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**Fall Conference Minutes**

# Exec Council Meeting 9/6

President Valdez called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. @ Maria’s Mexican Restaurant

Summer 2018 minutes were submitted for approval. Joel Brown moved that we accept the minutes and Melinda Beith seconded. Unanimous approval by the board.

## Officer Reports

### President

- Congratulate Jacki on her conference

- Hopefully we have a great weekend

- Beautiful decorations from Publicity and Promotions

- Formally welcome Joel Brown as HS Rep and Ron Spralter as Jr. High Rep

- Summer Meeting was a success and productive

- We will be voting on Constitution and competition changes

- Part of New Biz will include opportunities for Exec to move forward with discussions from last year’s Fall Conference (inclusivity and accommodations; protect students and host schools at tournaments)

### 1st VP

- Glad to be here

- Currently under budget for conference

- Lots of things were donated

- We have 14 speakers

- 3 main general sessions are something to be excited about

- The opening session will be a former trainer for an NFL team

+ Will talk about inclusivity

- Friday night we have Troy Higgins (B’ville English teacher)

+ Professional comedian

- Erin Matthews will be the speaker at the closing session

+ Dealing with stress and difficult people

- This helps lead into the next conference’s theme

- One issue is that Eric Gamble has only found 3 mentors for the new members; needs about 4 more people to act as mentors. 7 new members are at the conference

- Breakfast for new members is Friday morning (8:30); Exec council is expected to be there

### 2nd VP

- So far everything, tournament wise, has been scheduled

- Need dates for things next year

### 1st VP Elect

- See attached packet

- FC 2019

- Will be in Little Rock @ the Marriott downtown

- Friday banquet and Saturday luncheon will have a riverside view

- The room block is 25 doubles and 5 singles (Thurday and Friday)

+ This IS our commitment in terms of room block

- If we honor this they will charge $1,500 for meeting rooms

- There may be a problem with the deposit pay schedule; Jacki suggested we could bypass this with a credit check

+ Akers says we won’t have money to pay for that until people start paying for conference

- The big thing Brandon is pushing for is event vendors that will help with relaxation and rejuvenation

- Focus of the weekend is to prevent burn out

### Executive Director

- Constitutional Revisions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- After summer workshop she and her committee came together to write up some of these changes

- There has been a lot of discussion and consideration

- We will be voting on these changes this weekend at the General Business Meeting

- In the email, she tried to give a brief explanation of what the changes were and the justifications behind the changes

- Didn’t have any questions about the possible changes

- Some of the members on the council recused themselves on this matter

- Recently got letters from Micah that we asked her to write (as part of the conditions for her reinstatement)

- Letter was read aloud; people who had specific letters written to them will have them given to them by Martene before the close of the weekend

- It was agreed to that we table this matter until the State Department makes a ruling; we are leaving the option open to revisit this conversation at the Winter Exec meeting7

### Treasurer

- See attached report

- Not a lot changed from Summer Conference

- Don’t know about FC this year

- Demo Day was positive after the Topic Selection trip

- ACTAA store generated about $1100 for scholarships

- Outstanding bills for the state tournament (+$4,000)

- Summer Conf is in the positive

- Need to encourage people to start paying their membership money

- We need to renew our memberships

### Recording Secretary

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

- Keep my hands in mind when you are speaking; if IT must be in the minutes you may have to repeat it once or twice for me

### College Rep

- Will stress the benefits of ACTAA to the collegiate ranks

- What do college students need from ACTAA

- What can we offer to the colleges

- We can provide inservice for teachers thinking about coming into the field

- Melinda will give an overview for state situation for teaching theater and comm in schools; the disconnect isn’t realized by the universities

- Offer up a task force or special committee for what ACTAA can do for them

- Promoted Student Congress to the colleges

### High School

- Agenda set for meeting

- Compet changes for vote

- Novice eligibility

- Inclusivity document

- Cover Mock trial and Student congress changes

- NSDA

- Topic Selection

- Brandon will talk about FC 219

- Oral Comm/Prof Standards Committee

- Vacancies on committees will be pushed hard

### Jr. High School Rep

- Setting up agenda for the meeting

- Compet changes

- Diff options for novice designation

- Wants to listen and get feedback from the Jr. High people

- End of the year Jr. High would like to have something (Jr. High round up, festival, but it CAN’T be a tournament/competition)

