

Minutes - Tri-County Forensics League Fall 2016 Meeting

[Meeting Details]

1. Type of Meeting: Regular Fall meeting of Tri-County Forensics League coaches
2. Location/time: 8/24/2016 at James Monroe High School, 4:05 PM to 6:10 PM
3. Coaches in Attendance (24 teams represented):
 - a. Jerome Robinson (Granada Hills), Co-President of the TCFL
 - b. Kathy Graber (James Monroe), Co-President of the TCFL
 - c. Jessica Peroff (Cleveland), Vice President of the TCFL
 - d. Eleanor Nishioka (Wm. S. Hart), Treasurer of the TCFL
 - e. Iain Lampert (iLEAD Schools), Secretary of the TCFL
 - f. Orrei Barasch (Sherman Oaks CES), Sgt. at Arms of the TCFL
 - g. Susan Foley (Campbell Hall), CHSSA State Representative
 - h. Robert Lebeda (Chaminade), CHSSA State Diamond Planning Committee
 - i. Cindy Wilken (Canyon)
 - j. Matt Conrad (La Reina)
 - k. Mike Togno (Westlake)
 - l. Michael Smith (West Ranch)
 - m. Doug Lasken (Taft)
 - n. Katie O'Neill (Newbury Park)
 - o. Jennifer Vroom (Sierra Canyon)
 - p. Evan Feldman (North Hollywood)
 - q. Lakmeen Barns (Oak Park) [Proxy for head coach Audrey Israel]
 - r. Shawn Haq (El Camino)
 - s. Marsha Landreth (Huemene)
 - t. Ken Turknette (Arroyo Grande)
 - u. Laura Wade (Arroyo Grande)
 - v. Bud Zeuschner (Arroyo Grande)
 - w. Sue Foley (Campbell Hall)
 - x. Megan Botton (Saugus)
 - y. Jason Lohr (Burbank)
 - z. Sam Young (Bridges Academy)
4. Guests in Attendance:
 - a. Michael Gam (James Monroe)
5. Presiders: Orrei Barasch (Serjeant-at-arms), Kathy Graber (Co-President)
6. Minutes were kept by Iain Lampert (Secretary)

[Meeting Substance]

1. The meeting began at 4:05 PM.
2. Materials Distributed:
 - a. A CHSSA bylaw to mandate debaters say "quote" when reading evidence and "unquote" when ending citations, written by State Representative Susan Foley.
 - b. A CHSSA bylaw to incentive spontaneity in Impromptu, changing topic areas every year, written by Secretary Iain Lampert.

- c. A schedule for the 2016-2017 TCFL season.
 - d. A sign-in/contact information sheet.
 - e. A list of presenters at the 2016 TCFL workshop.
3. Co-President Kathy Graber led a discussion on three votes she and Susan Foley will be able to cast in the coming September CHSSA Meeting. She summarized them accordingly:
- a. The first vote concerned whether or not the CHSSA debate committee should extend prep time in Lincoln-Douglas Debate to four minutes in order to echo the National Speech and Debate Association. Kathy indicated there was total agreement amongst TCFL coaches and she would vote for this motion in September.
 - b. The second vote concerned whether judges at the State Tournament are allowed to see debaters they have already judged in later rounds.
 - i. Evan Feldman asked if these judges could see debaters on the other side of the case.
 - ii. Kathy and Jessica Peroff said this was impossible to control for due to flipping for sides.
 - iii. Eleanor Nishioka added how difficult the issue of different sides is to account for when they have to assign a whole panel of five different judges.
 - iv. Kathy mentioned if a debater could not persuade a less experienced judge, they are not worthy of advancing anyway. Kathy concluded she will vote against this motion in September.
 - c. The third vote concerned whether or not debaters could openly encourage judges to look things up on the internet during debate rounds.
 - i. Kathy and Cindy Wilken argued this was tantamount to having the judge do their research for them, using the internet by proxy.
 - ii. Orrei, who judged a State Semifinal Parliamentary Debate round in which the Negation asked the judge to look up 'right to work' state, called it an inappropriate tactic.
 - iii. Susan responded that the tactic was used in an instance where the Affirmative team used an abusive definition, the Negative called topicality, at least one judge did not seem to know which side was telling the truth, and had to look up the definition. Susan furthered that it's unfair to expect judges to be automatically familiar with every topic in Parliamentary Debate and argued the option of encouraging them to fact-check is good.
 - iv. Kathy said CHSSA will not be looking at the issue from a case-by-case basis because it's easier to impose an outright ban on in-round calls for fact-checking.
 - v. Jessica said there is a difference between asking the judge to look something up because a team wants the judge to give them information and asking the judge to look something up because a fact check is necessary for clarity and honesty.

