

## **Committee Reports as of 7/14/19**

### **Scholarship Committee Report**

Submitted by Jennifer Akers

#### **2019 Scholarship Winners:**

Teacher Scholarship - Shelle House - North Little Rock High School

Debate Scholarship - Alex Martin - Episcopal Collegiate High School

Forensics/Theater/Dance Scholarship - Eileen Alvarez - Bentonville High School

The new forms for the 2019-2020 scholarships have been posted to the website. The 2020 deadlines are:

High School Debate and Forensics/Theater/Dance: Feb. 21, 2020

College: March 6, 2020

Teacher: March 6, 2020

The 2019 Teacher Scholarship \$500 has been paid as a reimbursement to Shelle House for registration for a Project Puppet Workshop. Payment was made April 6, 2019.

The High School and College Scholarship payments will be made in September 2019 to the individual winners' college/university.

### **Student Congress Committee**

Submitted by Martene Campbell

Student Congress 2018 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arkansas Student Congress. We had 21 high schools in and 5 colleges in attendance—with a few of those schools competing for the first time. To celebrate the 50 years of Arkansas Stu Co, the Lt. Governor, Tim Griffin, came and spoke to the students at the closing ceremony.

We also returned t-shirts for this year giving those who wanted one an option to pre-order and we provided them for our coordinators and parliamentarians. Additionally, we added a third house to help ease some of the issues with students not being able to speak in session. This seemed to work very well.

For the finances, we operated in the black as is outlined in the Treasurer's Report.

Student Congress 2019 will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> again at the Crowne Plaza and the Capitol Building.

I am in the process of confirming our House/Senate Coordinators and Parliamentarians for this year's competition.

Everything is secured in terms of locations.

Casey Griffith is the new committee member joining the committee and Joe Kieklak will be observing this year.

### **Nominating Committee**

Submitted by Dawn Tucker

At this time the Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and the Spirit of ACTAA awards are still being gathered (deadline is August 1). Side note, no one on the nominating committee has access to the results!!

### **Recruitment Committee**

Submitted by Eric Gamble

- All three committee members will be at Summer Conference 2019.
- -Recommend that the mentor/mentee program be revised
- ----All three members will take a portion of the people in the program and send out quarterly updates and questions about who the mentor/mentee relationship is going throughout the year.
- ---- Recommend that we Offer optional mentor/mentee after the first year for anyone that feels they still need help
- Recommend a ListServe for judges to be updated about upcoming tournaments to keep alumni lined up
- Recommend that the outreach to 2020 seniors begins in Fall 19 with teachers signing kids up AND exec articulating the benefits of membership for alumni after graduation.
- We also intend to report about the t-shirts handed out at TOC and look at the feedback on that outreach attempt.

### **State/TOC Committee**

Submitted by Chris Flowers

I am excited to be directing the state tournament this year. We have gotten a ton of positive feedback from this weekend and I believe it was a wonderful experience for our students. I am looking forward to next year because I think we have a great composition of committee members this year. As Colton comes off the committee we will retain all other members. In

addition, Rachel Mauchline is officially coming on to the committee conditional on her employment status with a school district in Arkansas.

I have a few observations and ideas I'd like to share with. Please feel free to comment back at your convenience. As we get closer to the tournament I will start to dictate more formal roles and we will start nailing down logistics, but here's what I have for now.

First, a lot went right this year and I'm really not trying to change much. However, one area I think we should look at is draw topics and world school motions. This year I believe one committee member was kind of in charge of it. Instead of that method I would like to pilot a topic submission process that allows member schools to submit topics and resolutions that we will use at the tournament. This will allow us to still manage those topics, but will give our community an opportunity to shape the debates as well as the impromptu and improv rounds.

Second, I think the t-shirts were new this year and I thought they were a hit. Joel, are you interested in leading this again? I think we should solicit our student body for t-shirt designs as an option. As long as we can fit it within whatever ACTAA gives us for cost, I think this would be a cool way to get kids more involved.

Third, I am told this was supposed to happen, but we are going to create a google doc to keep a running tabulation of qualifying results for our tournaments. I know we had some last minute issues with qualifications and I can remember being a newer coach and just forgetting to do something like this. Having the qualifying list would hopefully help everyone involved. Rachel, you are a skilled data person. Would you be willing to take this on for us?

