

I. The meeting was called to order by President Prefontaine at 9:20 a.m.

II. Secretary Ballingall called the roll.

Absent: Historian Cummings (health)

Area I Curriculum Rep Matley, Area II Chair Darling, Sacramento Valley President Read (all due to weather), Area I At-Large Rep Wolf Hansen

Proxies: Bob Stockton for Steve Petit (OCSL)

Ticha Patanapelers for Krista de Boer (SDIVDL)

III. Minutes from September 2007 meeting were circulated

Move to accept as presented: M/Stockton, S/Fernandes, passes unanimously

IV. Officer Reports

President Prefontaine

Thanked all for good wishes expressed this past month; thanks to Neil for "picking up the torch" in answering the correspondence regarding the State Tournament dates.

Called on Barembaum to speak in memory of the late Chuck Vogler, a former WBFL President who recently passed away.

Vice President of Activities Kamel (brief report)

I.E. Committee meeting: we revised and reformatted the I.E. cover sheets. New forms will be on the website tonight; please destroy all old forms.

Extemp topic areas for this year's Tournament will be the same as last year's; already listed on the website.

Vice President of Curriculum Prichard

Student Congress DVDs were distributed to the League Presidents, to be distributed to coaches. 2nd distribution will occur at the State Tournament; we will not mail to schools this year.

Have already submitted a half page ad for the journal "California English," referring professionals to our website and materials.

Worked on preparing for the filming of the Thematic Interpretation DVD.

"Speaking Across the Curriculum" standards have been updated on website.

Vice President of Public Relations Fernandes

Our contract here in San Diego includes free meeting rooms; normally the large meeting room would be \$1700.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

- Apr. 17-21: State: 50th Anniversary Tournament
Hotels: Holiday Inn Intercontinental and Wyndham (light rail goes between the 2 properties) \$79 a night
Dinner dance is at the Holiday Inn
Reservation closing date is April 1.
- May 8-10: Ontario Doubletree \$109; we are paying for the meeting room.
Closing date is April 17; contact the hotel at 1-800-222-TREE.
1-909-418-4943 Sheila (sales contact person, if necessary)

Treasurer Barembaum

Distributed Treasurer's Report. About 60% of assessments are in, which is good for this time of year. Expenses are a little below normal this year.
All assessments are due finally from Area Chairs to the Treasurer on March 1.

Secretary Ballingall

A roster was distributed and people were asked to provide current information.

Editor Walton

Reported that there will be a publication coming out in February; will include 2007 Tournament results and an Editor's Column; further content is coming in.

Historian Cummings

Donovan now has an email address: dorvisc@yahoo.com .
The work done on the CHSSA 50th Anniversary book by Ron Underwood and Larry Smith is phenomenal.
Looks forward to seeing everyone at Santa Clara.

V. Area Chair Reports

Area 4 Chair Munsell

Sal Tinajero has resigned due to health reasons; Steve Petit has replaced him as OCSL President.
Fires have impacted on the county and its schools.
State 2011: possibly Cypress College?

Area 3 Chair Novak

2009 State Tournament site: USC. Preferred date is last weekend in April; USC hasn't confirmed that yet.

Area 2 Chair Darling (given by Minick)

State 2010: talking to Delta College.

Area 1 Chair Keller-Firestone

2008 Tournament will be at SCU April 18-20.

Looking into transportation from the Holiday Inn to the campus; there is a bus.

Parking is free at the hotels, though not at the university.

VI. Committee Reports

Individual Events Committee/Vice President of Activities (Kamel)

State Tournament 2008: Everyone at SCU is excited and ready to host the tournament.

Will start rounds Friday afternoon in the dormitory lounges.

Hillel has been working with the SCU hosts to organize a Passover Seder for those students wishing to attend.

Each President should've received a booklet and CD-ROM with State Tournament information.

50th Anniversary Booklet: Ron Underwood has done an incredible job on the book.

Still missing: 58, 59, 61 tournament results.

Any new information on Hall of Fame members or Leagues needs to be in by Weds. January 8.

Debate Committee (Ballingall)

Committee didn't meet; no pending business. We will meet in Ontario.

NFHS Debate Topic vote is due Monday; California will vote for Alternative Energy over Health Insurance.

Congress Committee (Matley)

Committee selected bills for the tournament (necessary number + 2 alternates).

The booklet will be put together and available one month before the tournament.

Curriculum Committee (Prichard)

Reviewed a copy of the licensing agreement which will be distributed along with the Thematic Interp DVD. The Committee spoke to Scott Wunn of the NFL about how they handle their copyright issues. All members who wish to have a copy of the TI DVD must sign the licensing agreement before they can receive a copy.

