

# Texas Forensic Association

Fall 2006

## Welcome!

Hopefully you have enjoyed the past couple of months, and are well rested and ready for the new school year.

There is a lot of new information that you will need in order to make your TFA life a little less stressful. For many veteran coaches, there is a lot of old news, and for the brand new coaches, some of this information may be overwhelming, but for all of us as an Association, we need this information, so please be patient.

Hopefully, you have already received your membership forms. If you have not sent in your membership, please do it NOW! Dues are now \$150.00 if you are attending convention, \$ 120.00 if you are not. We aren't making a profit, but are

allowing the organization to offer more bang for your buck. TFA Membership allows students to qualify for the TFA State Meet, becomes a way for coaches to learn more about forensics, and awards scholarships to deserving seniors.

When you join TFA, you also become a member of The National Federation of Speech Coaches Association. This association carries a liability policy that protects you whenever you transport students to and from tournaments. That's worth the membership. TFA is a professional consideration for you and we hope that you join us.

## TXFA.ORG a.k.a. The Lifeline

Please make sure that you bookmark TFA's website [txfa.org](http://txfa.org). You will find an easy to navigate site that will contain a lot of information needed for your survival. Here are some features:

**Official Documents:** The website will have links to download the Constitution and By-laws, ballots for the tournaments, the scholarship application, and other important information.

**Tournament Calendar:** The tournament schedule is now official. There have been many changes since it was first posted. At this point, any changes to the schedule will need approval from the membership.

**Student Congress:** You will find an explanation of what the event is,

legislation, and other tools to make running the event easier for you.

**IQT Reports:** This section allows you to track your students' progress throughout the year.

**Contact Information:** Need information about a coach? Need to contact your region representative or an officer? Here's the section. Please feel free to contact an officer or a region representative if you have a question or an issue that needs to be addressed.

**Updated Info:** When new information is added, your region representatives will be notified and will contact you. Please note that when the state meet rolls around, updated information may be posted on a daily basis; please check it often.

## TSCA /TFA Convention

Many times we sit through an in-service and wonder, "What does this have to do with speech/communication applications/debate?" This convention is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what you teach. This year it will be held October 4-7 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo. TFA sponsors workshops in debate, public speaking and interpretation. Please visit [www.etsca.com/convention-info06.asp](http://www.etsca.com/convention-info06.asp) for more information.

This is also where TFA addresses the tournament calendar, rule changes and constitutional changes. We are officially calling for proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. Many of you

have already given your region representatives your proposed changes, if you have not; please send a copy to Aaron Timmons ([timmonsa@greenhill.org](mailto:timmonsa@greenhill.org)) and Yolanda Silva ([yxsilva@episd.org](mailto:yxsilva@episd.org)).

### What does this mean?

Proposals need to be turned in thirty days before convention. It will only take a simple majority vote to make the changes. If you turn in your proposals after that, changes will require a 3/4 majority.

This is an opportunity to voice your opinion about what happens in this association. Many changes affect your students, so please make an effort to attend.

## Deadlines

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### **September 4-**

Constitutional, by-law, and tournament changes

### **October 31-**

Membership dues due

### **December 15-**

Congress Legislation due.

### **December 15-**

Judging information for TFA state due.

Please send to Rhonda Bell at:

[rhonda.bell@humble.k12.tx.us](mailto:rhonda.bell@humble.k12.tx.us)

## Tournament Calendar/State Meet

The official calendar is out. Please note that many changes have happened with in the last couple of months. You may view all the tournaments or narrow it down to the tournaments in your region.

Unless there is an extenuating circumstance (fire to building, coach turnover) new tournaments may not be added at this time. The only way to host a tournament at this time would be by a vote of attending members during the TFA meetings at Convention in Amarillo.

So, after all of this, hopefully you will be attending the TFA State Meet to be held

at **Creekview High School in Carrollton, TX**. This will be held **March 1-3, 2007**. Please mark your calendars, get your students hyped, and let's make our way to Creekview!

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## The New IQT Point System

If you have not seen this already, we have a new [point system](#). At the Executive Council meeting, there were concerns about the size of the tournament. At this point, the TFA State Meet has numbers rivaling the NFL National tournament; if we want to keep having a state meet of that size, we must have facilities that can handle the tournament, and we must have schools to volunteer those facilities. As a result

the Executive Council felt that a new system would help alleviate the overcrowding problem. Further, many will notice that there are two separate point systems. We need to recognize the disparate number of opportunities students have to compete and qualify in certain regions of the state in comparison to other regions.