### Lifetime Member Rep

- Not in attendance

### Webmaster

- This will be Hannah’s last meeting

- Tiffany Tucker will rotate on to take her place

- Tiffany has all of the materials for the transfer

- Membership has been cleaned up

- Rolled former new members into regular members

- Next renewal is June 2018 actaa.net

- Information has been posted

### PD Coordinator

- See attached report

- Summer 6 = 12 hours

- Fall 10 = 14 hours

- Google form didn’t work out this year

- Forms will be posted online

### Archivist

- collecting things to add to the digital archive

- [actaa.archives@gmail.com](mailto:actaa.archives@gmail.com)

- Haven’t gotten submissions since last fall conference

- Working on digitizing things

- Archivist at UCA can hold some of the paper copies through an old, former agreement

### Immediate Past President

- Anxious to hear what the speaker has to say tomorrow

- There is a passive aggressive destruction of Oral Comm and other programs (Drama, Debate, Theatre, etc.) will continue in the future

- On a slippery slope with the direction of Oral Comm

- In light of the State Tournament, we need to have a crisis communication stance in place

+ Thank you to Joel for diffusing the situation. Colton, Rosie, Jennifer; big thanks

- We were fortunate it did not blow up in our face

# Committee Reports to Exec Council 9/7

Meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. at Joe’s Italian Restaurant

## Permanent Standing Committees

### Audit

- There was one outstanding, unaccounted transaction of $15.03 that was left over from Topic Selection

- Colton couldn’t figure out what it had come from so he paid it back at Summer Workshop to balance the books

- Performed at Summer Workshop; Joel oversaw the process

- Everything was good

- Missing a receipt from the state tournament from Joel

- Summer workshop Subway receipt is missing

- Everything else is accounted for

### Scholarship

- See attached report

- Winners:

+ Chris Flowers (Teacher)

+ Rachel Mauchline (College)

+ Kayley Shettles (Theater)

+ Sara Gardner (Debate)

- Checks will be mailed out to the colleges next week

### State Tournament

- Last year April 6-7, 2018

- Last year the host site was Har-Ber HS in Springdale, AR

- There were some things that happened last year that we are not proud of but will make us better for it in the future (will be listed later in report)

- We were shooting for the University of Central Arkansas April 5-6, 2019 [THIS YEAR]

- The Debate Team at UCA is willing to provide logistical support (per Anthony McMullen)

- 6 buildings = 40 rooms at UCA

- Just found out that we may not be able to secure the number of rooms we need at the college

- Contingency plan is to host some events at the Conway HS on Friday then collapse the tournament at the campus on Saturday. The only other option is to move it somewhere else and that would/could be problematic this late in

- Ace in the hole is Pinnacle View Middle School in Little Rock. The building has been confirmed with the building liaison (Dariane Mull) and the building principal (Jay Pickering).

+ The school has about 90 rooms absent the adjacent building that would be available to us.

+ I think this may be the better option because it would be easier on the schools in attendance from a logistical perspective

+ Assuming this is happens Dariane Mull is aware of the building commitment including their expectation of providing a concession stand.

- I will personally go to the principal and talk with him about the importance of the tournament, why the reservation CANNOT be moved but also what this means for his building.

- Beyond the building challenges the committee and I have assessed some problems from last year that we will fix

1. More dedicated people at the Judge’s Table

2. Draw events will run more smoothly

3. Wifi was a problem last year but LRSD schools should have appropriate Wifi

4. Add a document of disqualifications

5. Implement a method to keep hired judges from stealing ballots from coaches in the coach’s lounge

6. Dawn Tucker will correct ballots to list DQs (what is and isn’t allowed)

- Jennifer would like to be pulled from Tab so that she can focus on paying guest judges and getting receipts to help with tournament operations

### Student Congress

- November 11-13, 2018

- This year is the 50th year

- We are adding a third house this year (House III)

- We are trying to get the Governor/Lieutenant Governor to come and address the body at the awards assembly

- We will 50th anniversary shirts, buttons, and stickers (t-shirts would be available for preorder)

- Now only HS students can run for Party Secretary and college students can run for Party Leader (this way they aren’t competing against each other during caucusing as not to violate AAA rules)

- There will be an increase in money spent on awards with the addition of the new House but this shouldn’t cause the event to run in the negative

- Exec Council was in agreement that these changes can and will be implemented

### Demo Day

- So excited about Demo Day

- Apologize for the lateness of the registration

- Gotten quite a few emails from schools

- Central AR – Searcy, AR

- NW AR – Tyson SOI (Springdale, AR)

- There are still spots open

- Principal wants to charge $25 per hour for custodians (working to get that waved)

