



## TEXAS FORENSICS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2004

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

You are receiving this newsletter because you were a member of the Texas Forensic Association this past year or have signed on again for a wonderful, fun-filled tournament season of long weekends at a school that looks a lot like your own, stale sodas and pretzels in the coaches' lounge and students wondering why judges have written the same things on the ballot that you have been telling them for the last two weeks. Yes, that's a little bit sarcastic, but there is some truth to it, isn't there?

As we have done in the past few years, we will continue to distribute this newsletter by e-mail and by posting it on our website. Please help us out by explaining to people who say, "Gee, I didn't get that information," that they need to take one of two actions. First, please direct them to the TFA website where they can read the newsletter at their leisure. Second, have them contact our secretary, David Huston, either by phone, mail, or e-mail (david.huston@gcisd.net) with a working e-mail address. We will add them to our ever-increasing list of persons to contact with important information.

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 continue to let you know about contacts and important information you need to know about the continuing saga called the Texas forensic season.

### 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 Galveston. Major changes and items included:

- Rhonda Bell was elected Vice President, Yolanda Silva was elected Secretary and Bill Schuetz was elected Treasurer of the organization. Gary Boeger, Carol Hildebrand, and Diane Forbes were elected Region Representatives
- The number of schools necessary for a tournament to meet minimum requirements has been decreased. The numbers were decreased to assist schools in isolated areas and to also be constitutionally consistent with the new point system.
- Levels of elimination brackets were also established. Those levels will be dependent on the number of entries at a tournament.
- An ombudsman will now hear the first level of protests at the state tournament. That person will make an initial ruling and then if the person making the protest still wishes to be heard by the Executive Committee, the protest will move forward.
- The use of laptop computers in debate rounds has now been approved. The guidelines for use are in the new constitutional amendment.

The constitutional changes will be in effect for the 2006 state tournament. Other amendments that aren't directly related to the state tournament will take effect immediately. The current constitution posted on the TFA Website has been 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. Please examine the current version of the Constitution 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 that 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. As you may have found these past few years, the website is 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 that might be interested in judging at the state tournament. As always, regardless of the tournament location, we need hired judges from different parts of the state. 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 Pharr-San Juan-McAllen area that might be interested in judging. Think also of college students to whom you would be willing to provide transportation and/or housing at the tournament. Hired judges will be asked to follow the same process that we described above. Aaron Timmons will contact potential judges 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 2006 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 Aaron to discuss those with him. 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.

## **WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?**

Those of us on the Executive Committee are always interested in opening the “inbox” for our e-mail. After we have waded through the titles for contacts by our good friends in (Name an African country) asking us to submit personal information so that they may deposit millions of dollars in our accounts, personal ads from persons with names like Bambi or Candy, or telling us that Citibank has some security issues and they need information about your non-existent account, we then get to the really interesting stuff. Many of us end up with randomly selected questions from TFA members about various things we need to get done. There's nothing wrong with this, except we often are not the board person to whom the question ought to be addressed.

Here are some issues that ought to be directed to the correct areas:

**Membership** and **dues issues** ought to be addressed to **Bill Schuetz**. He is the Treasurer

and is in charge of all the money. Not his own, ours. Although he has had some contact with the Mafia (it's a great internet website story that you have to ask Bill about), he will not break your legs or make you sleep with fishes (that's part of the story) if you ask him questions about dues or membership.

If you have questions about **ethics**, or think that tournaments have not been run properly, there are two people you can contact. First, you may go directly to your **Region Representative**. Ask the question of the Region Rep, and see what kind of answer you get. Believe me, most of them know a great deal and they work pretty hard. Plus they want to make sure all things are going well in their region.

Sometimes we don't get the answer we want or we think the individual to whom we are speaking is wrong. Then, you can **appeal** to the **President Dixie Waldo**. The normal process is the President contacts everybody by e-mail, we weigh in with varied opinions and thoughts and we reach a consensus as a group. Rosemary then communicates that to the parties involved.

If you have important **announcements, communication for the rest of the organization**, or questions about the content of this newsletter, then you need to contact the **Secretary, Dave Huston**. Dave is a very grumpy man, but will pretend to be polite as you talk with him. He will also accept cash donations for favorable rulings. Preferably in a non-descript bag containing bills in small denominations. Just kidding. Sort of.

If you have questions about the **IQT reports or name changes on the website or IQT qualifications, contact Alicia Elliott**. Alicia is very patient and nice, but has been given a directive by the Executive Council to be very mean and strictly enforce the new rules that were outlined in the previous newsletter. Please understand what those rules are and visit the website frequently.

