

**VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE  
Debate, Drama & Forensics Advisory Committee  
May 5, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Deon Garner, Jenny Johnson-Woodward, Kimberly Kemp, Tina Tapp, Jan Thompson, Bill Wonneberger, Lisa Giles (VHSL Ex Officio) and Charlene Tiller (forensics tournament director)

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., introductions were made and the minutes from May 20, 2008 were reviewed and accepted upon correcting the spelling of *Wonneberger*.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The committee discussed recommendations for committee members who rotate off in December. Garner's replacement must come from Central or Northern Region and remains pending. The recommended replacement for Johnson-Woodward is Bonnie Woodhouse (D/F) of Spotsylvania (Region I). The recommended replacement for Tapp is Donald Hitt (D/T/F) of Madison County (Region B).

**CALENDAR REVIEW**

Adopted calendars for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were reviewed. Dates were proposed for 2011-12 and 2012-13 with considerations given for known conflicts when possible. It was also noted that calendars 2009-13 will be included in future editions of all activities manuals.

**RULES CLINICS**

A draft of the 2009-10 rules clinic calendar was reviewed with Phoebus High School being a requested location for the September 21 clinic.

**RECOGNITION**

The committee discussed recommendations for the NFHS Section 2 Speech Coach of the Year Award and the Virginia High School Hall of Fame. Janet Keith of Floyd County and Cindy Bomboske formerly of Monacan were recommended, respectively. Tapp will take the lead on compiling the Keith nomination and Johnson-Woodward will pursue the Bomboske nomination.

The 2009 winners of the VHSL/Allstate Achievement Award for academic activities were reviewed.

**VHSL WEBSITE REDESIGN AND MVP 2.0 IMPLEMENTATION**

Giles discussed the status of the VHSL website redesign and MVP 2.0 implementation and encouraged committee to communicate any web problems to Giles or her assistant Sharon Condoulis.

**VASDDC CONFERENCE**

This year's conference will be held on October 2-3 at the English Inn in Charlottesville. Workshop topic ideas should be submitted to Tiller.

**THEATRE**

The committee reviewed legislation passed during the 2008-09 school year affecting rule 101-2-2 in addition to the interpretation of rule 101-2-1, which is: *Adult directors' participation at VHSL festivals must cease when timing begins and may resume when timing ends; therefore, adult directors must not assist backstage or in the sound/light booth during the performance. Adult directors may take part in pre-performance production meetings, set and strike.*

Committee reviewed 2008-09 rules clinic survey. Based on coaches' requests, committee considered adjustments to judges' evaluation criteria since direction is usually an adult contribution, but the focus should be on the student presentation as reflected in rule 101-2-1 and its interpretation. Accordingly committee recommends changing *Direction* criteria to *Execution of Direction*.

Additionally, committee recommended *Clear Communication Among Actors* and *Tempo/Pacing* be moved to Ensemble Effect section of the evaluation.

## **FORENSICS**

The committee reviewed legislation passed during the 2008-09 school year including the prohibition of manuscripts beginning 2009-10, the forfeit rule, the no consultation rule in extemp and the time signals rule in interp categories.

The committee reviewed coaches' concerns and requested an addition to the F.A.Q. to reflect an answer to, "How much editing of a text is permitted?" Committee also recommended legislation to open up interp source material to include all forms of published material in print form (e.g. with an ISBN/ISSN #). The status quo of prohibiting recorded material, material obtained from the Internet and/or material written by the student remains.

Committee requests survey of coaches in the fall to gauge sentiment on permitting interp (or even oratory) students to change selections between rounds of the same competition. Committee would support this change.

Committee recommends standardization of time signals for extemp and impromptu.

Committee recommends making language consistent in both Manual and Handbook where notecard number and size are concerned for extemp, impromptu and oratory.

Committee discussed need to address judge etiquette and sportsmanship violations in rules clinics and judges' meetings prior to tournaments, Blanton Croft's 16<sup>th</sup> year of consecutive judging at the state tournament and the use of an ineligible student at state level. Committee also reviewed 2008-09 rules clinic survey data and forms with no recommended changes.

Committee discussed proposition to combine domestic and foreign extemp and add a new category. Recommended action is to (1) draft rules/procedures/guidelines for original/slam poetry and duo split, (2) present demonstration and information on original/slam poetry at VASDDC conference, (3) poll coaches on preference of original/slam poetry or splitting duo into serious and humorous duo and (4) submit legislation in December or February to take effect 2010-11 if passed.

## **DEBATE**

The committee reviewed legislation passed during the 2008-09 school year including forfeit rule, disqualification rule, regional legislation submission rule and combining competition. Committee reviewed forms and recommended no changes.

Committee discussed use of new Student Congress website and need to reiterate mandated use at regional level. Adding a drop-down menu to ensure proper region submission and permitting coaches (as well as students) to submit legislation were recommended. Committee also discussed state participation numbers and rules clinic survey results.

Committee reviewed Clerk of Congress' report and recommend: (1) clarifying/mandating order of docket be D-I-V-E format, (2) clarifying that P.O.'s one-minute speeches do not count, (3) establishing a plagiarism clause stating that speeches must be student-written and properly cited or DQ may result (case-by-case basis), (4) addressing in rules clinics and judges' meetings the inappropriateness of judges evaluating a chamber based on another, separate chamber, (5) clarifying that P.O. ballot in super session counts three times, and (6) providing a medal (or other token) of recognition for each student who serves as a P.O. of a super session.

Committee reviewed Lorraine del Gross's Public Forum proposal and drafted rules. Due to overall low participation in policy and classic policy morphing into a "JV" contemporary policy, committee recommended dropping classic policy debate and adding Public Forum. Wonneberger and Garner will review proposal and drafted rules and submit any additional recommendations/comments to Giles by July 31.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

It was requested that the no consulting Handbook rule in extemp be added to the Forensics Manual.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.