

TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 10:00 AM
Durham Academy

Present:

Keith Pittman -- Asheville -- Chair
Shannon Jarman -- Cumberland International -- Vice Chair
Jeff Welty -- Durham Academy -- Secretary
Jonathan Peele -- Charlotte Latin -- Historian
Evelyn Stackley -- Cumberland Polytechnic -- non-member Treasurer
Michelle Boswell -- Cumberland Polytechnic
Chris Harrow -- Ardrey Kell
Mary Morales -- Charlotte Catholic
Joshua Wade - Croatan
Deb Henderson -- Jack Britt -- 2018-19 alternate
Crawford Leavoy -- Durham Academy -- non-member guest

2017-18 COMMITTEE MEETING

I. Call to order. Keith called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

II. Approval of February minutes. A **motion** was made to approve the minutes of the February meeting with two minor corrections to the attendance list, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's report. Evelyn provided a detailed report of the state tournament finances. The option to prepay dues for the following year was well received and widely used. The TFL's current balance after the various deposits and expenditures associated with the state tournament is \$10,010.35. A **motion** was made to approve the report and it passed unanimously.

IV. Sam Ervin Free Speech Award. A **motion** was made to write the customary \$200 check to the Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity for the award. The motion passed unanimously. Jonathan will make sure that the check is delivered.

V. Final Committee Actions. None.

VI. Recognition of outgoing members. The committee expressed appreciation for Ann Peterson's service as an alternate last year.

VII. Adjourn. A **motion** to adjourn and dissolve the committee was made and it passed unanimously.

2018-19 COMMITTEE MEETING

I. Call to order. Keith called the meeting to order as a temporary presiding officer at 10:36 a.m.

II. Officer Elections.

Chair: Mary nominated Keith. A discussion ensued about whether Keith, and several other members, have exceeded the four-year term limit in the constitution. Several members recalled that the committee previously decided that because of last year's extensive revision of the constitution, all term limits would reset and this would be year one for all members. The committee voted unanimously for Keith to serve as chair.

Vice Chair: Jonathan nominated Shannon. The committee agreed unanimously.

Secretary: Chris nominated Jeff. The committee agreed unanimously.

Treasurer: Michelle nominated Evelyn. The committee agreed unanimously.

Historian: Michelle nominated Jonathan. The committee agreed unanimously.

III. 2018-19 TFL Calendar. The TFL website shows the tournaments that have been submitted so far. Pinecrest isn't listed but Ann is planning to have a tournament at some point. The unofficial sense of the group was that September 29 would be a good date and Ann reported by text message that would be the date. SandHoke is up in the air because of Marcia's departure. Chris **moved** that we should stop listing South Carolina and national tournaments on our calendar, as a way of promoting our state's tournaments and community and the motion passed.

IV. TFL Website.

a. Additions/changes improvements. Out of state tournaments should be removed, per above.

b. Appointment of webmaster for 2018-19. Chris nominated John Walker to continue in this role as John previously informed Keith that he would be willing to continue. The committee agreed unanimously.

V. TFL History. Keith noted that there are some gaps in our history spreadsheet. Keith, Shannon, Jonathan, and others volunteered to attempt to reconstruct some of the league's history.

VI. 2019 tournament date. The sense of the group was that this year's tournament, in mid-April, was too late. Neither district has set its district tournament date yet but Tarheel East is strongly considering March 23 weekend. Carolina West might then be March 16 weekend. Various considerations were voiced including spring breaks, proms, districts, and avoiding back-to-back tournaments. Michelle **moved** that the TFL tournament take place on April 6 weekend, and the motion passed unanimously. Jonathan suggested that in future years the district and Dogwood chairs be invited to this meeting for the purposes of calendar planning.

VII. 2019 tournament bid process. Keith asked the group for comments on the bid form.

- By consensus, the group agreed to remove the requirement that there be a copy machine adjacent to the tab room.
- By consensus, the group agreed to require school-wide wifi (currently, the form only requires wired or wireless internet access for the tab room).
- The group discussed increasing the number of judges that the host school supplies (currently 10, but in recent years we have needed and had 20+ from the host schools), and/or increasing the judge fee and using the judge fees to hire judges (or giving the judge fee to the host school to hire judges). Some voiced concern that an increase in the host school's obligation would reduce the already small number of schools willing to host the tournament, and no changes were made at this time.
- Keith will have the form out by July 1. The form will be due by approximately October 1.

VIII. TFL Dues

a. 2018-2019 dues and deadline. By consensus, dues will remain the same, \$50 with \$25 added for late payment. The deadline for timely payment will remain February 28.

b. Eligibility to compete deadline. To compete at the tournament, dues plus any late payment penalty must be paid by registration.

c. Eligibility to vote deadline. To vote in elections, dues must be paid by February 28.

IX. TFL Tournament debriefing

a. Protest concerns. Shannon recounted a protest about a student using an improper source in a piece. She talked to Lauren McCool, tournament manager, and they

determined that the source was not on the NSDA approved list. But someone connected to the student contacted an NSDA staff member who approved the source on the spot. Shannon stated that this was not fair, for a “connected” student or coach to be able to effect what amounts to a rule change in the middle of the tournament. She suggested that we freeze the approved list at the start of the tournament. Jonathan **moved** that we use the NCFL standards for web sources (basically, anything with a stable URL can be used), rather than the NSDA list-based system (only publications approved by the NSDA can be used; this is intended to avoid coaches writing pieces for their kids, but is very difficult to enforce as coaches may write under a pseudonym, etc.). This motion was **tabled** for further consideration.

b. Host concerns. Ann talked to Keith by phone. She was happy with the TFL but felt that Lauren was abrupt at times and not willing to listen to solutions to room/logistical problems. The sense of the group was that Lauren did a good job overall, though she was direct in her communication style. Also, there were some problems at the start of the tournament that could have been corrected with a more thorough setup of the Tabroom software. Evelyn noted that it would have been helpful to “freeze” the fees at the start of the tournament.

c. Committee impressions/suggestions. None.

