



## TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION FALL NEWSLETTER, 2004

### WELCOME (BACK)

If you have received this via e-mail, welcome back to the 2004-05 competitive season. We are glad that you are back with us and we are excited about this new school year. If you are reading this newsletter for the first time because somebody told you about the TFA website, then welcome to you as well.

Please read this newsletter carefully. There will be important information about how we will communicate with you this year and deadlines to which you must adhere. Help us help you.

### T(X)FA WEBSITE

The TFA website has undergone significant changes in recent years. Brent Hinkle, our webmaster, has made the website an integral part of how we operate as an organization. Here are the things that you can find currently on the website:

--**An updated tournament calendar.** The calendar is now "official" as of the August 1 meeting of the TFA Executive Committee. Any changes will need membership approval. The calendar can be viewed by region and month. It should help you in your planning during the year.

--**Congressional legislation for the school year.** Paul Byrne, our Student Congress coordinator, has posted explanations about that event, and expectations for involvement this year. In a separate area, you will find the list of legislation from which individual tournaments will choose. Use it for tournament preparation.

--**TFA Constitution and By-Laws and other "official" documents.** You may also get your copy of the TFA Constitution, By-Laws, ballots, scholarship applications, and other documents used by the TFA.

--**IQT Reports** Once tournaments have been conducted, you will be able to track the performances of your own students on the website. Individual tournament results will be posted for

you to check. An item on that has already been posted to the website and will be explained in greater detail later in this newsletter.

--**Contact information for officers of the organization** You will also find a list of officers and committees for this organization. Please feel free to contact the appropriate officer when you have an issue that you feel needs to be discussed.

--**Copies of newsletters** We have attempted each year to have an accurate e-mail list that allows us to communicate with each other electronically. Doing so saves this organization thousands of dollars in postage, paper, and preparation. However, we always have a percentage of persons who do not either read the e-mail or don't receive the newsletter for a variety of reasons. We post the newsletter (including this one) on the website so that persons can stay informed.

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. When new materials are posted on the website, the Secretary often contacts the region representatives. Please allow a few days for those materials to appear. If you have concerns, suggestions, or ideas about how to make the website a more viable tool for our organization, please don't hesitate to contact either your Region Representative or Dave Huston.

### DEADLINES, DEADLINES

As promised, we are going to publish deadlines in multiple places this year. The posted calendar on the website includes those deadlines. 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, Gregory Portland High School

December 15—Congress legislation submitted to Paul Byrne, Student Congress Coordinator, Humble High School

December 15—Judging information forms for coaches for the state tournament sent to Dixie Waldo, Vice President, Southlake Carroll High School and posted on the website

## TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

You will find the final tournament calendar for 2004-05 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 has communicated 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 has been posted on the website. Please refer to it at that site as well.

## STATE TOURNAMENT SITE AND DATE

We are pleased to announce that this year's tournament will be held at **Bel Air High School in El Paso, Texas. The dates are March 3-6, 2005.** Continue to look for information in editions of the newsletter for information about the tournament and its corresponding events.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND TOURNAMENT PROTOCOL CHANGES

We are making the call for proposed constitutional, by-law, and tournament protocol changes. Constitutional rules do state that proposals need to be made to the President thirty days prior to the convention for a simple majority vote to make the change. Changes proposed at the convention can still be proposed, but the requirement for passage is more stringent. If proposed changes are submitted to the Secretary by August 20 and published by August 27, then they will require only a simple majority for passage. Any legislation not published by August 27 will require a 75% majority to pass at the state meetings.

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 ParkWest Omni Hotel in Dallas beginning on Thursday, September 29 and continuing until Saturday, October 2. TFA activities will actually kick-off with Wednesday night activities on September 28. Regional meetings will take place at approximately 8:30 p.m. Executive committee members will then meet around 9:30 p.m.

TFA will sponsor workshops on Lincoln Douglas debate, CX debate, and various individual events through out the convention. You will find a listing of TFA sponsored workshops later in this newsletter. 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 as soon as possible to reserve your room(s) for the convention. You may call the hotel directly at 972 869 4300 to make those reservations.