## Permanent Special Committees

### Publicity and Promotions

- Doesn’t have a strong update from Summer Conf

- There are a lot more people here

- Manages the ACTAA store; excited about ideas for the ACTAA store

- The committee will get together for designs with buttons and merch

- New ideas include: graphic decals

- Will venture into tshirts (looked at pricing through different entities)

+ Purchase it for $3.50 and sell for $5+

+ We want to promote the association and their events

- Toying around with the idea of purchasing B&Bs. There may be some way to reach out to programs and having them pay less for them while ACTAA makes their profit

- Working on a plan to develop a design plan for ACTAA; something for a new graphic

- Org took up banner of having a journal; there has been talk of a document that shares ideas and communication about the association

- The best thing for the ACTAA Journal is not to call it a journal but a Digital Magazine (2-3) times a year

- Proposed that P&P work on a sponsorship program. Our money method of membership dues is the most ineffective way to raise money.

- There is great potential to seek out people who may pay for sponsorships

- We currently have 21 ACTAA events at the state tournament. A donation to name a state event in lieu of a donator

- We are not sure of if we have the appropriate tax status to collect tax-exempt donations.

+ We HAVE to resolve this first in order to solicit legitimate donations from other people

### Recruitment/Mentoring

- Just Joel and Eric; need more members on the committee

- If you have someone in mind (Jenny Moses is interested)

- Put on a PD for the new teachers; went very well. 5 new members showed up

- New members had a breakfast/orientation this morning

- Put together a bag for seniors at State, which would include a t shirt and a sign up sheet to become a new/college member

- $500 may be a good starting point to use for shirts to give seniors

- Peerbolte has a person that can do the shirts for the low low

- We need to give them a reason to be a member after they graduate

- QR codes to scan for membership

- Will provide PD that talks about ACTAA and how to implement ACTAA events into the classroom (would hope to be reimbursed for gas and time spent)

- People need to send in more resources to help new teachers

- Send an email with the 7 new people once a month to check in with them to see how things are going with them

### Professional Development

- See above at Exec Council

- Respectfully submitted

- Fall Conference forms are available online

### Tournament Advisory Committee

- TAC is made up of all TD and the State Tournament Director

- Tactful discussions were made during the summer meetings; mainly for voting purposes

- Nothing new has been in Akers’ direction

- Nothing new to report

### Professional Standards

- See attached report

- Need members who have flexible schedules in LR area

- Maybe a college person

- ADE has told us the extension is cut off until January

- Waivers are granted in the summer

- Applications for waivers are down 10%

- No longer embedded classes in English but they are putting it in Financial Literacy classes

- ADE changed it’s 38 high school requirements; paperwork that came out was misleading

- Oral Comm is still required; 1/2 credit requirement

- Kudos to Lana; went in there and fought for us in committee meetings

- We are in good shape but it is still tenuous

- Stay vigilant and pay to licensure requirements

- Would like for higher ed to be more involved

- There is a possibility that Lana is retiring and as a result we need to train someone else to advocate for us

### Ethical Practices

- Plan to report to the body that we had an ethics complaint that was handled gracefully by the committee

- There will be no mention of what happened and who was involved

- We will not repeat nor talk with anyone about this

- It’s not the time to run out a new ethics form; tensions are too high right now

- Document the procedures that Jacki, Treadway, and Gale went through

### Nominations

- See attached report

- Tiffany did a large amount of the work; props to her

- Helped Patrick and Jenny along

- Narrowed down the candidates to two people for 1st VP Elect Elect – Colton Gilbert and Zachary Tucker

- Patrick took over as not to bias the voting process

- Jenny Moses was on the spot and was very helpful

- Also took nominations for Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and College Educator of the Year

- Only had 11 submissions for all 3 categories; we should be getting more names than we are getting

### Debate Topic Selection

- Topic Selection Meeting was in Spokane, WA

- The five topics that made the ballot this year are

**1.** **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States. (Arms Sales)

**2. Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially increase its development and/or military assistance to the Republic of India. (India)

**3**. **Resolved**: **Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially increase its constructive engagement with one or more of the following: Iran, Saudi Arabia, and/or Syria. (Middle East)

**4**. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially change its nuclear weapons strategy. (Nuclear Policy)

**5**. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should ratify or accede to, and implement, one or more of the following: Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Trans-Pacific Partnership, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (Treaties)

- 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 on Criminal Justice Reform

- Next year the conference is in Chicago, IL

- 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 (I would prefer people text or verbally tell me their vote as not to clog my email)