X. State tournament fees. These are currently, \$25 per student per event. By consensus, they will remain the same.

XI. State tournament events. By consensus, the tournament will offer the same lineup of events next year.

XII. Judge commitment – hosts and competing teams. Currently, we require 10 debate judges from the host, and 1 judge per 2 debate entries and 1 judge per 6 speech entries from competing teams. By consensus, we will keep that the same. As to hired judge fees, they are currently \$200 per LD and Congress judge, and \$80 per speech and PF judge. Chris **moved** that we combine the PF and LD pools into a combined commitment to better reflect how the judges are used at the tournament. The motion **passed**. Jonathan **moved** that we increase the fee for any hired judge to \$250 per judge to better reflect the actual cost of hiring a judge (often, \$200 for the weekend plus \$50 for incidental expenses), and that we pro-rate judge obligations, so that a team short a fraction of a judge would only pay that fraction of the \$250. The motion **passed**. By consensus, the committee agreed to actually use judge fees to hire judges, which we have not done in the past. Jonathan volunteered to coordinate hiring judges and providing accommodations for them. We will require requests for hired judges two weeks before the tournament to give Jonathan time to find judges. Crawford stated that if we use Tabroom, teams that bring more judges than necessary can be allowed to contribute “excess” rounds to a pool to help cover schools that are short. Chris **moved** that we continue using Tabroom, including the feature just described. The motion **passed**. Jonathan **moved** that we use electronic ballots for speech. There was discussion of whether this would be overwhelming for the judges and slow down the start of the tournament. The sense of the group was that e-ballots are the future, that many tournaments are heading that way, and that the judges will adapt. The motion **passed**.

XIII. Tournament Manual revision. The manual is somewhat lengthy, poorly written and could use a clean-up. Jonathan **moved** to create a manual clean-up subcommittee, including himself and Keith and anyone else who is interested, to meet in Asheville between now and nationals. The motion **passed**, and Shannon and Chris volunteered to participate. Mary would like to add a rule that a judge can’t interrupt a debate and Jonathan stated that he would make a note about that.

XIV. Trophies. Jeff agreed to procure the trophies again. We won't attempt to re-use the few leftover trophies as Jeff expressed that is more trouble than it is worth. Keith will, however, hang onto any unused medals and will let Jeff know how many there are. Jonathan **moved** to give Congress medals only to those who do not finish in the top 6. The motion **passed**.

XV. Obtaining Extemp/Impromptu questions. We paid \$500 for these this year which may have been a little high, though it was nice to have a neutral source. Jeff **moved** to **table** this discussion until a later time and the motion carried.

XVI. TFL Future.

a. Sanctioning tournaments and regional qualifiers. Jonathan noted that Dogwood has been a success and has met needs that the TFL has not met. Perhaps a standardized tournament series in the west would be good -- like a western "conference." And, perhaps having a qualification process to the state tournament could make the state tournament more meaningful, even if qualification were very liberal/generous at first. Chris noted that he and Shannon had brainstormed similar ideas last school year. Crawford commented that there could be a statewide bid system that allows students to qualify by achieving certain results at any "regular season" tournament within the state. Jonathan suggested a regional qualification system based on CFL points races on each side of the state. A long discussion ensued. The sense of the group was that another face-to-face meeting would be helpful to try to come up with a qualification system. This meeting will take place in August; Keith will coordinate a date.

b. Camps, advocacy & outreach, scrimmages. Jeff noted that governing boards often both (1) sanction competitions and (2) promote the growth of the activity. We have focused more on the former than on the latter. We could do more to support the activity, through initiatives like a nonprofit summer camp for students, contacting every principal in the state to suggest starting a team, doing after-school scrimmages, and the like. Jeff noted that these were simply ideas intended to spark other thoughts and possibilities. Discussion ensued about how to make some of these initiatives a reality. The group agreed that a workday would be a good first step -- letters to superintendents or principals could be assembled and mailed then and other ideas could be fleshed out. This will take place in June; Keith will coordinate a date. Chris noted that support for coaches new to the activity is worth discussing as well. The west district will die without growth in coaches. Dogwood has a mentoring program that may be a model.

c. Other ideas. None.

XVII. Other business. Keith will make a list before the September meeting of past Sutherland Award/hall of fame winners and their accomplishments to give us an idea of what the standard is. A potential future nominee was briefly discussed but no nomination was made and no vote was taken.

XVIII. Set next meeting time/date. As noted above, workday dates will be set by Doodle poll. The committee will also have a regular meeting in September; Keith will coordinate a date for that as well.

XIX. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

2018-19 Committee – All two-year terms
Michelle Boswell – Cumberland Polytechnic
Deborah Brown – Research Triangle
Chris Harrow – Ardrey Kell
Shannon Jarman – Cumberland International
Mary Morales – Charlotte Catholic

Jonathan Peele – Charlotte Latin
Keith Pittman – Asheville
Jeff Welty – Durham Academy
Joshua Wade -- Croatan
Bob Wieckowski – Myers Park (alternate)
Deb Henderson – Jack Britt (alternate)