

TEXAS FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

Some Words from Our New President...



One of the hardest parts of teaching and coaching is finding a balance between the demands of this career and a personal life. Too often, we get out of balance and let the activity of speech/debate become far too important. We lose connections with positive people and miss meaningful moments. Then we become negative or bitter or wonder why "they" don't do something. As we work our way through the rest of the spring, I urge each of you to pursue those experiences that make life worthwhile outside of the classroom and away from tournaments. Find balance with your life and this activity. I also urge you to begin to ask, "what can I do to help?" rather than asking, "why don't they do more?"

You may be thinking, "How can I help?" Well, I'm so glad you asked! Please take a look at the committees on the TFA website and let your Region Reps know if you have a strong desire to participate on one. Some have been set for this year and some have not. I would like to have a good list of people who are willing to help in these areas if needed. Also, in order to help the Constitutional Task Force, if you know of something that is an inconsistency in the constitution or that is not addressed that should be, please contact Erin Stage, the taskmaster of this group.

At this time I want to say thank you for your service and best of luck to EC members who are leaving us for now – Rhonda Bell, Past President, Brent Hinkle, Secretary, and Jason Sykes, Region II Rep. Happy trails! And in their places, I want to welcome Bill Schuetz as Past President, Robert Shepard as vice-president, Raul Ruiz as

secretary and Diane Forbes as Region II Rep. We are looking forward to working together to serve the needs of your students and you. The weekend of May 16th and 17th we will be meeting to address the varied and numerous issues facing our organization. After that Raul will post another newsletter.

Please be thinking about the future of TFA. Consider what kinds of actions we can take to keep our organization vital and productive for all students and school districts. If you have concerns or ideas for TFA and you don't know where to send them, send them to me. I will get them to the proper person or share them with the EC for discussion. If each one of us would make one positive action to make this organization stronger and better, imagine what we could accomplish! Although we will never all agree on the exact path to TFA success, I promise that the EC will listen, carefully consider and discuss those issues

that we must address. In turn, I would challenge you to come to convention with a positive attitude and ready for spirited, but respectful debate and a heart for compromise that can serve us and, especially, our students. Start by going out and doing something fun with those people you love and care about! A positive frame of mind will lead to positive, meaningful action. To borrow a "historical" phrase – "Together, we can."

Karen Wilbanks coaches at Plano Senior High School.

**Good Luck at
NFL Nationals
to all TFA
member schools.**



**We now the
Texas stars will
fall on Alabama
this June!**

New Rules for Hosting a TFA IQT

The EC has voted to change the IQT application process for 2009-2010. Applications now will require a PAID TFA membership by October 1 or one week prior to the approved tournament date (whichever is earliest). Tournaments will be removed from the IQT calendar if this earlier deadline for membership is not met by the IQT host. The online option for TFA membership is now ready for 2009-2010 memberships. Click on [Join TFA](#) in the left-hand menu on the TFA

website to join TFA.

The council was give three options (at right). Option 3 received the majority. The measure was passed with a 5-1-1 vote of the '08-'09 council. The final results:

Option 1 - Sykes

Option 3 - Woodward, Stage, Silva, Gardiner, Hinkle

No vote - Hildebrand

Options:

- 1) Leave the membership app the way it is and make no changes this year.
- 2) Change the membership app to include TFA/TSCA dues for one Coach at the hosting school.
- 3) Amend the membership app to have TFA/TSCA dues for one Coach at the hosting school due October first or one week before their tournament, if the tournament is prior to October 1st.

Visit
txfa.org
for all
your TFA
needs!

**Deadline for
Application
to host a TFA
IQT is May 1,
2009!**

Join us for the 2009 TSCA/TFA Convention in Dallas!

**Beyond Words:
Nonverbal Communi-
cation - A Second
Language**

October 7-10, 2009

**Omni Mandalay Hotel
at Las Colinas
221 E Las Colinas
Irving, TX 75039
(972) 556-0800
(972) 556-0729 (fax)**

New Executive Council for 2009-2010

- President: Karen Wilbanks, Plano Senior HS
 Vice-President: Robert Shepard, Creekview HS
 Secretary: Raul Ruiz, Sandra Day O'Connor HS
 Treasurer: David Gardiner, Richard King HS
 Region 1 Representative: Carol Hildebrand, Caprock HS
 Region 2 Representative: Diane Forbes, Southlake Carroll HS
 Region 3 Representative: Erin Stage, Buda Hays HS
 Region 4 Representative: Adam Woodward, Atascocita HS
 Region 5 Representative: Yolanda Silva, Burges HS

Non-Voting Members

- IQT Coordinator: Alicia Dunson, Creekview HS
 Past President: Bill Scheutz, Gregory-Portland HS
 Archivist: Sammy Green, Spring HS

Please send ideas for future Newsletter items to raul@carrenogroup.com.