**If you have questions in any of those areas, please contact the person listed. DO NOT (it's in big, bold letters for a reason) CONTACT BRENT HINKLE, OUR WEBMASTER.**

Brent is one of the nicest people on the planet. However, his only official function with the TFA is to run the website. Although he attends all of

our meetings, he is in no decision-making capacity. Quite frankly, he's a lot smarter than the rest of us and we don't want him to show us up. He has been kind enough to answer some questions in the past, and forward e-mails to the appropriate persons.

However, doing all of that takes a great deal of time. We want him to continue to produce a great looking, informative website, not only for the TFA, but for his other customers as well. They pay him a heck of a lot more money than we do, and we don't want to give him an excuse to start charging us more money. It would be well worth it given the services that he provides, but then your dues would have to amount to the size of the national debt. That's an exaggeration but this is Texas and everything is supposed to be bigger here.

Hopefully, you are getting the message. Please, if you have questions about procedures, the Constitution, tournaments, or anything, contact an appropriate Executive Council person first. We promise we will do our best to answer your questions.

## **A REMINDER ABOUT IQT RESULTS SUBMISSIONS**

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. Here's how it works. Once you are sure you are hosting a tournament, you should log on to the website. Go to the section that says "Member Log-In." If you don't have a password, then you should open the link for "Recover Password." You will enter your e-mail and it will send you the password. If you were a TFA member last year, this process will work for you. If you were not a member last year, then you will need to contact Brent, who will help you with that process. Please do that well in advance of the tournament so that you do not have to do that along with the gazillion things that need to be done for a 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 e-mail and password. Once you have done so, you will be taken to screens that allow you to submit the same data you would if you were going to fax the information to the IQT coordinator. Remember, once you have completed all of the data entry, you must submit the report. If you don't hit that little button at the end of the submission screen, the report just sits there. It's not very smart, so it can't send itself. You have to tell it what to do. Much like most of your debaters or IE students.

It's easy and efficient to use. You may do it at your leisure on the day after your tournament. 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

**REMEMBER: THE TFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN DECEMBER 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 THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE TSCA CONVENTION IN OCTOBER.**

**MINUTES FROM THE TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETINGS  
TSCA CONVENTION—OCTOBER 2005**

President Dixie Waldo called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Presidential Address**

Dixie Waldo related her first experiences in the activity. She told us that she had always been a teacher and that such a calling has a number of rewards. She talked about the rewards of teaching, mainly their accomplishments and growth that we see in them as people. She called us as members to continue to coach with passion and with all students in mind. Dixie hoped that the tone of this meeting and the vision of this organization are to be more nurturing and inclusive.

**Officer and Region Representative Reports**

**Vice President**

Aaron Timmons called on the members to help with the recruiting of judges for the state tournament. He wishes to start sooner so that we can have a broad range of judges available for the tournament. Aaron wishes to expedite that process so that we have as much information as possible for those judges. Judges will be placed in the pool in events in which they wish to judge. He will also separate paradigm sheets by CX, LD, Individual Events, and Student Congress. Aaron also discussed that the way Mutual Preference will be handled including multiple persons entering the mutual preferences; increased education for coaches about MPJ

**Secretary**

Dave Huston reported that he will be rebuilding the e-mail database but will be able to send out the newsletter in such a way that it will be able to be received by more members

**Treasurer**

Bill Schuetz submitted a written report that is attached to these minutes

**Region Representative Reports**

Most region representatives had little to report. Shawn Mena did address some issues at the State tournament from this past year. Some rooms did suffer some damage. We as coaches need to be more vigilant in our supervision of students.

**IQT Coordinator**

Alicia Elliott reminded us that the IQT reports are due on the Monday after the tournament. She reminded us of the requirements for not only submission, but also the need to check the IQT reports for accuracy. If changes need to be made, the coach is the one who needs to contact Alicia, rather than have random students claim inaccuracies.

### **Special presentation**

David Johnson recognized the service that past member, the late Emerson Turner, had given to the organization. He used the notion of cause, comrades, and service. David noted that Emerson was one of the founders of the organization and he discussed the challenges of such an organization. David told us that Emerson was a strong supporter of local programs and overall forensics programs in the state. He was a person willing to give to the organization without expectation of recognition or reward. David related a number of stories that portrayed Emerson as a true friend, a person with heart, and a person with a tremendous sense of humor. He may have been a small person in stature, but one who had a large heart.

### **Special Presentation by PSJA High School, TFA State Tournament (Cindy Almaguer & Ophelia Pena)**

Ophelia and Cindy discussed where the school is located and how much they are looking forward to hosting the state meet. Ophelia informed us that district and city officials to help with hotel information and use of the convention center. They are working with the airlines to get a code established for reduced rates. They stressed their excitement and pride in being able to host. They stressed also that they are willing to make special accommodations and arrangements for people with special needs.

