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**Fall Conference Minutes**

# Exec Council Meeting 9/7

This meeting was called to order by President Beith at 7:51 p.m. @ Arlington Hotel – Hickory Room

Summer 2017 minutes were submitted for approval. Hannah moved that we accept the minutes and Dana seconded. Unanimous approval by the board.

## Officer Reports

President

-Melinda provided a report over Fall Conference 16 and Summer Conference 17. She provided glows and grows for each. Her report has been submitted electronically to Martene and Colton.

1st VP – Block –

- Rosie feels that we need to educate the membership about the responsibilities of exec council in terms of conference planning in order to clear up some registration issues. The conference this year is Reflexivity. The common theme of inclusivity will continue throughout the conference and also into her presidency. She is working to create the best balance to serve the classroom teacher.

2nd VP – McCutcheon –

- Dana reports that the calendar is up and running. She has a handout for the general meeting so people can report their shows for the calendar. She will also be working with existing tournaments on their dates for next year. Dana reported on the Spirit of ACTAA award winners. She didn’t report the names but she will award these at the luncheon.

1st VP Elect – Rieff

- Jacki is looking at a budget of $8500. We will be at the Four Points Sheraton in Bentonville with a theme of Steam Punk – Full Steam Ahead. Our deposit was paid by Nunnley’s Automotive ($500). Jacki and her students sent a thank you card on our behalf. She is looking at expenses of $8000. She has contacted several speakers and will be confirming them in December. It sounds like an amazing line up.

Executive Director – Campbell

- Martene discussed constitutional revisions that will be presented to the body. We voted and passed a fee increase for TOC last year but we didn’t get enough signatures from the principals. Forms are being distributed this weekend for members to take them to back to their principals for signatures. Those form can be submitted electronically or by snail mail once they are signed. StuCo fee increases will be put to a vote at our business meeting this weekend. StuCo will look very different if a fee increase doesn’t pass. Another paper ballot will be given to members to take back to their principals for signatures. We must have a quorum of the member schools in order for these increases to take effect. There was discussion about establishing a deadline for ballot return as this could impact the StuCo invitation. Hannah suggested that the entry fee on the ballot have an asterisk stating the fees are subject to school admin approval. Martene will be discussing executive council duties to the body. She will guide members to the constitution that contains this information. Martene also discussed that it may be time to examine our vision and where we are going and rethink our officer lengths of service. We also need to look at our website. Some of the information is very dated. We also need to look at the benefits of membership in ACTAA. Jennifer added that it is so important that we increase our membership dues but we need to make sure that people see the benefits of their membership in our organization. Martene expressed concern that we may be in violation with AAA by requiring coaches to be an ACTAA member in order to compete at StuCo and TOC. Rosie discussed rebranding our organization. Jennifer Akers shared that we may need to look at making our journal electronical to keep up with current trends. Rosie would like to start a blog with things like featured teams or coaches. Rosie also suggested a student advisory board as well as an alumni advisory board. Shelle has volunteered to help Hannah with the website.

Huge Side Note…we need to do a strategic plan for our organization. It was suggested that part of summer conference be dedicated to strategic planning and constitutional revisions. All membership needs to be involved in this and many methods of involvement were discussed. The body agreed that it would probably work nicely to dedicate one day for this work and then offer PD the second day while exec council furthers the strategic plan and constitutional revision work. John suggested that we involve an outside group to come do some leadership training with the body as a whole during our summer meeting.

Shelle moved that we recess at 9:15 p.m. it was seconded by Jennifer Akers. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously and then we discussed plans for tomorrow. We will meet in the Hickory Room at 11:15 tomorrow.

Treasurer – Akers

- Jennifer asked the council’s permission to explore options for a membership card.