## **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. The dues amounts have increased from last year. If you are planning on attending the TSCA/TFA Convention, then your dues will be \$125.00. If you are not planning on attending, your dues will be \$95.00. Region representatives do have a set of membership packets for new schools and/or coaches who may not have received their packet in the mail.

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 2005-06 school year. If interested, contact them or your Region Representative.

Chair: Mariann Fedrizzi, Cypress-Creek HS  
Region I Mellessa Denny, Lubbock HS  
Region II Cindi Timmons, Colleyville Heritage  
Region III Roberto Gomez, Jr., PSJA Memorial  
Region IV Gay Hollis, James Taylor HS  
Region V Betsy Geery, Ysleta ISD Fine Arts

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.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AND OFFERINGS**

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

Chair Anne Raines Hayden,  
Region I Connie McKee, WTAMU  
Region II Barbara McCain, Plano East  
Region III Kandi King, Churchill  
Region IV Lisa Edwards, Deer Park  
Region V Mario Maldonado, Americas

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.

## **CHANGES IN THE IQT PROCESS (LET'S GET IT RIGHT)**

Some concerns have been raised about the accuracy of IQT information and the way that some coaches might be using the system of reporting we currently are using.

As in this past year, tournament hosts will be contacted a week or so before their scheduled tournament and given a code that they may use to enter the TFA website and upload their IQT

information. That is to be completed by the Monday following the scheduled tournament. Once the uploading is completed, the IQT coordinator will verify those results and declare them official. They will then be posted to the website so that they may be verified by participants in the tournament.

The following changes have been implemented for this year. Please read the following carefully so that you will guarantee state tournament participation by your deserving students.

A fine of \$150 plus \$25 per day will be assessed on those tournament hosts who fail to submit their tournament results by the Wednesday following the tournament. A letter to the principal of the tournament host will be sent explaining the fine assessment. The results will be declared unofficial and points earned at that tournament will not count for state tournament qualification. The students from the hosting school will not be able to participate in the state tournament until those fines have been paid. Once these two situations are rectified, then both sets of students would become eligible.

Also, once tournament results have been submitted and posted on the website, a seven day grace period be instituted for any corrections in the results, including but not limited to spelling changes, name changes, and placings. Once that

period has expired, the results will be declared official and no changes (except for spelling errors) will be allowed.

These actions are being instituted to protect the integrity of the state tournament qualifying process. We also hope to make tournament hosts more accountable for the timely and accurate reporting of their tournament results. Please help us by completing these tasks on time and conducting frequent checks of the TFA website for the accuracy of these tournament reports.

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

That's all for now. Please continue to examine the documents attached. You should find 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.

**TFA SPONSORED WORKSHOPS AT THE TSCA CONVENTION  
(Wednesday, September 29-Saturday, October 2)**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

TFA Regional Meetings 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Region 1—Park West A  
Region 2—Park West B  
Region 3—Park West C/D  
Region 4—Park West E  
Region 5—Park West F

9:30 p.m. TFA Executive Committee Meeting

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

Panel A—8:45-9:55 a.m.

Making Technology Work for You (Texas Learning Center) Chair/Presenters: Rosemary Kincaid, Brent Hinkle, and Richard Kinkaid

Panel C—3:35-4:45 p.m.

Public Forum: What's It All About? (Texas Learning Center) Presenters: Cindy Wiebusch, Alicia Elliott, David Gardiner

**7:15 p.m.—Texas Learning Center  
TFA Business Meeting #1**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1**

Panel D—8:00-9:10 a.m.

Extemporaneous Speaking (Texas Learning Center) Presenters: Cindy Saukel, Cheryl Potts, Frank Sferra

Panel E—10:35-11:45 a.m.

NFL: What You Need to Know (Texas Learning Center) Presenters: Kandi King, David Huston, Scott Wunn, Frank Sferra

**4:00-5:00 p.m.—Texas Learning Center  
TFA Business Meeting #2**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**

Panel H—Saturday-10:30-11:40 p.m.

What are the deadlines for UIL, TFA, and NFL? (Park West E) Presenters: J.W. Lee, Rosemary Kinkaid, TFA Representatives and Officers

**1:15 p.m.—Trinity II  
TFA Business Meeting #3 (as needed)**

## **TFA BOARD MEMBERS—2004-2005**

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