

Agenda
AIASDAC
Wednesday, September 29th, 2010

- I. Call to Order – Kevin Berlat 9:34 a.m.
 - a. In Attendance
 - i. Kevin Berlat (Central)
 - ii. Susan Seep (Horizon)
 1. Matt Guthrie (PCDS)
 2. Erik Dominguez (Desert Vista)
 3. Meg Howell (Mt. View)
 4. Lelanya Hunsaker (Copper Canyon)
 5. Tony Rosenburger (River Valley)
 6. Ronda McWhortor (Barry Goldwater)
 7. Brian Gruman (Central High School)
 8. Richard Glover (McKlintock)
 9. John Wolnisty (TPA)
 10. Elizabeth Clarke (Brophy College Prep)
 11. John Tyler (Mesquite)

Minutes

- II. Proposal – John Tyler

Friends of Forensics Plan

Needs to address:

These are systemic problems/difficulties in the AZ forensics world that could be addressed. Also, things that don't exist but could be provided.

- Basic Organization Resources
 - Recruiting tools
 - Budgeting documents
 - Tax credits
- New Coach Support
 - guide to coaching a team
 - contact info for experienced coach mentors?
 - contact info for support from FLA/AIA committees?
 - AZ calendar of events
 - Map of schools with programs
 - lack of support for research burden when no varsity team
 - high cost of evidence (policy)
- Advocacy
 - support when districts drop programs
 - when school boards won't approve trips
 - lack of visibility in community
- Tournament support

- lack of judges
- no standard judge training
- sponsorship of judges food?
- lack of standardized judge info sheets

Proposal:

To begin developing a pool of resources to ease the administrative burdens of coaches in the Arizona forensic community. Concurrently, to create a non-profit organization to act as an independent advocate for Arizona high school forensics programs. The goals of this organization will be to

- drive public awareness of Forensics in general
- encourage and facilitate collaboration with local business and government
- facilitate the foundation of new programs in the state
- emphasize the importance of forensics with school administrations and school boards
- make connections with college and business communities to find judges and financial partnerships
- Establish a fund for Arizona forensics scholarships and grants to individuals and teams

Methods:

Drawing from diverse talents

"Friends of Forensics" will begin funded on a spartan budget of mostly donated time/trade. Value to the whole Az forensics community will be created drawing on the various talents and resources of the forensics community (with extremely minimum investments of time by contributors) and synthesizing them into a whole greater than the sum of the parts.

Crowd sourcing general documents

Various squads will have various resources of differing quality (judge training info, event descriptions, welcome packets, etc). By collecting from all and selecting the best, a standardized generic set of documents can be assembled. These will assist startup chapters and perhaps lighten the administrative load of established chapters as well.

Resource gathering

Resources like judges, fundraising partners, media contacts, etc can be compiled and distributed to local chapters to save some legwork for already overworked coaches.

Profile raising

It's a safe bet that speech and debate generates a greater number of leaders than any other high school organization, but this is the best kept secret in Arizona education. It shouldn't be. Having a dedicated liaison between media and the forensics community would direct the spotlight on deserving debaters and stand-out squads. Additional attention not only motivates the students, but also facilitates finding judges, funding and district support.

Support building

Speech and debate programs and tournaments require herculean efforts but garner little support or notice outside of the forensics community. Speech and debate needs an advocate to reach out to business groups, rotaries, and the media to establish channels for funding, service donations, and scholarship. Friends of forensics could act as a catalyst, spurring interest in business leaders and connecting them with local schools.

JT: Background - young educator, moving up the ranks, very difficult to put in. My friend has marketing company. I also worked with FBLA that has a very strong marketing and does a great job of marketing. That inspired this proposal. I saw needs and thought that an outside source or

organization not invested in a single team to promote forensics. The educational and promotional resources are available it just needs to be condensed. There specifically needs to be resources available to the new coach, especially if they don't have forensics experience. There needs to be promotion amongst administration and school boards. The other aspect is tournament support.

Start with a coalition, move to its own entity. Not affiliated with any specific team. Sharing administrative strategies. This would be very hard for one person to do, but if we all are able to pitch in we would be able to pull resources.

