

TFA Executive Officers' E-Retreat

June 5-6, 2020

Virtual/Zoom Meeting from Homes/Offices

I. Welcome

A. Time Stamp- June 5, 2020. 9:03am

B. Introduction

C. Present: Lillian Adeyemi, John Mast, Vicky Beard, Noah Recker, Yolanda Silva, Michelle Watkins, Ryan Lovell, Ryan Hennessey, Rory McKenzie, Brent Hinkle, Dylan Bennett, Kirsten Nash, Joe Uhler.

D. Constitution Committee: Colin Malinak, Eric Mears, Kim Falco, Melissa Denny, Cecil Trent

II. Officer Reports

A. Vice President

B. Treasurer: Noah will meet with our CPA Monday 6/8.

C. Secretary: Reviewed last meeting's minutes

D. Region 1: Town Hall went smoothly.

E. Region 2: Town Hall went well. The EC will know more on logistics of virtual tournaments later.

F. Region 3: Town Hall went well. There were many questions raised regarding judge training and it was suggested that we have a town hall meeting again after Nats. Many members wanted to know what platform is being used.

G. Region 4: Town Hall (there were 2). They were well attended. Big question: Equity. They wanted to know what platform is being used. Some schools don't allow Zoom.

H. Region 5: Equity and Tech issues were the main concern, videotaping issues, and payment of judges.

I. Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Rohrbach can't attend today because of his district senior activities.

J. Archivist: No news currently.

K. Social Media: all social medias are up and rolling. Gradual increase of followers. Instagram is slower, but Alumni Page will pick up as well.

The Google Suites suggested is still undecided at this time. Website: possible changing format to be more student user friendly.

L. Webmaster/Tabulation System-Platform: Brent Hinkle gave a report. He updated the IQT calendar and updated the constitution. He will not be able to meet the July 4th deadline for developing a new platform for online debate tournaments. He might be able to have one by end of August, or early September, but the due date being moved up because of COVID-19 made it impossible to have a solid product by July 4th. EC had an extensive discussion about what platform to utilize - to use Joy of Tournaments or another platform. Noah made a motion to mandate Tabroom for IQT registration for the 2020-2021 school year. John Mast 2nd. Voted Yes: Noah Recker, Ryan Hennessey, John

Mast, Lilly Adeyemi, Rory McKenzie. Voted No: Yolanda Silva, Vicky Beard, Ryan Lovell, Michelle Watkins. Motion passes on a 5-4 decision. Suggestion was made to retain Brent Hinkle as TFA webmaster and IQT point consultant, if he would like to fill those roles moving forward. Joy of Tournaments has been working on a paperless tabulation until now and should be financially compensated for their services. Another vote was taken to pay Joy of Tournaments for these services. Ryan Hennessey made a motion and Vicky 2nd. Passes 8-0-0. (John stepped away).

M. IQT Coordinator: Will be Nicole Cornish and Grant Hahn will help train her.

III. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

A. Title I: John Mast reported. Diagnosed problems of funding, lack of access to consultants, tech, and camps. TFA can only deal with the fees part for Title I Schools. Constitution does not state anything about fees, so this cannot be attached to anything in the constitution. Waiving entry fees is more plausible than waiving judge fees. The definition of what a Title I School still needs to be determined. It was suggested to survey to the Body of what schools need in terms of tech. Kris Wright suggested adding a new non-voting member of the EC to help to get volunteers to judge for Title I Schools. Vice-President (and could work with Kris) could help do this. The TFA Alumni Group was discussed at this meeting as well.

