

AFA-NIET Committee Meeting
2008 NCA Convention
Thursday, November 20, 2008
12:00 noon – 3:45 pm
Manchester Grand Hyatt America's Cup A
San Diego, CA

I. Call to Order/Introduction/Announcements

Call to order and asked for introduction. Present members include: Frank Thompson, National Chair, Peter Pober, Vice Chair, Lee Mayfield, Secretary, Larry Schnoor, Tournament Director, Ryan Smith, District 1 Chair, Randy Cox, District 3 Chair, Susan Collie, District 4 Chair, JoAnn Edwards, District 6 Chair, Dave Gaer, District 9 Contact Person, Mary Trejo, District 9 Contact Person, Kellie Roberts, Southern Rep., Daniel Leyes, Eastern Rep., Karen Morris, Central Rep., Austin Wright, Student Rep., Robert Cannon, Student Rep., Leah White, Chair, NIET Board of Trustees, Justin Rudnick, Eau Claire Bid Representative, Jack Johnson, Eau Claire Bid Representative, Bobby Imbody, Kansas State U.

II. Approval of Minutes from April Meeting at the NIET
Collie/m Roberts/s to approve minutes, passed

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair

Thompson announced:

AFA Business Meeting at 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, Manchester Grand Hyatt, Elizabeth B—
potentially talking about AFA code of conduct

AFA Reception at 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Manchester Grand Hyatt, Elizabeth B

B. Vice Chair

Pober announced:

Arizona State University is in deep trouble and requesting assistance— the University President has built too much and now can't support, to date two athletic programs have been cut—the President has said that no letters will impact his decision, however the IE program Alums are in the midst of fund raising drives, but in need of assistance. Collie/m Smith/s for AFA NIET should write a letter in support. Motion passed. Trejo reports that her program Communication was slated to be wiped out. A letter writing campaign paid off and urges AFA NIET to support a letter writing campaign none the less. Thompson also suggests that we get other alums from programs to write letters of support. Cox reports that it might be worthwhile to contact the various Deans with letters instead of just the President.

C. Board of Trustees Chair

White announced:

The NIET has a balance of \$5,824.33 but does not represent the money used to support the student reps. to attend the convention in San Diego.

D. Chair Emeritus

Carver: Emailed report to Thompson to confirm no appeals from 08 tournament and no request to conduct research at 09 NIET.

E. Tournament Director

Schnoor announced:

Thanks to Cox for 08 hosting and stated that it was a joy to work with Randy, highly organized and the two worked extremely well.

2009 NIET will reflect a change in Extemporaneous speaking to allow for additional time during the cross-examination and speaker order will be adjusted to accommodate double entries.

Will be working closely with Rittenour to assure there are enough hired judges, Akron City Centre is the tournament hotel, but numerous hotels are in Akron. Meal packages will be \$35, there will be a large continental breakfast Saturday morning before opening assembly. Saturday and Sunday will have a two hour time block with large hot buffet with a carry-out box. The buffet will be a better option than having food service open both Saturday and Sunday.

F. Secretary

Mayfield minutes will stand for report but wanted to thank Susan and Peter for their help in recreating minutes

G. Webmaster
Cronn-Mills: No report

IV. Tournament Host Reports

A. 2009 – University of Akron
Rittenour: Submitted by Larry above in Tournament Director report.

B. 2010 – Bids University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Morris announced that the biggest change might be a date change to fall over Easter break. UWEC will have class on Monday, so the bid reflects a Fri-Sun tournament, meetings on Thursday. All rounds including out-rounds will be on campus. 4 minute walk between any buildings used. Blue/Gold declining balance Meal cards will be available for \$35. Students' names will be on the card. \$3 goes to the card and then rest for food. Holiday Inn will be tournament hotel \$75 for rooms, same for Hampton Inn and Comfort Inn. The three hotels would have enough rooms. Minneapolis would be best location to fly in using Northwest Airlines; Madison is also available with several other airports within 2/3 hours. The UWEC Administration is looking forward to hosting a national tournament. The UWEC team is also looking forward to the opportunity to host a strong national tournament and don't see it as a hardship on the team at all. Food options on Sun will be available as well in town even with it being Easter Sunday. Schnoor assures us that Eau Claire has an abundance of places to eat for Saturday night team dinners, but Sunday might be a bit more difficult. The weather will be similar to Mankato; brisk, not cold—but buildings are close together. Schnoor/m Pober/s to accept bid. Bid accepted without hesitation.

C. Future Hosts
Thompson encourages bids for 2011 and beyond. Kansas State is looking to bid in 2011.

V. Committee Reports

A. AFA-NIET Student Committee
Cannon reports he has been in contact with the NFA student representative as well and wants an official message board for comments/complaints that isn't just AFA or just NFA and is asking for a small stipend to help with tech support; \$25/50 for maintenance. No formal proposal for the message board or at this point. Thompson likes the idea that it isn't tied to any particular organization. Cannon suggest that each organization will link back to the board. Thompson urges a formal proposal to get the process working. Collie urges that all forensic organizations are asked to participate. Pober suggest that the Council Of Forensics Organizations (COFO) is the place to take a proposal like this. Schnoor says that it is the money issue that seems most problematic. Cox suggests looking into GMail for a free blog.