- Finances is going to be a big discussion with members who have voiced concerns

- The increase with fees in membership we see the help in the account

- The ACTAA store items only yielded a profit of only $200+; this year will be a real tell of how successful the store was

- There is going to be discussion about finances; people will want to know why we are in this situation

- Folks will want to know how we hold people accountable

- It’s pleasing that we have people paying their membership at registration

- There will be a directive that says if people cancel after a certain day their money will still be due to the association

Recording Secretary – Gilbert

- It has been a pleasure serving the body in this capacity for the time I have had

- Once my term limit is up I would like to step down and allow someone to take up my mantle

College Rep – Gale

-Trying to recruit more college people

- It may be best to move the college meeting to Saturday; this would entice people to come

- Attendance at the college meeting will be down

- Someone needs to speak to the colleges so that we can enforce the importance of their presence here

- John is willing to prepare a letter to send out to the colleges

High School Rep – Valentine

-Needs an agenda for the HS meeting

- Ideas on Summer Workshop and what it should look like going forward

- We may need to have a wording committee that would work on the Constitutional revisions

Webmaster – Sawyer

- Website is not messed up

- Membership clean up has happened

- Duplicate accounts have been deleted

- Tourney invites and PD forms are posted online

- There is a dropbox, through ACTAA gmail, to share things with the masses

- We are doing voting at conference using survey monkey

- Continue to use Hannah’s personal gmail account for business

- Domain names:

[www.actaa.net](http://www.actaa.net) - will need to be renewed prior to June 12, 2018

[www.actaa.org](http://www.actaa.org) - will need to be renewed prior to September 18, 2019

PD Coordinator – Tucker

- Love’s what Rosie has put together for this conference

- This will be Dawn’s last time doing PD

- Dawn is expecting a pineapple for her services

- Will not be returning to this position; Rosie needs to place her in a committee

+ We should also ask the body if they may be interested in taking it

Archivist – House

- Looking for Archival materials

- Shelle has been slowly collecting these

- Shelle is trying to digitize all of this material

Immediate Past President – Alaquinez

- Exhausting to show up when your voice doesn’t count

- Disservice to the office

- Structure needs to be addressed

- Burn out is becoming a problem that needs to be addressed

- Cannot attend NFHS this year

- May need to entertain a middle school rep if they are going to keep having competitions

# Committee Reports to Exec Council 9/8

Meeting was called to order at 11:16 am

## Permanent Standing Committees

Audit – Campbell

- All things are accounted for; Akers is being ethical

- We need to restructure the Audit Committee

- ED will chair the committee and random members can help fill the committee (at summer workshop); CANNOT be someone on Exec

Scholarship – Akers

- Akers will chair but doesn’t deal with the selection process

- The Committee decides who wins while reading a redacted copy of the essays and applications

- We rarely get any debate applications but we always have a LOT of nominees

- Schools are limited to one application from school

- Deadlines

High School – 16 February 2018

College – 1 March 2018

Teacher – 1 March 2018

- We need to fill this committee with one more person; good place for new people to start

TOC – Gilbert/Block

- April 6-7, 2018

- Host site this year will be at Har-Ber HS in Springdale, AR

- I have toured the building with Joel and we have mapped out how we can run things

- Unlike past years, the Tab Room will NOT be available to coaches, judges, etc. Only LIMITED tournament staff will have access to the tab room.

- As results are tabulated and copied the ballots will be available in the coaches’ lounge for coaches to keep up with their kids’ performance

- Wifi will be available but the school will NOT be giving us log-ins for IPDA Prep

- Joel says that if we need the tournament to run TIMELY his school will accommodate us by dismissing school 10-15 minutes early!

Student Congress – Walters

- Time to start StuCo on Sunday has been moved up to 1 pm

- Temporary fee increase for this year from $75 to $125 ($25 increase for colleges to $150)

- We will be using both Senate and House chambers

- Committee rooms have been renovated which will alter the seating charts

- Winners of the Ingalls awards and the top scoring delegates from each house will represent Arkansas at as the national delegates—proposed amendment, to the bylaws, would allow these winners to represent the YMCA at the national level

+ There would be no liability for ACTAA

- There was an amendment that schools be allowed to scrimmage other schools before competition; the committee unanimously decided against the amendment

Demo Day – Taylor

- Met at ACTAA summer meeting

- Taylor does Central AR Demo Day and Joel is NW AR Demo Day

- Using the rotation schedule at Demo Day

- Hosts will be Har-Ber and Searcy

- Next Wednesday will be the cut off day

## Permanent Special Committees

Publicity and Promotions – Higdem

- We are in the Fall Conference

- Met with Jacki to start on next year’s conference

- We are struggling with the idea of the tournament store; we are opening it up to ideas that could help