If it does move to its own entity, they could serve as the cheerleader and the advocate. That outside organization can start also thinking long term. This is an organization that could be the louder voice.

Motion to adopt the timeline – Beth Clarke, Second MH

TR: Rural Arizona has greatest need and greatest depletion – travel costs, resources

KB: If there are scholarships available, this could help significantly.

PC: OpenEvidence.org – in “my little corner” this already exists. Policy debate resource sharing is doing a lot. This is a good model – all we would really need to do is adapt that model.

MH: Coach Dropbox has been established for resource sharing. I put all the different beginning of the year documents into a shared file for anyone to access. Asked experienced coaches to upload documents and asked younger coaches to look through the documents. It is called “New Coach Resources” in dropbox.

RG: If these are not things for which the FLA was not designed to address, then it should be – this should be the responsibility of the FLA. FLA website is in the works and is almost up and could be part of the primary resource for some of the elements to this proposal.

KB: I think it is a matter of it is within our domain – the problem is what we can do and what we have time to do.

RG: Correct, but it may not be reasonable to create a third entity to do it.

BG: Yes, but like a “booster” club, a third organization can have different set of rules, especially financially.

BG: Isn't FLA already a non-profit

KB: It is unclear as to what rules FLA has to abide by.

RW: If we have not filed in the last few years, we will have to re-apply as it does expire. IRS has rules that you must follow in order to keep your non-profit status.

TR: To clarify – would this be redundant to what FLA is doing?

RG: Yes.

BG: I was going to suggest adding a member of the group that would be specifically in charge of public relations. A lot of this proposal would fall under a new public relations

RW: A new PR AND Grant Writing person would be ideal.

BG: We are very good at creating committees and sub-committees, but we often fail to put the end responsibility to one specific person.

JT: The benefit for a non-profit would be the tax id #, but if FLA has it, then that would solve that. Having a separate entity would help alleviate some of the work load. Is there one governing board

KB: Yes, those in the room for the most part.

JT: A separate entity would be good to have more diversity in order to give us connecting points outside of the community.

MG: Would there be any advantage of having the third organization completely detached from AIA?

KB: There could be especially in promotion. AIA does not have the resources to really promote speech theater and debate, so having a third party would help in that sense. Having a group specifically tasked in this would be great.

RG: But isn't the FLA already quasi- separate from the AIA.

KB: Somewhat – FLA communication still comes back to AIA.

KB: Right now we have the question to adopt the timeline, which would allow us basically two meetings in order to do this before we would technically have to act. I would also suggest that John and Rich talk and try to work together on the website and connect on common goals.

MG: As long as we are not duplicating the resources. Coaches need specific question answered.

BC: Question – how do we get judges from the community from the judges who have limited experience. There is a conflict of having these inexperienced judges judging a sometimes complicated activity. An example would be the Rotary tournament – there are sometimes confusion about different norms.

SS: Different things have happened around the years. When Erik advertising in Ahwatukee, an experienced judge came in and is very experienced but serves as an unaffiliated judge. I found other judges who have qualified people who are unaffiliated.

BC: I think that that is where our marketing should be targeted.

ED: There is a place for novice judges who can show up as unaffiliated and then grow to be an experienced judges. But the experiences is preferable.

BC: True, and that may be something that we as coaches teach students to.

BG: A possible solution would be to have monthly training for judges.

MG: A specific question to Beth's question: in policy debate, you need to have some sort of experience. In PF, the definition of a judge should be that it can be judged by anyone. LD has conflict in both sides. It is unclear in IEs to what extent do we need to bring in expertise.

MH: There are places for all different type of judges in individual events – experienced and inexperienced.

KB: We have gotten off the topic here

RG: Call to question.

KB: Motion to adopt the timeline proposed. ACTION: Richie and John will connect and start the process of condensing efforts.

Johntyler480@gmail.com

III. Minutes – approve the minutes?

- a. Beth – Moves To Accept
- b. Multiple Seconds
- c. Berlat – Call to question
- d. Approved.

IV. Conference Representative Reports

- a. 1-3 Reports: All is good. There are concerns that will be addressed later.
- b. 4A – Is there anything in the rules about ratio team to coach?
 - i. SS: Not AIA, but in district rules.