### AR Thespians Liaison

- Not present

### NSDA Liaison

- NSDA District Tournament will be February 22-24, 2019 @ ASU-Beebe

- Committee had good conversations to overhaul some of our practices

- Sticking with the three day format for the district tournament

- Schedule overhaul may take place; possibly starting Congress on day 1

- Maximize students’ opportunity to qualify for things

- LAST year

- Mixed responses to the tournament format

- Quick turn around to the national office

- We had unexpected monsoons in central AR

- We will offer the events that we always do

- Mock Trial could possibly be on our weekend, AGAIN

### Mock Trial Liaison

- Switching to a regional format

- They are scheduled on the same weekend as districts as well as our original NSDA district date

- Conflicting three weekend

- One day regional, state is divided into three regions

- Unconfirmed who is in each regional (Pine Bluff, Little Rock, and Fayetteville)

+ NWA = Feb 23rd

+ Eastern and Central = Feb 16th

- They claim to be flexible but we don’t know what that means like

# Old Business

## Jr. High Rep on Exec

- handled

## Role of Immediate Past President

- handled

## Constitutional Amendments

- Alumni engagement committee proposal (Rachel Mauchline)

+ Adding Jenny and Rachel to Recruitment and Mentoring would solve this problem

## Student Membership Fee Increase

- handled

## Insurance

- We are waiting on concrete responses back.

- Rosie will see them this Tuesday

- Sounds like it is doable for us

- They would need a discovery of what we do and an explanation of how ACTAA is involved with our lives

## Journal Proposal

- Zach and Angela Duggins

- They have talked electronically to see if we can merge the two ideas of both people

- The journal needs a rebranding then the magazine would follow suit

## State Tournament

- April 5-6, 2019

- Pinnacle View Middle School will be the host site

## Oral Comm Requirements

- We are in good shape

- Still a half credit requirement to graduate

## New HS Rep

- Here

# New Business

## Winter Meeting

- We will met on December 30th (Sunday)

- The Upper Room at the Old Bank in Russellville, AR

- John Gale will reserve our spot there

- Meeting will start at 11:00 a.m.

## Place for Summer Workshop

- UCA is willing to host Summer Workshop

+ Contact Greg Blakey for use of the Theater

- Could have a computer lab available

- July 14-16, 2019

- Schedule of PD needed for the Winter Meeting

+ Accomodations-ish PD

+ Could reach out to Lana at ADE

+ Conscious Discipline (self care and effective teaching)

+ Collaboration on what to put in the presentation

+ PD on tourney behavior and expectations

## TAC Chair

- Jennifer Akers is ok with staying on as TAC chair

Principal’s Conference in October 2019?

- It gets us out there

- Seeing our logo will help keep us in the front’s of their minds

- Could help with the revitalization of the Theater Arts curriculum

- We could petition to be one of the sessions; don’t know if you are accepted until January

- Usually at the Statehouse in LR

- Proposal is turned in during October, approved in January all for the following October

- Jacki will right the proposal; if we get accepted then we can decide on who to send

## Inclusivity Statement/Behavior Expectation Statement

- Stemmed from FC last year (2018)

- Some have looked at NSDA’s statement as a model for what we want ours to say

- Having tournament ombudsmen at tournaments

- Would include advice on:

+ Tournament invitations

+ Ombudsmen

+ Association expectations

+ General behavior

+ Respect the rules of the host school

- John Gale suggested that those in line to be president work on it

- Ron Spalter has offered to author the initial draft

## Open Positions on Exec Council

- Executive Secretary – Zack Tucker

- Committee Coordinator – Julie Howell

- Publicity and Promotions – Jacki Reiff (Jenny Moses and Dariane Mull as members)

- Professional Standards –

- We will table the rest of these absences until the Winter meetings

## Recruitment and Mentoring Budget

- They requested $500 for tshirts and such to retain people

- Also talked with Rachel about being an alumni liaison

- Want to do pop-ups at some colleges to recruit people

- Tentatively we will set aside $500 for materials for graduating seniors

## Association Logo

- Could possibly start with a revamping of the website

Meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. on Saturday September 8th