- We have a lot of materials; we need to stop putting the date on things

- Would like to be able to redo the tournament video that is on the website

- It might be time to redo the tournament banners and pamphlets

Recruitment/Mentoring – Taylor

- Met with Marianne and John

- Marianne is not interested in taking over the committee

- WE need more college interest and help their

- Committee goals; (1) contact new teachers (2) reach out to colleges in the education realm

- New design for recruiting and ACTAA as a whole

- This is the only committee that is not up to date

- Seems like the new member database is extraneous when that information is on the website

- This many people on the committee isn’t working as currently constructed

- Mandy would like to step down and mentor the new chair of the committee

Professional Development – Tucker

- See above at Exec Council

Tournament Advisory Committee – Akers

- TAC is made up of all TD and the TOC and StuCo Directors

- Some schools feel like the tournament should provide their own judges

- If judging fees are assessed there needs to be proof the judges are being paid

- These high school tournaments can run their tourneys how they see fit. We can make recommendations but it’s up to each Tournaments Director’s discretion

- We have had members who have put their kids in the wrong division (novice/varsity)

- Recommended structure – Chair (3 years), 6 members (one rep from each part of state), TAC chair is a standing committee member of TOC. TAC Committee be appointed by Exec

Professional Standards – Reiff/Gale

- Colleges maybe present a Group Event

- Asked we worked means to recruit the colleges and students to go into teacher education

- Oral Comm courses are being embedded at the high school and college level

Ethical Practices – Gale

Nominations – Peerbolte

Debate Topic Selection – Gilbert

- Topic Selection Meeting was in Orlando, FL

- The five topics that made the ballot this year are

1. **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially reduce the authority of the President of the United States in one or more of the following areas: weapons of mass destruction, immigration, indefinite detention. (Presidential Powers)

2. **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially increase funding and/or eligibility for one of the more of the following: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid enrollment, Housing Choice Vouchers Program. (Poverty)

3. **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States. (Immigration)

4. Resolved: The Supreme Court of the United States should overrule one of the following decisions:

- Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 467 U.S. 837 (1984)

- Hamdi v. Rumsfeld 542 U.S. 507 (2004)

- Kelo v. City of New London 545 U.S. 469 (2005)

- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission 558 U.S. 310 (2010)

- Shelby County v. Holder 570 U.S. 2 (2013). (Supreme Court)

5. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially increase its regulation of one or more of the following in the United States: genetically modified foods, biofuels, pesticides, concentrated animal feeding operations, crop insurance. (Food Security)

- Remember that NFHS does NOT send us topics for the month of September so I will be taking suggestions all weekend of topics/questions that coaches would like to submit. If I don’t get submissions I will have to make them up myself, which isn’t what is best for the community

- I will be authoring a paper this year (for real this time LOL) on Middle East policy

- I have a copy of the ballot with the five topics that our state must vote on. I can take votes all weekend so that the process can be expedited and we can turn in our vote as soon as possible.

AR Thespians Liaison – Moss (Tucker in her stead)

NSDA Liaison – Block

Mock Trial Liaison – McMullen

- NO SHOW

Meeting was recessed at 2:00 pm

# High School Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Terri Valentine at 3:32

Valentine recognized Ms. Melinda Milloway Valdez

**Poetry Out Loud** –

+ School entry forms

+ Will be in NLR Pulaski Tech March 3rd; doesn’t obligate you to compete

+ Winner and their teacher goes to Washington DC to compete

**Thespians** –

+ Last year was a success as Jonesboro HS

+ Greene County Tech Feb 8-10 (Paragould)

+ Blue Festival Nov 9-11 in Fayetteville

+ Gold Festival Nov 18th in Searcy

+ Two junior festivals in conjunction with the one acts

Lots of people complain about ACTAA but will not join ACTAA

**Executive Director** – Campbell

+ Fee raises for Arkansas State Championships

- We need these signed by the coaches and principals and sent in for the increase to go through

- Take a pic, email, or snail mail to Martene so that the votes can be counted

+ We will vote on a raise of Student Congress fees

- Currently they are $75 for 3 days and 6 students. We are proposing to raise the fees to $125

+ Positions need to be filled

1. Scholarship Committee has an opening

2. Executive Council positions and others becoming open

- 1st VP Elect Elect

- Recruitment and Mentoring

- Publicity and Promotions

- Professional Development

- Recording Secretary (needs to start training replacement next year)

