



## TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION FALL NEWSLETTER, 2002

### WELCOME (BACK)

Welcome to the 2002-03 competitive season and school year. For those of you returning from years past, we hope your summer was a relaxing and fun one. For those of you joining us for the first time, welcome to the activity. Please read this newsletter carefully as a great deal of the information will be of great assistance to you.

For those of you who received the Spring Newsletter, some of the next information may be repetitive. However, if you are like me, you will have forgotten where you put some of those items, and as a result, need to find them in multiple places. Hopefully, you will be able to use most of the information that we discuss with you.

### T(X)FA WEBSITE

Yep, it is up and running. Our goal within the next few weeks is to post a copy of this newsletter and the updated tournament calendar. You will also be able to find updated officer contact information as well.

In coming weeks, we hope to have two very useful items added to the site. First, we will have for you an updated membership list. We may need to wait until November to publish that accurately, but we may try to get something to you prior to that.

Second, we also hope, in cooperation with Cindi Saukel, IQT Coordinator, and Rich Edwards, Baylor University, to begin to post those students who have fully qualified for the TFA State Tournament. Again if you are like me, you sometimes lose track of how many points some of your students may have earned. You also may be concerned about whether points have been reported or names have been spelled correctly.

We are hoping that posting fully qualified students on the website will alleviate some of those problems.

Look for the announcement of that addition some time in October.

The address for the website is:

<http://www.txfa.org>

We will try to make the website a very useful tool for you this year.

### DEADLINES, DEADLINES

As promised, we are going to publish deadlines in multiple places this year. Both versions of the calendar will have the deadlines on them. We will place reminders on the website and in future copies of this newsletter.

Not meeting deadlines creates problems for both you and us. For you, it may mean that deserving students may not be able to compete in the state tournament or receive needed scholarships. For us, we become frustrated and disappointed because deserving students fail to receive the recognition that they deserve. Please adhere to the following deadlines:

October 31—Membership dues sent to Bill Schuetz, Treasurer

December 13—Congress legislation submitted to Dixie Waldo, Southlake Carroll High School

December 13—Judging information forms for coaches for the state tournament sent to Keith Townsend

## TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

You will find the final tournament calendar for 2002-03 with this newsletter. Please read it carefully as there are some changes from the calendar that was published in the spring. If there was a tournament you were planning to attend no longer on the calendar, then that tournament is no longer going to be held. There have been some additions as well.

Is there still time for you to apply to host a IQT? Technically, no. The deadline for tournament submission was this past spring. The Executive Committee met in August to finalize the calendar. Unless there were extenuating circumstances (coach turnover; new construction in the building, etc.) the Committee has decided not to accept tournament requests. The only way that decision could be reversed is by a vote of the members attending the TFA Convention in October.

The calendar will also be posted on the website. Please refer to it at that site as well.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND TOURNAMENT PROTOCOL CHANGES

You will also find with this newsletter and on the website the proposed changes for the constitution. Please read them carefully. If you are planning on attending the convention, please bring copies of the proposed legislation with you so that you can intelligently discuss and cast your ballot about these issues.

If you are not attending the convention, but would like to still have input on these issues, please feel free to share them with your Region Representatives and other coaches who are attending the convention. The constitution and other documents ought to reflect the majority of the feelings of the coaches in this organization. Become one of the "they's" who always makes decisions. What is meant by that? How many times have you heard someone say, "What were 'they' thinking when they did that?" Well, now it's your chance to join that select group of the "they's."

## SPEAKING OF THE CONVENTION

All Texas Forensic Association members are cordially invited to attend the TSCA/TFA Convention to be held at the Omni Hotel Northwest in San Antonio beginning on Thursday, October 3 and continuing until Saturday, October 5. TFA activities will actually kick-off with Wednesday night activities on October 2. Regional meetings will take place at approximately 7:00 p.m. Executive committee members will then meet around 9:00 p.m.

TFA will sponsor workshops on Lincoln Douglas debate, CX debate, and various individual events through out the convention. The sessions will be designed for both experienced and new coaches. **New coaches are cordially invited to attend the new teachers' luncheon that will be co-sponsored by the TFA.** TFA representatives will be in attendance to answer questions at the luncheon.

If you are interested in attending, you need to do two things. First, many of you received membership information within the past few weeks from Bill Schuetz, our Treasurer. Please complete and mail that as soon as possible. Please realize that if you pay the full fees, that your convention fees are included in the membership. Other great benefits are included which we will discuss later.