# High School Meeting 9/7

Called to order by Joel Brown @ 3:18 p.m

**Norms established**

- Everyone’s ideas and thoughts are important in this meeting

- Allow someone to finish speaking before you rebut or attempt to rebut them

- No need to raise your voice; use your teacher voice

- No disrespectful comments or shots

## NSDA Report

- NSDA District Tournament will be February 22-24, 2019 @ ASU-Beebe

- Committee had good conversations to overhaul some of our practices

- Sticking with the three day format for the district tournament

- Schedule overhaul may take place; possibly starting Congress on day 1

- Maximize students’ opportunity to qualify for things

- LAST year

- Mixed responses to the tournament format

- Quick turn around to the national office

- We had unexpected monsoons in central AR

- We will offer the events that we always do

- Mock Trial could possibly be on our weekend, AGAIN

- NSDA has plenty of resources for beginning coaches

## NFHS Topic Selection

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- We are adding a third house this year (House III)

- We are trying to get the Governor/Lieutenant Governor to come and address the body at the awards assembly

- We will 50th anniversary shirts, buttons, and stickers (t-shirts would be available for preorder)

- Now only HS students can run for Party Secretary and college students can run for Party Leader (this way they aren’t competing against each other during caucusing as not to violate AAA rules)

- There will be an increase in money spent on awards with the addition of the new House but this shouldn’t cause the event to run in the negative

- Exec Council was in agreement that these changes can and will be implemented

## Fall Conf 2019

- This will be in Little Rock, AR at the downtown Marriott

- Super excited to be hosting us

- Rooms themselves have amazing views

- “Rejuvenating yourself and the classroom” = the theme

+ Prevent burn out

## Voting Issues

- Qualifying document changes

+ Have had 5 levels, but if this passed there would only be 3 levels

+ Voting for qualifiers and being able to move kids up to the next level

+ Out of state rounds would count towards state qualifications

- Changes to Duet Improv

+ No longer has a 30-minute prep period

+ Will be treated like Impromptu rounds (with respect to prep)

- Changes to Prose and Poetry

+ Want to mirror other states and what they do

+ This would be called Oral Interpretation

~ In order to qualify for state in this event it would have to be twice

+ Round 1 – Prose, Round 2 – Poetry, Semis – Prose, Finals – Poetry

+ Individual tournaments can offer both

+ Movement allowed in Poetry and Prose

- Novice eligibility (see document for specific wording)

a. 1st year of competition in that style of debate (current rule)

b. Varsity begins 2nd year (no matter what style you did the previous year)

c. 8 or more tournaments = varsity debate

d. Coaches discretion (gives coaches the ability to challenge a debater’s placement)

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

# General Business Meeting

House called to order at 11:10 a.m. by President Valdez (Block)

Minutes were read by Secretary. Moved to accept by Dawn Tucker and seconded by Tiffany Tucker

+ Passed with a vote by the body

## Officer Reports

1. President – Rosie Valdez Block

- Congratulate Jacki on her conference

- Thanked the Four Points Sheraton

- Summer Meeting was a success and productive; very fruitful

- We will be voting on Constitution and competition changes

- Part of New Biz will include opportunities for Exec to move forward with discussions from last year’s Fall Conference (inclusivity and accommodations; protect students and host schools at tournaments)

- Thanked Hannah for her service as Webmaster

2. 1st Vice President – Jacki Reiff

- Glad to be here

- Currently under budget for conference

- Lots of things were donated

- We have 14 speakers

- 3 main general sessions are something to be excited about

- Excited to be hosting

- Appreciate everyone for attending

3. 2nd Vice President – Dana McCutcheon

- Privilege to serve the association

- Get dates to her for next year’s calendar (productions, tournaments, etc.)

4. 1st VP Elect – Brandon

- Next year is Marriott @ downtown Little Rock, AR

- PD offerings will come out next spring

- Look to rejuvenate and regroup

5. Executive Director – Martene Campbell

- We have met a quorum; make sure we don’t leave before voting so that we can keep it

- Constitutional Revisions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- After summer workshop she and her committee came together to write up some of these changes

- There has been a lot of discussion and consideration

- We will be voting on these changes this weekend at the General Business Meeting

- In the email, she tried to give a brief explanation of what the changes were and the justifications behind the changes

- Didn’t have any questions about the possible changes

- Working on our 5-10 year plan

- Martene was sitting in a wet chair and now has to move chairs (LOL)

6. Executive Treasurer – Jennifer Akers

- See attached report

- Not a lot changed from Summer Conference

- Don’t know about FC this year

- Demo Day was positive after the Topic Selection trip

- ACTAA store generated about $1100 for scholarships

- Outstanding bills for the state tournament (+$4,000)

- Summer Conf is in the positive

- Need to encourage people to start paying their membership money

- We need to renew our memberships

7. Recording Secretary – Colton Gilbert

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

- Keep my hands in mind when you are speaking; if IT must be in the minutes you may have to repeat it once or twice for me

