



TEXAS FORENSICS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER, 2003

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a current member of the Texas Forensic Association. We plan to distribute this newsletter by e-mail, by posting it on our website, and on a limited basis, by mail to those members who have indicated that they have no e-mail address.

Since the last newsletter you received, we have had a number of things that have happened within the organization. First, we will tell you about the changes in the constitution and other items that occurred at the TSCA/TFA state coaches' convention. Second, we will remind you of upcoming deadlines. Finally, we will tell you about the major changes on the TFA website that may be of interest to you.

TSCA/TFA CONVENTION

At the end of this newsletter, you will find the minutes from the TFA business meetings that took place at the TSCA/TFA convention in Corpus Christi. Major changes and items included:

- Dixie Waldo was elected Vice President, Dave Huston was elected Secretary and Bill Schuetz was elected Treasurer of the organization. Diane Forbes and Rhonda Bell were elected Region Representatives
- A new consolation event was added to the state tournament to replace the current cycle of prose and poetry. The event is named Program of Oral Interp (POI). The event will be experimental this year but will be examined next year as a possible new event.
- Materials that will be allowed in the Extemporaneous Speaking preparation and draw room are now codified. A clarification about the type of printed material and the ban on the use of any

electronic retrieval or communication device will now be a part of the constitution.

The constitutional changes will be in effect for the 2003 state tournament. The current constitution posted on the TFA Website will be updated to reflect these changes. **UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE, THE ONLY MEANS YOU WILL HAVE TO GET A HARD COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION IS TO PRINT IT FROM THE WEBSITE.** In an attempt to save costs for the organization, this decision has been made. Most of the changes in the constitution from last year to this are minor ones. Please examine the current version on the website to keep up-to-date on what the current rules are. We have tried to assist in that regard by placing any rule changes in **bold print**. Hopefully, that will make it easier for you to find those changes.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

By the time you receive this newsletter (or shortly thereafter), the deadline for applying for membership in the TFA will have passed. The deadline is/was **October 31**. To be eligible to attend the state tournament, you or your school must be members of the TFA. Make sure that you have made application and have received membership.

If you are unsure of your status, please feel free to contact Bill Schuetz. Bill will be able to verify if you are a member. You may still become a member, you just have to be very nice to Bill. He may also make you pay some kind of penalty for your tardiness. Although he is a very mean person, we have trained him to be nice to potential members. Talk nice to him and I'm sure that he will be willing to help you.

Many benefits exist for the TFA membership. It is not only for the qualification for the state tournament, but also to belong to a professional organization which gives you a voice in what

you teach in the classroom. As an affiliate with the National Federation of High School Organizations, it also provides liability insurance for you as well. That insurance applies when you are transporting and chaperoning students to and from competitions. That alone is worth the cost of membership. Please consider applying for or renewing your membership.

JUDGING AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT

One of the goals of the state tournament committee is to host a fair and open tournament. That is accomplished by not only the manner in which persons are placed into debate and speech rounds but also the manner in which those rounds are adjudicated. It is best if the persons judging those rounds come from a diverse and varied background. It also helps if they have a background and experience in these events as well.

To that end, we are asking two things of our member coaches. First, choose to judge at the tournament. You will be asked in January and February to register as a judge on the TFA website, now being administered by Brent Hinkle and the Joy of Tournaments. The website will be easy to use and hopefully, help us determine the number of judges that we will need to hire for the tournament. Please look for information about that early in January.

Second, we ask that you contact other persons in your area who might be interested in judging at the state tournament. Our goal is a diverse pool and we would certainly entertain applications from those outside of the host region. Please think of college students who might also be qualified who are going to school close to or in the Bryan/College Station area who might be interested in judging. Hired judges will be asked to follow the same process that we described above. Potential judges will be contacted by Rosemary Kincaid if we plan to use them at the tournament. Registering and contacting us through the website will be the most accurate means for hired judges to register. Please encourage any potential hired judges to contact us in that manner.

PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR 2003 CONVENTION

Your first response may be that we just finished the convention, why are we already talking about next year. Well, it does take some time to plan

for programs plus it does take some time to get persons to commit to doing programs.

To that end, if you have program ideas, you may contact either Rosemary to discuss those with her. Program ideas should be diverse and cover not only debate and speech events, but may also be in the areas of squad management, time management, dealing with difficult people, and fundraising concepts.