+ Constitutional Revision overhaul coming

+ Journal Position

+ Recommend we eliminate this position all together

+ There was no interest in terms of submissions for the journal

**Demo Day** –

- Register by this coming up Wednesday

- NW AR one at Har-Ber

- Central AR one at Searcy

**Scholarship** – Akers

- Last year winners will be paid to their college in the coming weeks

- Demo Day helps pay for our Debate Topic Selection

- We haven’t been getting apps from teachers

- These are not excluded to competitive students; anyone who is involved with an ACTAA teacher can be nominated for a scholarship

- There is an opening on the committee

**TAC** – Akers

- Met during committee time yesterday

- Issues brought to the committee

1. Assessing judge’s fees/paying judge’s fees

+ ACTAA cannot monitor this. We ask that you not charge huge judge fees

2. Coaches wrongfully classifying debaters in divisions of debate

+ Coaches please be ethical when entering your child into debate events

3. TAC structure needs to be changed

**TOC** – Block/Gilbert

- We will be voting on a tabber for state that will hold a 5-year term

- We need a tournament ombudsman

- See above for more details

**ACTAA Calendar** – McCutcheon

- Notify by Dec 15th if you want to keep your tourney for next year’s schedule

- If you don’t confirm, your date will be open to anyone who wants to host a tournament

- If you want your shows/productions on the calendar then please get that information to Dana as well

- Also submit Spirit of ACTAA awards

Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_ by Terri Valentine

# General Business Meeting

Called to order at 9:13 by President Beith

Minutes were accepted at 9:14 am

## Officer Reports

President – Beith

- 2016 Fall Convention

- Wonderful setting and perfect time for growth

- Added new members

- Ethical practice issues (cancelled presentations, registration on the day of, etc.)

- Everything costs so much more money than in the past; impossible for Treasurer to work if we don’t pay our bills

- 2017 Summer Workshop was a success

- The A/C system was the most powerful in the world

- Robots, lots of bugs, and burns

- Direction of summer conference

- Ethics policy is being revamps

Rules were suspended to award Brandon Box-Higdem the ACTAA Teacher of the Year award

1st VP – Valdez-Block

- Thanked members of Exec

- Congratulated Brandon Box-Higdem

- Remained within our conference budget

- Summer Conf 18 will be a conference in which we rework and retool the constitution

1st VP Elect – Reiff

- Charge was to begin organization for Fall Conference of next year

- We need to make sure we stay within our budget

- 4 Point by Sheraton in Bentonville, AR

- Theme will be “Full Steam Ahead: Remembering the Past with a caring and innovative future”

- September 6-8, 2018

- Working with Crystal Bridges and NW film festival on how they can enhance our program

- Maybe a collegiate Reader’s Theatre competition

2nd VP – McCutcheon

- ACTAA is doing great

- Google calendar is up and running (extremely full)

- Tentative tournament dates for next year were passed around at the high school meeting

- Accepting recommendations for the Spirit of ACTAA award (submit name, school, and 150 words why they should win. This is due August 1st)

Executive Director – Campbell

- Decided to not speak at the podium

- Stressed to stay so that we can have a quorum to vote on the Constitutional Revisions

- There will be a fee increase for the State Tournament but that didn’t pass with the principal’s of the member schools

- We need this ASAP

- The duties of the Executive Council need to be known by all

- We all need to have the Constitution as bedside reading material

Treasurer – Akers

- Reports were handed out at the High School meeting

- Right now with the increase and those who have paid membership fees; we have already almost met the $3,000

- ACTAA store should be more profitable this year

- Encouraged Demo Day participation to help with paying for NFHS Topic Selection

- Questions were fielded about the state of our finances

+ Micah Qualls, Eric Gamble,

Secretary – Gilbert

- It has been a pleasure serving the body over my past two terms

- My term limit is coming up and we will need someone who is willing to be my understudy next year

- This is a good way to learn the ways of Exec Council

College Rep – Gale

- Using the mic because he is a former broadcaster

- College folks had their meeting yesterday; not attended well

- Recommended moving the college meeting to Saturday

- Exec needs to send someone into the college meeting

- We will develop a special committee to examine the needs of the high schools and junior highs