The EC begin a discussion of this Ad Hoc Committee. If Title I fees would get fees waived, Non-Title I Schools fees would have to be increased. Entry fees will go up anyway because of the added 2nd judge for individual events at the State Tournament. Many smaller school districts may/can get budget cuts because of COVID19, and school districts are not getting the taxes from people b/c they can't pay their taxes due to no jobs. The President of TFA could appoint someone to do this as well. John suggested a standing committee for the Title I School Ad Hoc Committee. Noah said it must be an amendment with a new description. The Topic Committee should be disbanded due to lack of topics submitted and the need to create an Equity Committee should be created. This needs votes to pass. Noah made a motion to disband debate topic committee. Ryan Hennessey 2nd. There was a vote. Unanimous vote of Yes. Noah made a 2nd motion to create an Equity Committee for TFA State. Ryan Hennessey 2nd. There was a vote. Unanimous vote of Yes. All amendments should be sent to the Constitution Committee (Kim Falco) to determine if amendments are constitutional.

B. State IQT Tabulation: Ryan Hennessey gave a report for this Ad Hoc Committee and shared his report with the EC. For State Tab, the changed amendment needs to be put in the correct place in the constitution, because now there is nowhere to put it. It should be put in the State Tournament Portion. Next, tabulation changes need to be made to clarify how competitors advance to quarter-finals. Last year at State, it was not clear how many to break. Make it a natural break between 36-42, and not just a specific break number. Another concern from last year, was that prelim rounds weighed more to determine who advanced to semis and finals. Suggestion was that prelims use a composite re-ranks that takes the cumulative average of ranks of each prelims. Please refer to

the Notes of this Committee. This will be presented to the Body for a vote.

Robert Shepard will address the Body on this report. A motion made by Noah to accept this report. Michelle Watkins 2nd the motion. Vote: All voted unanimously to accept the report to be presented at convention.

- C. **vIQT:** Ad Hoc Committee Report presented by Joe Uhler. He shared his notes with the committee. Lots of suggestions given. It's heavy on debate more than individual events and EC made some slight changes and allowances for 1 day tournaments. Kirsten moved to accept the document presented by this committee. Rory 2nd the motion. Vote: unanimous Yes, so it passes. This is pilot until the TFA Body votes in October. Report is on a separate PDF. EC directed the vIQT committee to produce a document that would provide norms and expectations for vIQTs (for coaches, students, judges).
- D. **Constitution Committee:** The committee of Colin Malinak, Melissa Denny, Kim Falco, Cecil Trent, Eric Mears were all present to continue working on updating and correcting the TFA Constitution. Corrections in the form of general housekeeping (redundancies, misspelled words, contradictions, etc.) will be updated on txfa.org ASAP.

IV. New Businesses

- A. **IQT Calendar:** has been submitted and uploaded to txfa.org Tentative until August 15th.
- B. **TSCA/UII/TSCA Virtual Convention Proposed:** There are several who are out-of-state panelists and it's recommended they be paid. \$100. A motion made by Kirsten Nash, 2nd by Joe Uhler. Vote was 8 yes; 0 no; 1 not present: Noah Recker was not present for vote. This motion passes. Lilly will confirm panels.
- C. **TSCA/UII/TSCA Convention:** TFA needs to be more proactive with TSCA. They are our governing body/parent organization, they get our hotels rooms, print our cards, and still give 100% of our TFA dues to us. General discussion about ways in which TFA can solidify relationship with TSCA.

Lilly asked for a motion to recess for today Ryan motioned for recess and John 2nd the motion.

There was a recess until Sunday June 7th at 10:00 am

Lilly made a motion to open the meeting Sunday 6/7 at 10:07am.

Present: Lillian Adeyemi, Rory McKenzie, John Mast, Ryan Hennessey, Noah Recker, Michelle Watkins, Vicky Beard, Yolanda Silva, Ryan Lovell, Kirsten Nash, and Joe Uhler.

- D. **Discussion continued about TSCA convention.** Lilly reached out to Amy about plans for convention. No definite plans have been secured as of yet other than convention being online. TFA wants to keep our EC and regional meetings and TFA Business meetings. Again, it was stressed that TFA membership needs to be more actively involved in TSCA matters by attending the business meetings and

helping to move the organization forward. Lilly will know more in July meeting about convention.