If you looked at this year's offerings and said, "There's nothing for me there," then this is a good chance to suggest a program of interest to you. Also, this is a good chance for you to volunteer to share some of your knowledge with your coaching colleagues. Even if you are a young coach, you have things to offer those of us who are more experienced. Many of us who have been in the profession for a long time think that there is only one way of doing something. We often lose that "thinking outside the box" feeling that we need to have. Hearing from younger coaches helps us with that.

DEADLINES, DEADLINES

Please be aware that we are fast approaching many deadlines. The executive committee will be meeting in December to discuss the state tournament. If you have other things we need to consider at that time, please let us know and we will put it on the agenda. In addition, if you are interested in working at the state tournament in some capacity, please let us know.

Congress legislation is due by December 15. If you fail to submit legislation, your school will be ineligible to compete in the House portion of the Student Congress. Please don't miss this important deadline.

NEW LOOK TO THE TFA WEBSITE

Many of you check the TFA website on a regular basis. You will have noticed a noticeable change in the look and features of the website.

First, we need to acknowledge the contribution that Chris Duke, formally of Barbers Hill High School, made to the development, initiation, and upkeep of the former site. Under stressful conditions at times, Chris was willing to make changes, put in new materials, and generally, be extremely cooperative in the maintenance of the

website. The organization owes him a huge debt and a great big thank-you for his efforts.

The executive committee reached the conclusion earlier this year that the website needed to be upgraded from its current condition. The committee felt that the current needs of the organization had expanded to a degree that we needed to combine the need to inform the membership, provide for tournament entry and provide tournament qualifying and reporting information on a more consistent and regular basis.

To that end, the committee contracted with Brent Hinkle and the Joy of Tournaments to provide website services and the means to report IQT points and to allow coaches frequently check the status of their students. The website now also shows tournaments who have reported their IQT points and those that are delinquent in those duties.

If you are hosting an IQT, please understand that you now are required to report your tournament results online. This is the only means now available for the reporting of points from an IQT. The IQT Coordinator will provide you with a username and password in the week prior to your tournament. Once the tournament is completed, you are to log on to the website and go to the section for "Submitting IQT Reports." You will be prompted to enter your name and password. Once you have done so, you will be taken to screens which allow you to submit the same data you would if you were going to fax the information to the IQT coordinator.

It's easy and efficient to use. You may do it at your leisure on the day after your tournament rather than waiting for access to a fax machine. The IQT Coordinator has access to the information as well. The Coordinator will notify you if mistakes have been made and you may then correct them.

You may recall that reports were submitted from time to time last year to help persons see students who were fully qualified for the state tournament. The process is made much simpler this year. Now, you may go to the website, find the section that has IQT results, go to the section where results are listed by school, find your school, and open the link. You then should have a list of students who have qualified you're your school

Please be patient with us as we work through all of these processes. We are aware that sometimes schools may be "duplicated" The program pulls directly from the IQT reports. The more consistent tournament hosts are in reporting data, the more consistent the results will appear on the website. We are aware that persons from "Highland Park, Dallas"; "Highland Park High School"; and "HPS, Dallas" all may be from the same school. As we refine the process, we will be able to take care of some of the "duplication" Please instruct your students to be patient. We will make sure that all of the data is accurate before we finalize entries for the state tournament.

Please let us know what you think of the website. We will continue to attempt to keep the information current and useful to you. We will continue to add new content as well, such as a membership directory when possible.

Keep in touch and let us know what you would like to have us do.

REMEMBER: TFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN HOUSTON ON DECEMBER 21 TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF THE STATE TOURNAMENT PLANS AND TO ADDRESS ISSUES RAISED DURING THIS FIRST SEMESTER. IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE RAISED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGION REPRESENTATIVE.

KEEP READING TO GET THE MINUTES FROM THE TFA BUSINESS MEETINGS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE TSCA CONVENTION IN OCTOBER.

TFA BUSINESS MEETING—OCTOBER 9, 2003

President Keith Townsend called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Motion and second to certify the agenda and to accept the minutes from the 2002 business meeting.