High School Rep – Valentine

- Recognized Lifetime Member Melinda Milloway-Valdez

- There was discussion on ways to restructure TAC

- New members intro during HS meeting

Lifetime Member Rep – Conley

Webmaster – Sawyer

- Website change of services

- Membership clean up

- Domain names coming up for renewal

- Tournament invites up to date (please send in)

- PD forms are available online

- Dropbox account created

- Voting was all online this year, even at conference

- Continue to use her personal gmail [hannahmsawyer@gmail.com](mailto:hannahmsawyer@gmail.com)

- Renewing membership

- Change in institutional memberships

PD Coordinator – Tucker

- In Colonial times you gave someone a pineapple to tell them they have worn out their welcome

- If you are interested then please see Dawn

- Her time on Exec will run out at the end of the school year

Archivist – House

- Looking for old archives

- Some people have things they need to get to her

- Shelle is working on digitizing things

- [shellehouse@gmail.com](mailto:shellehouse@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President – Alaquinez

- Trying to grow the middle school population (they need a voice)

- Need to reach MS drama teachers

- There is a workshop today for them

- Glad she is not serving as President of the association

- We hear complaints and it is difficult for us; no complaint is given a method of fixing it

- Can’t attend NFHS IE conference this year

## Committee Reports

Audit – Campbell

- We struggle to get people on this committee

- We have to check the receipts with bank statements

- Take an hour, tops!

- Mike Noland helped this year

Ethical Practices – Gale

- Working on input from the ACTAA body

- Worked with Shelle and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to work on a document

Scholarship – Akers

- Akers will chair but doesn’t deal with the selection process

- The Committee decides who wins while reading a redacted copy of the essays and applications

- We rarely get any debate applications but we always have a LOT of nominees

- Schools are limited to one application from school

- Deadlines

High School – 16 February 2018

College – 1 March 2018

Teacher – 1 March 2018

- We need to fill this committee with one more person; good place for new people to start

- Teacher scholarship would include National Boards, higher ed, or a professional conference where you would get PD

TOC – Gilbert/Block

- April 6-7, 2018

- Host site this year will be at Har-Ber HS in Springdale, AR

- I have toured the building with Joel and we have mapped out how we can run things

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- Wifi will be available but the school will NOT be giving us log-ins for IPDA Prep

- Joel says that if we need the tournament to run TIMELY his school will accommodate us by dismissing school 10-15 minutes early!

Student Congress – Walters/Tucker

- Time to start StuCo on Sunday has been moved up to 1 pm

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- We have a lot of materials; we need to stop putting the date on things

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- It might be time to redo the tournament banners and pamphlets

- Made more money selling buttons instead of the ACTAA store

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- Met with Marianne and John

- Marianne is not interested in taking over the committee

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- This is the only committee that is not up to date

- Seems like the new member database is extraneous when that information is on the website

- This many people on the committee isn’t working as currently constructed

- Tiffany Tucker was mentioned as a possible replacement

- Mandy would like to step down and mentor the new chair of the committee

Nominations Committee – Peerbolte

- Helps with Teacher of the Year and Admin of the Year

- Took up ballots for the new committee

- New Committee: Jenny Moses, Patrick Laxson, Tiffany Tucker (Chair)

Professional Standards – Reiff

- Been working since 2013 on embedded classes

- 26 schools since 2013 have embedded Oral Comm into other classes

- The new frameworks have made it more difficult to embed classes

- We want to be vigilant in this area

- Even the colleges are embedding things

Thespians – Moss (via Tucker)

- Last year was a success as Jonesboro HS

- Greene County Tech Feb 8-10 (Paragould)

- Blue Junior Festival Nov 9-11 in Fayetteville

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- Met during committee time yesterday

- Issues brought to the committee

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+ ACTAA cannot monitor this. We ask that you not charge huge judge fees

2. Coaches wrongfully classifying debaters in divisions of debate

+ Coaches please be ethical when entering your child into debate events

3. TAC structure needs to be changed

### Old Business

**YouTube Copying of Pieces**

- Gamble thinks we should back off the need to win trophies

- Coaches need to back off and allow Tournament Directors to run the tourney how they see fit

- If you are upset with how tourneys are run then quit going to those tournaments (Jimmy Smith)