- ii. KB: I know it is not in our particular bi-laws.
- iii. BG: Has anyone heard from Shadow Mountain?
- iv. SS: No, there has been inquires into any paperwork filed for a coach.
- c. 5A – We still need sites for State.

Reports:

V. Reports

a. FLA

- i. Convention was much larger. We had a large number of new schools in attendance either at the convention or at the welcome tournament.
- ii. NFL – we still need a location for NFL. The committee needs to get together sometime soon to decide when we are going to actually host the tournament. There were only two people who really wanted to prefer being after state.
 - 1. Rule Changes (pending executive board approval):
 - a. Point Recording: NFL events are 6 points max, non-NFL events are 5 points max.
 - b. Removed all caps for all events.
 - i. There is a question as to whether or not you can go back to capped students and allow retroactive points.
 - c. Planning on judge certification
 - i. Hope is to have general interp, public address, debate certification. Those in the final round of nationals you have to be certified. The following year every nationals judge will be certified. The following year it may be that district judges must be certified.
- iii. Thespians - They are dealing with a lot of the same difficulties we are
 - 1. Publication materials and appropriateness
 - 2. Participation
- iv. NFHS - Meetings were quite eye opening.
 - 1. Discussion as to what is published?
 - 2. Discussion as to computer use in extemp.
 - 3. Discussion as to computer use in all forms of debate.
 - 4. The main focus is promoting membership – they are working on a great PDF booklet for publications.
 - 5. NFHS publications will soon be members only.
 - a. Online publication will help us to update and move with the specific trends.
 - 6. NFLtv will soon be members only.
 - 7. Coach of the Year and Nominations updated
 - 8. Debate topic selection survey.

VI. Old Business

- a. 2010-2011 AIA Speech, Debate, and Theater Calendar
 - i. Changes were Apache Junction was canceled but GCC replaced the date.
 - ii. Flagstaff is unable to host on the 9th, but Carol got in touch with me (KB) but can host January 28th and 29th (between Mt. View and Central).
 - iii. NFL still deciding between March 3-5 or March 31-April 2
 - iv. MG: Friendly amendment to the calendar if we go to the March 31-April 2nd NFL date, March 3-5th would be a great option.
 - v. Called to question and Passed.

- b. 2. Judge Pool and Non-Profit Advocacy Organization Ideas
 - i. MH: Sent out an e-mail requesting us to bring advertising guidelines in local papers. We just need to figure out what the advertisement needs to say.
 - ii. BC: I think the website would be ideal, that way we can simply direct them to the website to get themselves registered and trained.
 - iii. MG: News story may be much more effective than an advertised. A news story may better communicate the type of judge we are looking for.

- c. Radio Broadcasting Reactions
 - i. A lot of students and coaches are very excited.
 - ii. Props to John for doing the legwork!!!
 - iii. BG: Events that help with career education will help us in promotion.
 - iv. Radio Broadcasting ballot approved.

- d. Hall of Fame Amendment
 - i. Amendment was approved and the language has been put in the constitution.

- e. FLA Convention 2010
 - i. KB: Already touched on it previously
 - ii. RW: In last year's coaches convention we approved an increase in the rules and it was unclear as to whether or not we did do that.
 - iii. RG: Should we tack on the difference to the entry fee for Winter Trophy?
 - iv. KB: Not really necessary and could be a bit of a PR hit to change the fees.
 - v. We will be instituting that extra fee next fall.