Keith delivered his Presidential address. His theme was looking beyond our own personal agenda and keep the bigger picture in mind as we begin to consider changes in the organization. He urged us to continue to work on going beyond self-interest and examine how we can have a positive impact on some of the bigger issues facing our profession. He also praised the membership for the accomplishments we have gained in competitions throughout the state and nation. His final comments put into perspective the importance of what we do and what freedoms we can celebrate.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Rosemary Kincaid discussed the use of hired judges at the state tournament this year. Coaches will be required to enter judges on the website in January and February for this year. Coaches will be expected to provide judges to cover judging commitment. Hired judges will be paid for rounds, but will not be paid for transportation. Hired judges will be housed at the cost of the organization. Cindi Timmons made a recommendation that judges be placed in zones and be paid transportation based on the zone from which they originate. Rosemary also made the organization aware of deadlines for programs for next year's convention. Moved and seconded to accept the report.

SECRETARY

Dave Huston discussed accomplishments of this past year including the first attempt at a organization wide e-mail group and greater use of the website. Goals this year include a more accurate e-mail group for distribution of materials; a more informational calendar; and greater use of the website for organizational management, including membership application, state tournament management, and overall organization management. Dave also publicly thanked Chris Duke for his past development and maintenance of the organization website. He announced that the website has been put under the management of Brent Hinkle of the Joy of Tournaments website. Moved and seconded to accept the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill reported that we have in excess of \$16,000 in the bank account. Bill also reported that the organization needs a Social Security number from its members because of a need by the NFHS for insurance purposes. Bill reported that we will not be reporting personal information that persons don't wish to have reported. Bill explained some of the expenses that we will have prior to the state tournament. Questions were raised about the means in which we procure extemp topics. Randy Cox volunteered himself and the Texas forensics team to write the extemp topics for the TFA State tournament. The executive committee will be making a final decision on that issue at their December meeting. Questions were raised and answered about the expenses of executive board meetings. Concerns were raised about the need to continue to examine TFA expenses in these difficult financial times. Moved and seconded to accept the report. A copy of the Convention Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Region 1—Elayne reported on coach changes in her region. She also reported that she was proud of Brent Hinkle's contribution from their region.

Region 2—Dave Huston and J.E. Masters were thanked for hosting last year's state tournament. Diane Forbes reported on coaching changes in that area.

Region 3—Terry Robinson reported on close to 20 different coaching changes in that area. She requested that we thank the local committee for hosting the convention in this reason.

Region 4—Rhonda Bell also reported on coaching changes. She also encouraged all of the members to attend the TFA State tournament in Bryan, Texas in March.

Region 5—Billye Lucas reported on other coaching changes in that region. She also reported that the 2005 state tournament will be held in the Region 5 area. Billye discussed some of the concerns about hosting the

tournament in that area and how the area does strongly support the activity. She was very conscious of the need to welcome new coaches to the activity.

Moved and seconded to approve those reports.

OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Past-President—Randy Ellis reported that the state tournament did happen despite the weather concerns. Randy reported that there were very few protests and the year went very smoothly.

IQT Coordinator—Cindi Saukel reported that Brent Hinkle has developed a program so that the organization could begin to check the IQT points online. Tournament directors will be able to now put the reports on line. The new report and means of reporting will allow us to have a more accurate and available means of reporting and verification of points earned. Coaches will also be able to check on the progress of their students.

Archivist—Roberta Grenfell requested that persons submit names and information on the correction of winners into the constitution.

Moved and seconded to accept the reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee—The new forms have been posted on the website. We need to encourage students to apply for the scholarships offered by the organization. Past winners need to make sure they contact Bill Schuetz as well to “claim” their award.

Emeritus Committee—Shawn Mena, chair of that committee, respectfully submitted the name of Rita Harlan to be recognized as an emeritus member. Rita taught for over 34 years in Texas, including schools in Lubbock and Corpus Christi. Rita coached numerous state champions. Her largest impact was in schools in El Paso. Her philosophy was embodied in identifying talented students and enabling them to meet their potential. Former students include executive officers in numerous businesses including America Online. An active member in TSCA, including a stint as president, Rita has served the TSCA and TFA throughout her career. We congratulate her on being named our newest Emeritus member.

Student Congress—Dixie Waldo reported on the progress of the event as a qualifying event at the state tournament. Dixie reported that she has given frequent updates on the website. She also suggested that persons begin to use the base system to score the event. Dixie reported the error in the Constitution that indicates that the Senate will continue to be students from any school who wishes to enter; the House will have students who have qualified for the state tournament through qualifying Congresses at individual IQT’s. The Constitution had stated that this was only going to be for the initial year of implementation. However, it has been decided that schools will always be able to bring one representative in the House. Students in the Senate must qualify to attend the tournament.

