

WSO Board Meeting

April 19, 2014

Teleconference

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

Student Advisors present: Jonas LaPier, Chemay Shola

Members absent: Michele Lumetta

- I. 9:00 a.m. Meeting called to order by Chair, Garry Lee.
- II. Roll call (see above).
- III. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Minutes of 1/4/2014 Board Meeting were approved as distributed by proper motion, second and vote.
- IV. Reports

Treasurer (Sheila): Sheila reported checking account balance of \$4,201 (\$24,375 revenue and \$22,980 in expenses to date). Savings account balance of \$11,529 (with \$1,261 earmarked for eastern Washington regional tournaments; contributions of \$211.11 and \$6.82 interest income).

State Director (Sue): (1) **Registration.** Sue reported that all teams have paid except two plus five more that are being covered by South Central region grant that has just been invoiced. We had 132 registered teams – 61 B and 71 C. There were 13 new B teams and 9 new C teams, but registration is down for returning teams, so we didn't show any growth (there were 133 teams last year). Mount Baker MS didn't return this year, but will next year or year after – they had 4 teams annually. There was discussion about recruiting, with indication that First Robotics is taking away teams. It was suggested to ask nationals to look at adding more robotic-type events, but still focusing on promoting full science spectrum. (2) **Tournament Dates.** Question was raised about scheduling of tournament dates – particularly the state tournament that often ends up being during public school spring break. Primarily, date selection is up to the tournament site – when they can get the facility and the staffing to run it. Board consensus seemed to favor keeping it as is rather than pushing back into April more. (3) **Board Positions.** Five positions are up for election this year. Garry Lee will not be returning. Jack Stump will reapply. Susan Britain, Michele Lumetta and Scott McComb need to let Sue know ASAP whether intend to reapply. Diana indicated there may be someone from South Central region who will apply.

Regional Reports

- (1) **Eastern (Sue/Michele):** (Spokane Falls Community College and Eastern Washington University). The eastern region is working on a new model with a committee to select event supervisors, following the national model. One chair overseeing each group provides networking/more resources. It was used at regionals and state and worked fairly well. The plan is to have the model fully functional when Heather McKean retires in a few years.
- (2) **Northwest (Susan/Scott E/Sheila/Scott M/Clarene):** (Seattle Central Community College and Highline Community College). 2015 Highline tournament set for March 7. Seattle will be February 28. Invitational dates are still being considered.

- (3) **South Central (Diana)**: (Yakima Valley Community College). No date is set for 2015 yet – trying to stay out of March and with President’s Day holiday, not much choices. Still have money from grant. Rather than hosting a coaches clinic in October, may put out a newsletter with coaching/event tips plus use some funds for recruitment. Event supervisors voiced disappointment with level of team preparation.
- (4) **Southwest (Garry/Jack)**: (Lower Columbia College). Garry commended the regional board for the LCC tournament. There were two challenges, but very minor. Next year’s regional will be March 7.

Committees

- (1) **Funding (Scott M, Garry, Sue)**: (a) Updates on grants. SPEEA gave a \$200 grant, with no restrictions (e.g., must be used for new team supplies). (b) Donation requests. (no update).

State Tournament: Following 4/12 state tournament in which two C events (Scrambler and Bungee Drop) had to be scratched, Heather McKean sent a memo to the board identifying issues and suggestions for consistency between tournaments (copy attached to original minutes only). Discussion brought up the following comments:

- Students were devastated to have worked hard on their events, only to have them thrown out. Loss of student interest/return results.
- Some of the events were run very well.
- In Forensics, some supplies were not provided.
- Should have a statewide committee overseeing tournaments, rather than just eastern regional committee.
- Judy Mannard (Highline CC) is maintaining a test bank that should be referenced, especially by inexperienced event supervisors.
- Event supervisors are not always experienced and have not learned from invitational and regional tournaments.
- Should coaches whose teams are advancing to the state serve as mentors to event supervisors?
- Could there be a Skype event where a video demonstrates events and goes over rules and have event supervisors practice judging?
- Communication in early February may be key to preventing problems.
- Who should oversee event supervisor preparation to avoid appearance of bias?
- Overturning of board membership every few years limits reliance on the board for oversight of event supervisors.
- Suggestion made to select 4-5 events to share/Skype statewide.
- “Event in a box” was discussed as to pros and cons.
- Tournament directors participated in a teleconference a year-and-a-half ago, with each wishing to maintain independence in event supervisor oversight.

- Suggestion was made for tournament directors to provide event supervisor contact info with idea that a board member could facilitate sharing of information. Garry indicated he would do this even though not a continuing board member. Jack also indicated willingness to help with an event. Scott Evoy would be willing to help with flying events.
- It is important to not leave out the coaches as a resource to event supervisors – solicit that information in writing – which would provide valuable information without appearance of bias.
- Send an e-mail to coaches now so we can get input on which events should be tackled first. Garry and Sue will work on composing an e-mail.

V. Old Business

Proposed By-Laws Change: Proposals for verbiage for by-laws change of board terms from 2 to 3 years were sent by e-mail following the 1/4/14 meeting, but no decisions were made. This needs to be done by mid-May in order to include in ballots sent to coaches. Sue will re-send previously-sent proposals. Implementation plans do not need to be decided upon immediately and will be tabled until the Annual Meeting.

Test Bank Update: Judy Mannard sent tournament directors access to test bank, but indicates it was not used much. She is continuing to compile the test bank, looking at consistency and quality. Contact information for the test author may want to be included for follow-up. Is looking at including videos of some events also.

Team Recruitment: Sue has already received inquiries from prospective new teams. Tom Wolverton had tentatively registered two teams from Vancouver iPrep and had competed at the invitational tournament, but did not follow up with payment/PO to finalize registration. Garry indicated he would contact Tom to ensure they return/finalize registration next year. Board members were asked to send any other tips for new teams to Garry.

Web Site Issues: Sue reported that she followed up on web host Garry recommended, but wasn't able to get the information she needed to determine whether good idea to switch from Go Daddy. Issues she'd been having with web host and e-mail have mostly been resolved and since we are pre-paid for another two years, we can leave this off the agenda for now.

Plaque Recognition: (no discussion)

VI. New Business

Additional Support for Teams Advancing to Nationals (Sue/Sheila): \$500 per team had been approved in the 2013-14 budget, with possibility for three teams (\$1500 total) and with directive to revisit at the Spring meeting to see if enough funds to cover up to \$1000 per team. Sheila identified that the checking account has enough funds to provide \$1000 for each of the two teams. It was moved and seconded to provide \$1000 for each team advancing to the national tournament. Motion passed.

WSO Policy re: Identifying # of Teams Advancing to State Tournament (Sue): The issue has come up several years where the formula to identify the number of teams advancing from each regional tournament results in more than the number of teams identified the state tournament will allow. EWU will generally accept more than the identified number of teams, but primarily if there has been a scoring issue/mis-announced advancement at regional tournament. Clark College has been adamant they will not accept more than 20 teams per division. The result is that it's necessary to figure out how to reduce the number when rounding up. She identified a process and posted to the web site in mid-January, but wanted board approval to make it a formal policy. In case of a tie, the tournament site with

the most teams would get the higher number of teams advancing. Discussion followed with the board wanting additional information. Sue will provide a more clearly-defined policy proposal.

Electronic Balloting (Sue): Nothing can be done about this issue this year, so will be postponed until the Annual Meeting.

- VII. Adjournment & Annual Meeting. The date for the Annual Meeting was set for June 28. Diana was asked if Pacific NW University of Health Sciences would be able to host again in Yakima. She will see if it is possible. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Clarene Ricarte, Secretary