## Tournament Hosts and the IQT Process

If you are hosting a tournament please make sure that you read this.

In the past many tournament hosts were not getting their IQT reports by the deadlines. As a result, TFA had to ensure that hosts were meeting their deadlines.

Here's the recap:

1. IQT Reports must be uploaded the Monday after your tournament. The IQT coordinator will verify results and make them official.
2. IQT Reports will be posted on <http://www.txfa.org> so that coaches can verify the results.
3. If you do not meet the deadline, you will be fined \$150.00 plus \$25.00 a day if you do not submit

the reports by Wednesday of that week. A letter to the host's principal will be sent explaining why the host was fined.

4. The results of the tournament will be unofficial, and the points earned by the competitors will not count towards the state meet. The qualified students from the host school will also not be allowed to compete.
5. Once the reports are in, and the fines are paid, students will be allowed to compete.
6. Please make sure to check the IQT reports and submit corrections (name changes, spelling changes). These changes must be made within 7 days. Changes made after that (except spelling errors) will not be allowed.

## Committees/Officer Nominations

If you are interested in running for TFA Office, please contact the members of the nominating committee. They will be submitting nominations for the 2006-2007 school year. They are:

### Nominating Committee

Region 1- Kim Thomas- Frenship H.S.  
 Region 2- Jane Boyd- Grapevine H.S.  
 Region 3- Heather Hayes Keith - Ronald Reagan H.S.  
 Region 4 - Cecil Trent - Memorial H.S.  
 Region 5- Jennifer Adams - Big Spring H.S.

### Region Representatives

#### **Region 1**

Carol Hildebrand  
 Caprock HS  
[carol.hildebrand@amaisd.org](mailto:carol.hildebrand@amaisd.org)

#### **Region 2**

Jason Sykes  
 Grapevine HS  
[jason.sykes@gcisd.net](mailto:jason.sykes@gcisd.net)

#### **Region 3**

Erin Stage  
 Hays HS  
[stagee@haycisd.net](mailto:stagee@haycisd.net)

#### **Region 4**

Gary Boeger  
 The Woodlands HS  
[gboeger@conroeisd.net](mailto:gboeger@conroeisd.net)

#### **Region 5**

Shawn Mena  
 Bel Air HS  
[smena12@hotmail.com](mailto:smena12@hotmail.com)

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*New to Convention?*

*Print a copy of proposed changes. It'll make the meeting easier to follow.*

## Executive Council Meeting

In an effort to make this a more open Executive Council, here is some information that we discussed.

### State Meet Information

1. Because of judging shortages, scheduling block choices have now been eliminated for judging. Coaches/Judges are expected to be available for the duration of the tournament.
2. Strikes for IE's do not carry over into consolation events.
3. Nuisance fees will be added to TFA State entries for incomplete or late submissions of documents or online data. Fees will be \$25.00 per occurrence.
4. Patches will no longer be given out at TFA state but will instead be offered for sale to students attending (much like T-shirts) with all profit being put directly into TFA scholarships.
5. A school fee of a minimal nature will be paid by all schools competing in future TFA State tournaments. Those funds will then be given to the host school by TFA to be used at the discretion of that schools coach (es).
6. Change the procedure for judge bonds to the following. If checks are not picked up at the end of TFA State for judge bonds then schools will have to request them in a timely manner or risk losing their judge bonds.

### Financial

1. Increasing TFA dues from \$25 to \$50 dollars.
2. President Aaron Timmons submitted, and the Executive Council agreed, that a new protocol should be adopted which limits the ability of the President and the Treasurer to spend more than \$750 dollars without approval of a majority of the Executive Council.
3. The Executive Council agreed that the Texas Forensic Association should invest in a Certificate of Deposit accrue interest and provide TFA with funds for a "rainy day" in case of extreme need as determined by a majority of the Executive Council.
4. Cap the amount that the Texas Forensic Association will provide for the Texas Speech Communication Association "coffee and pastries" at convention at \$1500. Currently the TFA has been providing \$4500 yearly for this event.