We hope to have a studio available at Santa Clara during the State Tournament; we need suggestions for coaches to interview regarding TI.

Creating a package which will include all of the previous DVDs, for sale. We haven't established a price for it yet. It will be available at the State Tournament.

VII. Old Business

MOTION TO REVISE THE BY-LAWS 07-09-F: M/Barembaum, S/Kamel

Article IX , section 3 , paragraph D2a, p.17 (new text in bold, deleted text stricken):
The contestant is to present a program of interpretation based on a theme of his/her choice. **A theme is an abstract statement or theory. Topics are not themes. 'True Love' is a topic. 'True love cannot exist in the modern world' is a theme.**

The I.E. Committee felt that this was a matter best left to the judges; therefore the Committee agreed not to forward a motion for consideration.

Keller-Firestone: Judges can't evaluate whether something is a theme or not; if this is to be "Thematic" interpretation, we should continue to emphasize the thematic aspect.

Caperton: Committee felt that it could be difficult to interpret, would create many protests.

Pinza: Committee felt that while there could be weak themes, but are should these speeches actually be illegal?

McCoy: A by-law would shift responsibility from judges to coaches.

Osborne: If in the by-laws, it's checked by coaches, Presidents, Area Chairs.

Prichard: We clarify in advocacy what an advocacy is; we should clarify in TI what a theme is.

Keller-Firestone: Shouldn't get to State Tournament is it isn't really a theme.

Pinza: However, we expect oratories to have a thesis, but we don't declare them illegal when they don't have one; should do the same with a thematic interp without a strong theme.

Minick: Pieces related can be a theme with the proper transitional material, not necessarily for the title.

Kamel: If this becomes a rule violation, judges check a box and the student is ranked last in the round. Penalty is too harsh and arbitrary. Friendly amendment: "A theme is an abstract statement which makes an argument. The theme should be highlighted and students in violation should be lowered one rank."

Johnson: Protests can occur already, just given that a theme is already required by the By-laws.

Barembaum: We don't see these protests in Advocacy.

Graber: Advocacy is more concrete; the difference between theme and topic is unclear.

Johnson: Point of order: what are we discussing?

Barembaum: Have accepted the concept of highlighting the theme and lowering a student in violation one rank.

Pinza: This doesn't need to be a By-law change; we shouldn't be making these speeches (which are weak) illegal.

Walton: What is the competitive advantage to someone who chooses not to use a theme.

Keller-Firestone: Easier to come up with a performance that isn't dependent on a theme. Can win in front of lay judges.

Osborn: Oratory vs. advocacy; more difficult to pinpoint a theme; they have a wider array of material to choose from.

Walton: If you have 3 pieces you want to perform, can't you just tailor a theme anyway to fit the pieces?

Stockton: Point of order: what is the specific language of the friendly amendment?

Kamel: "The specific theme must be highlighted. Failure to present a theme shall be penalized by the Tab Room by a lowering of one rank." (placed as appropriate in the appropriate sections of the By-laws)

Motion fails, 8-17

VIII. New Business

MOTION TO REVISE THE BY-LAWS 08-01-A: M/Barembaum, S/Graber

Article VII, section 1, p.1 (new text in bold, deleted text stricken):
Section 1. Date: The date of the State Tournament shall be determined by the CSSC at the preceding Spring meeting. The preferred date for the State Tournament will always be the last full weekend of April or the preceding weekend of April. **Whenever practical, the date of the tournament shall be chosen so as to avoid conflicts with major religious holidays, as well as state and national testing.**

Barembaum: this By-laws change, along with the statement of regret which follows, was suggested in a meeting with State Assemblyman Lloyd Levine and other interested parties.

Passes by voice vote

Barembaum: proposed wording of statement of regret m/Barembaum s/Patanarapelers

To Assemblymember Lloyd Levine & the California Jewish community:

The California High School Speech Association regrets the unfortunate and unintentional conflict of the 2008 state championship tournament with the important holiday of Passover. We recognize the significance of this situation, and have spent countless hours visiting every possible solution to avoid this conflict. The California High School Speech Association takes enormous pride in the diversity of its membership. It is our desire to express our apologies that our actions will cause Jewish members of the speech community distress at having to choose between the Passover celebration and participation in the state tournament. It is our hope that we can work with members of the inter-faith community to ensure that we can avoid such conflicts in the future. We also encourage our membership to notify CHSSA in a timely manner of future dates that might create scheduling difficulties.

Sincerely,

California State Speech Council

Johnson: Friendly amendment: "We recognize the significance of this situation" Accepted by Barembaum.

Graber: Who would this be distributed to?

Prefontaine: Anyone who contacts us regarding the issue.

