**American Forensics Association Business Meeting**

**November 20, 2013, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Hampton Room**

**Washington D.C.**

Meeting called to order at 4:18 PM p.m. by Scott Harris.

Scott Harris:

* There is no new business that will require such a long meeting.
* Also, it is a paperless meeting. There is no printed formal agenda.
* First I recognize Rich Edwards as parliamentarian [of the proceedings.]
* I don’t believe that we have reports of any past officers.

Michael Janas: [Regarding NCA,] If you didn’t find a slot, submissions were up this year. We still don’t have a ton of slots, but many submissions.

Scott Harris: Two years ago they [submissions] were low. We’ll move to our standing committee reports.

Finance Committee Report

Ben Voth:

* We met at 10 am; we did review last year’s budget.
* The only highlight is that we did see a decline in memberships and set a goal for increasing the memberships or we should just encourage more members of the community to join. We’d like to see more memberships; if your membership has lapsed. AFA is a great deal for [grauate] students; it is only $20.00 [at the student rate].
* We discussed a couple of other items.
* Jim Pratt will present last year’s budget

Jim Pratt:

* The news from the budget front is good. There was a little bit of an expense, but it wasn’t over-spent but because the dues income was lower. Christmas is coming and AFA membership is wonderful.
* Memberships remain strong at institutional level.
* I would accompany with our major other income item, guaranteed royalties of $35,000 and we are exceeding what they promised us.
* Otherwise, there is nothing of great interest in income category.
* Non-income items – we take in money for other forensics organizations and it amounts to $28,000 dollars. That is a service we provide to the rest of the forensics community.
* We placed a charge; we take in 100% and send out 97%. It [the fee] defrays the expense of taking the credit card payments.
* Other expenses are pretty reasonable. $1100 for the accountant – it is incorporated in Indiana as 501(c)3 so that means that all of you can donate money to us and take it as tax deduction. So put that on your Christmas list, too. We do all of the required tax return items for non-profit organizations. We put the NDT and NIET accounts in there making it reasonably complex; it is money well spent to keep me out of prison. It guarantees $100 for a bond; that’s what you get if I decide to run off to the Bahamas; you’ll get it back.
* Happily, we have no legal fees.
* [Postage:] Most of the correspondence has switched to email – all renewable notices are now sent by email. We have 3 members who do not have email accounts and we print out the notices and put them in the mail.
* I send renewal notices, and initial ones, even if you are life members so it is completely up to date, and I send periodic reminders. If there are other constituencies, I am happy to send them out and I welcome your suggestions.
* The Presidential office is for the convention costs and receptions at the convention. Our reception is at the Governor’s Board room and I have ordered my usual fine selection of hourdeouvers
* Regarding Argumentation & Advocacy nothing particular to report there. The journal is doing well. We have a new incoming editor.
* I hope you had an opportunity to use the online directory. As you can see on the line, its costs are reasonable because it is virtually nothing. We don’t print directories and mail them out anymore. The information [in the directory] is only available for the members.
* That is all I have to say about the budget

Question: Jim, in an effort to encourage the memberships, how do we market joining the AFA?

Jim Pratt: The big benefit I would promote is the 2 charter tournaments. We give $2500 a year to the annual tournaments. Also, for all institutions, they need to have a member of the AFA on the coaching staff. All of you who are participating in the community, you could promote us with your friends. We support you and you support us. We are happy to provide the support. The journal is a benefit to promote. Incidentally we offered the non-journal option, we have only 6 people that chose it. Most members do want the journal; but it’s wonderful that they do have the option. Our fellow forensics organizations are quite enthusiastic about us for offering to support us.

We have the budget sheet in the back. It is straightforward and matches the actual expenditures this year. It’s the same old.

On behalf of the finance committee, I invite a motion to approve the budget for 2014

So moved

Ben Voth: Second

Motion passes.

Scott Harris: There are other arguments that transcend our own myopic areas. There is the importance of people engaging in forensics across the discipline. I’m going to encourage all our graduate students to join. I’m going to pay for them to get them to join and gain acclimation to service organization.

We should work together to stop the attrition of memberships.