- E. State 2021 & 2022 (50th Anniversary)-** The only state bid to host is from Gregory Portland High School to be on March 11th-13th, 2021. EC will vote on this at the next meeting in July. Lilly needs to discuss with Salena Pereida from G.P. about the use of more classrooms for state. Joe Uhler would like to apply to be the TFA State Coordinator for this state tournament (assuming it is hosted at G.P.). State 2022 is TFA's 50th anniversary and we need to plan ahead. It will be Region 1's turn to host. Ryan Lovell is looking into hosting at his school, but has no update because of COVID-19 and he hasn't been able to discuss it with his principal.
- F. NSDA Nationals:** This is the largest NSDA Nats ever. So, for online platforms, Lilly will talk to Scott Wunn after Nats. She will look into Hop In as well. Social Media Director Dylan Bennett will contact Region Reps about getting video clips from coaches to wish Texas good luck at Nats in lieu of a TFA Nats Party.
- G. Kirsten Nash: talked to the EC about Hop In.** She explained various features of the platform. It is considerably cheaper than Classrooms.Cloud platform. \$12,000 a year for Hop In. For one organizer (school) it's \$99 a year. Lilly will need to talk to them in more detail about using this platform. Hop In is one site and everything is recorded and stored for free and no need for Zoom (some school districts prohibit zoom use.) After 100 users, it's just 50 cents a room. Rooms are password protected. You can only have 20 people per time. (Congress cannot be more than 20 in a room.) More information is needed and would need to discuss Hop In with Tabroom. The \$225 will be used for a new IQT platform. For example, it could possibly be used for two organizers in Hop In. Lilly will talk to representatives from Hop In and Classrooms.Cloud before any decision is made.
- H. Rory (after Nats) suggested:** meeting with Interp Coaches to get their feedback for online tournaments and has volunteered to help with this. Ryan Hennessey volunteered to help as well. First, create a list of interp coaches from the Region Reps. John Mast. Suggested list to include: Marco Bazan, Frank Rivera, Noah Recker, Paige Frost, Megan Conley, Brandon Forinish, Letra Johnican, Liana Hinojosa, Megan Conley, Sami Womack, Xandelyn Wright, Robert Shepard, Vicky Beard, Ashley Freeman, Andrew Barrett, Hannah McCord, Eric Pinon, Salena Pereida, Sara-Jane Shepperd, Erika Baker, Irene Gardea, and Jackie Ochoa. Coaches not listed, but interested, obviously are welcome after letting region reps know of their interest.
- E. Texas Forensic Association Alumni (TFAA)-** was launched this weekend. Numerous positive comments about coaches/experiences. The TFA statement on facebook had a complaint about the statement recently published.
- V. **Additional Business:** On the Point Schedule, Rory added state points for vIQTs that host only 4 prelims (no elims). This is only for vIQTs. For vIQTs, WSD, for state points, has also been updated for only 4 rounds. EC will strongly suggest to vIQT hosts that all vIQTs be more than 4 rounds of debate.

Rory made a motion to vote on the adjusted point schedule for virtual tournaments only, and Ryan Hennessey 2nd. For 4 rounds, 3 & 4 must be power matched. Vote: all voted Yes, except John Mast who stepped away. This passes on an 8-0-0 decision. As the vIQT season moves forward in 2020-2021, the EC will continue to monitor qualification numbers and will make adjustments based on existing data.

Ryan Lovell reported that members in Region 1 are concerned with the amount of time devoted to CX (time devoted to unofficial, and not scheduled time) at TFA State: (prepping teams, judge critiques, etc...) and lack of female representation in CX itself, and lack of female judges. It would be helpful if Tabroom could have system to acknowledge that judge “picked up” the ballot to determine when round started. This might be easier in a virtual tournament world this upcoming year. This can be discussed more as the state tournament draws closer. Also, if state is virtual, we need to revise jobs for Region Reps.

VI. Adjourn Time Stamp: Noah moved to adjourn this meeting and Rory 2nd. The EC adjourned at 12:10pm.