

Annual Meeting: Continued

Meeting Details

- **2023-08-26, 10:00 – 13:00 PDT / 13:00 – 16:00 EDT**
- <https://yale.zoom.us/j/2827355911> (Meeting ID: 282 735 5911)

Attendance

Invited	Region	Present?
Sue Murphy (State Director)	E	No
George Sun (Chair)	NW	Yes
Scott McComb (Vice Chair)	NW	Yes
Marla Haugen (Secretary)	E	Yes
David Rosi (Treasurer)	SW	No
Sheila Guard	NW	No
Lei Jiang	SW	Yes
Jay Loutherback	E	Yes
Edie Lie	NW	Yes
Senthil Natesan	E	No
Kuhu Pande (Student Advisor)	E	No
Cindy Liu (Student Advisor)	NW	Yes
Saisha Lakkoju (Student Advisor)	NW	Yes

Part III: Closed Meeting

I. Call to Order

- A. Called to order 10:04

II. Roll Call

A. See above

III. Continuing Business

A. Tournament sites

1. Eastern

a) Invitational

(1) B/C: Pullman? But would need help. January 2024

b) Regional

(1) SFCC: per Sue confirmed at Annual Meeting for March 9, 2024, for B/C - **CONFIRMED**

(2) Encouraged to build visibility and improve enrollment

(3) WSO to reimburse up to \$2K - \$2.5K

(4) Gonzaga or Lewis & Clark (Senthil)

(5) Big Bend hosted B in Mar 2020 - will NOT host 2024 (regional nor state-if CWU doesn't)

2. Northwest

a) Invitational

(1) B: Northshore Middle School: 13 January 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

(2) B: Tesla - haven't heard back per Scott

(3) C: somewhere [Raisbeck or ...?]: 20 January 2024 - **HOST TENTATIVE**

(a) If Tesla decides to host a C tournament, we may change dates to ensure that we have a reasonable gap between one tournament and the next

b) Regional

(1) B: Northshore [36 max teams, X/Y/Z schedule]: 9 Mar 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

(a) Help from Raisbeck, Bothell, Interlake, Tesla

(2) C:

(a) Raisbeck (25 teams max) on 24 Feb 2024 - **TENTATIVE (pending decision from Bothell)**

(b) Bothell (30 teams max) on 2 Mar 2024 - **TENTATIVE**

(i) Update: paperwork submitted for 2 Mar primary and 24 Feb as backup

(ii) 19 Nov update: 28 teams max

(3) Avoid UW exam week: 9 - 15 Mar 2024 (and week before if possible)

3. Southwest

a) Elementary tournament

(1) "You have expressed an interest in **Elementary Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament** in the past. After hosting an in-person tournament last year, it went well enough to offer our 14th Annual Tournament for the fall of 2023 (see attached Save the Date flyer). Our tentative date is **Saturday, November 18, 2023**. Of course there will be a **Coaches Workshop** included in the registration, and that is tentatively planned for **Saturday, September 30**. We anticipate holding both at Battle Ground High School. We will have four of our favorite events and room for 16 teams. We will keep you updated as soon as we know more."

b) Invitational

(1) Camas to host B and C in late November [18 Nov? - C], early December [2 Dec? - B] - **CONFIRMED**

c) Regional - **TENTATIVE**

(1) LCC: prefers a different host but if needed can do

(2) WSU Vancouver - Kuhu indicated father is dept chair & may be able to persuade

(a) Update: hopeful may host at WSU Vancouver

(3) Camas: willing to host if needed

(a) Update: will ask Camas school district if can host regionals

4. State:

a) **ACTION:** Sue & Jay to continue conversation with Central Washington University

