KESDA Board Meeting Minutes

Spring 2016

The KESDA Board of Directors met at the Ruth Pearce Wilson Lab Theatre on the campus of Georgetown College on May 15, 2016. Those participating included Eric Blankenship, Rachel Retherford, Kellie Crump, Robert Hinkle, Helen Wicker, and Ed and Betsy Smith.

Minutes from the Fall 2015 minutes were approved.

Ed reviewed the financial statement from the current school year, and the board discussed the amount to pay KESDA winners. It was unanimously decided to pay each winner $50 with the exception of Group Interp. Each winning Group team will receive a total of $100 divided equally between the group members. The checks will be mailed to coaches to distribute.

The board unanimously voted to award Jacob Sanders $500 for winning the Bruce Florence Scholarship Award.

The board voted unanimously to retain the same fee for Krista Kohl for rebooting the website and continuing its maintenance.

The board voted unanimously to retain the same fee for directors, Ed and Betsy Smith.

The board discussed whether or not to stop rewarding KESDA winners monetarily. No motion was made, so we will continue offering this incentive. The amount will be decided annually, based on KESDA’s tournament income each year.

The Clarion has announced a new fee of $500 per tournament for KESDA beginning in 2017. The fee covers meeting space usage, which has always been given to us at no charge. This fee could be met by increasing our current rebate of $3 per sleeping room, but we are reluctant to do that at present. Helen Wicker approached the Clarion about the possibility of waiving that fee in exchange for some sort of sponsorship option. The answer if still forthcoming, so any vote on the subject will not take place until we hear back from the hotel.

A discussion of whether to offer expository or informative at KESDA Senior was tabled until the fall meeting.

The possibility of offering more debate events at KESDA Senior was broached as a means of increasing the number of participating high schools. The idea met with positive approval, but rather than vote on it, the board requested Helen Wicker and Neomia Hagans poll coaches about interest. They will report back with feedback so that we can decide whether and how to work any additional debate events into the Senior schedule.

A question had been brought to our attention regarding Group Interp rules. Specifically, is it permissible to toss a manuscript book from one team member to another as long as no eye contact is made? The board decided this was certainly in keeping with the creative use of manuscripts we’ve seen in this event! So if your students can successfully complete this maneuver, go for it!

A discussion ensued on how to increase participation in KESDA. Personal letters will go out to coaches of existing programs. Coaches, students can do a lot of PR campaigning via social media! Our KESDA kids adore this event, and they can possibly lay the groundwork for other schools’ participation by talking it up.

Ideas were tossed around for possible corporate sponsorship for KESDA. Several companies were mentioned, and we will look into creating levels of sponsorship or naming opportunities. The goal is not only to increase KESDA’s overall financial health, but to offer the best possible opportunities for our students. Increased funding could mean more scholarship money, better trophies, programs to educate coaches, etc.

The board discussed a motion to add Congressional Debate as an experimental event for KESDA Junior in 2017. This passed unanimously. Congress will run at the same time as Group Interp. Students may not do both Group and Congress.

**KESDA dates for 2017:**

Senior will be February 23-25, 2017

Junior will be March 9-11, 2017