Fourth, I would really like for us to have the best judge pool. I thought the judge situation this year turned out pretty good, but there was a lot of last minute planning for judges that probably should have been done a long time ago. If everyone could start to book there really good, really busy judges now that would be great. We may be able to put some of them that are travelling in a hotel if necessary. I would like for us to get as many experienced and unaffiliated judges as possible. There will be more of a push on this closer to time (obviously), but please start thinking about this and start planning now for some of those harder to get judges.

Fifth, Antha and I are finalizing plans to host next year's tournament at Fayetteville High School. FHS is a big, beautiful campus. Antha is a fabulous host and having the competition in NWA will help with judge recruitment. We have already been in talks to give coaches and students the 'Fayetteville Experience' and I am enthusiastic about what we will be able to accomplish next year.

## **TAC Committee Summer Meeting Forum Report**

Submitted by Jennifer Akers

### **1. Debate:**

It is the affirmative responsibility of tournament directors to publish entry lists in all debate events in a timely fashion so that coaches may submit challenges to competitor placement. It is the responsibility of coaches to adequately communicate challenges BEFORE THE START of competition. Please help the community out by addressing these issues promptly.

Novice placement: it is the affirmative responsibility of coaches to make ethically sound decisions about competitor placement... and they should be entered in the appropriate level of competition for their experience level, competitiveness and skill.

**TAC advises that tournament directors strive to complete debate prelims as communicated in tournaments invitations.**

### **2. Tabulation Method of Sweeps**

Can we have tournaments use the same tabulation method of sweeps?

**TAC advises that tournament directors specify the tabulation method of sweepstakes in the tournament invitation.**

### **3. Tournament Needs**

Not all tournaments are accommodating for all needs of students.

**TAC advises that tournament directors continue to provide important information about facilities and accommodation, and tournament attendees continue to provide tournament directors with timely notification of such needs.**

### **4. Trophies**

There were issues this year where tournaments did not have trophies to hand out at awards assemblies. This should not happen. Schools attend tournaments with the assumption that if students win, they will be presented trophies at awards. It is embarrassing when parents and administrators attend these awards ceremonies and the kids do not get their hardware.

**TAC advises that tournaments secure trophies with enough time to distribute AT the tournament award ceremony. While tournaments are foremost an educational experience, tournament hosts are also service providers. TAC advises tournament hosts to put in their**

**invitations the types of awards that students will be presented. Ex: trophies, medallions, certificates.**

## **5. Words and Music**

It is the responsibility of the tournament attendees to provide the hosting tournament individual rights forms for words and music performances, this is not happening!

**TAC advises tournament directors to ask for individual rights forms to be emailed in before the tournament registration to ensure that all schools participating in words and music are eligible before the tournament begins.**

## **6. Group Events at State Tournament**

Do we want to continue to offer GEs at state tournament? This year, and in previous years, we have had to wave the qualification rules to allow teams to compete. Or, do we need to adjust the TOC qualifications for GEs?

**TAC advises that TAC and State Tournament Committee have a discussion about qualifications and develop a solution that will meet the needs of the participating schools.**

## **7. Extemp Prep at State Tournament**

Students were monitoring prep room. This should not happen. Only coaches or a pre-approved adult judge should monitor students during prep time.

Students were allowed to leave the prep room before their speech time. If we are trying to mirror Nationals, the speakers should not be allowed to leave prep room until their speaking time.

**TAC advises that hosts schools communicate in their invitation how individual extemp prep/speak time will work at their tournaments. TAC advises that an adult monitor students during prep time.**

## **8. Tournament Deadlines**

Issues this year with coaches emailing and asking for extra time for registering and asking not to be charged fees. This is not fair to the host school. It puts the tournament director in an uncomfortable spot. If all deadlines and fees are listed in the invitation, please do not email for a waiver.

