

TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, October 22, 2017 — 8:00 P.M.

Online via GoToMeeting

Minutes

In attendance:

Keith Pittman (Chair) — Asheville
Shannon Jarman (Vice Chair) — Cumberland International
Jeff Welty (Secretary) — Durham Academy
John Walker (Webmaster) — Albertus Magnus Academy
Bob Wieckowski — Myers Park
Chris Harrow — Ardrey Kell
Mary Morales — Charlotte Catholic
Jonathan Peele — Charlotte Latin
Ann Petersen (Alternate) — Pinecrest
Brigitte Cain (non-member, former Treasurer) — Unaffiliated

I. **Call to order.** Keith called the meeting to order at 8:20. A quorum was present.

II. **Approval of Minutes.** Shannon moved that the draft minutes of the August meeting be approved, Bob seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.

III. **Treasurer's Report.** Brigitte gave the report for Treasurer Evelyn Stackley of Cumberland Polytechnic, who was absent. The balance at the end of the 2016-17 year was \$9,052.93. Brigitte has purchased the tablecloths for \$49.98. She is still working on finding someone to embroider them. Evelyn also has \$300 in dues checks that have been received for this year; she will deposit them this week. Dues are slowly coming in. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

IV. **Committee and Staff Reports** (if applicable)

a. **Strategic Planning** (Jarman/Harrow). No formal report. The plan is to wait for the new committee to be elected before undertaking strategic planning.

b. **Merchandise** (Morales). Mary inquired whether we want to do t-shirts again this year. We took a loss last year and Shannon noted that t-shirts also lost money in the past. Bob noted that the likely financial return may not be worth the expense. Ann stated that the non-white t-shirts did sell, even without a dedicated place to sell the shirts, which Pinecrest would support if awarded the tournament. Jeff stated that even if merchandise may not make money, it may build the brand of the TFL and provide a souvenir for kids. Mary noted that not having the year on merchandise would allow re-use. Keith suggested tabling this discussion until a host has been selected, and the group agreed. There was some additional discussion of whether Crown Trophy might be able to supply t-shirts. Jeff agreed to ask them. Others may also ask other vendors. Various people noted that the stickers were popular and not expensive so we should probably do those.

c. **NCASA Liaison** (Peele). Nothing new.

d. **Webmaster** (Walker). John noted that Jeff now has access to the website but still needs to receive additional information about how to add and update files. John will put the approved August minutes on the website tomorrow. Keith asked whether we want to renew Go To Meeting, which cost \$468 last year. The group agreed that it saves time and travel and is worth continuing. Jonathan moved to renew, Shannon seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **2018 tournament bid.** Pinecrest submitted the only bid. Ann stated that the auditorium has been rented out for the weekend of the tournament, but a gym could be used for awards and/or the final round of PF, or perhaps the community college auditorium if the tournament is held there. There was some discussion of how many judges Ann could supply — she has reached out to some community organizations who hopefully can help. Her first choice is to run the whole tournament at the community college if that space is still available. Ann expects that it would be free or nearly so if available. If not the tournament would need to be split between some combination of the college, Pinecrest HS, and a local middle school, with some sort of bus or shuttle bus between them. Jonathan moved to award the tournament to Pinecrest, Mary seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Ann will get back to us on or before November 2 with a specific plan for facilities and we can make an announcement to the entire state and post these minutes at that time.

VI. State Tournament staffing – Tournament Manager. Ben from Speechwire may be available. It cost about \$400 to have him come previously. The committee agreed that Keith should invite him. However, Bob noted that even if he comes, he is more of a software guru than a tournament manager. There was broad support for having a neutral manager, and the group agreed to ask Bill and Holly again — they worked hard and although there were some issues, a year of working together should help. The group agreed to offer them \$350 each, plus hotel, no mileage, up from \$250 each plus hotel. (Ann can try to get a hotel to provide complimentary rooms for the tournament managers.) A motion confirming the above was made and unanimously accepted.

VII. Policy/manual changes? No one requested any changes; next meeting would be the last time to propose changes in order to vet them properly before the tournament.

VIII. State Tournament protest policy (Jarman) (Tabled from May and August). Shannon has thoughts about this but would like time to write them up, so this was tabled again until the next meeting.

IX. Celebrity panel of judges for final rounds (Tabled from August, pending host selection). There will be one for PF, which Jeff and Ann will work together to convene. The discussion focused on whether to expand to other events. Jeff noted that it could work for OO and extemp, but that someone would need to champion that and agree to assemble the panel(s). After some discussion the group decided not to expand at this time because of (1) the amount of labor involved and (2) a sense that “lay” judges may value form over substance more than experienced judges would do. The possibility of mixed panels with one or two celebrities was briefly mentioned as a possibility for the future.

X. Obtaining Extemp/Impromptu/Radio questions (Tabled from August). Beth Kingaby did these last year. Chris knows some extemp coaches in NY and MN who might be willing to do provide extemp questions, perhaps even for free. They could submit them to the tournament manager. The group agreed that Chris should ask. Keith will ask Bill and Holly whether they have a source for impromptu topics.

XI. NSDA District tournament dates (for information only). Carolina West will be on the third weekend in March. Tarheel East will be as previously announced.

XII. Virginia Sutherland Circle of Honor. No nominations were presented.

XIII. Other business. Evelyn can now write the check for the appreciation gift for Brigitte that we authorized at the first meeting of the year. Keith reiterated how grateful we all are for Brigitte’s service.

XIII. Set next meeting time/date. Keith will send out a Doodle poll for an early December meeting that may include the tournament manager. That allows us time before the invitation goes out in late January.

XV. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.