(1) Update: CWU hosting on April 13, 2024 - **CONFIRMED**

b) **ACTION:** Jay contacted Big Bend re: state

(1) Hard pass

c) **ACTION:** Edie to connect with folks at UW Bothell

(1) UW Bothell cannot host; pursuing Cascadia, Edmonds, LWIT

(2) Update: Edie and Scott - conversations with Edmonds and Cascadia about hosting state in NW for 2025, will reach out LWIT

d) **ACTION:** David to pursue WSU - Vancouver and Clark

e) Camas: willing to host State

(1) Board will need to help with supervisors

B. Draft schedule - **READY TO POST**

1. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LmOz1C8kVnpc2nl0avdBYaMap7pr0dxLWq4rf9ZSXWg/edit?usp=drive_link

2. Event substitutions/additions – see notes from open meeting

- a) Quantum Quandaries
 - b) Sustainable Energy - replacing Wind Power
- 3. No trial events
- C. Redesigned tournament model [from May meeting]
 - 1. Follow up on logistics
 - a) Tiered (competitive, less competitive) OR if you win 1st place in a regional event, able to compete at State as well?
 - b) Have we clearly defined the problem?
 - c) What causes young teams' attrition?
 - d) Only for new teams?
 - e) What about teams that are already qualifying for state and can reshuffle?
 - f) Can you bring a partner who did not compete?
 - 2. Follow up on timeline for planning and implementation
 - a) Previously mentioned August 2023
 - 3. Notes from today
 - a) Consider: Pilot for 2023 - 24
 - b) Qualifications
 - (1) you place 1st in one or more events (only for regionals, does not apply to invitationals)
 - (2) your team does not qualify for state
 - (3) Your school ≤ 1 team advancing
 - c) THEN your partnership is invited
 - (1) Must notify accepting spot within 1 week (+/- ??) of regional scores being finalized (not published - but if late to accept, take on case by case)
 - (2) Must adhere to school policies for attendance to event
 - (3) Will be ranked among participants from state-qualifying teams (so no duplicate placings)
 - (4) All schools are eligible for now, then reevaluate as needed
 - d) **ACTION:** George to draft something then pass around, then Sue to publish for 2023 - 24 coaches
- D. Proposal re: event coverage [from May meeting] - NW change in process
 - 1. Earlier registration deadline
 - a) Proposed December 1
 - 2. Expectation for participation
 - a) Provide 4 - 5 volunteers for tournament
 - b) Experienced teams
 - (1) Responsibility to recruit test writers for invitational, regional
 - c) Advantage

- (1) Sensible distribution of work
- d) Disadvantage
 - (1) Coaches as test writers = potential conflict of interest
 - (a) Idea: 2 test writers from different schools
- 3. **ACTION:** Scott to draft something then pass around, then Sue to publish for 2023 - 24 coaches
- E. Upload tests from regional/state to Google Drive
 - 1. Folders are made and George will send out links after meeting
- F. Revisiting ideas from last Annual Meeting
 - 1. Supervisor training website
 - a) How to write an effective test
 - 2. Coaches' clinics
 - 3. Social media
- G. Effect of national membership fee increase on WSO finances - **READY TO POST**
 - 1. Currently
 - a) WSO: \$250 / team (\$150 / team for new schools/returning teams after 5-year absence ... with full waivers provided for ALL new/returning schools since receiving SPEEA grants)
 - b) National: \$60 / team
 - c) *"New schools (or returning schools that have not competed within the last 5 years) receive a discounted fee of \$150 ~ although new team registrations waivers available. Contact State Director to check on availability. Returning teams' registration fee is \$250. Fees include \$60 that is sent to National Science Olympiad (NSO) to cover the cost of rules manuals, tournament medals, and other NSO-supplied items."*
 - 2. NEW: \$15 increase in national membership per team → 106 teams → \$1,590 increase in expenses
 - 3. Whether to increase WSO for continuing schools?
 - a) Recommendation: \$275 / team
 - b) **ACTION:** Sue to publish
 - 4. Whether to continue waiving fee for new & returning (5+ yrs) schools?
 - a) Recommendation: \$150 / team for first team
 - (1) If we receive SPEEA grant, provide registration waiver for new & returning schools
 - (a) Cost to WSO (\$75 per new/returning school)
 - b) **ACTION:** Sue to publish
- H. Registration
 - 1. From Brett Thomsen

