

IN ATTENDANCE: DJ Brynteson (President, Robbinsdale), Chris McDonald (President-Elect, Eagan), Zach Prax (Secretary, Eastview), Cort Sylvester (Treasurer, Rosemount), Dave Pritschett (Brainerd), Pam Wycoff (Apple Valley), Matt Davis (St. Croix Prep), Travis Ormsby (UDL), Kathy Martin (DGF), Jill Lofald (Duluth Denfeld), Cody Goodchild (Maple Grove), Cody Dorumsgaard (Maple Grove), Elizabeth Grayden (BSM), Amy Vanderheyden (St. Michael Albertville), Mark Thul (Andover), Bryan Hagg (Apple Valley), Yatesh Singh (Lakeville North), John Fogarty (Cannon Falls).

I. Treasurer Report

We ended last year with a balance of \$10,748.27 in the account, and our current balance after expenditures is \$4,750.33. Recent expenditures include payment for Rachel Bauman for being Minnesota's representative to the NFHS Topic Selection meeting, four program grants (2 of \$1,000, 2 of \$1,500), and payment for Mike Baxter-Kauf for creation of the novice policy packet. Other upcoming expenses include payment to Joy of Tournaments for the statewide tournament registration package. Only income during this period was a \$250 topic author stipend paid by the NFHS for Rachel/Cort writing a paper and attending the conference. SWe are anticipating dues revenue from lapsing MDTA memberships, and even if there is no additional income besides that, the status of the account looks good.

Program grants went to Johnson, Gordon Parks, DGF, and Lakeville Schools. Since its inception, over \$50,000 has been provided to 29 different schools around the state via program grants.

There was a brief discussion regarding tabroom.com vs. joy of tournaments for MN invitationals – decision to stay with JOT due to ease of use as the two programs work on hybridizing.

II. Meeting Minutes from the Spring General meeting are posted on the MDTA website.

III. Calendar Items. There are now two different tournaments on October 10th: St. Francis and Rosemount. The St. Croix Prep "Lion's Den" Tournament will no longer happen over MEA – it will now be on October 24th, opposite Maple Grove. The state is once again hosting the "mega-section" concept for MSHSL Sections on January 8-9. Policy for all four sections will occur on both days; LD/PF will occur January 8-9 for Sections 4 and 6, and January 9 for sections Sections 3 and 5. Anyone interested in hosting should contact DJ.

IV. State Tournament. At last meeting, we made the decision to using tabroom.com to avoid the pairing issues we've had with TRPC. Zach Prax and DJ Brynteson are going to establish a "tournament procedure" document to explain tab room protocol – the tab room staff will have clear instruction on how rounds should be paired, set up, etc. to avoid incorrect pairings. The MSHSL Advisory meeting will be on Friday, October 2nd at MSHSL Headquarters; the advisory committee that meets will consist of the MDTA Executive Board (DJ Brynteson, Chris McDonald, Ross Eichele, Cort Sylvester, Zach Prax). Community judges

in PF will remain. A proposal to limit PF community judges to hear a team no more than twice in preliminary rounds was suggested, as was a proposal to prevent community judges from being the majority of an outround panel. This was unanimously accepted at the meeting and will go to advisory. This year, PF community judges WILL APPEAR on the strike sheet.

V. NEW ITEMS

- a. State Tournament for Congress. Ross Eichele conducted a survey to determine the feasibility of the MDTA sponsoring a State Tournament in Congressional Debate, similar to how we sponsored Public Forum before it was adopted as an event by the MSHSL. Ross will head a committee that will discuss how it can best be implemented; we will reach out to individuals interested in doing this. Templates, etc. for legislation are all provided on the MDTA website. Details will be worked out and given at a later date.
- b. Congress at the Capitol WILL NOT happen this year. Construction is keeping legislators from the floor – so we definitely can't get in.
- c. There was a suggestion to improve the quality of the ballot for State – i.e., perhaps taking potential judges off of the list that are not responding to communications to determine if they are still viable judges on the ballot. As it is, the ballot is massive and it might be worth it to find ways to pare it down. We are going to work to see if we can get people to register on the MSHSL website early to prevent issues we've had in previous years.

VI. Upcoming events.

- a. State tournament voting is due. DJ will soon post a list of initial judge hires that the MSHSL will try to conduct based on voting.
- b. Nationals 2020. Pam Wycoff and Chris McDonald spoke to the Nationals 2020 PRE-BID that we have entered. We are in a pre-bid approval process (in the past there has been some concern about past sites jumping the gun, then realizing there are high expenses, different locations, people back out, etc). To do that, we have to meet stipulations – an airport nearby, hotel locations, school proximity to airport, special venues, etc. Also have to talk to schools to see if they would adjust schedules (i.e. postponement of summer school, willing to cut activities so no other camps run in the school, summer leagues that use the field, etc). It is a goal to have transparency in the process...and we want everyone to be on board. If this doesn't go well, Chris will retire June 20, 2020.
 - i. What have we done?
 1. Scott and Cherian met with Chris and Pam. Given parameters of rooms necessary to run the tournament, it was determined no other place in the state short of multiple districts that could run a tournament of this size. Given the items that Pam discussed, we wanted to make sure we were in the same school district. Open classrooms was a concern, but Scott and Cherian don't think it's a barrier because we'll house LD and PF in a flighted schedule that could be properly spaced out. Right now we're thinking 50 rooms – and we've done predictions that 196 could

house tournaments with a fleshed out worlds debate, info, AND POI. THEN, a meeting happened with all four high schools with Mark Parr – laid out what was necessary for the district, that shows that we are committed to wanting to host a tournament and willing to do whatever necessary it will take.

ii. What's next?

1. Hotels/convention bureau stuff. A lot of that will be CHERIAN. He is great at the negotiations process and this alleviates much of the work the nationals committee had to do in 1997.
2. Is MINNESOTA willing to host a great national tournament to show the rest of the country our support of Forensics and education? We seem to have an overwhelming support for education in Minnesota – and what we do should be celebrated! We WANT people to come here to see what we have to offer! Overall, the membership showed clear enthusiasm for supporting NSDA 2020.

VII. Policy Packet Guidelines. Travis Ormsby spoke to some procedures he wanted to bring regarding the novice packet.