NDCA BOARD MEETING – Nov. 15, 2021

In Attendance – Brian, Shunta (Outgoing Chair), Lauren, Shane, Tim A, Jasmine, Shree, Kaz, Scott

Called to Order 8:35 p.m. Eastern Time

Move Approval of Minutes – Done

Shunta (speaking for herself and Kevin H)

Shunta – hope community appreciates the time everyone gives to this organization, my pleasure to serve, chair for six years, time for someone else to take over, believe Tim and Jasmine will do great things

Budget $37,055.55 since, not including six checks not cashed, one from novice packet and the other five related to tournament, insurance is up to date, accountant has tax info, accountant has shared method of getting 501(c)(3) form.

Report – we need to consider tournament hosts moving past this year.

Nomination and elections, ideally all members will have positions, Chair, Finance Coordinator, Tournament Coordinator (deals with host), Internal Comm—Taking minutes, Web Manager –updating website, PR and membership Coordinator – seeks and provides information on joining, notifying of schools, Open Evidence coordination – uploading camp evidence, help from folks not on board as well, Curriculum Coordinator – oversee novice packet, Conference Coordinator – each person having a role make sense

Scott – nominate Brian for Chair, been on top of things, Conference, Brian unanimously accepted as the Chair

Treasurer – Brian will carry this out for a least a year to maintain the transition.
Discussion of how the old account could be closed and how it could be maintained. Brian is willing to manage the stuff with Lauran and transition it later on. Lauren will try to get the people to cash their checks

Tournament Coordinator – Scott Wheeler
Scott would like to do it and says it would make sense since he wants to host the next one

Internal Communications – Sheryl Kaczmarek

Web Manager – Jasmine (Collaborating with Lauren)
Shane would like to get away from this. Jasmine has ideas for PR as well. Brian - big thing is making sure when stuff that comes in gets up, more getting job postings put up. Not really redesigning the website. Lauren would work with Jasmine on this and next job

PR and Membership Coordinator – Lauren (Collaborating with Jasmine)

Open Evidence Coordinator – Tim A.

Curriculum Coordinator – Shree

Conference Coordinator – Shane

We have all the board positions filled, based on who is here. Brian will talk to Rosie about interests.

OLD Business – Shunta before leaving. Indiana has expressed an interest in hosting at some point in the future. Novice division emailed about. Finishing of application to host.

Most of discussion on Online vs In-Person tournament, Facebook conversation asked for reconsideration, only a couple of actual emails to Shunta.

Shunta left the meeting and the board…

Brian -- want to make sure to include Rosie when she gets on the call.

OLD BUSINESS – Early September Decision made to go Virtual

Brian – can reopen discussion or say we decided we will be virtual and stick to that – discussion followed but in the end a Motion was made to Revisit the question of whether the 2022 NDCA Championships should be virtual or in person and only Scott and Jasmine voted yes, other six members present voted against the motion so the tournament will remain virtual for 2022.

Brian – constant struggle, only thing most people recognize us for is the tournament

OLD BUSINESS – pushed hard for novice divisions policy, online novice leagues, did not hurt Woodward, with LD and PF, could help World Schools, as long as online, think should always offer novice divisions. Unanimous approval to add novice divisions to NDCA Championships.

Scott – Want to also offer JV divisions depending on numbers

Brian – Real Online schools, we accept, if Home School students attend a certified home school they should be allowed to compete
Kaz – All home school kids are officially connected to some school in the place they live
Shane -- if the school district says they are an entity they are allowed to compete
Scott – is a law to allow remote school folks, err on side of letting schools compete, if district sponsored, follow extra-curricular model
Jasmine – Need to craft language so not create loopholes for private prep groups
Brian – think we have language, if prove they are a school, bylaws already say it

Host Document – not looked at by anyone other than Kaz/Brian
Need to have three years lined up, if we have Indiana and Peninsula, we need a host for 2025, try to get access to that doc, all comments in by Christmas holiday break, doc for 2022, put out there so after board review it can be shared with interested people

New Business
Need to think about tournament director – Brian – Dave did a good job, it was positive, help us plant out flag, has our mission at hand, cross organizational approaches, would move unless objections, second it, Scott - could also discuss Mahoney, but Dave did a great job, nice to have connection with NSDA – Approved unanimously

Monthly meetings – one of the reasons, six or seven months between meetings, some months can just skip it, need to keep on top of various issues
Tim – weekdays not weekends not on Wednesdays
Scott – Mondays 5:30 to 7 Pacific/this is late for the East Coast
Brian – agenda doc and dates and times, enough stuff, whoever can make it, 24 hour vote, or seven of nine, we will do it

Bylaws – lots of little changes, monthly meetings need to be added in, Brian – need to revisit the bylaws, make sure following alone, minutes, change, voting on it
Tim, Jasmine and Kaz update it, vote needs to be taken at the end

Online – Streamlining financial stuff – move stuff over to it – more general admin email, easy way everyone can access it, need a more structured way of paying for things, want to look into alternatives, check mailing services, no one touches the checks, get reports, popular to have on site, probably take a while, get paperwork from Shunta, fees paid in advance