**“No List”**

- Ban pieces that have been worn out

- This will not go into effect

**Addition of Events**

- In order for an event to make it to the State Championship, we have to have a proposal

- That proposal must be in time for a discussion at summer

- That is then voted on at the Fall Conference

**Summer Meeting**

- Date will be set

- Don’t know where it will be

### New Business

**Constitutional Revisions** – Campbell

- Institutional Membership is going away

- Name change for the state tournament

- We found someone to serve as Lifetime Member on Exec

- Changing the structure of some committees

- Recommendation was made to put the specifics of the Scholarship process into the Constitution over the summer

- It was moved to exclude the removal of Lifetime Member amendment from the Constitutional vote (47 in attendance)

In favor: 40

Against: 4

Abstain: 3

- Vote on Lifetime Member Amendment

In favor: 0

Against: 45

Abstain: 2

**ACANSA** – Pitts

- Performance at Central High September 24th

+ Dance and spoken word

- Impro Theatre (based out of LA)

**ACTAA Event Fees**

- We have to vote on Student Congress fee increase

In favor: 42

Against: 0

Abstain: 5

- We have to vote on the Student Congress bylaws

In favor: 41

Against: 0

Abstain: 6

**Student Advisory Board**

- Something the Association needs to look into

- Could be alums and/or current students

**State Tournament Additions**

- Impromptu, Big Questions Debate, World Schools Debate

In favor: 33

Against: 0

Abstain: 14

**Official Tabulator for State Championship (5 year term)**

In favor: 43

Against: 0

Abstain: 4

**Affiliates on Webpages**

- Tell members that if they purchase something with an affiliate that 10% of all sales go to the organization

- Possible: Kroger, Amazon,

- Unfortunately we are not on their approved lists

- Maybe create an ACTAA foundation that can help with this problem

A motion was made to adjourn by Kim Stanley

- So moved

# Exec Council Meeting 9/9

Meeting was called to order at 3:54 pm

Discussion of Filling Needed Committee Positions

**Publicity and Promotions Chair**

**Recruitment and Mentoring**

**PD Coordinator**

**Scholarship Committee**

**Professional Standards**

- Mary Richardson and Robin Miller want off of the committee

**Demo Day**

**Future of Summer Workshop**

- Constitutional overhaul

- We can host at UCA

- We can bring in someone with no connection with ACTAA and have them do a PD on Constitutional revisions

- July 17-19 are the dates

**Fall Conference Debrief**

- We had to meet the $5,000 minimum; Rosie will receive final totals once we leave

- Rosie’s room wasn’t comped

- As of 9/5 our earnings were $9,110

+ expenses were $8,673.12

- Guidebook had good reviews from the general body

- Great feedback about PD and from other people

- Too much registration time

- Friday we don’t need two registration times (get rid of 9-11 am registration)

- Redundancy of committee reports and the number of times Exec meets is becoming a problem

**Mail Out**

- Ball was dropped

- We should do a mail out that includes the calendar

- Get this to the schools where there isn’t an active member

- Akers will take care of this

**TAC Committee makeup**

- We need to write a proposal based on what the body suggested

**Nominations Timeline**

- There is no cutoff in the constitution

- We will open the nominations after State and they will be due August 1st

**AAA Fee**

- We may be in violation with AAA with requiring membership to compete at tournaments

Need to hear back from Annette Savage\*\*\* Heard back from Annette and we are NOT in violation

**Ethical Practices**

- Letter in front of us

- Present to the body at Summer meeting

**Off Site Fee**

- People checked boxes saying they were staying at the Arlington but they didn’t

-

**Winter Exec Meeting**

- January 14th at 12pm in Russellville, AR

Gilbert moved to adjourn

- Motion passed 6:02

# Electronically submitted Reports

## Presidents Report

Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association

September 7, 2017

President’s Report

2016 Fall Convention – Basin Park Hotel, Eureka Springs

Glows: Wonderful setting, terrific opportunities for interpersonal growth among convention goers, outstanding PD opportunities, new members added to our organization, amazing room rate, and, most importantly, kind people who jumped in and saved the day when others failed to fulfill professional obligations and commitments (especially Eric Gamble & Shauna Meador)

Grows:

