

WSO Board Meeting
September 28, 2013
Teleconference

Members present: Susan Britain, Scott Evoy, Sheila Guard (Treasurer), Garry Lee (Chair), Michele Lumetta, Scott McComb (Vice-Chair), Sue Murphy (State Director), Diana Rhodes, Clarene Ricarte (Secretary), Jack Stump.

Student Advisors present: Jonas LaPier, Chemay Shola

Members absent: (None)

- I. 9:05 a.m. Meeting called to order by Chair, Garry Lee.
- II. Roll call (see above).
- III. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Minutes of 6/29/2013 Board Meeting were approved as distributed by proper motion, second and vote.
- IV. Reports

Treasurer (Sheila): Sheila reported checking account balance of \$2,051 (\$1,680 revenue and \$2,435 in expenses since 7/1/13). Savings account balance of \$9,500 (\$5.70 in contributions since 7/1/13 and \$1,250 earmarked for eastern Washington regional tournaments). Sheila made a request and the Board approved to move \$1,800 from checking to savings since FY14 revenue starting to come in and no need to keep remainder from FY13 in checking.

(a) FY14 Proposed Budget was accepted with the following change: Add \$500 for a potential third team going to nationals. Board may also want to consider additional financial support for 2014 since higher expenses for Orlando.

State Director (Sue): Sue reported that we have 46 registered teams so far. Last year at this time there were 65 teams registered. There is one new B team and 2 new C teams. Distribution between the regions is fairly even with a higher number of C teams at Lower Columbia and the highest number of B teams in Spokane.

Regional Reports

- (1) **Eastern (Sue/Michele):** (Spokane Falls Community College and Eastern Washington University). Regional tournament will be March 8. There is a new tournament director and eastern region is moving forward with model where sub-committee secures event supervisors for both regional and state tournaments. State tournament at EWU is April 12.
- (2) **Northwest (Susan/Scott E/Sheila/Scott M/Clarene):** (Seattle Central Community College and Highline Community College). Regional tournaments: SCCC is March 1; HCC is March 15. Tentative date for Canyon Park B Invitational is January 25. Aviation HS will host C Invitational February 1.
- (3) **South Central (Diana):** (Yakima Valley Community College). Regional tournament is February 22. Recruiting is about 50% of current efforts since trying to secure team registrations prior to October 12 coaches clinic. So far, only minimal interest – will cancel clinic if no more teams register.

- (4) **Southwest (Garry/Jack)**: (Lower Columbia College). Regional tournament is March 8. David Rosi has consented to continue as tournament director. The Elementary coaches clinic was last week, with tournament scheduled November 2. No specific dates identified for B and C invitational tournaments. Garry will follow up with Ron Wright.

Committees

- (1) **Funding (Scott M, Garry, Sue)**: (a) Updates on grants. No word received from SPEEA on grant application when normally notified by mid-September. Battelle notified of denial even though no actual grant application submitted (only a request for how to apply). Michele will continue to investigate how to apply and what may help WSO successfully obtain a grant. She's been looking into Battelle's support of a STEM school and trying to show how support of WSO would impact more students. (b) Donation requests. Garry asked for Board members to let him know of any organizations that could be solicited and either he or Sue will follow up. As a way to provide prospective donors with information on how Science Olympiad impacts students, there was discussion about how to track WSO alumni to determine college attendance and careers. Susan and Scott M will investigate to see if there are sources to track that information. If we cannot come up with hard numbers, we might consider contacting coaches to see if they can provide anecdotal information for recruiting and advertising.

V. Old Business

WSO Unified Schedule: Following much discussion regarding Compound and Simple Machine testing, it was properly voted on through motion and second to finalize the 8/31/13 draft Unified Schedule. Sue indicated that Trial Events will be: B – Invasive Species & Geologic Mapping; C – Invasive Species & Hydrogeology.

Test Bank: Scott M reported that Judy Mannard (HCC Tournament Director) had taken over the test bank since inappropriate for coach to be in charge. It was suggested that each year's rules be added to event folders since – as a resource for tournament directors and event supervisors – the tests won't mean much without knowing the rules. To have an effective test bank, we should have at least five years' worth of questions. Scott will ask Judy to e-mail current tournament directors with information about the test bank.

Enhanced Event Supervisor Preparation Update: Scott M reported that some videos had been made which were cute, but not very helpful. He is hoping to have new videos available by regional tournaments that are filmed with experienced supervisors at invitational tournaments. It was also suggested to invite regional tournament event supervisors to the invitational tournaments to see how those events are run.

Team Recruitment: Garry reported that many letters had been sent out and he will send more if provided with potential contacts. Scott M reported he is looking into making Science Olympiad a credited class through CTE funding. There was concern expressed that students not taking the Science Olympiad class would be unable to participate, but if this was a way of getting more teams and coaches, it was a good idea. Sue mentioned that a few other schools in WA have Science Olympiad classes as part of the curriculum.

Web Site Redesign: Sue reported there are still issues with updating the web site. It takes nearly an hour to do what used to take 5 minutes. Garry expressed interest in helping to find a resolution.

Plaque Recognition: Garry proposed Ron Wright, but will prepare a more formal request for Board consideration at a later date.

VI. New Business

WSO BoD Proposed Changes: Sue is proposing a change to WSO By-Laws to make Board terms three years instead of two. This is based on the by-laws change in 2009 that made the State Director a non-voting member and added a ninth Board position, effectively having 4 positions up for election one year and five the next. The three-year terms would mean only three positions were up for election each year. The additional benefit is more continuity amongst Board members from year to year. The down side may be that it could be harder to attract potential Board members for three-year terms. Discussion also identified that unless there are specific requirements for regional representation, some regions may not have any/adequate representation. It was decided having the by-laws specify precise Board composition would make it harder to elect Board members. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to ask membership to approve a change in the by-laws to three-year Board terms. It was further moved, seconded, and approved to modify the by-laws to reflect that it is the intention of the Board that every region is represented, but if any region does not have an elected Board member, the Board of Directors will invite a non-voting participant from that region to attend Board meetings. Sue will send the proposed changes to membership with the 2014 election ballots. It will be necessary to have a plan in place for making the switch from two- to three-year terms if the change is approved.

VII. Adjournment & Next Meeting. By proper motion, second, and vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Next meeting is January 4, 2014, 9-11AM via teleconference.

Clarene Ricarte, Secretary