Jasmine – can we make a Slack for NDCA Board, much easier to answer quick questions, also help resolved miscommunication issues, Slack is a lot quicker
Scott – Used Slack for working groups, maybe be more on top of it
Jasmine – email is not really any more formal than Slack, makes flow of communication easier
Brian – have both, organically move, not a disad to try both, official board business on email, legality, if need to talk about something legal, make sure within state guidelines, Slack might not be considered a valid vote, especially if organically over time
Shane – does promote conversations
Tim – I'm a gamer so I prefer discord, but Slack is fine
Brian – if so important that it needs an immediate response, should be email during the say

Membership Database – enough hours chasing ghosts of who to contact at schools, when talking about bylaws, what does a membership term look like, prepay for an entire year, nice to see a membership role, voting for board members, awards, people who are active members as opposed to the general public, a lot of what we do is super time intensive, novice packet, curriculum, need to make sure people who pay are officially member, if the only thing you get is a vote and anyone can vote

Tim – Is there a list that has all of the lifetime members
Brian -- Website is updated as much as possible, not 100% sure everyone is there, make sure updated, or Meadows is
Tim – Was back at EGR
Shane – Website is pretty new compared to Tim at EGR

Cross-Organizational Development and Planning – People always want to recreate the wheel
Brian – had conversations with Scott Wunn, what ways can we view it, every organization believes it is bigger than someone else's, sometimes the third party, Barton Scholars, then NSDA, one thing calendars, conference rotations, professional development, assist with other folks, from personal time a lot for a conference, significant more members, think smarter, not give up all ground, but important to reach out and talk to other, Federation – how do we work with them on policy topics, they are much bigger, looking to figure out identity
Tim – NAUDL – Expo – professional development for coaches, classes and panels for students, could integrate well with
Jasmine – pro collaborate with UDLs, collaborating might make sense in certain consequences, try to provide services no one other organization offers, coach mentorship, could be a thing, things other organizations do not do
Scott – there are a lot of resources NDCA does, for free, Open ev and curriculum stuff, Novice Packet, best it has ever been, don't really understand what Federation does
Brian – Significantly larger and do way more things than you are aware they do, membership bigger than the NSDA, entire organizational structure, have a lot of people involved in Speech and Debate, when we fight them they are the king of the hill
Lauren – At the end of the meeting, I thought they were pretty good on logistics, some people not vocal enough about some of the poor wordings of topics, people who had thoughts about wordings sometimes over rode the ideas of the authors
Tim – composition of the wording committee really matters, lot of easy solutions, more and better topic papers, were 16, last 4, want to spearhead, at NDCA conference, here's how to write a paper, write paper's, NDCA can provide a bit of funding, at NAUDL expo, love it if every UDL turned in a paper, all that would do improve the papers, increase number, encourage more people to go, the more who go, include cross organizational linkages, here's how to become involved
Shane – can benefit from collaboration, finding identity that we have while working with organization but that isn't just about running a tournament
Brian – need to figure out where to plant flag, professional development, might boost more if could connect, Novice Packet is unique

Curriculum – LD and PF, not just Policy, are there interests in novice packets for LD and PF, would be want to consider it
Jasmine – NSDA does Sept-Oct packet, Civil Disobedience packet, establishing a topic for Novice LD, first semester topic, would be interest maybe distinguish from NSDA
Tim – NSDA packet not great, avoid Sept-Oct novice topics, novice packet for scrimmages
Shane – for PF intriguing, not want people to have different topics, interesting
Jasmine – coaches really love demo debates, could be something we spearhead, especially new coaches

Brian – what do communities need, thousands of LDers and Public Forum students, novice packet was a good product, perfect templates for moving forward, did a lot of good things, PF not going to camp really behind, cuts across camps and for profits, not have as much money
Scott – would be great to have something for LD or PF, topic comes out August 6, could put together something, issue in policy still have same arguments, value criterion or not, CD or not
Jasmine – LD packet regionally used
Tim – could be used by tournaments, specified that we will use the packet
Jasmine – could come up with a policy sort and a traditional sort
Kaz – Packet could be more broadly useful than just in novice
Brian – Onboarding starts in late October or November, LD Alum, need a couple things, add in a few things a little bigger, argument engineering, lead kids to getting it, PF possibilities too
Tim – if you don't want an argument, don't include it
Brian – embedded clash

Brian – Got through the whole agenda, I will touch up business in the next week
Jasmine – maybe a quick meeting, working groups
Brian – if there are external powers, we should reach out to people who want to add outside folks to the working groups, small stipends, look in produce material to provide benefit, every year packet will cost a couple thousand, above and beyond board member, put out agenda for a potential December meeting on 12/1

Jasmine – Start a Slack
Brian – Will set it up (Note: It already has been set up)

Jasmine – move to adjourn 10:36EST

Respectfully Submitted by Sheryl Kaczmarek