

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association Minutes

May 11, 2008

Rufus King High School

Schools Present: Bradley Tech, Marquette, Rufus King, Golda Meir, Homestead, South Milwaukee, Madison Memorial, Janesville, Parker, Nicolet. Mukwonago, Merrill, Brookfield Central, Brookfield East, Sheboygan North, Hortonville, Appleton East, Neenah, Slinger, Waukesha South

Guests: Chuck Malone – WHSFA, Dave Denomie – Milwaukee Urban Debate League, Roland Faas, Steve Sexton

President Laura Maly called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Officers and Committee Reports

President – Laura Maly

- Eric Van Ert and South Milwaukee High School were thanked for hosting WSDT in 2007.

Treasurer – Eric Van Ert

- Eric presented a four-year financial analysis. Revenues have decreased over the last four years. Several options for increasing revenues were presented.

President Elect – Bill Batterman

- Fall Workshop – Discussion was had about location and possible curriculum changes. The time of year was discussed.
- Please check Wisconsin Forensics Daily (wiforensics.com) and check out the discussions. Adam will keep sending notices to the Listserv, but WFD is a great place for discussions before meetings.

Past President – Adam Jacobi

- Our Hall of Fame nominee is Clif Morton of Hortonville High School. He couldn't make it today, so we will try to honor him at the Fall Workshop and Meeting.
- Two listservs were created. coaches@wdca.org is the e-mail address you can send to and get e-mails to all coaches. Tournament directors can post their invitations to this e-mail address. There will be a way to update your e-mail address on the website.

Secretary – Kristi Plamann

- The minutes were accepted from the Fall meeting through a unanimous voice vote

Tournament Practices & Procedures – Mike Traas

- Except for one mistake, the WSDT ran smoothly. Results from tournaments throughout the year need to be reported to the TPP as soon as possible. Entering results at the last minute makes verifying teams who have qualified very difficult.

- This would have made a difference in V4 this past year. The ½ judge change seemed to work well.
- The tournament has made enough money that we could look into increasing the size of awards for Champion and Runner-Up.
 - Discussion occurred about WDCA members who are not part of WHFSA paying a small fee to that organization for the state tournament.

Dave Denomie from the Milwaukee Debate League (milwaukee Debate.org) presented the MDL calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. He emphasized that the MDL is encouraged to attend WDCA tournaments, and some schools are looking at starting forensic programs also.

Judging Standards & Ethics – Jason Chapman and Neil Young (not present)

- Multiple informal complaints were raised throughout the year. Most were the result of miscommunication and all were resolved.
- There was one formal complaint and the issue was resolved.
- A grievance procedure is being developed. Some of the ideas:
 - Only investigate specific allegations from coaches, judges or students.
 - The committee is looking into setting up an online tracking system for submitting and following up on grievances. Some information would be publicly available and some information would only be available to the Executive Board. Discussion occurred about what would be private and public information. It was generally agreed that the information should only be available to the membership.
- Judge training materials are still in the process of being developed. It is recommended that a series of debate scenarios with discussion being taped and made available in some format (streaming video was discussed).
- The report had recommendations for the State Tournament, many of which will appear in New Business.

New Coaches – Dan Hansen

- Still contacting new coaches that come across our website.
- If you know of a new coach or program, let the committee know so they can be contacted.
- Letters are available to send to schools that have coaches retiring.
- It would still be nice to have a list of mentors, if interested contact Dan.

Laura Maly decided to break from protocol and allow Dan Hansen to express his views on some proposed issues before he left the meeting. These issues will be further discussed in New Business.

History – Jim Sauer (not present)

Media & Communications – Nick Bubb

- Nothing to report

Middle Level – Cheryl Bachtell

- There are some commitments for new programs. Please continue to offer Middle School divisions at your tournaments.

A break was taken to read through the proposals.

Old Business

- Nick Bubb updated and reformatted the Standing Rules. He reviewed the larger changes (minimum points and Varsity divisions). A motion was made and seconded to approve the document. The committee will continue to work on the document. It was discussed that over the summer a process needs to be put in place for making changes and documenting changes. The motion passes with a unanimous voice vote.
- Jason Chapman shared a proposal for providing a Novice Evidence Packet for the Novice division until the first full weekend in November. After that point all restrictions are lifted. A motion was made and seconded. It passed with a unanimous voice vote.
- The grievance procedure will be turned into a proposal for the Fall Meeting.
- Nominations for President Elect – Jim Sauer and Nick Bubb were nominated. Eric Van Ert was nominated for Treasurer. Nick Bubb is the new President Elect and Eric Van Ert is the Treasurer.
- Jason Chapman and Neil Young are leaving the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee. Jason is available in the Fall so he was appointed as a second chair.

New Business

- V4 Contingency Policy Proposal was discussed. A motion was made to accept the second option (Section XIII, Article C, end of paragraph B1) and seconded. Discussion occurred. Motion passed 12-4-0.
- The schedule was presented and discussed. An updated schedule will be posted on the website. A motion was made and seconded to approve the calendar and passed unanimously.
- Discussion was held about where to hold WSDT. A variety of college campuses will be looked at. If there are any other possibilities, please contact Bill Batterman. South Milwaukee is the fallback location.
- One day versus two day tournaments were briefly discussed. Right now tournaments tend to fit the need in terms of length. The pros and cons were considered.
- Best Practices Guidelines for Invitational Tournament Proposal – the TPP chair will write this document and present a proposal at the Fall Meeting.
- In discussing Novice Public Forum – It was agreed that there will not be a Novice PF division at WSDT. The three proposals were discussed, but no motion was made. The status quo remains for PF.
- Proposal to change Article C, Section II, Paragraph A regarding adding an independent WSDT Tournament Director to be approved by the Executive Committee. The head of the TPP will remain a WDCA member. Discussion

- occurred about the viability of the proposal. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal and passed by a vote voice.
- The WSDT Tab Room Oversight Proposal was discussed. It was moved to refer this proposal to the TPP committee to rework the wording before the Fall Meeting.
 - A New Coaches Workshop for August was discussed. Keri Strebog brought forth the idea of holding this in the Wisconsin Dells area for a family friendly workshop. The membership agreed that this would be worthwhile and would help.
 - A proposal was discussed to reimburse coaches who travel at least 200 miles roundtrip based on the IRS rate. This would be a one-time expense for this meeting. The motion was made and seconded and approved with a unanimous voice vote.
 - Nick Bubb noted that the WFD Brewer Game is May 21st. Check out WFD for more details.
 - Jason Chapman moved that the JSEC suggestions for the WSDT get moved to the TPP committee for consideration and proposals be made for the fall. It was seconded and passed with a unanimous voice vote.
 - The question was asked as to how the supplemental preferencing worked at WSDT . Mike Traas felt it worked well and efficiently.
 - Jason Chapman noted that Nicolet will be holding a debate workshop. Contact him for more information.
 - Kristi Plamann suggested the idea that tournament directors consider making a donation to an environmental group in lieu of purchasing trophies and provide medals for winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Plamann
Secretary