

Texas Forensic Association

NEWSLETTER

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May/June 2009

New Executive Committee Meets in Dallas

The 2009-2010 Texas Forensic Association Executive Committee (EC) met at the Wyndham Inn-Love Field in Dallas on May 16th. In attendance were President Karen Wilbanks, Vice President Robert Shepard, Secretary Raul Ruiz, Region 1 Rep Carol Hildebrand, Region 4 Rep Adam Woodward and Region 5 Rep Yolanda Silva.



The first order of business was the State Meet bid presentation by Ysleta ISD. Scott Thoreson and Shawn Mena represented the district. The EC was impressed with the site planning and overall attention to details within the presentation and unanimously voted to accept the bid. We look forward to having a successful TFA State Meet in El Paso.

The EC then moved on to discuss various financial issues. It first met with Finance Committee Chair Glenda Ferguson. Ms. Ferguson gave an update on the report being prepared by the committee. She will have a final report for the body by our Annual Business Meeting in October. The EC went on to discuss and approve various measures to create fiscal transparency and create accounting practices which conform to accepted standards. Among these measures are hiring a CPA to help the Treasurer with federal taxes and general bookkeeping, publishing a simple monthly financial report every month

in the newsletter, and creating electronic versions of all statements and receipts so that they may be passed on to a new EC every year.

The EC continued its meeting by looking at various governance and procedural issues. It first created a Late Fee Structure for TFA Membership. Another issue addressed was the procedure by which changes to a tournament's IQT Report should be submitted to the IQT Coordinator.

Various items discussed at the meeting will be given further attention in this newsletter and newsletters to come. Please know that your EC welcomes any ideas, questions and comments. In the end, the purpose of our organization is to “bring about more effective cooperation among the members of the speech and theatre arts profession in the discharge of their special responsibilities in forensic and theatre activities.” We hope to fulfill this purpose every year.

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TFA IQT Scheduling

The EC has begun the job of creating the 2009-2010 TFA IQT Calendar. The deadline to submit an application for an IQT was May 1st. The EC will still consider applications received until August 15th. A tentative calendar was published on May 20th. Another calendar will be published June 5th. The final IQT calendar will be available on August 17th.

A new twist to the IQT schedule is the addition of "Weekend Numbers." In order to be fair in the creation of the IQT calendar, the EC has adopted a new procedure for its scheduling. Schools will be assigned a preferred Weekend Number, instead of a preferred date. The EC hopes this practice will clear up any confusion with shifting dates created by passing years.

New Forms

This year there will be two new forms. One

will help our IQT Coordinator deal with changes submitted for an IQT Report and the other will help the EC make sure one of its constitutional duties is being executed.

The first form is our "IQT Report Correction Form". With the many corrections received by our IQT Coordinator, we needed a way to keep track of changes and to keep coaches accountable for checking all pending IQT reports on the TFA website. So, we creating a timeline for changes to be submitted and some consequences if they are not submitted on time. Coaches should use the form to submit changes within the first seven (7) days of a tournament's posting on the website. After seven days, a change will cost \$25. After fourteen (14), it will cost \$50. No changes will occur after 30 days.

Why so harsh? It is very difficult for the IQT Coordinator to enter changes into the system after the IQT Report has been made

final. It is also difficult to research an issue that is over a month old. Since our IQT Coordinator already has a full time job, we want to make sure that all issues are addressed as quickly as possible with the fewest amount of difficulties for all.

The second form is a "Profit/Loss Statement" for an IQT. Why is it the EC's business how much

money you make? Well, the answer is on page 39 of the Constitution and By-Laws. One of the requirements of an TFA-sanctioned IQT is to make sure all judges fees are going to judges and not being used as profit. In order for the EC to make sure that this is taking place, we must ask all tournament hosts to fill out the form and turn it in by April 1st.

March 2009 Financial Statement

Beginning Balance:	\$23,333.94
Deposits:	\$88,165.00
Withdrawals:	\$64,211.43
Balance on 3/31/09:	\$47,287.51

April 2009 Financial Statement

Beginning Balance:	\$ 47,287.51
Deposits:	\$ 0.00
Withdrawals:	\$ 20,322.00
Balance on 4/30/09:	\$ 26,965.51