

IHSFA Board Agenda
14 March 2020

10:00 a.m. Video Meeting

Present: Smith, Chenowith, McKenzie, Douse, Malone, Thorpe, Coots, Shroyer, Austin, Alt, Rothrock, Kennedy, O'Conner, Berghoff (with Alex), Woodhouse, Fridh, Stutzman

1. Call to Order
10:03 am in Google Meet hosted by Linda Alt
2. Minutes from January 4, 2020 Meeting
Moved by Kennedy, seconded by Austin to accept minutes as posted online. Passed unanimously.
3. [Executive Director Report](#)
 - Rothrock: On the subject of the hotel for conference: not only are we having trouble communicating with the hotel staff, we still have not been billed for last conference.
 - O'Conner: Our main contact was working from semi-retirement, so she may no longer be working at the Drury Inn.
 - Woodhouse: At-large vacancy?
 - **Kevin Burgen (Bishop Noll) was nominated by Coots. Seconded by Berghoff. Motion passes by clear majority.**
4. C.O.O Report
 - Recommendations were given to the Rules Committee to ensure the Tournament Manual and Constitution were in agreement, especially with the deadlines for registration.
 - Chenowith: the Tournament Manual was adjusted to remove the tension.
 - Berghoff: We voted to change the text of the constitution, but the online text was not updated to reflect those changes.
 - Who is responsible for updating and keeping the official version of the constitution?
 - Fridh: In the past, the webmaster (communications officer) has been responsible, but that person used to be on both the Board as well as the Rules Committee.
 - **Moved by Chenowith, seconded by Coots that the secretary be responsible for updating the language of the constitution. Passed unanimously.**
5. New Business
 - State Speech Tournament 2020
 - Kennedy: the question of rescheduling is all about feasibility. Where do we schedule it (open dates are hard to come by for hosting and other things that need to be rescheduled and were already on the calendar)?

- o Chenoweth: How much longer are we willing to postpone the tournament? (Would June/July be too late?)
 - Berghoff: If it can't happen in April, it probably can't happen. Seniors are likely gone after graduation.
 - Kennedy: getting kids ramped up for a rescheduled tournament, only to potentially cancel again would be psychologically devastating.
 - Alt: My school is asking us to plan for cancellations through April 20th.
 - Austin: logistics don't seem to be working out.
- o Stutzman: NCFL is still planning on holding Grand Nationals, with an extended registration timeline, as of yesterday.
 - Kennedy: the weekend of Memorial Day is the most likely date for a rescheduled tournament.
 - Thorpe: The Indianapolis 500 would be that weekend, too.
 - Coots: Chesterton is a willing host, if necessary. We have enough space. Probably enough hotels.
 - Time zones were discussed, as well as travel times.
 - Malone: Graduation parties would be scheduled for that weekend, as well as graduation ceremonies. But really, we don't even know when we could safely re-schedule without the risk of having to cancel again.
 - Coots: It may help to give kids something that could return to normal (apologies to Warren Harding)
- o McKenzie: What if we encouraged A, AA, AAA tournaments to be held in different locations? Does that mitigate the threat of exposure? Permit more potential hosts? Etc.
 - Smith: Whatever alternatives we consider, the February entry levels will be hard to use as a prediction for participation.
- o Kennedy moved that we officially cancel the State Tournament, with alternatives on the table as possibilities. Seconded by Austin. Passes 9-2.
- o Alternatives to State Tournament:
 - Coots: regional tournaments may be better than class tournaments, if only because of distance concerns. (North? South?)
 - Kennedy: a lot depends on when we'll be able to come back. Some districts can't even have contact with kids until after closure. We can't really commit to something officially with so much unknown.
 - Moved by Coots/Mckenzie/Kennedy that we meet April 11th at 10:00 to discuss possible alternatives to a state tournament. Seconded by Douse. Motion passes unanimously. (Motion is rescinded below.)
- Identify changes to this tournament as response to UINDY report
 - o What did changes from last year look like (before we cancelled)?

- Kennedy: new posters and signs were not prepped because of illness.
- Stutzman: would online balloting fix many of the problems we were trying to address? (The general sense is “yes.”)
- Smith: even with e-balloting, we should still have a scripted judge meeting. Does a script exist?
 - O’Conner: There’s a script, but the questions that follow the script are a difficulty. Recording something to play seems to work well, but may preempt some opportunities for questions.
- Smith: What about directions for people arriving at the tournament?
 - Kennedy: changes for our invitational seemed to work well with improved signage.
- o E-Balloting
 - Fridh: Ben Stewart said he’d like to be present at our first attempt to use e-balloting. The large number of events may pose interesting problems.
 - Kennedy: a lack of paper records could present a problem.
 - Discussion followed about the experience of adjusted ranks at district tournaments, but tiebreakers there don’t return to raw (original) ranks
 - Coots: Maybe we should ask Ben to create a file with the original ranks that we can call up if necessary?
 - McKenzie: for other organizations, once a score is adjusted, that becomes the official score.
 - Kennedy: My concern is that the code may do the wrong thing to tabulate results based upon the data entered. There’d be few good ways to verify this without a paper record.
 - o Douse: perhaps this task should be given to the auditors.
 - Kennedy: Let’s work on formulating a list of things to send along to Ben. **Coots volunteers to form this list.**
- Elections and Appointments (Sections 1, 3, 5, 7)
- Executive Director – Post opening and share description in newsletter if it is the will of the board.
 - o Smith: We have two people who have expressed interest in the position. Anyone else?
 - O’Conner: Some are waiting until an official call for applications and job description is posted.
 - Potential candidates: Paul Porter, Dan Tyree, Evan Elliott
 - o Smith: Let’s post something on our homepage announcing the opening and the process for applying. I’d like to have a new ED in place for our Summer Meeting.