**TAC advises that all tournament directors send out a warning email through the ACTAA list serve a week before tournament registration deadline. Tournament attendees should not**

**email directors and ask for drop/add fees be waived. If the tournament invitation states registration deadlines, those deadlines should be enforced for all attendees.**

### **9. Tournament Food**

At several tournaments, schools brought in outside food during the tournament for their kids. Certain teams brought in huge orders of pizza, cases of drinks, and other outside food items. When a school states in their invitation that outside food should not be brought on campus, and the host school is offering concessions, schools should respect the rules. We need to remember that concessions is where schools make money.

**TAC advises tournament attendees to adhere to rules specified in tournament invitations. If a tournament invitation states that outside food should not be brought on campus, tournament attendees should adhere to this rule. Please remember, tournament concessions are a fundraiser for the hosting team. However, TAC also advises that tournament hosts provide a reasonable concessions for students. Hosting schools should provide enough food to last throughout the tournament weekend. TAC advises any school that needs special accommodations to contact the tournament director and let them know of any needs.**

### **10. Triple A Rule**

Dawn Tucker spoke with Christyal Holloway at Triple A concerning the start time of rounds. Rounds on Friday night may start after 9:00 pm since Friday night is not considered a school night; however, no round may start before 3:30.

**TAC advises that hosting tournaments are careful with starting rounds too late. We need to ensure that attendees are well rested for the tournament weekend, but TAC understands the need for some rounds to begin later than 9:00 pm.**

### **11. Judges**

There were occasions at tournaments this year where judges had no idea what they were doing in a round. My students were asked by several judges how to judge or how to fill out a ballot.

**It is the responsibility of the hosting school to make sure all judges are trained and qualified for the tournament. TAC advises a tournament host to contact any TAC member if a judge is in question.**

### **12. Judging Partner Judges Teams**

Rule that blocks coaches from the same district from judging their partner judges teams.

**TAC understands at many tournaments there are low number of judges. TAC advises tournament directors to be mindful when assigning judges to rounds. However, banning judges from districts from judging other school teams within that school district may not be helped, depending on the number of judges at the tournament.**

**TAC advises that students understand appropriate communication with adults in our community. Members report that judges and coaches receive sometimes aggressive communication from students about tournament issues. Coaches and teachers should ensure students understand that messages to adult members of this community should be filtered through/facilitated by responsible adults.**

### **Professional Development**

Submitted by Laurie Harrison

Last fall ACTAA offered its members 15 hours of professional development over 8 sessions. It was a great conference of professional development, highlights included Paul Leopoulos from the THEA Foundation, Kassie Misiewicz from Trike Theatre, and Lana Hallmark from the ADE. Thank you Jacki Reiff for putting on a great conference.

In June, our role as PD providers was renewed by the state for another year.

During this summer session, we will be offering 11 hours of PD over 7 sessions.

I will have the PD forms ready to post on the website and the sign-in sheets prepped for a hard copy signatures at the beginning of conference and throughout the event.

### **Report of the Professional Standards Committee**

**Submitted by Jackie Reiff**

The Professional Standards Committee report reflects various independent work of actions on issues surrounding embedding and course approvals.

**Embedded Course Issue:** Thomas Coy at ADE has been told he has permission to approve embedded course again this year, but we will not know the results until the end of August. An annual letter was sent to Mr. Coy asking him to deny embedded courses with Oral Communication, but we know this has not been effective.

**Reducing Course Requirements Issue:**

ADE does not have any legislation at this point in changing any of the "38 HS Course Requirements.". My guess is we have a few years until they will look at making changes again.

**Combine Committee Discussion:** Discussed the possibility of combining this committee with Professional Development Committee. It seems at this point being a special committee, we have nothing to really do for a while. It might help to have a back up for PD, plus both must interact with the state department. No recommendation of change, just a discussion stage.

**Action Needed:**

- Stay vigilant with embedded courses, Oral Communication and licensure requirements. Still filling Thomas Coy's email asking to deny the embedded course work.

**Report of the Publicity and Promotion Committee****Submitted by Jackie Reiff**

The Publicity and Promotion Committee report reflects various independent work of actions on issues surrounding advertising for ACTAA.

**New Banner Issue:** Brandon Box-Higdem took the earmarked \$1,000.00 and purchased updated banners for the 2019 Fall Conference and other promotional needs in coordinated with the Publicity and Promotions committee.

