

**MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
SPRING COACHES MEETING
ALEXANDRIA SENIOR HIGH
ALEXANDRIA, LA
APRIL 3, 2003**

President Judy Hadley started the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Secretary Scott Johnstone called roll. Schools present were:

Academy of the Sacred Heart	Iowa High School
Acadiana High School	Isidore Newman
Alexandria Senior High	Kaplan High School
Barbe High School	Lafayette High School
Ben Franklin High School	LaGrange High School
Benton High School	Louisiana High School for the Arts
Bolton High School	North Vermilion High School
Breaux Bridge High School	Parkway High School
Cabrini High School	Riverdale High School
Caldwell Parish High School	Ruston High School
Captain Shreve High School	St. Augustine High School
Carencro High School	St. Louis Catholic High School
Cecilia High School	St. Scholastica Academy
Comeaux High School	St. Thomas More High School
De La Salle High School	Sulphur High School
Erath High School	Teurlings Catholic High School
Fontainebleau High School	Tioga High School
Green Oaks High School	Vermilion Catholic High School

Thirty-six schools were present for voting.

First order of business was the election of council members for three positions to replace Sandra Broussard, Scott Johnstone, and Melba LaCaze. Barbara Fontenot nominated all three previous members for re-election. No other nominations were made; therefore, Sandra Broussard, Scott Johnstone and Melba LaCaze will remain on council for a two-year term.

Next order business was election of Coach of the Year. Judy Hadley and Scott Johnstone read the nomination letters for the following coaches: Scott Johnstone, Melba LaCaze, Enslin Lamberth, Timala Melancon, and Dana Talley. Elected was Scott Johnstone from St. Thomas More High School.

Old business concerning the raising of the league's membership dues was discussed. Because of the rising costs of trophies for the Tournament of Champions and technology, a \$10 increase has been proposed. A committee will present its' findings at this year's Fall Coaches Meeting.

The first new business item was submitted by Shana Qualls of Breaux Bridge. Shana requested that the league set up a committee to discuss the use of binders in Duo Reading. Since the Catholic Forensic League has eliminated the use of binders for competition in Duo at the national tournament, the league needs to look at the possibility of eliminating binders in Duo for competition in the state. Sandra Broussard introduced the idea of keeping the binders in use only at tournaments during the regular tournament season. Volunteers for the committee are: Sandra Broussard, Shana Qualls, Brenda Kay, Nancy Gingras, Barbara Fontenot, Mia Lamkin, Josette Surratt, Marcy Bonnette, and Scott Johnstone.

Sandra Broussard from Comeaux submitted the next new business item. Sandra described the problem some tournaments had this year with sanctioning events and allowing more than fifty percent of students from one school compete in a particular event. Currently, tournaments are not allowed to accept more than fifty percent of participation from one school in an event. Sandra said that having a school with more than fifty percent of the participants in an event is not necessarily an advantage to that school. Also, tournaments are losing money from larger schools who are not allowed to send their entire entries. Two committees were set up to look at the possibilities for sanctioning tournaments in the future. Volunteering for the Individual Events Committee were Sandra Broussard, Brenda Kay, Barbara Fontenot and Donald Foy. Volunteering for the Debate Committee were Enslin Lamberth, David Kay, Melba LaCaze and Dana Talley.

Judy Hadley brought our attention to a problem with the wording in the Coaches Manual concerning the Novelyn Price Ellis Sweepstakes Trophy. The current wording reads, “when a school earns this trophy for the second time, it shall be given permanent possession and a new trophy purchased.” With this wording, a school that has ever won the award would be given a trophy upon its second win. This could mean that the league would need to purchase an eight hundred dollar trophy nearly every year. After discussion, it was agreed that starting this year, the League will award the school receiving the sweepstakes trophy a smaller version which the school may keep in its’ possession.

Next on the agenda was the issue of uniform eligibility requirements in the Coaches Manual. Sandra Broussard identified that Article 2 of the Constitution reads, “any student is eligible for competition provided they have not reached 20 years of age by January 1st of their graduating year.” Section C 1-A of the Tournament of Champions manual states “the student must be an undergraduate student in grades 9 – 12 who has not been classified above the eighth grade for more than eight semesters.” Shana Qualls suggested that the league follow the wording of the Constitution and eliminate the wording in the Tournament of Champions manual. A committee was set up to look at this problem. Volunteering for the committee were: Lisa Jones, Shana Qualls, Linda Leonard, and Nancy Gingras.

Melba LaCaze brought up a concern about the submission of “anonymous” Declamation selections. Coaches need to remember to review the rules of events and make sure that students are competing with material that follows the guidelines of the Coaches Manual. Coaches are encouraged to address any protest of material at tournaments throughout the year.

The location for next year's Tournament of Champions was discussed. Volunteering to look into possibly hosting the tournament were Grace King High School and Riverdale High School. The tournament is tentatively scheduled for April 1 – 3. Scott Johnstone announced that St. Thomas More will host the Fall Coaches in August.

The tentative tournament for 2003 – 2004 was reviewed. Many changes were made. Judy Hadley reminded everyone that all requests for hosting a tournament must be made officially in the fall.

David Kay of Lagrange offered to host a one-day debate-only tournament. This would be a collaborative effort among a group of schools. All standard LHSSL rules would apply with the following exceptions: (1) the school that provides the physical facility may compete in the tournament, (2) only 5 schools must compete for winners to qualify for TC, and (3) the pairing of rounds must be done by computer or supervised by coaches from several schools. David will report more at the fall meeting.

Jason Stahlz from the LSU Forensic Team addressed the group and described the many advantages of college forensic competition. A demonstration of events was scheduled for Friday morning.

Scott Johnstone explained that the coaches' workshop on Friday morning will cover organizing Competitive Speech and Debate classes. Coaches from across the state will share ideas on starting and maintaining a class at your own school.

Nancy Gingras made several announcements concerning the arrival of students at Alexandria Senior High and the logistics of coordinating the judging pool.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott Johnstone
Executive Secretary