

**2016 State Business Meeting**  
**MLFA**  
**April 9, 2016**  
**(During Round 1)**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:30AM by Regina Stingley, President – Motioned by Heather Volkman of Immanuel, and seconded by Tyne Turner of Golda Meir

**Approval of Fall Minutes** (October 17, 2015) –notes was put on website; copies not available for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** Janette Schroeder - \$20, 633 in checking, \$8,257 in expenses, and \$13,330.80 in saving. A motion was passed by Maggie Menard – Miller of Woodland and seconded by Theresa Dixon of St. Catherine.

**Hall of Fame Awards:** None

**Retirement Recognitions:** Melissa Kahn, Past President – Plaques will be given for years of service to Joan Falter (St. Mary's West Bend – 9 years), Denise Kelgey (Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa – 10 years), Melissa Tame (Steffen - 15 years), Barb Knoten-Smith (Silver Lake -15 years), Karen Sundelius (Pilgrim Park - 20 years) Deb Diven (Greenfield - 20 years), Robin Stein (Oak Creek East - 14 years)

**Call for Nominations:** Regina Stingley, President

President Elect Nominations - The following individuals were nominated:

- Lanell Gill
- Bob Herman
- Michelle Young
- Aneesa Schaefer
- Tyne Turner

Secretary – The following individuals were nominated:

- Nikki Prelesnik
- Crystal Hernandez
- Michelle Young

A motion was moved to close nomination by Robin Stein of Oak Creek and seconded by Aneesa Schaefer of SJB.

## Reports

### **State (and Possible Venues for Next Year):** Sarah Lichey

There were 1,878 participants for 2016 State - If we continue at this rate we will not have a location at a high school -- Most categories had 7 speakers in each room. We need to look at other possible high schools – looking at Neenah for next year. Otherwise, we may need to look at colleges. The qualifying score for state is 56 (which is 80% average). We may need to consider increasing the score for state - Need 140 available rooms. The date of State next year is possibly March 2017 – the actual date is based on availability. We may have issues with the high school baseball schedule.

### **Infractions and Categories:** Helen Andrews

More information will be presented at the spring meeting! We are looking at the state qualifying number of 56 and timed infractions. The summer meeting dates will be posted on the website.

### **Judges' Standards and Training:** Dr. Patrick Russell

The judges' training material that will be tweaked and reviewed at the spring meeting. There were 32 judges training concerns in 2014; 21 in 2015; and 17 in 2016; and 4 related to meaningful comments. There were 15 concerns from the first 3 weeks due to adjustment with the rubric - all coming from 12 different schools.

### **Technology:** Barb Hallman

There were 100,000 hits this season! Give suggestions for changes or post to MLFA website.

### **Tournament Standards and Practices -**

#### **T-Shirt and Logo Items:** Ronda Davis and Kari George

- There was a slow start this year. We need to place orders earlier next year (and get sizes). Many students were not aware that they could have personalized t-shirts. All personal orders must go through coaches! Coaches are responsible for tracking their orders, and checks must be handled at the school level. A lot of checks were sent without orders -- Orders must be placed via google doc. Ronda will demonstrate using google.doc at the spring meeting.
- Those hosting a tournament will receive a complimentary t-shirt and order must be submitted by January 15, 2016. If the hosting coach did not receive t-shirt this season, please contact Ronda.
- Students will design t-shirts for next season (competition). Each coach was instructed to take 2 copies of the t-shirt template. The deadline to submit t-shirt design is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Coaches were advised to encourage students to be “extremely” creative - Voting will occur at the FALL meeting.

**Mentor:** Jim Vaughn – provided motivational words about encouragement; we had many coaches (18+) who sought help. Those coaching 3-4 years are encouraged to become a mentor.

**Historian:** Bob Herman – No report – A formal report will be given at the spring meeting

### **Old Business**

- Summary of Meet and Greet – There was a misunderstanding - this event was voted on at the Fall Meeting. The event was opened to parents, students, judges, and coaches. Participants received food, beverage and games (50 cards). There were @100 participants from both private and public schools with 25 being parents. This event was a great way to “open” the season. The executive board also gave head coaches a portfolio with a calculator/pen.
- Coaches who hosted a tournament, did not pay registration fee and received a free t-shirt.
- End of the Year Celebration – A committee is needed. The event will be held at the zoo in May or June (with a park and ride option). Please email Michelle Young with your name, email, telephone number if you are interested in joining the committee.

### **New Business**

Discussion of Rubric and Rules – Coaches were encouraged to send thoughts to Stingley or Joe Danek – Thoughts will be on a ballot at the spring meeting. The following comments were made:

- Aneesa Schaefer, SJB– Rules need to be simplified and standardized; the same rule is written 4-5 different ways; clarity is needed; more alignment – making it easier for new judges to communicate with kids.
- Kris Z. Roth of Silver Brook – Raise the percentage to qualify for state – from 80% to 85%.
- Sarah Herrick, Lincoln Center of the Art spoke on behalf of Tyne Turner, Golda Meir who wished to thank Helen Andrews, Bob Herman, and Lanelle Gill for their efforts in addressing frustrations with the old rubric by revamping the points. Additional thoughts were also shared:
  1. 14 point infraction penalty does not prohibit a blue ribbon if a student initially scores 70.
  2. Time as a lesser penalty is neither logical nor fair. As student doing a minute less of a piece has an advantage as they have worked the same amount of time on less material. Conversely, a 9 minute piece allows a persuasive piece (for instance) to make a few more points and wind their argument. Finally, how is the way in which one choose, combines, writes, edits, or paste a piece less of an important skill than using the right size note card?

3. The expanded points only exacerbate the problem of score variation between judges which has been steadfastly worked on for years by the training committee, and the 3 point rubric had exemplars.
  4. Writing comments for every 3 or less is too time consuming and judges cannot get their sheets in.
  5. More room for judges' comments in exchange for the exemplars have caused every score below 5 to be more subjective.
  6. The explanation of this rubric being closer to high school is not accurate, as high school does not use a rubric and everything is ranked 1-5, just as our students are ranked 1-5 at the bottom of the page.
  7. In light of these observations, Golda Meir School, in concert with many other MPS teams, will make a motion at the spring meeting to return the 42 point rubric, now that the 70 point option has been tried for a season, and the positive aspects, whatever they may be, could be attempted in wording reworks of the former rubric. Tyne prefers to tweak old rubric.
- Jo Edward of Aquinas Academy – There is a score discrepancy with new rubric; math errors; missing scores; and need consistency of the rules vs what the check-in-table requires
  - Dontae Hill of Lake Country – Add extra categories to better prepare students for the high school level; there should be a harsher punishment for judges who does not following critique sheet rules; set score to never go under 30 – more effective and positive.
  - Ann Brown, of St. Matthias – likes new rubric; make a 4 point scale (drop the 1's)
  - Stingley – Concerned about time infraction being minus 5 and can power -

#### **Announcement**

- Sign-up sheet for tentative schedule - Coaches were encouraged to consider hosting - hosting is great fundraiser for team.

**Announce Date/Time of the spring 2016 Business Meeting** – Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 8:00AM to Noon at Clement Avenue School (3666 South Clement Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207)

The State meeting was adjourned at @ 10:03AM by Aneesha Schafeer, and seconded by Beth Maki of St. Boniface.