- Now fully understand why Ms. Callie Ham was anxious to give this job up LOL

8. College Representative – John Gale

- - Will stress the benefits of ACTAA to the collegiate ranks

- What do college students need from ACTAA

- What can we offer to the colleges

- We can provide inservice for teachers thinking about coming into the field

- Melinda will give an overview for state situation for teaching theater and comm in schools; the disconnect isn’t realized by the universities

- Offer up a task force or special committee for what ACTAA can do for them

- Promoted Student Congress to the colleges

9. High School Representative – Joel Brown

- Great discussion in the HS meeting yesterday

- Civil input yesterday

10. Lifetime Member Representative – Pat Treadway

11. Webmaster – Hannah Sawyer (outgoing)

- This will be Hannah’s last meeting (7 years on the job)

- Tiffany Tucker will rotate on to take her place

- Tiffany has all of the materials for the transfer

- Membership has been cleaned up

- Rolled former new members into regular members

- Next renewal is June 2018 actaa.net

- Information has been posted

12. Professional Development – Laurie Harrison

- See attached report

- Summer 6 = 12 hours

- Fall 10 = 14 hours

- Google form didn’t work out this year

- Forms will be posted online

13. Archivist – Shelle House

- collecting things to add to the digital archive

- [actaa.archives@gmail.com](mailto:actaa.archives@gmail.com)

- Haven’t gotten submissions since last fall conference

- Working on digitizing things

- Archivist at UCA can hold some of the paper copies through an old, former agreement

14. Immediate Past President – Melinda Beith

- Anxious to hear what the speaker has to say tomorrow

- There is a passive aggressive destruction of Oral Comm and other programs (Drama, Debate, Theatre, etc.) will continue in the future

- On a slippery slope with the direction of Oral Comm

- In light of the State Tournament, we need to have a crisis communication stance in place

+ Thank you to Joel for diffusing the situation. Colton, Rosie, Jennifer; big thanks

- We were fortunate it did not blow up in our face

- Keep ethical practices at the forefront of your minds

- Keep watch over what is happening at the State Department

## Committee Reports

1. Nominations – Patrick Laxson

- See attached report

- Patrick took over for Tiffany due to a conflict of interest

- Helped him out a lot before she gave it to him

- Narrowed down the candidates to two people for 1st VP Elect Elect – Colton Gilbert and Zachary Tucker

- Patrick took over as not to bias the voting process

- Jenny Moses was on the spot and was very helpful

- Also took nominations for Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and College Educator of the Year

- Only had 11 submissions for all 3 categories; we should be getting more names than we are getting

2. Audit – Martene Campbell

- There was one outstanding, unaccounted transaction of $15.03 that was left over from Topic Selection

- Colton couldn’t figure out what it had come from so he paid it back at Summer Workshop to balance the books

- Performed at Summer Workshop; Joel oversaw the process

- Everything was good

- Missing a receipt from the state tournament from Joel

- Summer workshop Subway receipt is missing

- Everything else is accounted for

3. Ethical Practices – John Gale

- President and ED brought a concern to the committee in late spring

- A few people recused themselves for various reasons

- Fully investigated and recommendations were made to EC and actions were taken

4. Scholarship – Jennifer Akers

- See attached report

- Winners:

+ Chris Flowers (Teacher)

+ Rachel Mauchline (College)

+ Kayley Shettles (Theater)

+ Sara Gardner (Debate)

- Checks will be mailed out to the colleges next week

5. State Tournament – Colton Gilbert

- Last year April 6-7, 2018

- Last year the host site was Har-Ber HS in Springdale, AR

- There were some things that happened last year that we are not proud of but will make us better for it in the future (will be listed later in report)

- ***ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY APRIL 1, 2019 IF YOU WANT YOUR KIDS TO BE ELIGIBLE***

- We were shooting for the University of Central Arkansas April 5-6, 2019 [THIS YEAR]

- The Debate Team at UCA is willing to provide logistical support (per Anthony McMullen)

- 6 buildings = 40 rooms at UCA

- Just found out that we may not be able to secure the number of rooms we need at the college

- Contingency plan is to host some events at the Conway HS on Friday then collapse the tournament at the campus on Saturday. The only other option is to move it somewhere else and that would/could be problematic this late in

- Ace in the hole is Pinnacle View Middle School in Little Rock. The building has been confirmed with the building liaison (Dariane Mull) and the building principal (Jay Pickering).

+ The school has about 90 rooms absent the adjacent building that would be available to us.