I have an issue for the next Board meeting and the registration procedure for Science Olympiad. I signed up late October early November. And was not

admitted to the NW region. This I am certain is off putting especially to new teams or in my case returning teams. It caused me incredible stress in an already stressful world of teaching and coaching. Below are some suggestions to put forward to the board or at least discuss. I hope this finds you and your family healthy and happy. Looks like we will see each other in Longview. If you have any recommendations for my team and prep I would appreciate it. Yours always!

Brett Thomsen

Science Chair Chimacum Schools

WSO Olympiad Board of Directors

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD VISION - *a vision is an organization's biggest wish or goal*

Our vision is to increase K-12 student and teacher participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

The current registration system is seriously flawed and not following Science Olympiad's Vision by excluding particularly small schools and less funded schools. By allowing schools to register up to 6 teams in a region this excludes 5-4 other schools from participating in their region of choice. 8 NW Schools and ten teams have been affected by the current policy.

Large schools can much better afford travel and registration compared to rural and small schools

Recommendations for registration in future years (maybe this year):

- Team Assignments do not occur before January 7, of the Competition year (this allows 2 months for preparation for contests) Bus funding etc...
- One team from a school to that region is guaranteed their first pick.
 - In NW theoretically you could accommodate C Division 25 teams B division would be 25 schools.

After January 7, 2023 a second team will be granted for all POs to said region of registered teams in order of registration.

- This will alleviate a lot of stress and confusion allowing new teams and small schools to travel to more appropriate regional contests.
 - No school should be allowed to register more than 2 teams in a region until all schools that have two teams are accommodated with a second team.
 - Currently there are 9 schools traveling exorbitant distances from NW region to East or SW; this is a huge burden to these schools.
 - On January 7, 2023 the director could communicate with remaining team coaches to be placed and suggest an alternative for the remaining teams to fill the other tournaments.
 - Our current system should be able to accommodate 130 teams if NW is 50, SW is 40, East is 40
 - This will also spread the burden around and fall on more well funded programs.
 - This also will help with scoring the regional tournaments more equitably.
 - This will hopefully stimulate larger schools to host invitational tournaments. My small school hosted 10 B/C Division invitationals from 1995-2008 in Missouri and Washington. It increased participation in my region hugely. In 2008 Chimacum Schools was the only school in Oregon/Washington/Idaho to host a B/C invitational tournament. We drew schools from all three states about 15 of each. (Yes Scott I know you hosted a C Division Invitational)
 - Also schools should only be allowed to field one team to the state tournament this meets with SO vision too by allowing more than one team you are limiting school participation.
 - Consider adding a fourth Region for south Central Sound
2. Resolutions:
- a) Addition of 2nd regional in NW region should address travel issue
 - b) 2 teams/school at state already runs far down the rank list, is already restrictive for large programs
- I. Evergreen probation status
1. Summary:
- a) Placed on Annual Warning after multiple EDQs at Camas Invitational in January 2022 (notified March 3, 2022)
 - b) On probation after 2022 state tournament after DQ and EDQ in Storm the Castle and Write It CAD It, respectively, on different teams; team with EDQ unranked

- c) Probation lasts 2022–2023 and 2023–2024
- d) Coach is requesting probation to be overturned (email from Sue on May 29, 2023)
- 2. WSO Team Probation Policy:
https://washingtonscienceolympiad.com/bylaws&policies/WSO_Team_Probation_Policy.pdf
- 3. Resolution:
 - a) Probation is not changed, continues as previously issued
 - b) **ACTION**: Sue to email coaches

IV. Next Meeting

A. Fall Meeting –  Board Meeting Availability

- 1. **ACTION**: Request for availability for added dates, plan Fall Meeting as/if needed

V. Adjourn

A. Meeting adjourned 11:35 AM.