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*Any tips or suggestions  
for new coaches?  
Please send them in to  
[yxsilva@episd.org](mailto:yxsilva@episd.org)*

## TFA Officers

### President

Aaron Timmons  
Greenhill School  
[timmons@greenhill.org](mailto:timmons@greenhill.org)

### Vice President

Rhonda Bell  
Atascocita High School  
[rhonda.bell@humble.k12.tx.us](mailto:rhonda.bell@humble.k12.tx.us)

### Secretary

Yolanda Silva  
Burgess HS  
[yxsilva@episd.org](mailto:yxsilva@episd.org)

### Treasurer

W.E. Schuetz  
Gregory-Portland HS  
[weschuetz@g-pisd.org](mailto:weschuetz@g-pisd.org)

### Archivist

Roberta Grenfell  
Klein HS  
[rgrenfell@kleinisd.net](mailto:rgrenfell@kleinisd.net)

### IQT Coordinator

Alicia Elliott  
Creekview HS  
[dunsona@cfbisd.edu](mailto:dunsona@cfbisd.edu)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.txfa.com](http://www.txfa.com)



## Bluebonnet Nationals

The National Forensic League National Speech Tournament was held June 18-23 in Dallas. This was a wonderful tournament hosted by the Grapevine and Colleyville Heritage High Schools. Of course, this tournament would not be possible without the organization, brainpower, labor, and love of Jane Boyd and Cindi Timmons. It was evident that these women and their volunteers put so much effort and care into this tournament that many comments were made stating

that this was arguably the best national tournament that NFL has hosted. Of course, NFL might take some credit, but this crew made sure that this would be a memorable experience for all. Thank you for your hard work!

### ...and the Results...

Again, our students maintained that great Texas forensic tradition.

#### National Champions

Douglas Jeffers-Dulles H.S. LD Debate

Josh Toney-Duncanville H.S. Poetry

Ryan Glenn- Plano Senior H.S. Storytelling

Jessica Furgerson- O'Connor H.S.  
Impromptu

#### National Finalists

Nicole Kreisberg- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Original Oratory  
Churchill H.S.

Elizabeth Jordan & Alex Hardaway- 6<sup>th</sup>-Duo  
James Martin H.S.

Tex Dawson- 4<sup>th</sup>-U.S. Extemp- Plano West  
Sr. H.S.

Mark Issacson-6<sup>th</sup>-U.S. Extemp Bay City H.S.

Alec Swafford & Henry Tsai-6<sup>th</sup>-CX-Bellaire  
H.S.

Koplan Nwabuoku-Congress-Alief Kerr H.S.

Nauder Namaky-Congress-Plano East Sr.  
H.S.

Samantha Shaw-Congress-Carroll H.S.

Antoine Stovall-2<sup>nd</sup>-Poetry-Scarborough H.S.

David Hathaway-6<sup>th</sup>-Poetry-El Campo H.S.

Seth Hunter-2<sup>nd</sup>-Prose-Scarborough H.S.

Jonathan Stansbury-3<sup>rd</sup>-Prose-Deer Park  
H.S.

Chris Page-2<sup>nd</sup>-Storytelling- Princeton H.S.

### ...and some more...

#### Semi-Finalists

Austen Adair-13<sup>th</sup>-Humorous Interp-  
Grapevine H.S.

Grayson Howe-14<sup>th</sup>- Humorous Interp.-  
Colleyville Heritage H.S.

Elias Abdalla-10<sup>th</sup>- Dramatic Interp- Gregory-  
Portland H.S.

Ernest Bennick-13<sup>th</sup>- Dramatic Interp- Plano  
West Sr. H.S.

Kelsi Tyler & Jonathan Foster-13<sup>th</sup>- Duo-  
Klein H.S.

Nathan Abell-11<sup>th</sup>-LD- Marcus H.S.

Eric Hartz-House-Carroll H.S.

Anim Haroon- House- Newman Smith H.S.

Tian Feng-House-House-Plano West Sr. H.S.

Elizabeth Frankel-Senate-Plano Sr. H.S.

Brit Schulte- Senate- Harker Heights H.S.

Everette Kreider- Senate-O'Connor H.S.

Kevin Eaton-Senate-Duncanville H.S.

Eric Stromme-Senate-Frisco H.S.

Again, congratulations to students and their coaches. Their hard work really puts us on the map.