Second, you need to call the Omni Northwest as soon as possible to reserve your room(s) for the convention. The telephone number for the reservation is (210) 691-8888. Room rates are \$99 plus tax. You may put 1-4 people in a room.

The Omni is located in northwest San Antonio at I-10 and Wurzbach Road. It's about a 10-15 drive from the airport. The hotel does offer a complimentary shuttle from the airport to the hotel. There are many good restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. If you are interested in the Riverwalk area, the hotel will be offering shuttle bus service to and from that area in the evening.

We would certainly encourage you to attend the convention in San Antonio.

## **TFA MEMBERSHIP**

Bill Schuetz, TFA Treasurer, has sent membership forms to all schools and persons who have been members in the past year. Please return those as soon as possible.

Please understand that you or your school must have membership in the TFA for your students to be eligible to participate in the state tournament. Please do not place us in the difficult position of not letting your students participate because you have failed to take care of membership needs. The deadline for membership application is **October 31**.

**Why become a member?** The TFA is more than a group of coaches hoping to participate in a state tournament. The TFA offers a system in which qualifying tournaments will be run in a consistent and equitable fashion. It offers support to coaches wishing to become better at their craft. The TFA also offers scholarships to deserving seniors nominated by their coaches. In short, we are a professional organization supporting forensics activities.

As a member of the TSCA, by paying their TFA dues, members also become members of the National Federation of Speech Coaches Association. Are you aware that the NFSCA carries a group liability policy that covers you whenever you are transporting students to and from speech and debate tournaments? The insurance is enough to make membership beneficial. TFA membership is the professional thing for you to consider. Please join.

## **OFFICER NOMINATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT IN TFA ACTIVITIES**

Interested in running for TFA office? If you are, please contact the people listed below. They will be submitting names for TFA offices for the 2003-04 school year. If interested, contact them or your Region Representative.

Region I Whitney Beach, Lubbock Coronado  
Region II Ann Turpin, R.L. Turner  
Region III Sandy Schneider, Dripping Springs  
Region IV Gary Boeger, The Woodlands  
Region V Betsy Geery, Loretto Academy

If you are interested in helping in some way at the TFA state tournament as one of the tournament officials, please contact either these persons or your Region Representative.

A list of candidates will be posted to the website prior to the convention.

## **ACADEMIC DECATHLON**

Please be aware of the following conflict. It has come to the attention of the Executive Committee that the State Academic Decathlon meet has been scheduled for the same weekend as the TFA State Tournament. Please be aware of this conflict as you make plans for the spring tournament season.

We would also encourage coaches who are involved in Academic Decathlon to urge their state organization to consider avoiding such conflicts in the future. Obviously, a large number of students interested in both activities will be "forced" to make a choice this year. We would hope that cooperation and dialogue between the two organizations would avoid such problems in the future.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AND OFFERINGS**

The following persons will serve on the scholarship committee this year:

Region I Deanna Duncan, Trinity Christian  
Region II Cheryl Potts, Plano Senior  
Region III Joe Trevino, Bishop  
Region IV Jim Schwartz, Oak Ridge  
Region V Richard Jeffrey, Canutillo

If you have a deserving senior, please choose to nominate them for the scholarship opportunities. Forms are distributed at each IQT.

Past recipients should contact Bill Schuetz, Treasurer, with their contact information so that the awarded monies may be distributed.

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

In order to save costs and to make greater use of technology, this will be the last newsletter that will be distributed in a hard copy format only.

In the future, the majority of our members will receive their newsletter by e-mail attachment from their Region Representatives. We used that method this past spring and it seemed to work pretty well.

The newsletter will also be posted on the website. It is our goal that we keep the website constantly updated and have the newest and most accurate information on the website.

If you are a coach, however, who feels uncomfortable with the timeliness or nuances of e-mail or the internet, please don't despair. If you would like to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please contact either Dave Huston (his contact information is on the officer contact list) or your Region Representative. We will then make sure that you continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter.

Our goal is to be more efficient and timely with our dissemination of information. We also are becoming more cognizant of the need to preserve resources and monies for the organization. Going to a more electronic format allows us to do that.

### **THAT'S ALL FOLKS !!!**

That's all for now. Please continue to examine the documents attached. You should find the proposed constitutional changes as well as an updated TFA Executive Committee contact list. Finally, you should find the two different formats for the TFA Tournament Calendar.

If you have questions, keep in touch with your Region Representatives.

See you in October at the TSCA/TFA convention. We may see you before on at various tournaments throughout the state.

Good luck this season.