B. Distinguished Service Committee
Pober reports that the Distinguished Service Award for 2008/9 will be given to Dave Gaer of Laramie County Community College. Pober/m PASSED

C. Outstanding New Coach Award Committee
Pober reports that the committee received a lot of nominations this year, the committee recommends that Lindsey Wakefield of U of Oklahoma be recognized. Collie asked how many nominees—4 this year PASSED Asked not to say anything until Frank has had a chance to get in touch with her.

D. Research Committee
No report

E. Awards Committee
Schnoor reports no problem with awards. Mid-West Trophy will honor the pricing from last year.

F. AFA-NIET All American Team Committee

Morris reminded the committee that the deadline for nomination are Monday, March 16, 09 and should be in her hands at that time. Official transcripts are needed, as well as philosophy from students. 22 nominations last year—17 accepted.

G. Manchester Scholar Series

Pober reports that the committee had a single proposal but didn't feel that it had enough specifics so they have decided not to award the Scholar Series. Pober reminds the committee that anyone could apply, including graduate students.

VI. Old Business

A. NIET/NDT School Award

Schnoor reports that the award was approved years ago and has not been update in several years. Working with Cox the results have been submitted to Cronn-Mills from 93 to 08 results. A new logo will be on the AFA website to reduce the confusion of NIET for the NDT

B. Scanning and Posting of Out-round Ballots

Schoor reminds us that we decided last year not to post out-round ballots.

C. Student Handbook

Cannon reports that he will send a copy to entire committee electronically. Cannon reports that Logan and Magana sent copies to all student representatives.

D. Ad-hoc Committee on Fundraising, networking, and/or grant writing

The national committee passed along kudos to Austin Wright for getting the committee started. The ad hoc committee moves that the AFA-NIET National Committee designate a sub-committee with the task of developing an AFA-NIET Alumni Association by first, building an alumni database and second, organizing both online and face-to-face gathering for alumni membership.

There is mutual agreement that an organization like this would be very useful for a variety of reasons and would solidify alumni support. Motion PASSED

Committee includes: Cox, Loden, Smith, Wright, Schnoor, Leyes—chair, Cox

E. Inclusion of other genres besides drama for Duo Interpretation

Thompson reminds the committee that no motion on the table, but feedback requested. District 1) supports the idea, and would like to see Duo function more like POI, District 2) no representation, District 3) would like duo look less like POI, it is already happening with the "adapted for the stage" a ruling on this would help with conventions of judging, Wright reports that from the student perspective there is support, District 4) split in support—with 60% against the idea. The word interpretation would need to be changed to performance studies, District 5) no representation—Karen reports a lot of confusion in terms of what exactly it might look like and how it is explained cannot compare it to POI, District 6) like the idea of proposing an experimental event but not changing what Duo is currently, District 7) split support, with more support for the idea than against. District 9) mixed response but more confusion about what exactly might be in the offering. Schnoor urges District Chairs to go back to their district with a clearer idea of what is being discussed for both Dramatic Duo and Dramatic Interpretation 1) current rule with only the genre of Drama, 2) all genres built like a program, 3) all genres available but only one selection—no programs. Cox will email a solid discussion point for each Chair to take to their members.

VII. New Business

A. Code of Conduct for AFA

Because of the 'youtube' video of CEDA Nationals, the NIET committee is urged to create a Code of Conduct for NIET. It is pointed out that we are liable if we have a policy or not so we are better off having one. Right now the wording of the document is in the works. Gaer will send out the Code of Conduct as it exist now and ask for feedback by Oct. 09 so that it will be ready to vote upon in NCA in 09. Thompson urges us to get involved.

B. Individual Events Developmental Conference Resolutions

Thompson thanks Larry for putting together the Conference. Larry reports discussion items from the conference:

- 1) Assisting new and declining programs—Resolved that forensics organizations should be encouraged to develop and disseminate basic pedagogical goals for each event.

Action has already been taken on this resolution.

- 2) Incentives for non-competitive activities: Local, state, regional forensic organizations are encouraged to publicly honor and promote civic engagement that is grounded in forensic education.
- 3) Code of Standards
- 4) Systematic Look at Events
 - a. ADS
 - b. Duo
 - c. DI
- 5) Research

Larry pointed out that there was also a motion that the AFA-NIET eliminate the current leg system in favor of an alternative qualification system. This discussion point has been before the committee numerous times and Schnoor urges us to think about the qualification process. Karen Morris urges us to read the paper this discussion point is based on from Dan West.

Morris suggests that Chairs go back to our Districts to develop a list of problems with the qualification process. Thompson urges the Chairs to question the member schools to articulate opinions about the system as they see it.

C. New Coaches Award nomination process

Roberts reports that a few of this year's nominations included a vita as part of the nomination process and the selection committee found this addition very helpful. Roberts/m Trejo/s Move to add a resume/vita as part of the nomination process for the New Coaches Award.

Schnoor/m Gaer/s to adjourn motion passed.