KESDA 2017 Spring Board Meeting Minutes

The KESDA Board of Directors met on April 30 in the Lab Theatre on the campus of Georgetown College. Members present included Co-Directors Ed and Betsy Smith, Neomia Hagans-Flores, Cassie James, and Kellie Crump. Eric Blankenship and Helen Williams joined by phone.

Ed and Betsy will work on a proposal to try and get a workshop together in the fall. Proposed topics include Congress and a judge training.

The board voted unanimously to add a box to check on Tabroom registration that would allow coaches to indicate which judges have the most experience. This information will be used to create the strongest possible judging pool for out-rounds.

Middle school students will now be allowed to do Congress or Group Interp as a fifth event. This passed unanimously.

At the middle school level, Congress can count as either limited prep or a prepared speech for trithon. In order for it to count, however, a student must give at least one speech during Congress competition. This passed unanimously.

In the near future, the board will be voting on a new associate board member. The two finalists have been asked to submit a letter of intent and vitae so that board members can familiarize themselves with the candidates. The vote will take place via email.

The KESDA dates for next year (2017-18) are February 22-24 and March 8-10. We may have to flip Junior and Senior this year, depending on when KHSSL hosts Junior.

The board voted unanimously to award checks in the amount of $50 to each of the 2017 KESDA winners. These checks will be mailed to the coaches for distribution next week. There was discussion about whether or not to continue the practice of giving checks to winners. This was tabled until the fall board meeting.

The board tossed around ideas for increasing participation in KESDA and speech in general. Proposals included an informational video, t-shirt/a social media campaign to spread awareness, courting private schools who may not know about forensics or that they could compete against public schools, and pooling funds from the four speech leagues to sponsor/mentor a new team. There was a motion, which passed unanimously, for Ed and Betsy to try and work with the other state speech leagues’ directors to see if there’s any interest in partnering with them to actively seek to grow speech in Kentucky.