Research Committee Report

David Steinberg:

* The committee considered the submissions for 3 award categories.
* There were not a large number of submissions. Get the word out and encourage others to submit.
* The Rohrer Award is awarded to Todd Holm and Heather Carmack for their article, “Forensics as a correlate of graduate school success,” published in the

*Journal of Communication Administration*

* TheOutstanding Dissertation Award is awarded to Brett Bricker from the University of Kansas, "A Rhetorical Investigation of Public Disbelief in Climate Science."
* The Brockriede and Archival Research Award is awarded to Emma Frances Bloomfield, University of Southern California, “History of Creationism and Evolution Arguments”
* We are announcing a new award for research and scholarship in the area of competitive academic forensics (individual events and/or debate). The Committee is establishing the “The Larry Schnoor Award for Excellence in Forensics Research.”
	+ These particular [Forensics] areas have been either dismissed or not honored in light of other submissions.
	+ AFA will consider a range of manuscripts including unpublished competitive papers (from academic conferences) along with published articles, books, theses and dissertations. Manuscripts nominated for this Award may also be considered for the Rohrer Award and the AFA Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis Award. To nominate a manuscript, provide a copy of the article or a representative chapter, along with a letter of nomination detailing the significance of the work.
	+ To be eligible for the award, you must be a member of the AFA. Self or external nominations are welcome. The award is named in honor Larry Schnoor for Excellence in Forensics Research.

Question: Do all the awards have that stipulation [you must be a member of the AFA], or just that particular award?

David Steinberg: I don’t know. If not, they certainly all should. It is in the purview of the committee to propose it, but its just acting on enforcement and it can be done.

Motion to approve the report.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Educational and Development Practice Committee Report:

* Does not have an official report. We are looking forward to a future committee meetings and a year of great discussions that might be coming to our attention.

Motion to approve the report.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Professional Development and Support Committee Report

* Four out of six committee members were in attendance.
* We elected the chair for next year – David Gaer is the committee chair, at Lone Star College – North Harris.
* Most of the committee members intend to keep serving.
* This year’s service award nominee was a slam-dunk. It is awarded to someone who served consecutively for 25 years straight, served as a chair for the NIET and recently served a second term. This year, we have selected, from George Mason University, Dr. Peter Prober. We’d like to present the award to him at the NIET in April.

Motion to approve the report.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Publications Committee Report:

* There is one item that we will be voting on.
* The transition in *Argumentation & Advocacy* going smoothly and successfully. Things are proceeding well, but we have no formal committee report

NIET Committee Report

Peter Pober:

* The 2013 NIET had 78 schools competing with over 1400 slots.
* Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS could not have been more hospitable – the only thing that went wrong was the wind – they blew the postings.
* The Committee would like to publicly thank the tournament hosts: Professors Travis Roberts and Kenny Hopkinson and the Hutchinson Community College Forensics Program for their hard work
* Larry Schnoor, Professor Emeritus from Minnesota State University, Mankato, again served as the tournament director.
* The 2014 AFA-NIET will be held April 4-7, 2014 at Arizona Sate University with Professor Nicholas Butler serving as the tournament host, and Professor Larry Schnoor as tournament director.
* Professor Schnoor indicates that there are two bids for the 2016-2017 NIET
* The NIET Committee has also selected Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon to host the 2015 NIET.
* The organization is flourishing and thriving, and we are excited. I will now turn to Karen Morris, the NIET committee secretary to address issue of bylaws and charters.

Karen Morris: We know our constitution goes to the AFA, not sure where/how it is to be approved.

Peter Pober: It has to go to a mail vote but Karen does not know procedurally if it needs to first be discussed here.

Jim Pratt: An amendment to the charter needs to be written

Karen Morris: It has been done.

Jim Pratt: Tell us about it and then we’ll discuss it and send it out in the mail.

Peter Pober: There were several changes and we worked through them a long time. It has to go to the membership for a complete vote. We are happy with the changes; none of it is controversial.

Karen Morris: Many of the changes involved clearing up the wording about memberships. The Vice-chair was not in the constitution so the position is now in it. Also, the student representatives were not in the constitution, so now the reps are in it. A lot of it [changes in wording in the constitution/bylaws] was in the committee membership language; clarifying that. The actual duties and rules of the organization did not change; there was wording that needed to be clarified for a very long time now.

Rich Edwards looks at Changes of unrevised (changes in red)

Scott Harris: My understanding of the process is that we discuss the changes and vote to change them and then it goes to the ballot and that must include pro and con arguments of it, but that those need to be included in the ballot as well.

So, do we have a motion on the floor to make change(s) to the Constitution?

Motion to make changes.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Discussion?