### **Special Presentation 2006 Bluebonnet National Tournament (Jane Boyd, Grapevine HS)**

Jane discussed the bid that has been made for the national tournament. Committees have been meeting. She described the opening ceremonies and what we would be doing with Six Flags to offer attendees a special deal. She described hotel arrangements, the venues, and other special events scheduled for that week. Jane discussed the needs of that challenge. Committees have been formed to help with judge/coach hospitality, student hospitality, the schedule for the tournament, and other plans for the tournament. Jane told us about the website ([www.2006bluebonnetnationals.org](http://www.2006bluebonnetnationals.org)).

### **Call for Election of Officers and Nominations from the Floor**

Candidates for the offices were as follows:

Vice President—Rhonda Bell, Kingwood HS  
Secretary—David Huston, Colleyville Heritage HS  
Yolanda Silva, Burges HS  
Treasurer—Bill Schuetz, Gregory-Portland HS

Motion was made and seconded to elect Rhonda Bell and Bill Schuetz by acclamation.  
Motion passed.

The election for secretary was then conducted. Yolanda Silva of Burges HS will be the Secretary for the organization beginning in April of 2006.

### **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports**

#### **Public Forum Debate (Report and Action)**

Chairperson Sally Squibb and her committee explored the possibility of offering Public Forum as a TFA qualifying event. She discussed the challenges of the number of rooms, the need for judges. The report has been submitted in writing. The recommendation of the committee is to adopt Public Forum as a TFA qualifying event.

### **Use of Technology (Report and Action)**

Chairperson Wayne Paulus discussed the findings of the committee. The recommendation of the committee is to adopt the use of technology in debate rounds.

### **Standing Committee Report—Audit of the Treasurer's Report**

Kandi King began her report by commending Bill Schuetz for his service. Kandi offered the following recommendations:

- Guidelines for the expenses of officers
- A more detailed report by the treasurer
- Explore possibly changing the credit card due to other charges
- All credit card receipts submitted to the treasurer

### **Approval of New Tournament Dates and New Tournaments**

#### **Change in original tournament dates due to Hurricane Rita and extenuating circumstances**

1. Alief Hastings—October 21-22
2. Midland HS—October 21-22
3. Riverside HS—October 21-22
4. O'Connor HS—January 13-14

#### **Proposal for tournament additions**

5. Earl Warren High School--January 27-28, 2006
6. Odessa Permian—Richard Kincaid; February 3-4, 2006
7. Corpus Christi King HS—David Gardiner (request would be withdrawn)
8. San Antonio Clark—February 10-11, 2006

Motion was made and passed to accept these date changes and the addition of these tournaments

### **New Business (Amendments)**

#### **Reduce the Numbers for IQT's**

Wayne Paulus offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. The question was called. Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote count was 82-24. The amendment passed.

#### **Codify the Dissemination of Ballots**

Wayne Paulus offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. The question was called. Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 81-7. The amendment passed.

#### **Allow for the Holding of Swing Tournaments**

J. Scott Baker offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. Questions were raised about the impact of the swing tournament on the offerings of various region, the impact on the size of the state tournament, whether or not students who are currently qualified from the first

part of the swing tournament would be eligible to compete in the second part, and other questions about the logistics of holding such a tournament. The point was made that nothing prevents the holding of a tournament sponsored by two schools on the campus of one school. In other words, two schools could currently host a swing tournament if they wished. Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 53-53. The amendment failed.

### **Limit Entry Fees (75%)**

Clint Adams offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. He focused on the diminishing amount of funds available for programs, the possibility of increasing small school participation, and persons can budget in advance for tournaments. Speeches in opposition focused on the cost of hosting such as room rentals, custodial fees, trophies and other tournament costs. Motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 7-81. The amendment failed.

### **Ombudsman**

Dixie Waldo offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. She focused on the process of having the Executive Council involved in the first level of protests at the state tournament. It pulls the Executive Council away from their jobs at the state tournament. Speeches in opposition focused on who would be the ombudsman, the procedure that would be followed, and the responses that might conflict with one another. The motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 84-8. Amendment carried.

### **Ethical Conduct**

Dave Huston offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment. The motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 88-0.

### **Accurate Reporting of Entries**

Dave Huston offered the amendment and gave a rationale for the amendment Accurate Reporting of Points. The motion was made and seconded to accept the amendment. The vote was 90-2.

Motion was made to recess at 9:54 until the next evening. Motion passed.

Elections were held in Region 2 and 4 for representatives. Diane Forbes was elected as the Region 2 representative. Gary Boeger was elected as the Region 4 representative.

**The second session of the business meeting was called to order on Friday evening at 7:45 p.m.**

### **Change Duet to Duo:**

Robert Shepherd authored amendment to change duet to duo and offered rationale. The motion was made and seconded. The vote was 53-28 and the amendment failed due to lack of 2/3 vote.

### **Change CX in Extemp**

Jason Warren offered rationale to change CX in extemp to keep up to date with current trends. Motion was made and seconded. Amendment passed with no opposition.

