



*SCSTA: encouraging a passion for excellence in speech
and theatre education in South Carolina for over 50 years*

Middle School Division Meeting
Saturday, August 26, 2017

In attendance: Ansley Keenan, Jennifer Simmons, Lori McKelvey, Deb Adams, Rachel Cooper
Meeting called to order at 2:55 pm

- I. Reviewed and approved minutes from March meeting
- II. Concerns and issues related to 2017 Festival
 - A. Schedule
 1. Lunch went long - but nice to take place on campus
 2. Workshops ran well
 3. Planning carefully constructed. We only had a handful (3?) of Double Entered participants
 - B. Judges
 1. Inconsistent scoring
 2. Time spent evaluating
- III. Planning and preparations for 2018 Festival
 - A. Judges
 1. Division members will assist the festival host as needed in seeking out qualified, experienced judges.
 2. Suggested same judges for events in round 1& 2 in order to maintain consistency for students to be eligible for finals
 3. Ansley and Gigi currently slated to work Tally Room for 2018 (pending Ansley's availability due to district trip)
 4. Judges meeting will take place first thing in the morning (currently slated for before welcome/opening and during registration). Will address the following:
 - a) Harsh grading
 - (1) Justify point deductions with a note
 - (2) If you have trouble finding something to say, note 3 strengths/3 weaknesses
 - b) Judges do not need to speak during events for long periods of time & need to be aware of how long they are taking make notes on forms

- c) Define “age appropriateness” since this is something kids get deducted for but is subjective
- d) Note the time of their piece, and can circle if it is over time. Judges do not need to deduct points if over time. Let tally room do this since it is often difficult to differentiate between a change in a score or a point deduction due to time.

B. Schedule

- 1. Proposal/Discussion of Round 1 at 10, Round 2 at 11:30, then lunch, then finals.
- 2. Lunch
 - a) Looking into taking place after round 2. Will not be as long this year since all students are staying on campus.
- 3. Workshops
 - a) Where to put them in the schedule?
 - b) Good to have workshops during rounds
 - c) What workshops to offer?

C. Edits/adjustments to program - last minute “no-shows”

- 1. During welcome meeting in the morning- Will be sure to mention if students decide last minute not to do an event, they must talk to their coach and Deb asap in order to delete from judges envelopes and program

IV. Review Festival Documents

A. Handbook

B. Entry Form

- 1. Will still be due ahead of festival in order to assist in final preparations to program

C. Judge’s Form

- 1. addendum will be added about age appropriateness, culturally sensitive and profanity & nudity free
- 2. Were HS and College divisions considering a rubric type judge form for future?
- 3. We will update forms for time consistency and dates for festival and will upload to website by September 30

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm