**American Forensics Association Business Meeting**

**November 14, 2012, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Swan Hotel, Room: Mockingbird 2 – First Level**

**Orlando, Florida**

Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm by Scott Harris.

Scott Harris: Approval of Agenda: acknowledging it with its inaccuracies

Motion made, agenda is approved, and appointment of meeting’s parliamentarian approved.

Approval of last year’s minutes, motion made, meeting minutes are approved

Scott Harris: Introduction of self, new President of AFA;

Introduces the individuals who are also members of the executive committee (if they have announcements, they will make them during the introduction):

* Vice President - Michael Janas, Samford University
* Past President - Rich Edwards, Baylor University
* Vice President for High School Affairs - Tim Mahoney, St. Mark’s School, Dallas, Texas
* Two-Year College Representative -Darren Elliott, Kansas City, Kansas, Community College
* Recording Secretary - Erika Thomas, California State University, Fullerton
  + Erika Thomas: A reminder to please send all newsletter related items to me at [erthomas@fullerton.edu](mailto:erthomas@fullerton.edu).
* Executive Secretary - James W. Pratt, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Scott Harris: It is now time to proceed to committee reports:

**EDP (Education Development and Practice) Committee - Wade Hescht, Lone Star College**

Wade Hescht: One situation was brought to the committee to be resolved. The discussion brought up more questions than answers. So we are working on a report. We are not yet sure how to respond. We think there are issues with our documents that send out confusing messages. Are we sanctioning ALL tournaments?

Ken Young: The biggest issue is that the AFA code of practices that was revamped 4 years ago and sets expectations of the codes of ethics. We need to look at the document and revise it.

Scott Harris: Executive council discussed the issue as well. We will ask NEIT and others to make recommendations for those changes and then ask the committee to vote on those changes. It is not our role to administrator tournaments and to participate in micromanaging, but we are an educational organization. Our documents, however, make this unclear because of ambiguity. The AFA has a role to play to set standards, but we must explain how to go about those issues rather than dictate the issues. We want to best pursue the mission in a way that doesn’t open ourselves up to liability issues.

Hescht: I will be serving as chair of the committee next year as well.

**Finance Committee – Ben Voth, Southern Methodist University**

Ben Voth: I am installed as the chair of the committee. We have one item to discuss. We’ve had a decline in memberships in AFA. We want to encourage all coaches to be members of AFA. You are all key players to encourage others. The second item is that we did not make a research award this year so we are willing to make payment if the committee needs the award allocation. Forward the information to Ben or Jim. I now want to introduce Jim Pratt.

Jim Pratt:

* (Passes out document) Membership totals are in the corner. We have 194 life members. The total number of members is 474; we’d like the number to grow.
* As indicated, the income for the organization comes from royalties from EBSCO from the online use of the journal. These royalties are the main form of income.
* The non-income line items indicate that we collect dues for the memberships and pass them along. We remit 97% of the dues compared to other organizations. Credit card amounts are there.
* Some of the other lines are declining. For example, postage and telephone charges are going down. The charge for the online directory was one time. It is easy to update and nice.
* Our lowest expense is $7.14. This is for maintaining our corporate status at a 5013 – all donations are tax-deductable. We need to maintain that status in Indiana.
* Our legal fees are zero.
* Presidents’ office expenses are used for the hospitality at the conventions. This year we eliminated that coffee break and goodies, which would cost $30,000 expenditure. There was no good place to have it.
* Ballots produce a tiny amount of income for us. Catholic league are staunch costumers and biggest supporters of our ballots.
* We have $24,000 for charter committees.
* Good news regarding *Argumentation & Advocacy* – the average cost of the journal is below our budget. We printed a fifth issue of the journal and we are almost on time. We budgeted for it and are catching up with it.
* In the years that we did not budget for the journal, money was placed in reserves and used to cover that cost. We have virtually a balanced budget.
* The organization’s net worth is $77,800.
* The last page of the document shows the budget for next year. We put forward the proposed budget for next year, $1350.

Voth: Make a motion to accept the proposed budget.

Motion seconded and passed.

**Professional Development and Support – Randy Cox**

Randy Cox: We had a fun discussion. I am chairing the committee until the end of next year. The committee was generally pleased with practices and standards practices. There is need to revise them because of video recording in NDT rounds being the norm now. The need to operate under the standards of conducts has continued in reports.

(continued): We were charged with assigning the Service Award. This year the winner is Jon Bruschke for his work with (Southern California) Urban Debate League and his software and work with tabroom.com on IDEA. Previously Jon received the Lucy Keele Award, so this year’s AFA Service award will be given to Bruschke.

**Publications Committee – Stephen Croucher, Marist College**

Stephen Croucher: We have a new editor for Argumentation and Advocacy; Harry Weger of University of Central Florida came forward. We did not have a quorum this morning. Matt Gerber, Stephen Croucher, and Jeff Jarman of the publications committee voiced their support and the National Council today also supported Harry, so he will be the new editor of *Argumentation & Advocacy*.

John Fritch: There are 3 issues remaining. The fall issue is getting final proof corrections. We have the winter 2013 to fill and the spring issue to fill, which is a special issue on the presidential debates. The acceptance rate was about 11% for the journal.

Rich Edwards: I want to congratulate John and Cate for their job well done.

**Research Committee – Jim Dimock, Minnesota State University**

Jim Dimock: Our primary mission was to award and acknowledge outstanding scholarship. The dissertation and thesis award: We elected to give the Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis Award to Ryan McGeough of Louisiana State University. His dissertation entitled, “The American Counter-Monumental Tradition: Renegotiating Public Memory and the Evolution of American Sacred Space” was well-written. (Reading a quote form Andrew King, Ryan’s advisor) It was described as “a magazine of intellectual riches…”

(continued): For the Daniel Rohrer Memorial Outstanding Research Award, we had a number of wonderful submissions and some lively debate over the final selection. In the end, the committee awarded to Dr. Leah Ceccarelli (Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Communication at University of Washington) for her 2011 article “Manufactured Scientific Controversy: Science, Rhetoric, and Public Debate” in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. (Reading a quote from) Thomas Goodnight who wrote her letter of recommendation and said that the article’s “impact is surely to be long-term . . .”

(continued): The missing line item in the budget goes to our research grants. We have zero applicants for Brockreide Award or the Archival Research Grant. We are streamlining to get more applications.

(continued): The committee wants to recognize a new award to recognize forensics pedagogy.

**American Forensics Association Tournament committee report –**

Peter Prober: We had a blast in San Marcos, Texas. Congratulations to Bradley University for winning the tournament. We are really psyched to go to a Community College for the tournament for the first time in our history; it was really exciting to support their work.

(continued): There’s some shift in the chairs on the committee and there are some charter concerns, specifically the issues of voting rights. The vice-chair is not mentioned in the charter and that needs to be recognized.

(continued): We would like to give a thank you to Nicole Bright.

**National Debate Tournament committee report –**

We had another NDT. Dallas Perkins is the new chair of the committee.

Scott Harris: We do not know of any old business. Is there any new business?

Rich Edwards: The nominating committee will be meeting next year. Jarrod is the new chair; he will be reporting next year. Give that committee names [of nominees]. If you know of people who would like to have service, forward the names to Scott Harris as well.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:39 pm, motion seconded, meeting adjourned.