

## TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, October 21, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Online via Go To Meeting

### Present:

Keith Pittman -- Asheville -- Chair  
Jonathan Peele -- Charlotte Latin -- Historian  
Jeff Welty -- Durham Academy -- Secretary  
Chris Harrow -- Ardrey Kell  
Michelle Boswell -- Cumberland Polytechnic  
Josh Wade -- Croatan  
Deb Henderson -- Jack Britt

John Walker -- nonmember Webmaster  
Evelyn (Leneise) Stackley -- nonmember Treasurer

**I. Call to order.** Keith called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and declared a quorum.

**II. Approval of May minutes.** Michelle **moved** to approve the minutes, there was a second and the motion **passed** unanimously.

**III. Treasurer's report.** Leneise reported that we have 23 paid member schools. The TFL's current bank balance is \$6895.56. Michelle **moved** to approve the minutes, there was a second and the motion **passed** unanimously.

- Keith noted that our Go To Meeting subscription is up for renewal in December. It will cost approximately \$450 based on last year's costs. Jonathan **moved** to renew, there was a second, and the motion passed unanimously. Keith will pay and seek reimbursement.
- Keith moved agenda item VIII (fraud protection proposals) here. The bank has asked Leneise whether we would like to add fraud protection to the account. It could help us in the event of someone attempting to hack or commandeer our account, or in the event of other fraudulent activity. Various levels of protection cost \$25 per month or \$40 per month, plus some per transaction fees. The sense of the group was that the expense was high compared to the balance that we carry. After some discussion, there was no motion to add fraud protection.
- Keith moved agenda item XI (event insurance) here. Keith recalled that two years ago, we may have purchased insurance for the tournament, but we did not do so last year. Do we want to do so this year? Leneise confirmed that we last purchased it in 2016 for \$292. Jonathan noted that when he was working in California, purchasing this sort of insurance was mandatory, and suggested that it may be advisable, especially if our event is on a college campus where we do not have a long-standing relationship. By consensus, the group asked Leneise to investigate coverage options and costs and to report back at the next meeting. Jonathan volunteered to get a quote from the insurance company they use for ISD.

**IV. Webmaster's report.** John Walker reported that he would like to change the host for the site to a Weebly site prior to the expiration of the current hosting contract. It will likely cost between \$4 and \$10 per month and may look slightly different. Chris stated that he saw a draft Weebly version and it is nearly identical to the current site. John said that he would have a cost estimate at the next meeting. There was a **motion** to accept the webmaster report and it **passed** unanimously.

**V. Membership recruitment update.** Michelle stated that Shannon is the best person to report on this, therefore by consensus the item was tabled until the next meeting.

**VI. Sam Ervin Free Speech Award.** Jonathan reported that he recalls delivering the check from the award.

**VII. Committee vacancies.** Keith has accepted two resignations: Bob Wieckowski is no longer with Myers Park, and Mary Morales no longer at Charlotte Catholic. Deb Henderson moves up to full membership, leaving a full committee of 9, but no alternates.

**VIII. Fraud protection proposals.** Addressed above, see item III.

**IX. 2019 tournament bid selection.** There were two proposals, one from Duke (with support from Crawford Leavoy at Durham Academy) and one from Myers Park. The committee discussed the pros and cons of each including the cost of travel from various parts of the state, the ability of small schools to participate, the fact that the tournament was in the east last year, and the potential allure of having the tournament on a college campus. There was some discussion of finding a more permanent central location for the tournament, such as Greensboro, or moving to awarding bids two years in advance to allow a longer planning horizon. Keith also stated that the Myers Park coaching staff asked him to communicate that they are long-time dues paying members of the TFL and that they were hurt financially by the cancellation of their own tournament. Jonathan moved to award the 2019 tournament to Myers Park and to begin accepting bids for the 2020 tournament, with preference given to sites in the east (defined as the Tarheel East NSDA District) -- including Duke, if it wishes to resubmit its bid. There was a second. There was extended discussion, including about whether not accepting Duke's bid would dampen a nascent enthusiasm among Duke and UNC students for supporting speech and debate in NC; whether the lack of a signature from a Duke administrator on Duke's bid is concerning; and whether attendance in Charlotte would be lower than at an eastern location. The motion passed unanimously. By consensus, the group agreed to set a date for the 2020 tournament at next month's meeting.

**X. TFL Tournament qualification proposal.** The proposal was developed at the last TFL workday. Chris asked whether the qualification process would be retroactive to include the tournaments that have already taken place in the 2018-19 academic year. The group agreed that it would be. Keith noted that if there were a tournament with a single chamber of Congress - - which by definition requires at least 12 entries -- allowing only 3 bids from that chamber may not be fair compared to other events where the top 6 get bids when there are at least 12 entries. This led to extended discussion. Jeff moved to give Congress 6 bids, allocated equally among however many chambers there are. There was a second and the motion passed unanimously. Chris moved to accept the qualification proposal. There was a second and the motion passed unanimously. Chris and Jonathan volunteered to be the recordkeepers for the qualification system and to develop a form for tournament directors to complete. Keith will notify the state about the new system.

**XI. Event insurance for state tournament.** Addressed above, see item III.

**XII. Interp source usage and citation rules.** There have been some changes to how the NSDA approves sources that might influence this discussion. However, because Shannon was absent, this was tabled until the committee's next meeting.

**XIII. Tournament manual revision.** Jonathan has not yet undertaken this project, which will also involve, Keith, Shannon, and Chris, at least. He will work on it.

**XIV. Extemp/Impromptu question procurement.** Tabled by consensus until our next meeting.

**XV. Jackie Foote Award.** Keith noted that the students do not seem to be taking this award seriously, and their nomination speeches last year were more "roasts" than anything. Jonathan suggested that leaving the judges in the room would probably solve the problem. Chris noted that teenagers are prone to take matters like this lightly, and it may be necessary to take it out of their hands to some extent. The group is interested in someone submitting a revised approach, but further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**XVI. Virginia Sutherland Award update.** Keith had hoped to have ready a list of past winners and qualifications but has not completed that yet. This item was tabled by consensus until the next meeting.

**XVII. Other business.** None was noted.

**XVIII. Next meeting time/date.** Keith will try to find a date within 10 days after November 4, or maybe the week after Thanksgiving.

**XIX. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:13.

2018-19 Committee – All two-year terms ending at the end of the 2019-20 academic year:

Michelle Boswell – Cumberland Polytechnic  
Deborah Brown – Research Triangle  
Chris Harrow – Ardrey Kell  
Deb Henderson – Jack Britt  
Shannon Jarman – Cumberland International  
Jonathan Peele – Charlotte Latin  
Keith Pittman – Asheville  
Jeff Welty – Durham Academy  
Joshua Wade -- Croatan