+ I think this may be the better option because it would be easier on the schools in attendance from a logistical perspective

+ Assuming this is happens Dariane Mull is aware of the building commitment including their expectation of providing a concession stand.

- I will personally go to the principal and talk with him about the importance of the tournament, why the reservation CANNOT be moved but also what this means for his building.

- Beyond the building challenges the committee and I have assessed some problems from last year that we will fix

1. More dedicated people at the Judge’s Table

2. Draw events will run more smoothly

3. Wifi was a problem last year but LRSD schools should have appropriate Wifi

4. Add a document of disqualifications

5. Implement a method to keep hired judges from stealing ballots from coaches in the coach’s lounge

6. Dawn Tucker will correct ballots to list DQs (what is and isn’t allowed)

- Jennifer would like to be pulled from Tab so that she can focus on paying guest judges and getting receipts to help with tournament operations

6. Student Congress – Colton Gilbert

- Last year went well

- There were a few things that happened that we are addressing as a committee

- We had a Parliamentarian step down and we are adding another chamber for the HS students

- ***ALL OUTSTANDING FEES MUST BE PAID BY NOVEMBER 1,2019***

- November 11-13, 2018

- This year is the 50th year

- We are adding a third house this year (House III)

- We are trying to get the Governor/Lieutenant Governor to come and address the body at the awards assembly

- We will 50th anniversary shirts, buttons, and stickers (t-shirts would be available for preorder)

- Now only HS students can run for Party Secretary and college students can run for Party Leader (this way they aren’t competing against each other during caucusing as not to violate AAA rules)

- There will be an increase in money spent on awards with the addition of the new House but this shouldn’t cause the event to run in the negative

- Exec Council was in agreement that these changes can and will be implemented

7. Demo Day – Joel Brown

- September 15th – Don Tyson School of Innovation (NWA) and Searcy HS (Central)

- Searcy still needs presenters

- Applications are on the website

8. Publicity and Promotions – Zack Tucker

- ACTAA store was successful and helped fund some scholarship

- We will have graphic decals at the store

- Possibly looking at apparel

- Possibly branding a new logo for the association

- Current graphic is from the 75th anniversary

- Presented a proposal for a digital magazine

- Trying to find new mechanisms of funding

- There is great potential to seek out people who may pay for sponsorships

- We currently have 21 ACTAA events at the state tournament. A donation to name a state event in lieu of a donator

- We are not sure of if we have the appropriate tax status to collect tax-exempt donations.

+ We HAVE to resolve this first in order to solicit legitimate donations from other people

- We need to work on having the appropriate tax status

9. Recruitment/Mentoring – Eric Gamble

- Just Joel and Eric; need more members on the committee

- If you have someone in mind (Jenny Moses is interested)

- Put on a PD for the new teachers; went very well. 5 new members showed up

- New members had a breakfast/orientation this morning

- Put together a bag for seniors at State, which would include a t shirt and a sign up sheet to become a new/college member

- $500 may be a good starting point to use for shirts to give seniors

- Peerbolte has a person that can do the shirts for the low low

- We need to give them a reason to be a member after they graduate

- QR codes to scan for membership

- Will provide PD that talks about ACTAA and how to implement ACTAA events into the classroom (would hope to be reimbursed for gas and time spent)

- People need to send in more resources to help new teachers

- Send an email with the 7 new people once a month to check in with them to see how things are going with them

10. Professional Standards – Jacki Reiff

- See attached report

- Need members who have flexible schedules in LR area

- Maybe a college person

- ADE has told us the extension is cut off until January

- Waivers are granted in the summer

- Applications for waivers are down 10%

- No longer embedded classes in English but they are putting it in Financial Literacy classes (embedding is down 10%)

- ADE changed it’s 38 high school requirements; paperwork that came out was misleading

- Oral Comm is still required; 1/2 credit requirement

- Kudos to Lana; went in there and fought for us in committee meetings

- We are in good shape but it is still tenuous

- Stay vigilant and pay to licensure requirements

- Would like for higher ed to be more involved

- There is a possibility that Lana is retiring and as a result we need to train someone else to advocate for us

11. Thespians – Michelle Moss

- Last year had 1100 at festival

- 1.2M in scholarships; 41,000 to org people

- Dates are February 7-9 at Russellville, AR

- Jr. Festivals are available

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

- one act Festival is at Nov 8-10 Search

- Nov 15-17th at Harber HS

12. Mock Trial – Anthony McMullen (not present)

-

13. Debate Topic/NFHS Liaison – Colton Gilbert

- Topic Selection Meeting was in Spokane, WA

- The five topics that made the ballot this year are

**1.** **Resolved:** The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States. (Arms Sales)

**2. Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially increase its development and/or military assistance to the Republic of India. (India)