Graber: Can we distribute this on CHSSA letterhead to anyone who questions us on this issue.

Barembaum: It is intended to be our operative response on this issue; what the Council decides to do with it is up to the Council.

Passes unanimously

Prichard: Presented the licensing agreement that needs to be distributed to all who receive the TI DVD.

m/Prichard s/Johnson

Prichard: we need to have this to proceed with the TI DVD

Abad: Should delete reference to nonexistent "attachment A"; friendly amendment accepted.

Kamel: The copy of this letter included on the State Tournament CD distributed today will need to be amended.

Abad: First sentence should read: "THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT, is entered into by and between the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) and the signatory below ("Licensee") on the below date." Friendly amendment accepted.

Abad: Sentence should read: "Restrictions on Use: Licensee agrees to abide by the following restrictions on the use of the DVD. Licensee shall not: A. Show, loan or distribute the DVD in any way to non-CHSSA members such as schools, students, parents or administrators." Accepted.

Accepted as amended, unanimously

Keller-Firestone: should we include language in the By-laws that requires release forms for whatever events are being taped at the State Tournament (for the purposes of the DVD).

Motion: That the release form for the TI taping should be included in the State Tournament packet for this year m/Prichard, s/Ballingall

Passes, unanimously

That the preferred weekend for the January CSSC meeting be the 2nd weekend of January

m/Kamel, s/Novak

Fernandes: Hotels will be more expensive.

Minick: Will it conflict with invitationals?

Pinza: Sometimes ASU, sometimes Fullerton

Graber: Should we research the relative prices?

Fernandes: Should avoid the holiday weekend given the sacrifices coaches on the Council make.

Walton: Shouldn't necessarily prefer a college-run tournament over tournaments run by our members.

Passes, unanimously

That the January CSSC meeting, when possible be held in the Area of the State Tournament, preferably at one of the State Tournament hotels.

m/Kamel, s/Hamilton

Graber: Is this equitable in terms of ending up in the same area twice in one year? I like going to the same hotel, appreciate the familiarity.

Underwood: Sometimes it will be difficult to reach the site. But other years it would be desirable to go to the site.

Hamilton: Can be helpful to be familiar with some of the State Tournament hotels before we get there.

Minick: San Jose isn't in the north, really, it's in the middle.

Walton: We really have no presence north of Nevada Union; moving the meeting could encourage a coach to attend and spread the interest in CHSSA.

Passes, unanimously

President Prefontaine declared the meeting in recess at 11:50 a.m. to resume at 1:15 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:25 p.m.

VIII. New Business, continued

Hall of Fame

The nominee was Neil Barembaum.

He objected to the consideration of his name for nomination; the motion failed.

Barembaum reiterated his desire not to be considered for the Hall of Fame.

The following spoke in favor of Barembaum's candidacy: Keller-Firestone, Kamel.

Underwood, Fernandes and Ballingall expressed the sentiment that we should respect Barembaum's wishes.

Johnson: Should we more fully outline the criteria for the Hall of Fame?

Prichard: This is a CHSSA award; at that point it would be his right to refuse the honor.

Kamel: Would you accept having your name placed in nomination next year?

Barembaum: Yes.

By consensus, it was decided to accede to Neil's wishes and delay his nomination to the Hall of Fame for a year.

"It shall be the will of the council that the selection "What is Poverty" does not meet the requirements for Oratorical Interpretation; that the selection must be from a published speech given by a real person and which shall have originated as a public address, and therefore should not be accepted as a valid Oratorical Interpretation."

m/Graber s/Barembaum

Graber: Very common speech, very successful,

Kamel: Gay Brasher and Tommy Lindsey have found it in a book which says it was originally presented as a speech.

Hamilton: This body shouldn't judge speeches individually.

Barembaum: If it has been "grandfathered" in, that is wrong.

Pinza: We should follow the By-laws; it may not be best to go speech by speech, but we should keep a written record of appeals and decisions made.

Minick: Keeping a written record would definitely help.

Kamel: If this is an illegal speech, we should warn students in advance. Since this speech has been so successful, we should give students warning, rather than having it protested at the State Tournament.

Barembaum: We can postpone consideration temporarily, but should investigate it.

Johnson: Table until May; League Presidents and coaches need to carefully scrutinize this script carefully.

Walton: We should remand this to an Ad Hoc Committee and come to a final determination.

Remand: m/Walton, s/Osborn

Passes unanimously

IX. For the good of the order

We will have 3 meetings in a row in the LA area in the next year based on the change in the January site (May, September, January).

Robert Victoria and Omyra Goodwin of the Hyatt helped us get reduced rates here.

The meeting was adjourned by President Prefontaine at 2:15 p.m.