Karen Morris: I made several of the changes. They have gone through the committee as a whole – NIET and NDT.

James Klumpp: Do you want it voted on as group?

Peter Pober: The answer is yes. We had formed an ad hoc committee to address the issues and they provided a year full of detail work.

Motion to submit the changes made in the NIET constitution to a ballot for membership vote.

So move to submit the changes made to the NIET constitution to a ballot for a vote.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Peter Pober: Regarding he ballot, who designs that?

Jim Pratt: I would prefer that Karen wrote it and I will send it out along with the ballots.

Peter Pober: I want to formally thank Professor Karen Morris of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for her wonderful work as NIET committee secretary.

NDT Committee Report:

Gordon Stables

* The NDT was held at Weber University in 2013. Tournament demographics are up there were more individual schools than ever - 74 schools in attendance.
* Indiana University is hosting both CEDA and NDT this spring.
* In response to the NIET report, [that the organization is healthy and thriving], there’s the other end of the spectrum; currently relations [in the NDT] are a bit contentious. We are seriously involved with a first discussion of many to come regarding members seeking dissolution. Given that we [AFA] have a number of obligations to the NDT, this is really good time as a constituent to encourage programs to remain members. However, this is not the first time we have decided to get together or leave each other.
* The 2016 host of the NDT is unsettled. Member institutions are hesitant to place a bid. The organization is working to provide directions, end disagreements. It is a key time to articulate the values that you hold dear and that is an important way that voices are heard.

Question: Is there anything that we can we do locally to help promote the NDT and NIET? Any action that we [forensics educators] can do to be supportive for you?

Gordon Stables: It is more so about giving support and encouragement to the schools in your region. One challenge is that there is more of a national identity then a regional identity. Schools that might be considered long-time supporters might not stay in the activity/organization. The larger community cannot afford the losses. There is a lot of conversation that needs to take place.

Scott Harris: Such as [a conversation about] not attacking one another on FB is another issue.

Nominating Committee Report

Sarah Stone Watt:

* The Committee met and the following individuals are nominated:
* VP:
	+ Mike Davis
	+ Gordon Stables
	+ Ben Voth
* High School Representative:
	+ Shunta Jordan
	+ Tim Mahoney
	+ Aaron Vinson
	+ Heather Walters
* Community College Representative:
	+ Darren Elliott
	+ Josh House
* Nominating Committee:
	+ Rebecca Buel
	+ Heather Hayes
	+ John Koch
	+ Paul Johnson
	+ Donny Peters
	+ Shanara Reid-Brinkley
	+ Adam Symonds
	+ Richard Tews

Motion to approve the slate of candidates.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

New Business

Scott Harris:

* One item of new business is proposing an amendment to the bylaws, which requires a vote to the people here. Currently is it not a formal requirement for the editor to be a member of the AFA.
* We would adjust the following in the Section 9.1: After the sentence: “In the event of death or resignation of an editor or associate editor, the appropriate authority as designated herein may appoint a replacement to complete the unexpired term.” Insert the line: “All editors shall be members of the AFA associations.”

Motion to approve.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

James Klumpp: You want to make sure that you have them [editors/submitters] from a broad range. For [journal submissions], you may want to encourage it rather than require it. You can provide them with an invitation that informs them about the membership for $75.00.

Scott Harris: They envision this for one day when the journal grows.

James Klumpp: So this [requirement] is not for . . .?

Scott Harris/Rich Edwards: This is not a requirement for the editorial board . . . or a reviewer.

I once received a prestigious invitation to join the Journal of Forensics Science. I think it is a great idea that our members are involved

Motion to make changes.

Move to approve.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Motion passes.

Any other new or old business?

Question: Where can the [AFA] bylaws be found?

Scott Harris: On the website you can find the 2009 Bylaws. Have they [the bylaws] been updated since? [If so,] We’ll notify Al Louden to make the changes. One of the things we are working on is to try to get the website more updated. We are kinda dependent on Al to do them until we find a Webmaster.

Question (David Steinberg): How do we arrange the expenses of trophies and plaques? We will need hardware for the award winners. I am not sure of the Distinguished Service Award plaque was ever sent to Jon Bruschke.

Jim Pratt: I respond to direct requests to do that. Typically they either do that or do it themselves. It would be taken care of. Would you send me an email?

Scott Harris: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Move to adjourn.

Second.

All in favor? I.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.