Ethical practices issues including -

Exhibiting Responsibility & Honoring commitments

* Workshop presenter who cancelled for a non-emergency Less Than One Hour before the beginning of the convention.
* Two guest speakers who recused themselves – one an ACTAA member - who simply ceased responding to me after a time, and my backup speaker who cancelled two days before the convention (please note: this also happened to President Alaquinez in 2015).
* Members who delay registration so that the convention planner and his/her committee truly have no idea as to how many people will be at the convention. We had numerous members who registered after the initial deadline including some who registered THE DAY OF THE CONVENTION. This is a nightmare for meals, accounting, everything. In addition, it is not KIND.
* Financial - Grasping the reality that EVERYTHING costs so much more than it did just a very short time ago, AND it is impossible for our Treasurer to pay ACTAA’s bills if ACTAA members have not paid their bills.
* Discernment – As a professional educator, is this the best time to exhibit the behavior I have chosen?

Underview:

* We must address Ethical Practices in multiple areas. This should be in the form of personal self-reflection and organizational policy.
* We must address organizational financial policies.

2017 Summer Conference – Henderson State University, Arkadelphia

Glows: Outstanding, clarifying PDs on the ADE Ethics Policy and its repercussions, terrific balance of PD between Communication, Theatre Arts and Competition. Wonderful hosts – Claudia Beach and Doug Gilpen could not have been better hosts. The meal at their beautiful home was delicious, relaxing and joy-filled! What a treat! The finest air conditioning system in the land! Oh, and lots of blood and burns…

Grows:

* The registration/numbers/meals/financial dynamic.
* The direction of Summer Conference

Underview:

* Both Ethical Policy and Financial Policy were revamped. They both continue to be a work-in-progress as we monitor and adjust.
* Allocation of organizational resources must be revisited.
* We have a wonderful organization of educators! I am honored to be your president; thank you for trusting me with out organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Beith

ACTAA President

## Immediate Past President

Immediate Past President:

It is sometimes exhausting to show up to Executive Meetings when we know our votes don’t count.  I understand we are doing a service but as Martene Mourning has mentioned our structure needs to be addressed. I also feel like burnout happens.

-I cannot attend this year’s NFHS convention because my financial circumstances have changed. I would love to attend but financially cannot at this time

-I am excited about where our association is headed - youth, new thoughts and minds are essential but often times our association leaves behind those that have served in the past.

-We should consider, with a growing Middle School population involved in Forensics and theater, adding a Middle School Representative.

## College Representative

College report ACTAA Fall Conference Fall 2017

There has been very little feedback from the colleges.

What do the Junior High and High School members want the college members to know?

Recommend we move the college meeting to a Saturday.

Might there be two Junior High/High School members who would step into the College meeting to explain why the colleges need to be here?

If I prepare a letter for you, will you email it to college faculty?

From Professional Standards - Jacki Reiff has asked that we visit with a college program that might be interested in presenting a reader’s theatre for fall conference. I will visit with the colleges about this.

From Professional Standards - Jacki Reiff has asked that we work to develop a means of promotion of oral communication in the colleges and universities.

## Recruitment and Mentoring

**Recruitment & Mentoring Committee Report**:

* ACTAA Summer Meeting - Spoke briefly with Mariann Lunsford, who was uninterested in taking over the committee.  Spoke briefly with John Gale.
* Committee Goals:
  + - Continue to update  database and contact new teachers/college students who might be interested in attending
      * Ex. Tiffany Tucker transferred to Cabot, new teachers/college students
    - Chair Goal:
      * New design for recruiting materials for distribution by committee members
      * Prepare for New Member Breakfast in cafe 2  How many expected 3-4
        + Lesson Plans
      * Chair to roll off committee after 3 years.  I took over when Helen Strickland was president.  Need new chair. (up in Apr. 2017)

## Demo Day

**Demo Day Report**:

* Met at ACTAA Summer Meeting
* Mentoring Joel Brown as new Chair of the Demo Day Committee.
  + Let Joel take over all scheduling of presenters.
  + Need new members, as the same people have been running Demo Day for the past several years.
  + Using rotation schedule for Demo Day as we did last year.
* Hosting will be at Har-Ber & Searcy this year
* Deadline to register: none set - Wed.
  + Need to know registration numbers to set up rotations.
* Have ACTAA banner for display