**Arkansas Administrator of Education Association:** July 29-31, 2019 Waiting List from Presenters, "Improving Communication with Your Community." Tuesday, July 30th at 1:30.

**Magazine Issue:**

Just to remind everyone the academic Journal of ACTAA is put on hold until further notice. Zackery Tucker, as then Publicity & Promotions chair, submitted a proposal to establish an associational magazine.

Tucker mentioned the magazine program proposed – "Arkansas Speaks!" – is hoped to highlight the ACTAA community. Providing an organized platform to promote members, students and programs including, article's about association activities (rule change proposals, conference announcements, etc.), individual student highlights inside and outside the competitive activity, highlight archival moments, program successes, and

member achievements. Executive Council was encouraged to workshop the first issue to start the efforts. Valdez-Block asked Executive Council members to submit articles to Tucker in the next four days, so he can begin to develop a draft to submit. But no/little articles were submitted.

**Committee Discussion on Scholarship Store:** Discussed the need to give the responsibility of the ACTAA Store solely to the Scholarship Committee. We can still provide promotion and items or ideas, but really this is not this committees area.

**Action Needed:**

- Before leaving the conference, can everyone on the executive council write something and send it to [jackireiff@gmail.com](mailto:jackireiff@gmail.com). Those who took students to NSDA please send me something on that area. Those who attended ACTAA State please send something on that area. Zach can you and John provide something on College updates of your programs. Asked Tim to send something from the traveling to NYC/England. Full page for Fall 2020 Conference will be included. Hope to take reports and put it in there as an article after submitted with any changes or actions. Goal is to have something in the bags at Fall Conference.
- Need a provide budget for publishing needed.

**Demo Day Committee Report**

Submitted by Joel Brown

Last year

Demo day NWA was hosted at Don Tyson School of innovation and Central Arkansas was hosted at Searcy High School. We had a total of 9 schools come to demo day. 2 schools, Harrison High School and Lincoln High School were new and had not been competitive members before. We also had a representative from all but 3 competitive programs in the state presenting events. No large problems were reported and all programs that attended are currently paid at last check.

This year

One goal of the committee will be to have every program represented as a presenter for at least one event to show the diversity of competition in our state. Have reached out to 2 potential locations, for Central Arkansas Parkview High School has agreed to host and will be verifying that they have the space on September 14th. For Northwest Arkansas I have reached

out via email to Bentonville West High School to see if they are interested in hosting. . This year's date will be Sat. September 14th. Start time will be 9am for both locations. I would also like to include a coaches session this year were we can provide some tools for teaching maybe some how tos or easy ways to get kids started for PD which I would like to partner with the recruitment committee and also have a piece to discuss Nsda membership and the benefits it brings.

### **State Tournament Committee 2019 Summer Report**

Submitted by Colton Gilbert

- Originally we were slated to host state at Pinnacle View Middle School in Little Rock
- + They cancelled on me sometime at the beginning of the second semester so we had to scramble
  - + NLR came in at the last minute to save us
- The tournament was a success, from what I could tell
  - + We didn't have any large problems with judges, concessions, the building, or anything
- If I can remember correctly, state was under budget this year, which is a HUGE plus
- This was my second year directing the state tournament and it was my pleasure to serve the association in this capacity

### **Topic Selection Committee 2019 Summer Report**

Submitted by Colton Gilbert

- Topic Selection will be in Chicago, IL this summer.
- I haven't had anyone complain about the Topic Areas for Extemp that I publish monthly
- I wrote another topic paper this summer (Criminal Justice Reform)
- The link to the topic papers can be found here  
(<http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/topic-reports/>)
- + they haven't posted mine as of 7/14 but it should be up sometime this week

### **Report from College Representative**

Submitted by John Gale

I have worked with Brandon Box-Higdem to invite colleges and universities to Fall conference. They are invited to set up information tables. I have contacted approximately 19 schools and numerous individuals.

### **Ethical Practices Report**

Submitted by John Gale

There have been no calls for action regarding Ethical Practices. As in the past, the committee generally does not need to meet unless an issue presents itself.

The committee members saw no compelling need to meet at this summer conference.

The committee will meet to address any issues that arise.