

Council of Forensic Organizations Business Meeting

Saturday, 11/22/08, 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Dave Gaer (Laramie Community College, AFA), Chair; Michael Dreher (Bethel University, Novice Nationals), Recording Secretary; Duane Fish (PRP); Derek Buescher (University of Puget Sound, NPTE, Western States); Wade Hescht (Lonestar-North Harris, PRP), Dan Cronn-Mills (Minnesota State-Mankato, AFA President), Larry Schnoor (MSU-Mankato, NFA, NIET, Interstate Oratory); Kevin Minch (Truman State, NPDA); Robert Markstrom (McNeese State, PKD)

1. The chair pointed out that NCA seemed to cross-section multiple panels (such as the GIFTS panel) with this meeting. Dave will try to make sure that this doesn't happen again next year.

2. Tournament Information:

Derek – WSCA in Tempe along with Kurt Shineman's swing. NPTE – UC-Berkeley weekend of March 20.

Duane – PRP in Portland. Next year will be in New Orleans with Tallahassee CC as the host.

Michael – Novice Nats at University of Houston (March 6-8), Hutchinson CC (2010)

Kevin – NPDA at University of the Pacific (March 27-30)

Larry – NIET – University of Akron (1st weekend of April), next year – UW-Eau Claire

NFA – Drury and Missouri State co-hosting; next year – Ohio University

Interstate Oratory – University of Mississippi

3. Larry observed that program submissions are earlier next year – March 6 is when Program Planners responses are due – much earlier than before.

4. Dan Cronn-Mills – Code of Professional Conduct – what can we do when people act in inappropriate ways? This is a direct response to what happened at CEDA Nats this year.

Dan would try to move toward a code of professional conduct. The thought is that the core language of the code should be consistent across organizations. AFA vs. CEDA vs. Parli – there should be some kind of consistency. Committees are moving. CEDA will be voting on their Code of Conduct at this convention. AFA will plan to vote next year at NCA. Larry will push for NFA to have its own policy. Rich Edwards had observed – “not having a policy does not protect you from a lawsuit.” The council noted the importance of being proactive.

Derek commented on what he knew about costs for liability insurance for national tournaments. \$1,000 - \$1,500 (CEDA); \$5,000 (Western States). The latter is event coverage.

David reports that AFA will decide by October 1, 2009 for its policy.

Derek – What happens when we host a tournament not at our institution and we hire a critic?

Derek also brings up the issue of videotaping speeches and debates. Gordon Stables has referred to the idea of fair use; if it's posted online, it could be taken down.

5. M'Liss Hindman would like to see COFO create a website where there would be sections such as “here’s how you start a program; press release, etc.” Post rules, tournament information, how do you become involved... Also, suggestions about tenure and promotion.

Michael volunteered to set that up; questions have been raised as far as \$\$\$. Larry and Wade have offered to provide some money.

6. Derek mentioned the conference on assessment: 9/11/09 – Lewis & Clark
CEDA will be hosting a 2-day summit on education as part of the topic committee meetings.
7. Students wanted a place to host a forum/blog. Several people commented about concerns in terms of responsibility and liability. The council decided to explore this at a future time.
8. Wade – PRP – working on overlapping dates with AFA-NIET. Will be fighting to prevent the overlap.
9. Dan mentions AFA awards: Duane – Outstanding Service Award; NIET – Dave Gaer
NIET – New coaches award – Lindsay Wakefield, University of Oklahoma.
PKD – New coach award – Andy Luster, McNeese State
10. Nominations for president – Dave Gaer renominated and unanimously elected.
Nominations for executive secretary – Michael Dreher renominated and unanimously elected.
11. The meeting was then adjourned.

Meeting minutes recorded by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University