Nominating Committee—Mariann Fedrizzi presented the following slate of potential was presented by the committee:

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

Dixie Waldo, Region 2
Cindi Saukel, Region 4
Ann Shofner, Region 1

David Huston, Region 2
Jay Stubbs, Region 4

Bill Schuetz, Region 3

After an initial vote and a run-off election for one of the positions, the following persons were elected to the following positions:

Vice President: Dixie Waldo, Region 2

Secretary: David Huston, Region 2

Treasurer: Bill Schuetz, Region 3

Motion was made and seconded to destroy the ballots from the election.

Extemp Committee—Cheryl Potts reported on the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. Cheryl explained the philosophy of the committee was to make the TFA rules consistent with the rules and guidelines of other organizations, such as UIL and NFL, and. Specific recommendations included:

--Replacing language in Section 3—Individual Events, Extemporaneous Speaking, Item 5 so that it would read “Contestants may refer to files containing books, book excerpts, periodicals, online retrievals from mass media publications, and/or photocopies of any of the above. Information retrieved from internet websites must include the URL citation. Cutting and pasting of multiple articles into a single document is not permitted.”

--Inserting a 6th item stating “No electronic devices of any kind, **excluding timers**, are allowed in the draw prep room.”

--Make appropriate language changes in subsequent rules to reflect these potential changes.

Questions about the use of indexes were raised. The committee indicated that they were trying to comply with other rules like the ones found in the NFL.

It was moved to adopt the recommendation of the committee as written. The action would make the recommendations a part of the constitution. The motion was seconded. During the discussion period, it was suggested that the wording be changed in the electronic devices statement to add the phrase “excluding timers.”

Motion was made and seconded to approve the report as amended. Motion was passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J.E. Masters reported that there was no unfinished business from the past meeting. Motion was made and seconded to move on to new business. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed amendment on extemp—Martin Klein withdrew his amendment

Proposed amendment on qualification in team events—Initially postponed, Gay Hollis presented the amendment at the October 10 business meeting.

Other motions from the floor—

Proposal for splitting the CX division into two divisions--Cindi Timmons presented an amendment to create an alternative debate division at the state tournament. Once a team was qualified for the state tournament, they would choose to participate in the CX debate division or the newly created Public Policy Debate. Specific wording changes included:

p. 25 #6—Teams qualified for the state tournament in CX Debate may elect to participate in Public Policy Debate instead.”

p. 26-#2a—At end of the paragraph “There shall be at least 4 preliminary rounds of Public Policy Debate followed by at least quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.”

p. 26#2, move “e” to “f” and insert new “e”—Policy Debate Topic. The Texas Forensic Association shall announce the Public Policy Debate topic at least 60 days prior to the state tournament. The resolution will be derived from the current CX topic at the time. Specific rules/speech times will be provided at least 60 days in advance. Public Policy Debate is a team event (two people).

Discussion focused on the rationale for the creation of the event. Questions focused on the administration of the event and how it might be practiced. The suggestion was made to appoint an ad-hoc committee to present potential rules for the event at the Friday meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to postpone the consideration of this proposal until the Friday business meeting. Motion carried. Keith asked that the region representatives would get volunteers who would like to discuss this issue tomorrow.

Proposal for permitting of the use of laptop computers in LD/CX debate rounds—Keith Swink proposed that competitors, judges, and audience members of LD and CX debate rounds may use laptop computers during debate rounds for flowing. The amendment spoke to the use of the computer in the round. It did not permit them to use it as an electronic retrieval device. Students would not be able to use the device as a wireless communication device. Contestants would not be able to print out material/evidence during the round. Keith explained why the amendment could not speak to the specific use by students with disabilities.

Motion was moved and seconded to separate the motion to take out the penalty which spoke to punishing the entire squad for a violation rather than an individual team.

General discussion of the motion then ensued. Issues focused on availability of computers, meeting the needs of special needs students, enforcement of the restriction of internet use during the round, and judge perceptions. Discussion also focused on the need for such an amendment to be inclusive because of the stigma that might result if the use was restricted only to persons with accommodations and the fact that our current constitution doesn't address the use or restriction of such devices.

