

Meeting Minutes, Council of Forensic Organizations  
November 17, 2006, San Antonio

Members Present:

Dan Cronn-Mills (MSU-Mankato; Chair), Larry Schnoor (MSU-Mankato; AFA-NIET, NFA, Interstate Oratory), JoAnn Edwards (University of Mississippi; DSR-TKA), M'Liss Hindman (Tyler Junior College; PRP), Cynthia Dewar (City College of San Francisco; PRP), Frank Thompson (University of Alabama; AFA-NIET), Sandy Alspach (Ferris State University; Pi Kappa Delta), David Steinberg (University of Miami; CEDA), Dave Gaer (Laramie County Community College; NIET/Arg), Renea Gernant (Concordia University, Nebraska; NCCFA, NPDA), Michael Dreher (Bethel University; NCCFA, Novice Nationals)

1. Adoption of previous minutes:

Corrections to previous minutes:

#6 should read that Larry sent the forensics description to NCA not NFA (it doesn't make sense to send those descriptions to himself!)

Motion to approve minutes as amended.

2. Calendar dates - Michael has already fixed, and will be updated to the website 11/17.
3. Forensic Research Index - Dan - Make sure that Dan gets copies of each journal. Dan will key into the index.
4. Dan noted more calls for graduate assistantships. He announced that he would be setting up a database for people to post their own assistantships. The database will be wiped clean at the end of the summer.
5. Dan reported that the COFO calendar seems to be used.
6. Larry reported back about the NCA request for forensics. Larry sent it to the NCA office; nothing has been heard.
7. Individual Projects:

Larry noted that the Developmental Conference on Individual Events will be Summer 2008. It will alternate with the Alta conference.

Possible sites: Minneapolis or Denver

Sandy: PKD Developmental Conference was on Wednesday. Phil Voight from Gustavus Adolphus led the conference. There will be a listserve set up for developmental purposes - in part, to make sure that we don't hit up the same people, as well as to share best practices. The proceedings will be at <http://www.pikappadelta.com/>.

8. Sandy raised the question of how we utilize technology at tournaments. What should the policies be?

NIET: Extemp prep allows laptops; no internet access. Larry pointed out the problems.

NIET requires a waiver of liability.

NPDA: What you bring in is what you can use.

PRP: Not responsible - up to individual. No printers.

Texas State High School tournament - Various schools check each other to make sure they're not on the internet.

We then asked the questions about what the rules were for LD - there aren't any as of now.

David S. also noted the problems with Urban Debate Leagues and access.

9. PRP project - Wants to offer service to the community - how to connect with food bank, battered women's shelter, etc.

Larry noted that District 4 tries to collect 4,444 cans of food. UW-Eau Claire went trick-or-treating - 900+ cans.

PKD - Community service is part of the requirement for membership. PKD now starts "Dress for Success" - Andrea Carlile part of that.

DSR-TKA - Dedicated student congress, Thursday, part of Friday - open to non-forensics people. Opportunity to do Mock Congress.

NPDA - Couple of tournaments trying world's style (4-team) debate. Trying to do audience/community-relevant topics.

CEDA - Waiving membership fees for new membership fees for first three years - and reducing entry fees for attending nationals. Will be starting website called the "Backfile Project" - contributing backfiles to be shared.

Novice Nationals - Developing RT at Nationals.

Dan from AFA - Working on forensic assessment - Finding evidence to support what we do. Middle school/high school programs... \$2,000,000 grant Carol Winkler has to collect assessment data on the effectiveness of debate. In Florida, started with Baypoint (an alternative high school) - attendance, GPA, etc. all went up. Will implement statewide.

<http://www.nationaldebateproject.org/> - click on assessment link. Guidelines and instructions. Wants to have debate and IE part of this too.

10. Dan's 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year as Executive Secretary - Dan is not interested in reappointment.

Larry nominates David Gaer from Laramie County Community College. Seconded and approved.

Michael has just been designated as Recording Secretary/Webmaster.

11. Larry noted that the Forensic Reception on Wednesday night was extremely well attended - over 100 people attended. Come next year to Chicago as well...

Motion to adjourn.