- Berghoff: We'll do something in the newsletter, as well.
 - Malone: a posting in a forum for IN not-for-profits would be a good idea.
 - Smith: there's a requirement for years of experience in our activity in our job description. (Coaching, but not necessarily head coaching)
- Secretary position
 - O'Conner: we should look for interested people and then vote at the Summer Meeting: send emails to O'Conner expressing confidential interest in the position, so political concerns are kept to a minimum.
- Summer meeting date and location
 - After discussion, we tentatively planned to meet in the Southport area.
 - June 24-25

6. Committee Reports

- Calendar
 - Site for State Debate / State Speech 2021
 - Fishers will still host Speech
 - Austin: I would host debate, but it's quite a distance for many schools
 - Berghoff: I will have to check with assistant coaches and students to see if Southport could host again.
 - Douse: Ben Davis has had interest in hosting again, but that requires fees.
 - Other schools mentioned in conversation: Hamilton SE, Westfield, North Central
- Rules
 - Manual Updates / Alignment
 - Updates were made before Sectionals
 - There was a duplication in the Tournament Manual that needs to be resolved; "NFL points"; discussion with secretary about process of changing text of the constitution.
 - Add fee deadline - maybe guide for new coaches on fees, deadlines, and penalties
 - Discussion about how Speechwire generates entry fee invoices and whether/when/how they change.
 - Chenowith: an infographic featured on our website would be very helpful
- Coach Education
 - No special news to comment on.
 - Smith: think about sessions that might be helpful, and do some work to help with finding presenters and filling the schedule.
- Jr. High/Middle School
 - Malone: This has been the most successful year - seven tournaments, recognition of coaches, longer calendar

7. State Debate Reflection

- Event Tables New Alignment
 - The new division of event tables seemed to work well.
- Audit
 - Auditing can be tough when things get busy, or are asked to do other things. Especially given how important the responsibility is.
 - Malone: there are still concerns about instructions for inexperienced judges and assistance at the ballot table.
- Ombudsperson
 - There was only one protest. The resolution was not satisfying to everyone, but the process worked well, including registration.
- COO feedback
 - Fridh: Tab staff size might go down with e-balloting.
 - Fridh: Presiding officers were hard to find for congress.
- Awards (Hicks)
 - Smith: We did not present the award this year. It was noticed. (No nominations were received.)
 - Students could be nominated for both Brittain and Hicks Awards, but Hicks award may be restrictive because it's self-nominating (and senior-only)
 - O'Conner: since nominations are collected on the website, and students don't often go to the website...
 - Kennedy: perhaps coaches' nominations would be a better idea.
 - Austin/Douse: how might we better advertise the opportunity to apply for the award? Douse recommends that guidance departments be notified about the award.

8. Sectionals Reflection

By section, provide feedback regarding the following as appropriate:

- The most comment observation from sectionals was the difficulty of finding judges. Large programs have high judge quotas, but those judges aren't eligible to judge many rounds. Neutral judges are hard to find.

9. Old Business

- Manual Alignment – Work Session Part II
 - Smith: Should we have another work session to look through the Tournament Manual closely?
 - Chenowith: We may not need a meeting at the moment, since the pressing issue now is consistency between constitution and Tournament Manual.
- Branding
 - Smith: How do people outside of the activity see us?
 - Website update
 - Naming

- Social media
 - o Douse: Did we create a new mission statement? (O’Conner: Yes; we just delayed posting it until our website is redesigned.)
 - o Austin moved: Our new organization name should be Indiana Speech and Debate Association. Seconded by Shroyer. Proposed as a constitutional amendment for business meeting. Passed unanimously.
 - Moved by Stutzman, seconded by McKenzie, that we move to pruthe domain INSpeechandDebate.org. Passed unanimously. O’Conner and Berghoff will do this immediately after the meeting.
 - Can the business meeting include mock-ups of logos, banners, etc.? (Including student work and contributions.)
- Membership Outreach Sectional Apportionment
 - o What is our goal in resectioning? (Entry numbers? (215 in the past) Number of schools? (13 in the past))
 - o Coots: we should be wary of making changes to deal with smaller tournaments, since those might actually provide reasons for the tournaments to continue to get even smaller.
 - o McKenzie: Sections 7 and 8 are small, but combining them would really hurt on travel distance.
 - o Berghoff: If we eliminate a sectional, combining 6 and 7 is better than merging 7 and 8.
 - o McKenzie: we do little to recruit new schools.
 - o Sectional 7 may be experiencing a great deal of coaching turnover and program instability.
- Hawker Award
 - o O’Conner suggested we could send out packets of information to Board members, with a Google Form to vote preferentially. She suggested a deadline of Monday to send required information so that voting can begin Monday evening.
- Mary Fridh was tasked with sending out a message of the cancellation of the tournament, without mention of a possible replacement/alternate.
 - o Moved by Douse, seconded by Kennedy, that we rescind the motion to have an April 11th meeting to discuss possible replacements for the state tournament.
- Smith: Thank you, Scott Woodhouse, for being secretary. And Samantha O’Conner for all your work as Executive Director. (Applause)

10.

Adjourn

Moved by Douse, seconded by Alt to adjourn. Passes unanimously at 1:06 pm.