

TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 11, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Online via GoToMeeting

Minutes

In attendance:

Keith Pittman (Chair) — Asheville
Jeff Welty (Secretary) — Durham Academy
Bob Wieckowski — Myers Park
Chris Harrow — Ardrey Kell
Mary Morales — Charlotte Catholic
Jonathan Peele — Charlotte Latin
Ann Petersen (Alternate) — Pinecrest
Evelyn Stackley (non-member Treasurer) — Cumberland Polytechnic

I. **Call to order.** Keith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and declared a quorum.

II. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded and unanimously passed. In the course of the discussion, Evelyn asked about the amount of compensation we agreed to pay to Brigitte. Keith reviewed previous minutes and determined that the amount was \$800 plus expenses (meaning her mileage for travel to the state tournament, if any). That figure represented compensation for multiple years.

III. **Treasurer's Report.** Evelyn left her materials at school. She will send an updated account balance to Keith tomorrow, with a list of paid and unpaid schools. However, she thinks that only 10-12 schools have paid. [Evelyn emailed the next day: the current bank balance is \$9,899.05, and 17 schools have paid.] Keith will send a reminder to the membership because schools that don't pay in a timely fashion (meaning, according to minutes of the May meeting, by February 28, 2018) can't vote for the committee nor can their coaches be elected to serve on the committee. Ann moved to accept the report, Bob seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

IV. **Committee and Staff Reports**

a. **Merchandise** (Morales). There was general discussion about whether to try selling merchandise again. It is not a high priority but the group was generally in favor of it.

1. **Host logistics.** Ann stated that they can sell merchandise if the committee wishes to do so – she has two responsible parents that she can put in charge of it.

2. **Crown trophy? Other vendors?** Jeff reported that Crown trophy does t-shirts. They said they could do 200 black shirts, with one color on the front and one on the back, for \$9 each. Mary thinks that the vendor we used last year would be less expensive. People agreed that white t-shirts will not sell well, and that we should leave the year off the shirts so that they can be recycled the next year if not sold.

3. **Tax implications.** There was a protracted discussion about whether selling merchandise requires collecting sales tax (we thought it might but Jeff emailed an accountant friend who informed us that "if the sale happens just once a year, and if all items are delivered within 60 days of sale, then the sale is exempt from tax," so it appears that it does not), and about whether we should incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-

profit (probably not unless we want to solicit donations, which would then be tax deductible; being a 501(c)(3) entails reporting requirements and paperwork).

b. **NCASA Liaison** (Peele). Jonathan reported that NCASA has found a location for their state tournament.

c. **Webmaster** (Walker). Keith communicated with John, who was not present. John has nothing to report but is interested in suggestions for changes to the site. No suggestions arose.

V. **State tournament staffing – tournament manager.** Bill and Holly cannot serve as tournament managers this year because their school requires them to be present for an event the weekend of our tournament. Chris suggested contacting Joe Vaughan from NY, who has been working with the eastern part of NC in various capacities, or Lauren McCool from the NSDA office in Iowa, who is a long-ago Myers Park alum. Bob suggested Jay Rye from the NSDA.

The sense of the group was that Lauren was the first choice. Jonathan texted her to start a conversation. She may be available but prefers Tabroom to Speechwire. The group did not necessarily view that as a deal-breaker, in fact, it could allow us more easily to pilot e-ballots in debate, for which there was enthusiasm. Jonathan and Keith will follow up with a phone call. Chris moved that we offer Lauren (or whoever we choose if Lauren doesn't work out) \$350 plus expenses including airfare, rental car, and hotel (unless Ann is able to secure a complimentary room), there was a second and the motion passed unanimously. Ann moved that Keith and Jonathan decide between Speechwire and Tabroom in consultation with Lauren (or our second choice if Lauren doesn't work out), there was a second, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **State tournament logistics and planning.** Ann reiterated that Saturday would be at the community college (any needed overflow would be at a private school across the street from the community college), and Sunday would be at Pinecrest. The community college does not allow events on Sunday, and we will not need as many rooms on Sunday because the number of competitors will be smaller. She will have a doctor on site as well. She is working on hotels.

Keith noted that there was no formal, in person registration last year – should we continue that? We froze fees and registration as of Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., drops after that just incurred the registration fee and could be communicated by phone or by email. Judge drops after that were required to be replaced or else the school's judge bond was forfeited. The group was comfortable with continuing that system this year.

There was a discussion of hired judges. Ann stated that she could round some up if needed. Keith noted that teams are required to ask for consent to hire judges so we don't usually need to supply a large pool of judges for hire. Ann said she would not worry about it unless and until told to do so.

Ann is also working on Catholic Mass for Sunday morning.

We agreed not to attempt to set a firm schedule until we have hired a tournament manager.

Ann will look further into whether the committee needs to supply printers, computers, paper, and so forth.

VII. **Policy/manual changes.** Keith stated that he has a few minor changes to make based on decisions we have already made. He reminded us that we had agreed to have first year out judges be "free

strikes.” This led to some discussion about Tabroom’s ability to accommodate that – can it identify first year out judges? Can it allow them to be struck en masse? The experienced tabbers in the group thought so. Keith also reminded us that we will offer an option to pay next year’s dues at this year’s tournament. Jeff noted a minor correction to the manual’s reference to late night rounds and suggested that the manual include some reference to the possibility of unstrikeable special panels for final rounds. The committee also agreed to use the March PF topic to maximize participation.

VIII. **State Tournament protest policy (Jarman) (Tabled from May, August and October).** Shannon was absent so we tabled this again. By email, she stated that she has been working on this and has a proposal that she will circulate.

IX. **Obtaining Extemp/Impromptu questions (Tabled from October).** Ann suggested asking Bill and Holly. Chris texted Bill Thompson at NSU University School, he said that he was willing for a fee of \$25 per round, which would be \$225 for nine rounds of extemp plus \$225 for nine rounds impromptu. He then offered a small discount -- \$400 for nine rounds of both. Jonathan moved to hire Bill Thompson at that rate, there was a second, and the motion carried 4-0 with Mary, Bob, Jonathan, and Chris in favor, and Jeff not voting.

X. **Virginia Sutherland Circle of Honor.** No nominations were made.

XI. **Other business.** None was identified.

XII. **Set next meeting time/date.** We agreed to meet again in January, prior to Emory weekend. Keith will do a Doodle poll for dates.

XIII. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Birthday wishes were offered to Chris.