- f. FLA "Welcome" Tournament
 - i. KB: Major thank yous to Susan Seep and Horizon High School.
 - ii. SS: Feedback was really great, got a huge list of suggestions to make it even better.
 - iii. MH: Suggestion to have State Finalist to perform at this tournament, even if they perform the previous year's event
 - iv. ED: Novice concern

- v. MG: Could a demonstration round start the tournament, and then you being a regular tournament.
 - vi. BC: It could be a two day tournament – Friday could be demonstration rounds, Saturday could be regular tournament.
 - vii. MH: Some people can't make it at a two day tournament.
 - viii. BC: We could do the demo tournament after FLA convention.
 - ix. RW: The timing of it was really good for our team.
 - x. BG: I think we just need a few more experienced kids in there.
 - xi. KB: I think we can loop back to this in order to have better perspective on it. Let's gather some ideas and gather some thoughts.
 - xii. XX: Poll people at Winter Trophy, before January tournament and reconsider this in January.
- g. PCDS Rules for Timing Policy Debate
- i. KB: Let's go conference by conference.
 - ii. 5A (BG): Concern from policy debate schools to implement these rules and they did not like mandatory plan text disclosure. 5A body did not recommend it.
 - iii. 4A (RG): Little to know opposition. Everyone was for getting policy debate rounds off as fast as possible.
 - iv. 1-3A (TR): We were all for it. We also had a problem with disclosure, but otherwise we endorsed it.
 - v. BG: Do we have to have plan disclosure for this plan to work.
 - vi. MG: No. A plan text disclosure could be a completely different issue. It could be the starting question.
 - vii. RG: I think it is a good idea to have that starting point.
 - viii. MOTION: to separate the two part
 - ix. RG: Friendly amendment to the current proposal is to add "if they so choose"
 - x. ACTION: Amend the proposal to include language "if the Aff chooses"
 - xi. BG: The most difficult implementation aspect was when to start the clock – is it when the ballot is picked up, the time of the ballot?
 - xii. MG: All that you need is for the people in the tab room to be aware of what a reasonable time is for starting the round.
 - xiii. BG: What about the judge that won't stop talking and the kids are stuck in the round.
 - xiv. RG: It is our responsibility as coaches to make sure that our judges are not giving extended critiques.
 - xv. MG: Judges will know the rules and they will accommodate the debaters.
 - xvi. CALLED TO QUESTION: Passes
- h. Adjust Rules for Tiny-Entry Debate Tournaments
- i. MG: If the amount of competitors is as such that a round robin can be conducted, then a round robin should be conducted. You give 1st place, 1st place points, you give 2nd place losing finalist points.
 - ii. RG: What happens when we only have 2 teams or 3 teams.
 - iii. BG: We need the exact wording before we can vote on it.

- iv. JW: Let's get the wording before WT and then vote on it.
 - v. KB: Tabled until January.
 - i. Moving PCDS into another conference
 - j. Computer Use in Extemporaneous
 - i. Issues that we had are being mirrored all across the country.

- VII. Congressional Debate Tabulation Changes
 - a. Parliamentary all day
 - b. Keep the 0-8 points
 - c. Tie breakers – judges Preference, reciprocal, and then complete ranking of parliamentary.
 - d. Renaming it from Student Congress to Congressional Debate.
 - e. MOTION APPROVED – 1 Nay, the rest Ayes
 - f. KB: Three questions and concerns.
 - i. New NFL guidelines reset precedence and recency between each session. The reasoning for that is that it requires the presiding officer to be on the equal footing (they have to track precedence and recency). The other factor is that because it resets, they will jump out and get a significantly higher number of speeches than others. The less well known, less aggressive students may not get a speech. There are great reasons to keep and get rid of both.
 - 1. MOTION is to continue precedence and recency for this year.
PASSED.
 - ii. Super Sessions. State only has 15-18 students per chamber. Could we have enough debate in a first session in order to warrant a Super Session?
 - 1. MOTION HAS BEEN TABLED.

- VIII. Hall of Fame Election – Due to absences, this will be done over E-MAIL.

- IX. Allowing Notecards in Impromptu Speaking (E. Clarke)
 - a. BC: Students should be allowed to use notecards in Impromptu. The ballot states that students are not allowed.
 - b. MOVE to strike the sentence disallowing note cards, and replace it with the wording in the extemporaneous ballot and rules.
 - c. MOTION PASSED.

- X. Creating a Crisis Plan for Tournaments (K. Berlat)
 - a. KB: Will send out discussion from NHFS about a crisis plan for tournaments. I will get with conference reps and representatives from those areas.

- 5. Items from the Floor
 - NEW Business for next time BG: Public Relations
 - MH: First year outs judging – some of them are too close to the other students.