**“If sometimes our great artists have been the most critical of our society, it is because their sensitivity and their concern for justice, which must motivate any true artist, makes him aware that our nation falls short of its highest potential. I see little of more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist.”**

**--President John F. Kennedy,  
October 26, 1963**

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

In the Standing Rules, in Section B. Debate Tabulation, under 2. Elimination brackets, subpoint b. the following paragraph would be added:

At the state debate tournament, all teams or individuals (LD) with a record of 4-1 or better will participate in an elimination round. If the number of debaters with that record is greater than 16 or 32 (depending on the size of the tournament), then elimination rounds would begin with the partial pairing of the next appropriate elimination bracket. If a partial triple octafinals would be appropriate, then those individuals with the lowest 4-1 records would be paired against each other (32 & 33; 31 & 34; 30 & 35, etc.) until there were no other pairings. All individuals/teams with records equal to or greater than 4-1 with sufficient speaker points would receive a "bye" to the next elimination round. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> seed in the above example would not have to debate until the double octafinal round. They would debate the winner of the 32 & 33 seed pairing.

Submitted: Ann Turpin, R.L. Turner HS and Jane Boyd, Grapevine HS

Rationale: Last year, at the state tournament, we chose to break all 4-1's or better, establishing the scenario as described above. Supporters of the amendment would like to codify that practice so that it continues for future state tournaments.

Refer to p. 18, Section 1. Events Sanctioned by the Association

Add to Line 3 "and Student Congress"

Submitted: Dixie Waldo, Southlake Carroll HS

Rationale: Student Congress is currently an event for which coaches may name students. The goal is to make it a qualifying event just like the other qualifying events at the state tournament.

Regarding deadlines for applications to hosting TFA Qualifiers, the following changes would be made to p. 38, Section 3, A. 1.

e. The application form shall be mailed or distributed to all TFA members by March 15. Tournament dates will be established by the Executive Council. All applications should be returned to the President before May 1. Applications received after this date will be considered, but may not be accepted. No applications will be considered after August 1.

f. 4) Any application received after May 1....

g. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May, the Secretary shall mail to all TFA members the tentative list of tournaments which will be TFA qualifiers for the next school year. A list will also be mailed in August. Petitions for changing approved tournament dates must be submitted to the TFA Executive Council prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> unless extenuating circumstances are documented by the administrator and coach involved prior to the beginning of the TSCA convention.

Submitted: Diane Forbes, Garland High School

Rationale: Currently, the deadline for submission of tournament dates is very close to the end of the school year for a number of people. Moving the deadline earlier allows for the notification of qualifying tournaments in a more timely fashion. The Executive Council will not be as hard pressed to get tournament information out to persons prior to the ending of the school year.

## **TFA BOARD MEMBERS—2002-2003**

This is the updated contact list for the TFA Executive Council. Please use the following information to contact, when necessary, those board members.

### **President**

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### **Vice-President**

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### **Past-President**

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### **Region I Representative**

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**FINAL TFA CALENDAR-2002-2003 (p. 1)**

	Date	Event/Tournament/Region	Contact
<b>AUGUST</b>	18	TFA Exec. Comm. Mtg	Randy Ellis
	23-24	Foster-4	Larry Balfe
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	6-7	Garland-2 Creekview-2 Cypress Creek-4 Deer Park-4	Diane Forbes Glenda Ferguson Mariann Fedrizzi Lisa Edwards
	13-14	Grapevine-2 Westlake -3 Hastings-4	Jane Boyd Michael Harlan/Jennifer Baker Melissa Lock
	14	Canutillo-5	Richard Jeffrey
	20-21	Lubbock-1 Flower Mound-2 Rowlett-2 Carroll-3 Austin, SF Austin-3 Kingwood-4 Central-5	Mellessa Denny Chris Smith Rhonda Smith Sandra Woolery Stacy Thomas Rhonda Bell Claudia Cockle
	27-28	Newman Smith-2 Plano East-2 Bishop-3 O'Connor-3 Katy Taylor-4 Hanks -5	Robert Martin Barbara McCain Joe Trevino Sheryl Stoek Gay Hollis Daniel Pecquet
<b>OCTOBER</b>	4-5	TSCA Convention, San Antonio	
	11-12	R.L. Turner-2 PSJA-Memorial-3 Smithson Velley-3 Pasadena-4 Cypress Falls -4 Big Spring-5 Riverside-5	Ann Turpin Robert Gomez Gabriel Landes Mary Green Walter Willis Jennifer Adams Joe Medina
	18-19	Lubbock-Coronado-1 St. Mark's/Highland Park-2 University of Houston-4 Bryan-4 Odessa-5	Whitney Beach Tim Mahoney/David Huston Dr. Mike Fain J.W. Lee Donna Swinney
	25-26	Gregory Portland-3 San Antonio Reagan Klein Oak-4 Houston Bellaire-4 Abilene Cooper-5	Bill Schuetz Tina Tyler Angie Richard Jay Stubbs Carolyn Thomas