- vi. Kathy reported the league vote was 6-6. At this point, Jennifer Vroom voted against the motion, so the vote was 6-7. The matter was then deferred.
4. Kathy discussed the TCFL Workshop at Hart HS on 9/17.
 - a. Presenters' slots were filled for every space except for DUO interpretation. Bud Zeuschner offered to see if Arroyo Grande's 2016 state-qualified piece could fill the slot. Evan offered state qualifier Lyna Kim to represent in Extemp. Susan offered to see if Milan Amritraj, two-time National Impromptu finalist, could present spontaneous argumentation.
 - b. Kathy, Iain, Jessica, Orrei, Sam Young, Robert Lebeda and Jerome Robinson discussed the benefits of the workshop: exposing newcomers to great speeches, giving concrete examples of events, creating socioemotional connections between students from different teams, and fostering league connectedness.
 - c. Jerome was concerned the spontaneous speakers in their workshop breakout section were finished too early. Kathy suggested having them facilitate SPARs with the audience.
 - d. Kathy and Jessica mentioned the John Bernabei award, given to competitors who attend every open league tournament.
5. Reports from the Officers...
 - a. Jerome, Kathy, Iain, and Jessica: Nothing new to report.
 - b. Eleanor: the TCFL has \$7901 in our checking account, \$1,100 in the fund for our Carol Goodman scholarship, and \$1,500 in savings.
6. Kathy opened a discussion for the benefit of newer coaches.
 - a. Evan mentioned L.A. City College is hosting a new tournament on January 8 and 9 of 2017. Matt Conrad mentioned Cal Lutheran's tournament now takes place at the same time as the Berkeley invitational.
 - b. Kathy mentioned how CHSSA now has a newer, updated website: <http://www.chssa.org/>. There was discussion of the new Judge Training videos, and whether they could be used when training judges at the Workshop or League Tournaments. The matter was deferred.
 - i. Congress Judging Instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9SwqP2haxM>
 - ii. Debate Judging Instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULwBE9d544M>
 - iii. IE Judging Instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JgbY0qy3so>
7. Iain discussed joining the National Speech and Debate Association.
 - a. Kathy.: there is no requirement to join the NSDA to be a part of our league or the state associates. Sam agreed about not feeling pressured to join.
 - b. Iain: The NSDA offers a huge support system in terms of training exercises, videos of final rounds, scholarship opportunities. Orrei mentioned how, with 750 Speech points and a 3.7 GPA, NSDA students can become Academic All-Americans. Susan discussed the benefits of winning merit degrees from the NSDA.

- c. Jessica mentioned how one can join the NSDA without having to go to national qualifiers or the national championship. Iain, Robert, Evan, and Susan discussed the benefits of attending the national championship.
 - i. Link to new NSDA website: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/>
- 8. Kathy discussed the importance of knowing about different online registration sites, mentioned how electronic tabbing under Robert and Iain has resulted in substantially faster and more accurate tournaments
 - a. The league uses Tabroom (tabroom.com), but the State Tournament uses Joy of Tournaments (joyoftournaments.com) and other invitationals may use Forensics Tournament (forensicstournament.net)
 - b. Robert and Jessica offered help to anyone who needed to get used to Tabroom
- 9. Lakmeen Barns opened a discussion on etiquette. She expressed concern about rude debaters at invitationals.
 - a. Jessica mentioned any uncouth or unsportsmanlike debaters would be banned from her team. Jerome said there's a TCFL code of conduct, but it's too logistically difficult to collect it from every league competitor.
 - b. Robert mentioned how disclosure at league is different from invitationals, and judges should not disclose at league.
 - c. Cindy asked for the rules of graduated judges. Kathy confirmed that only judges who are college sophomores or older may judge at open league tournaments, though rules are different at invitationals.
 - d. Kathy stressed the importance of students coming to tournaments with pocket change for food and coaches not taking judge food out to their students.
- 10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.