

MLFA Spring Meeting
April 28, 2012
St Sebastian School

Starting at 8:30 am, the various standing committees met to discuss the particular issues related to their area of oversight.

The meeting of the entire membership was called to order by President Pam Cullen at 9:48 A.M. Pam offered thanks to Patrick Russell and Kathy Kirkpatrick for hosting the meeting. She discussed the great changes that were made during the season (i.e., the website, on-line registration for membership, judges, and state registration, standardized judges training program and materials). Pam also discussed the importance of members becoming involved in the organization through leadership and committee participation. She also talked about the importance of communicating in a respectful manner, especially when expressing concerns or complaints via email to board members and tournament hosts.

Pam recognized the chairs of our existing committees:

- Joseph Danek of the Judges Standard Training Committee
- Jim Vaughn of the Technology Committee
- Sarah Lichey and Barbara Hallman of the State Committee
- Diane Stirn of the T -shirt Committee
- Helen Andrews of the Categories Committee
- Brian Galineau of the Policies and Procedures Committee
- Bob Herman of the Historian Committee
- Densie Kegley of the Small Schools Committee

Pam recognized the Executive Board Officers

- Laura Michelz-Past President
- Maggy Menard-Mueller-Treasurer
- Jody Herbert-Secretary
- Patrick Russell-President Elect

Pam also stated that the tentative 2013 Tournament Calendar would be out in the next few weeks and that the permanent calendar would be posted by November 1, 2012.

Committee Reports:

Category: Helen Andrews shared that the majority of rule infractions throughout the 2012 season were time infractions (278) and others included introduction errors, note card usage, prop violations, story-telling in first person, and impromptu speeches going off topic. This report was followed by a lengthy discussion about use of props. The committee will look at defining "What is a prop." The suggestion was made that we develop a general guide perhaps using an actual example of how a specific situation was interpreted and thus infringed. Helen Andrews and Bob Herman clarified that interpretation of what may be

considered a prop is based on whether in a specific situation a performer has an unfair edge relative to other performers.

Judges Standards: Patrick Russell presented the report for Mary Beth Vinogradsky. This year we implemented standard judges training and the results of the season show that these changes were positive. In 2011 thirteen judging concerns were submitted, while in 2012 only four submissions were made. This is a decrease of 70%. There was only one submission of low score concerns during the 2012 season. The committee plans to work on improving the video component of the training. There will be work completed on developing a gradation of competency and helpful guides for good judging comments. Patrick reported that the on-line judges registration made it possible for the committee to contact coaches more efficiently about concerns raised about their judges. The committee will also examine the possibility of rolling over the registration completed to the 2013 season. Patrick added that we will try to provide regional judges training workshops for member's convenience. He also thanked Joe Danek for stepping forth as chair of the Judges Standards Committee. Finally, Patrick reported the intent of the committee to provide on-line "continuous improvement" judges training. A release form for students who are willing to volunteer to have their performances videotaped for judges training purposes will be distributed to members and also be posted on the website. This on-line training will include discussions among judges about the performances' strengths and areas for improvement.

State Tournament: Sarah Lichey reported that 84 schools including 1379 students participated. Over 1000 rooms were booked under MLFA booking at area hotels. The Holiday Inn in Appleton gave the association a \$400 donation in appreciation for the business generated for them as a result of the tournament.

Policy and Infractions: Brian Galineau reported that the committee will meet in August, 2012 and needs to have reference to the 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 meeting minutes in order to make all approved policy changes made in the By-laws. The committee intends to create a user -friendly handbook of the By-laws.

T-Shirts: Diane Stirn reported that the association made about \$3500 through our T-shirt sales. She also shared current proposed designs for the 2013 season.

The committee chairs will report to the MLFA secretary prior to school adjourning in June, 2012 when committee meetings will take place. These dates will then be posted on-line.

Election of new officers for the positions of President -Elect and Treasurer:

The nominees for President-Elect included Melissa Krahn and Densie Kegley. A ballot vote was taken and Denise Kegley won the election by a narrow margin. Maggie Menard-Mueller was the un-opposed nominee and elected candidate for the position of treasurer.

2013 Tournament/Festival Calendar Update: The MLFA secretary will distribute the tentative 2013 competition schedule when Pam Cullen completes the recent updates.

Policy Discussions and Decisions: Brian Galineau proposed that tournament/festivals must be posted (not opened) on-line by the second Saturday in January rather than the first Saturday in January. Pam Cullen made a motion that Brian's proposal be passed and Helen Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next issue initiated by Brian Galineau concerned when coaches be permitted to begin registration. The proposal offered was that the first three days (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) be open to tournament/festival hosts and co-hosts. It was clarified that no more than three schools be permitted to co-host a single tournament or festival. On the fourth through the seventh day, registration would be open to all schools that had previously attended that tournament, all schools that had requested to attend, and all first-year schools involved in the MLFA. Finally, on the eighth day registration would be open to all members. This proposal was followed by a lengthy discussion, which lead to the decision to table the vote on the policy regarding when members are eligible to begin registration until the fall.

Bullying Policy: Brian presented the proposed wording for the new MLFA Bullying Policy to be added to the By-laws, which is as follows:

Disqualification: Disqualification is to be considered for violation of a Tournament Host's rules or procedures not specifically addressed by the rules of the categories. Other consideration would be a serious breach of etiquette or inappropriate behavior such as verbal, physical and/or emotional bullying. Upon review by the rules committee, the entrant may be ruled disqualified and eliminated from further competition in the festival or tournament.

b. If the situation between a student or students is not witnessed, intervened upon and/or reported to the tournament officials by an adult, the targeted student or students or other observed witnesses should report the incident as soon as possible to their coach, or go directly to the infraction table. This incident or concern will be monitored using the disqualification procedure.

Darlene Junker moved that the Bullying Policy be passed, which was seconded by Maggie Menard-Mueller. Through a following discussion some of the wording was slightly tweaked.

Melissa Krahn then moved that this Bullying Policy be passed. The motion was seconded by Denise Kegley and the motion passed unanimously.

Dismissal

Brian Galineau moved that the meeting be adjourned.

This motion was seconded by several people and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:01.P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Herbert

MLFA Secretary