### **Tabled motion from 2004 business meeting**

Motion was made to remove from the table the amendment concerning tournament entries that was tabled at last year's convention. Jay Stubbs, Bellaire High School, authored original amendment. Motion was made and failed.

### **Amendment for Grace Periods**

Clint Adams explained rationale for amendment. Motion was made, seconded. The vote was 51-30 and the motion failed.

### **Amendment for One Act Play as a TFA event**

Andy Berkovsky explained rationale for amendment. Explanation was an extension of the resolution that was originally proposed. Dixie suggested a committee needed to be formed, motion was made. The vote was 47-35 and the committee recommendation was passed. The committee consists of Andy, Charlotte, Magda, Martin Klein, and Martha Howard. The charge for the committee is to report back in one year with a recommendation.

### **Amendment for Cross Examination in CX debate**

Russell Rach explained the rationale for the amendment. The parliamentarian pointed out that the amendment is redundant with language that already exists in the TFA constitution. Motion was made to object to the consideration of the amendment. Vote was 61-7 and the question will not be considered.

### **Amendment Regarding Debate elimination brackets**

Greg Magee explained the rationale for the amendment with a friendly amendment that changed language to state, "If 15 or less teams compete, quarterfinals do not have to be held." (Add this to subpoint a) Motion was made and seconded. The motion passed with no opposition. The amendment is adopted.

### **Parliamentary inquiry**

Hollis Grizzard started a discussion about whether abstentions count as votes.

Jason Warren, parliamentarian, read and interpreted Robert's Rules of Order and the Constitution and interpreted the vote counts to be as stated in the standing rules. The conclusion of the parliamentarian was that abstentions do not count in the vote count according to the TFA constitution. Discussion continued on amendments.

### **Amendment to determine the appropriate level of elimination rounds**

Withdrawn

### **Public Forum amendment**

Sally Squibb, Author explained the rationale for amendment. Amendment generated from public forum committee. Discussion followed the presentation of the rationale. Motion was made to table the amendment. Motion failed. Motion was made and seconded to adopt the amendment. Vote was 40-51; the motion fails.

**Amendment to eliminate mutual preference**

Rosemary Kincaid explained rationale for amendment. Brent Hinkle was given 3 minutes to answer specific questions about the amendment with primary discussion focusing on how discussion should be about mutual preference and not software used at State tournament. Motion made, seconded. Vote was 21-60; amendment fails.

**Amendment to events sanctioned by the association: Debate (technology)**

Amendment that came out of the technology committee

Wayne Paulus explained rationale for amendment with friendly amendment that strikes the last sentence in #4 (strike: The computer may be used for flowing or preparing speeches only, not for information retrieval.) Motion made, seconded. Vote was 67-6 and the motion passes.

**Congress amendments: State tournament base system usage**

Paul Byrne explained rationale. Motion made, seconded. Vote was passed unopposed.

Add:

The Base system will be used for prelims, semis, and super congress at TFA state.

**Amendment for Entries at TFA state**

Paul Byrne explained rationale. Motion made, seconded. Vote passes unopposed.

Add:

Students who have qualified for the TFA state tournament in any event, may not compete in the Senate.

**Reconsideration of the Swing tournament amendment**

Russell Rach made the motion to reconsider the Swing tournament amendment that was defeated in the first session. Vote was 27-42, motion failed.

**Announcements:**

Glenda Ferguson: Will offer public forum if more people will compete in the event.

Jane Boyd: People still need to sign up for committees for Nationals, need workers!

Aaron Timmons: More people need to sign up for programs for next year's convention. Made presentation to Dixie Waldo for her service to TFA.

Committee was formed to study impact on State tournament of additional events added to IQTs

Chair: Dan Lingel

Jay Stubbs

Brent Hinkle

Shawn Mena

Kandi King

Meeting adjourned. No meeting for Saturday.

TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION TREASURER REPORT

CURRENT BANK BALANCE 7896.69

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES: 654.37

NATIONAL TEXAS BAGS: 3904.58

POSTAGE

WALDO: 23.00

SCHUETZ 76.44

MAY EXEC COUNCIL MTG

TRAVEL: 694.57

FOOD: 88.74

AUGUST EXEX COUNCIL MTG

TRAVEL: 209.90

FOOD: 130.39

TABLE AT NATIONALS: 100.00

SCHOLARSHIPS:

SERENA LOFTUS: 500.00

JOHN JOHNSON: 500.00

DAVID BLACK: 1000.00

JENNIFER LOVE: 1000.00

STATE SITE VISIT:

TRAVEL: 632.40

RENTAL CAR: 155.96

NATIONAL FEDERATION MTG

TRAVEL: 2108.32

HOTEL: 538.46

FOOD: 146.71