**3**. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially increase its constructive engagement with one or more of the following: Iran, Saudi Arabia, and/or Syria. (Middle East)

**4**. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should substantially change its nuclear weapons strategy. (Nuclear Policy)

**5**. **Resolved**: The United States federal government should ratify or accede to, and implement, one or more of the following: Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Trans-Pacific Partnership, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (Treaties)

- 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 on Criminal Justice Reform

- Next year the conference is in Chicago, IL

- 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 (I would prefer people text or verbally tell me their vote as not to clog my email)

- Archival moment “Colton is the first author from AR to make the national policy ballot”

14. NSDA Liaison – Rosie Valdez Block

- Feb 22-24 at ASU-Beebe will be the site of the District Tournament

- Committee has had discussion on how to make this beneficial for everyone

- Need to accelerate the schedule

- Working on maximizing the schedule for all of the student competitors

15. Tournament Advisory Committee – Jennifer Akers

- questions and concerns will come to TAC

- We will get the issues resolved

Joel Brown moved to suspend rules and move to new Biz

+ seconded and passed

## Old Business

1. Constitutional Revisions –

2. Membership Fees –

3. ACTAA Event Fees –

4. Ethical Practices –

## New Business

1. Constitutional Overhaul – Martene Campbell

- Hopefully everyone read the email that was sent out

- Rationales for constitutional revisions

- Adding positions and eliminating others

- No questions or discussion

- Martene moved to accept it as a package, seconded

+Motion passes

2. Tournament Guidelines Document – Martene Campbell

- Opened the floor for discussion

- Gilbert made an amendment to “include mock trial as a debate format, potentially offered at State”

+ Motion was called; motion passes

- Kim Stanley moved and it was seconded to recess

+ Body was called to order at 2:12

- Martene thanked the body for staying to finished the business meeting

- Dawn Tucker moved to divide the question (Tim Peerbolte seconded the motion)

+ Moved by Treadway and seconded (vote passes)

1. Out of state competitions (page 1, item 4)

+ Language of the document was read aloud as Rosie

+ Amendment was that “Out of state competitions may count towards state qualifications as long as the competitor competes at one in state qualifying tournament.”

+ Amendment passes

+ Gilbert moved the previous question; it was seconded (Motion passes)

2. Definition of novice

+ Moved the proposal to strike options A and C (Tim called the question, motion passed)

+ Patrick moved to amend the novice eligibility (see attached amendment)

~ Seconded by Tim Peerbolte

~ Sean moved to limit debate on this to 15 minutes (seconded and passed)

~ Question was called by Dawn Tucker (Objected to by Patrick Laxson)

~ Sean moved to give Patrick 2 extra minutes to summarize the debate (seconded and passed)

~ Motion failed

+ Rachel moved to amend section 4 of option D (it was seconded)

~ after begins “to the tournament director and the chair of the TAC committee)

~ Motion passes

+ Moved to adopt option D by Zack Tucker (seconded by a few people)

~ Motion passes (28-5)

3. Rest of the document

+ Dawn Tucker moved that we move to vote on the “rest of the document”

+ Motion passed the body

- Sean Peterson proposed an amendment that “If repeat violations occur after being addressed by TOC, TAC and/or TD that a coach would be referred to the Ethical Practices committee by the head of TAC committee.”

+ Would be item 6 of, at the front of the document

+ Patrick moved the previous question (passed)

+ Amendment fails (6-16)

3. Student Congress Rule Changes – Martene Campbell

- Adding of a third chamber

- Eric moved the question (seconded)

- Motion passes

4. Poetry/Prose

1. Amend Poetry and Prose rules “Allow a student to present a traditional poetry performance or a program of poetry that follows the NSDA format. Prose will also follow NSDA format.”

+ Motion passes

5. Improv Duet Acting

- Amend the rules so that Imrpov Duet Acting not run as a typical draw event. Competitors will draw three topics from the judge and pick one they will choose one and have seven (7) minutes with a 30 second grace period.

+ Motion passes

6. Storytelling

- Tim moved to give Storytelling a five (5) minute max to mirror the other IEs (no minimum with a 30 second grace period

+ Motion passes

## Announcements

1. New 2nd VP Elect will be Colton Gilbert

Tim moved to adjourn (seconded)

Meeting adjourned at 3:55