6 preliminary rounds and appropriate breaks. Chris stated that it is not possible to run the same number of rounds in a Friday-Saturday tournament. Mary reported that having the Mass available on Sunday morning was wonderful; that it was well attended; and that it addressed some concerns about the Saturday-Sunday format. Bob said that he was previously skeptical about Saturday-Sunday but found that it worked well. By consensus, the committee agreed to continue with the Saturday-Sunday format again.

XI. 2018 tournament date

- After much discussion of spring break dates for various schools and school systems, Chris moved that the tournament take place April 14-15, 2018. The committee unanimously agreed.
- Keith observed that the bid form needs to be changed.
 - The form says 65-70 rooms are needed, but we used about 140 rooms last year. Only large schools, or schools with adjoining or partner schools will be able to meet this. By consensus, we will list 120 rooms as the minimum.
 - It says the host must provide 10+ debate judges, 6+ of which can judge LD. By consensus, we will keep the requirement of 10+ debate judges, but eliminate the reference to LD judges.
 - Jonathan moved to award up to \$500 in free entries as an added incentive to the host school. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - The bid due date last year was 9/30. In prior years the due date was in December, but the committee agreed that selecting a site earlier in the year is better because it enables coaches to plan for travel costs if necessary. Because 9/30/17 is a Saturday, we will use 10/2 this year. We will allow scanned or emailed submissions.
 - Keith indicated that he hopes to send the form out in approximately 2 weeks.

XII. TFL Dues

a. 2017-2018 dues and deadline

- Dues are currently \$50 with a \$25 late payment penalty. Chris moved to keep them the same, and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Eligibility to compete deadline

c. Eligibility to vote deadline

- Keith addressed these two items together. Some schools wait and pay their dues at the tournament. This creates problems because coaches may be nominated to serve on the committee before it is clear whether they are going to pay dues. Shannon moved that all dues must be paid by 2/28/18. After that, a \$25 late fee will apply and the coach cannot vote for, or be a candidate for, the committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

d. Option to pay in advance at state tournament

- By consensus, the committee agreed that schools should have an option to include next year's membership dues in their tournament registration checks.

XIII. State Tournament Protest Policy (Jarman)

- Shannon noted that we had nine protests this year, most of which involved questions about transitions in interp pieces. She would like protests to be more educational rather than simply a means to seek disqualification of students who may be unfamiliar with the rules and/or who may be in violation unintentionally. A spirited discussion followed but the committee did not take a specific action at this time.

XIV. TFL Tournament debriefing (with old committee)

- This was initially tabled by the Chair, but sufficient debriefing took place in the course of discussing other items to view this item as completed.

XV. State tournament fees

- Entry fees are \$25 per student entering an event (so PF and duo teams are \$50 each). By consensus, the committee agreed to keep fees the same.

XVI. State tournament events

- The group noted that the only event we have that is not an NSDA/NCFL main event is impromptu. By consensus, the committee agreed to keep the same lineup of events.

XVII. Judge assignments at state tournament

- Keith stated that a couple of coaches asked for judges to be assigned by a neutral tournament manager rather than by coaches who have students in the rounds in question. Chris noted that neutral assignment was used this year. The computer and the tournament manager assigned judges in almost every case. Tab staff occasionally worked to balance panels -- for example, in a round between students from different parts of the state, to avoid having all the judges be from one half of the state. Tab staff did not do so in rounds in which they had students competing. By consensus, we will add language to the manual providing that no coach shall be involved in the assignment of judges in elimination rounds in which their students are competing.
- The committee then discussed whether the tab room should be open or closed. After a wide-ranging discussion, Shannon moved that we modify the tournament manual to

state that (1) the tab room is open but (2) the Chair, the Vice Chair, and the tournament manager have the right and the obligation to exclude anyone whose presence impedes the functioning of the tab room. The motion carried unanimously.

XVIII. State tournament staffing

- By consensus, the committee agreed to continue hiring a neutral tournament manager. The identity of that person and the compensation were tabled for a future meeting. In the past we have paid a \$500 stipend.

XIX. State Tournament Registration and Tabulation Software

- Chris moved that we continue to use Speechwire. There was some discussion of how competing platforms have improved over time, but the motion carried unanimously.

XX. Judge commitment—hosts and competing teams

- Regarding the judging obligation of host schools, see item XI, above.
- Regarding the judging obligation of competing teams:
 - Re debate, the existing quota is 1:3. Chris moved to make it 1:2. We were short on judges at the tournament this year. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Re Congress, the existing quota is 1:10. Chris moved to make it 1:6. We had trouble in this pool too. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Re speech, the committee left the existing quota undisturbed.
 - After some discussion, Chris moved to allow first-year-out students to judge, on the condition that they will be “free strikes.” The motion passed unanimously.
- Regard the use of “celebrity judges,” by consensus the committee agreed to continue to use a celebrity panel for the final round of public forum debate. Jeff agreed to take the lead on assembling the panel. The committee agreed to consider expanding this practice to additional events, depending on where the tournament is located.

XXI. Trophies

- By consensus, Jeff will continue to procure these.
- In the future, we will omit the year on semifinalist medals so that extra medals may be re-used.

XXII. Obtaining Extemp/Impromptu/Radio questions

- This item was tabled for a later meeting.

XXIII. Virginia Sutherland Circle of Honor

- No nominations were made.

XXIV. Other business

- None was identified.

XXV. Set next meeting time/date

- Keith will send out a Doodle pool. The next meeting will be in late August/early September. The committee determined that it does not need a summer meeting this year.

XXVI. Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.