J.W. Lee offered an amendment to the proposed motion. "Competitors, et al who have documented disabilities that necessitate it..." A one-third vote was necessary for a second. The second failed because of a lack of a one-third vote.

The previous question on the motion was moved. The previous question passed on the necessary two thirds vote. **The amendment was defeated on the failure to achieve the necessary ¾ majority for passage.**

Keith announced the formation of the committee for examining the proposal of the new debate event.

Motion was made and seconded to recess until the next posted meeting time.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Regions 2 & 4 elected new regional representatives. Those representatives will be:

Region 2—Diane Forbes

Region 4—Rhonda Bell

TFA BUSINESS MEETING—OCTOBER 10TH

President Keith Townsend called the meeting to order at 4:50

Motion was made and seconded to limit the debate to a five minute authorship speech and ten minutes of debate. Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed amendment for qualifying in team events for the state tournament—Gay Hollis proposed the following amendment on p. 20 add: “However, only teams which have accumulated eight points with the same partner may compete at the state tournament.” After brief discussion, previous question was called and seconded. **Motion failed**

Report from the ad hoc debate committee on proposed new debate event—Cindi Timmons presented the report from the regionally balanced committee to explore what the rules might be for the proposed public policy debate event. Rules included instructions for time limits, resolution, content in the ballot, advancement, and the potential implementation. Proposed pilot would be for the 2004 State Tournament. Discussion ensued as to the nature of implementation and whether or not it would make CX debate more specialized. After brief discussion, previous question was called and seconded. **Motion failed**

Proposed amendment to eliminate prose or poetry as a consolation and replace it/them with POI (Program of Oral Interpretation)—Proposal was made to add an event that would combine poetry and prose together in one presented piece. The event would replace the use of prose and poetry. After brief discussion, previous question was called and seconded. **Motion passed.** The amendment is as follows: Consolation Events State Tournament (for the 2004 State Tournament only)

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI)

Event description. A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two of the three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama) A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the two genres used in the program. The material must somehow force your audience to reflect on the way we live our lives. The introduction needs to explain how the program will develop, rather than repeat the same theme in each piece. Along with the genre literature, performers may incorporate “outside” literature such as magazines, interviews, papers, internet files, etc. A small portion of the script may be self authored to assist with transitions or extension of the performance argument. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including original introduction and transitions.

Proposed amendment to ban the use of laptop computers in debate rounds—Jay Stubbs presented the following amendment: “The use of computers or electronic retrieval devices for flowing or other purposes by debaters will not be allowed during debate rounds of a TFA qualifying tournament or the TFA State tournament.” After brief discussion, a motion was offered and seconded to refer this proposal to a committee that would report to the 2004 TFA business meeting. Discussion continued on that motion and the rationale for referring the issue to committee. Question was called. Motion to send the issue to committee failed. Question was called. **Motion to ban the use of laptops in rounds failed to receive the required 75% approval for passage. (75-35)**

Proposed amendment on clarifying Sweepstakes Formulas—Barbara McCain proposed that the following wording to the constitution: “Schools must publish their Sweepstakes Formulas in their invitations.” Discussion ensued. Question was called. **Motion failed to receive the required 75% approval for passage. (62-30)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keith Townsend announced that the Finance Committee will be performing an audit and that the executive committee does wish to hear about the concerns of the organization. The December meeting will be moved to Houston. Proposed agenda items should be submitted to the region representatives.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

**TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
TREASURER'S REPORT
2003 STATE CONVENTION**

Current Bank Balance:	\$16,570.00
TFA State Site Visit:	\$482.50
May Officers' Retreat:	\$1,866.90
Omni Bayfront Hotel:	\$860.47
Travel:	\$825.00
President's Expenses:	\$181.43
Texas Party (NFL Nationals)	\$1,338.66
Scholarships (To Date)	\$500.00
Membership 2003:	\$991.09
Printing of Forms:	\$567.34
Postage:	\$423.75
Extemp Topics for TFA State:	\$300.00
Newsletter Printing & Postage:	\$227.66
Computer Programming and Web Site:	\$1500.00

The National Federation has requested a change in the way TFA pays them for the membership. They have asked us to make a one time payment when we have concluded our membership. This will mean a lump payment of \$20.00 per member of TFA. This will occur after October 31, 2003.