

Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League
Fall 2020 Board Meeting

I. Date, place, time: 8-29-20, Zoom, start time – 1:15pm

Those in attendance – Dr. Mike Gotcher, executive director; Rick Marshall, chair; Sarah Kieffner, assistant chair/District III; District I – Kevin Rogers, Jeff Robbins; District II – Linda Starnes, Emily Higdon; District III – Matt Grimes; District IV – Lucy Boydston, Danielle Smallwood; District V – Peggy Russell, Laura Humphrey, Suzanne Terry.

II. Approval of the Minutes – Move to approve by Danielle Smallwood; 2nd by Matt Grimes – approved by all.

III. Executive Director's Report

In good shape financially. Website has been updated with rule changes from previous year. Will update Board of Directors on website.

IV. Old Business

1. **Diversity Discussion** – Fall conference went well, round table moved in a different direction than expected at times; no good solution obvious in terms of coach diversity – funding a big roadblock in expansion; discussion of encouraging a minority coach to serve on the board – will look for opportunities moving forward; programs might be helped by collecting data regarding coaches receiving stipends – will create survey about stipends, annual budgets, fundraiser methods, etc.

2. **Lifetime Achievement Committee Report:** Kevin, Jeff and Danielle formed committee to work on wording of award; plan to make Harriet Medlin the 1st nominee; currently no plans to create a nomination form (like Krider has); lots of discussion over various rules, e.g. should vote be unanimous? should board vote, or hall of famers? Is 25 years long enough? should the nominee have won Krider/been inducted in the hall of fame as prerequisites? vote on final wording is tabled until Spring, board members encouraged to draft possible wordings for a vote in January or Spring

3. THSSDL 2020-21 competition concerns:

- Discussion on THSSDL board hosting online scrimmage to provide opportunities for practicing online format.
 - Sat Sep 26 chosen as date
 - Tabroom chosen as platform
 - 4 categories of competition – 1 for Prose/Poetry/POI, 1 for OO/Informative/ADS, 1 for HI/DI/Solo, 1 for debate
 - Critique only – no ranks
 - Suzanne Terry volunteers to send survey to see how many potential competitors

- debate will be synchronous, other events asynchronous (video submissions)
- \$400-500 THSSDL funds deemed reasonable to pay for scrimmage
- Other schools thought to be hosting Fall online tournaments – White House, Austin East, Henry County, Soddy Daisy, Science Hill. Will ask about Dickson County. With other schools planning to provide opportunities, no other mention of THSSDL led scrimmage or event planned beyond Sep 26.

4. THSSDL state tournament concerns:

- no date yet – will be at Farragut if in person, as late as possible – May 1st generally deemed to be agreeable possible date
- motion by Sarah that schools that paid their district/state dues for the 2019-20 school year do not have to pay this year, those that didn't pay would still need to, 2nd by Linda, motion passes
- suggestion made to have another virtual meeting in January to reassess likelihood of in person state tournament and finalize assignments

V. New Business

1. Fall Conference Discussion: Rick – fall conference was “awesome”, had more feedback/participation, lots of new faces. During Jan meeting – Sarah asked to send out survey of what participants want to see in terms of sessions again. Dr. Gotcher will get documents from presenters and send to attendees. Professional Development certificates available upon request.

2. Tournament Schedule 2020-21: Fall tournaments will all be online. Unconfirmed dates are: Sep 26 – THSSDL scrimmage; Oct 3 – White House; Oct 10 – Soddy Daisy; Oct 24 – Austin East; Nov 7 – Henry Co; Nov 21 – Science Hill

3. State Tournament 2021 Update (District 4). Date discussion. Apr 4 is Easter. Make it as late as possible for best in-person chance. May 1?

4. Set plays for Set and Costume Design for State Tournament: Because they were not used last year, vote is to keep the play list from last year, i.e. Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Little Shop of Horrors, Midsummer Night's Dream.

5. District Tournament Dates. Dist. III March 26-27. No other dates reported yet.

6. State Tournament Assignments.

- Keep assignments same as last year, where possible.
- Those were: One Act: Suzanne T. IT Prelims: Sarah K, Peggy R. IT Finals: Cathie S, Matt G. Extemp/TV Draw: Cadi K. TV Packets/Extemp topics: Jeff R. Impromptu topics: Matt G. Debate: Donna Spain & Scott Hussey.

Congress: Blake Jones, Shelby Stewart. Friday reg: Laura & Emily. T-shirt ordering: Sarah. T-shirt table: Laura. Sat. reg: Sarah, Kevin, Peggy. Judging: Linda, Matt, Kevin. Timekeepers, Group event judges: Tony. Ballot pickup: Doug, Hunter Graybill. Ballot distribution: Linda & Matt. Hospitality: Dist. IV. Tab room: Board, Linda Miller. Posters and Removal: Linda. T-shirt judges and display: Sarah & Emily.

- Problem areas – debate (Laura or Matt? If so will need to reassign their duties); TV/Extemp draw (no more Cadi K).

VI. Adjournment: Moved by Linda, 2nd by Jeff, motion approved. 3:26pm.