2019 Spring KESDA Board Meeting Minutes

The KESDA board met at 3:00 Sunday, May 5 at the Meeting House on the campus of Georgetown College. Those in attendance were Ed and Betsy Smith, Kellie Crump, Helen Williams, and Neomia Hagans Flores. Joining via phone were Brian Gardner, Mary Allen, and Rachel Retherford.

The board discussed the possibility of changes improv pairs to make it more like true improvisation as well as more enjoyable. A variety of improv games have been collected for possible inclusion in the revised event, but no decision was made to implement new rules for 2019-2020.

The board voted to disallow multiple characters in improv pairs.

Because Congress calls for prepared speaking and limited prep skills, the event can be counted as either limited prep or prepared speaking for Trithon/Pentathlon.

The Board approved a $500 scholarship for Gaige Webb of Rowan County, winner of the K. Bruce Florence Award.

The Board approved a $500 scholarship for Charlie Hall of Danville, this year’s Pentathlon winner.

There was a discussion about whether to implement tie-breakers going into quarter-finals and semi-finals so that we can avoid having so many rooms of seven. No motion was made, but improv pairs competitors with multiple events will be asked to go to improv first.

The Board voted to offer The Ad Game again in 2020. An effort will be made to make the event less chaotic for participants and observers.

The Board voted not to continue offering Public Forum Debate at KESDA senior. To accommodate debaters, however, we would like to offer a one-day debate tournament on the campus of Georgetown College. PFD, Lincoln Douglas, and Congress will be offered. In addition, there will be a teaching session in the morning. It has been proposed to include middle school students as they now compete in Congress. The tentative date is December 13.

The KESDA tournaments this year saw a great deal of judge shenanigans. We had judge swapping, judge no-shows, and suspected non-existent judges. Very few judges honored the requirement to come to the ballot table each round on stand-by. Therefore, the KESDA 2020 tournaments will require a $100 judge bond in the form of a separate check turned in at registration. If a team has no infractions, the check will be returned at the end of the tournament.

We would like to create a larger hired judge pool for both tournaments. If you have someone in mind, please put us in contact with them. We are going to approach U.K.’s speech and debate team to see if anyone would like to judge for us.

According to Neomia, KHSSL is working on adopting a new Congress policy to combat the excessive “politicking” that has tainted the Congress culture and ill-served our Kentucky students at national tournaments. The suggestion is for tournament directors/board members to set the docket themselves. There was no motion made; the issue will be revisited in the fall after Neomia and Helen have worked out a way to hopefully insure fair play among all competitors.

In order to give middle school students plenty of time to prepare for Congress bills should be submitted one month prior to the tournament.

Because of the many negative issues that arose at KESDA senior this year, the Board discussed the possibility of looking into a new location for KESDA. Ed and Betsy will confer with Scott Hait to share our grievances.