**FINAL TFA CALENDAR-2002-2003 (p. 2)**

	Date	Event/Tournament/Region	Contact
<b>OCTOBER</b>	26	Caprock-1 Arlington Martin-2	Carol Hildenbrand Jack Baker
	31	Deadline for joining TFA	Bill Schuetz
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	1-2	Plano Sr-2 Marcus-2 Taft-3 Woodlands-4 Northbrook-4 Midland-5 Valle Verde	Karen Wilbanks Debra Creel Judy Eno Larry Wood Cecil Trent Deborah Morton Keith Townsend/Casey Williams
	2	Frenship-1	Elayne Patridge
	8-9	Hockaday-2 Hays-3 Corpus Christi King-3 Memorial-4 Humble-4	Nancy Walker Erin Greene David Gardiner Michael Scates Craig Stowers
	15-16	West Texas A&M-1 Southlake Carroll-2 Summit-2 MacArthur-3 McNeil-3 Spring-4 Cinco Ranch-4 Bel Air-5	Russell Lowry-Hart Dixie Waldo Tim Whiting Jennifer Forman Laura Owen Sammy Green Perry Beard Shawn Mena
	22-23	Naaman Forest-2 Round Rock-3 Ray-3 Langham Creek-4 Scarborough-4	Rhonda Hill Debbie Johnson Douglas Holcomb Martha Howard Mike Fain
<b>DECEMBER</b>	6-7	Amarillo-1 South Garland-2 University of Texas-3 Stratford-4 Ysleta-5	Connie McKee Keith Haney Peter Pober/Joel Rollins Ken Ogden Sue Telehany
	13-14	Harlingen South-3 Americas-5	Lee Ann Ince Mario Maldonado
	13	Coach Judging Forms Due Congress Legislation Due	Keith Townsend Dixie Waldo
	15	TFA Ex. Comm. Mtg-San Antonio	Randy Ellis

**FINAL TFA CALENDAR-2002-2003** (p. 3)

	Date	Event/Tournament/Region	Contact	
<b>JANUARY</b>	10-11	Plano Williams -2	Pam Ballow	
		Colleyville Heritage-2	Cindi Timmons	
		S.A. Churchill-3	Kandi King/Brian Eanes	
		McAllen-3	Suzanna Beltran	
		Westfield-4	Kaye Magill	
		Lamar Consolidated-4	John Farr	
		Cathedral-5	Scott Thoreson	
	17-18	Texas Tech-1	Ric Shafer	
		Coppell-2	Pam Townsend	
		Calallen-3	Christ Spruiell	
		Clear Lake-4	Jeremy Bernstein	
		Abilene-5	Rosemary Kinkaid	
		Aldine-5	Eloise Weisinger	
	24-25	Arlington-2	Jeb Puryear	
		Victoria Memorial-3	Woodrow Wilson Wagner	
		Jersey Village-4	Cindi Saukel	
		Lamar (Houston)-4	Angela Rice	
		Transmountain -5	Keith Townsend/Vincent Lewis	
		Snyder-5	Lynda McCormack	
	31-Feb. 1	Tascosa-1	Ann Shofner	
		Duncanville -2	Barbara Garner	
		Irving Nimitz-2	Gwen Cowan	
		Donna-3	Marc Bazan	
		Pflugerville-3	Sandra Greene	
		Katy-4	Robert Powell	
		Crosby-4	Russell Rach	
		San Elizario-5	Cookie Laffler	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	7-8	Plano Vines-2	Patti Weinbrenner	
		Grand Prairie-2	Susan Crocker	
		Georgetown-3	Marianna Jones-Taylor	
		S.A. Clark-3	Victoria Zuniga	
		Pearland-4	Leigh Stovall	
		Klein-4	Roberta Grenfell	
		Loretto Academy -5	Betsy Geery	
	Midland Lee-5	Cindy Wiebush		
		10	Entries for State Tournament postmarked 1 copy sent to Randy Ellis 1 copy & entry fee check sent to Bill Schuetz	
		21	Officer retreat in Dallas	Randy Ellis
	27-March 1	TFA State Tournament Highland Park High School, Dallas J.E. Masters & David Huston, Hosts	Randy Ellis	