

Elect Tim Lewis (Hebron High School) as the Next TFA Secretary!



I am Tim Lewis (M.A.), Director of Debate at Hebron High School in Carrollton, TX. In my expression of intent to run for TFA Executive Council Secretary, I hope to share with you my passion for educating students in speech and debate, my well-honed skills and meaningful experiences that would ensure my success as Secretary, and my vision for how I could best serve the Association in the role. As part of our set of beliefs at Hebron, we privilege building an inclusive and flexible learning environment, nurturing an educated citizenry, and activating critical thinking; as such, my candidacy brings those core values as assets and opportunities for building a more connected, informed, and correspondent Association and Membership.

I became a forensics educator because of my fundamental belief in the curricular power and the force of societal impact that speech and debate student learning manifests. In my own time as a high school policy debater, I

learned that this activity provides a remarkable opportunity to introduce soon-to-be educators and advocates to both the modes of thinking and the tools of rhetoric that are necessary for building a better world. In my coaching, I actively listen to my students to help them grow in their research interest areas and I seek to show them the applicative elements of our work via an emphasis on our work as the first step into accessing political advocacy, academic publication and impact, and community building among other key tenets. Channeling my energy across my eight years in the speech and debate community, then, I am poised not just to instruct my students, but also to directly help the leadership of my professional organization and my colleagues as the next TFA Secretary.

This new focus towards administrative leadership is not just informed by my interest in expanding my experiences and horizons, but also by my professional experiences and history. Extending all the way back into high school, I felt strongly drawn to Secretary-like positions—be it as Parliamentarian for my student council for two years, my time as the founder, note-taker and executive agent of a branch of my undergraduate institution's student government, and six years as a dictation professional for executive client meetings, projects, and documents. All of these experiences make me well-prepared to ensure that meeting notes are thorough, accurate, timely in posting, and presented in an appropriate and professional format/design. Regarding the TFA newsletter, I have much excitement about leveraging my five years of professional editorial and publication experience and contacts to invigorate this essential communication tool for the Association. These experiences in hand, I would like to share briefly some of the efforts that I would strive to undertake for the Association as Secretary.

In reviewing our website, meeting documents, and newsletters, I see great potential for a more modern and professional layout and design. Ensuring that all of our organizational documents are in an efficient and appealing fashion is not just an aesthetic priority, but one that, I feel, will best represent the seriousness of the Association's work and energize the Membership. Further, I would like to expand both the frequency of publication and scope of the newsletter. It seems (as of this writing) that the last time the newsletter was uploaded to the Association website was 2018. We need a Secretary who will build connections with programs and districts all over the state to provide engaging content, up-to-date information, and serve as a resource for emergent and veteran educators. It is my commitment to organize the newsletter into a frequently published document of the caliber, diversity, and quality in design and content of and perhaps even exceeding NSDA's *Rostrum*. There is so much excellence in the Texas Forensics Association – it is a shame that we do not have a robust and frequent publication that highlights our student and professional achievements. Please do consider supporting me, Tim Lewis, in this ambition to act on the challenge in better connecting and promoting our Association, colleagues, programs, and students by providing TFA with a compelling set of secretarial documents, strategies, and more. For more information about my qualifications for this role, please feel free to visit my LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/timothy-lewis-5b79a597/>