

**MFEA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 5-7, 2015 - Bozeman, MT**

**MFEA General Session Friday ~ March**

**State Reports:**

**AA State Tournament Report:** Adriel Shearer - Missoula Sentinel  
 Gave report. (attach)

**MOTION:** Moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried

**Class A STATE:** C Falls Tara Norick

State tournament went well. There were no formal protests. Results:

Speech/Debate: 1<sup>st</sup> – Columbia Falls; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Belgrade; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hamilton

Drama: 1<sup>st</sup> – Corvallis; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stevensville; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Belgrade

**MOTION:** Moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried

Report on A Interim meeting will be given on Saturday after Class A meets again.

**BC- State Tournament** – Marilyn Jenkins, Ennis

Alternated rounds so smaller school could accommodate state. Good for the most part.

Class B Speech: Ronan, 3rd, Shepherd, 2nd, Loyola, 1st,

Class B Drama: Baker, 3rd,. Sweet Grass, 2nd, Eureka, 1st,

Class C Speech: Culbertson, 3rd, Great Falls Central, 2nd, Gardiner, 1st,

Class C Drama---White Sulphur Springs, 3rd, Gardiner, 2nd, Chinook, 1st,

**B/C Interim Report:**

Marilyn Jenkins - Chair

Amy Smith - Secretary

Edits to committees for each division and the tournament schedule reviewed

At this point no state tournament host for B/C (Thursday evening); however, Ennis is willing to host again if someone else is not interested.

**PROPOSALS DISCUSSION**

- SPOI collection: This need to be completed and it should not be one person that tackles this job. Lucy (Three Forks) and Bonnie (Chinook) to write up proposals

Reminders to tournament directors should limit piece time within the scope of the rules (1 ½ to 2 minutes). Some discussion over penalty for over time; ballot should state timing process

- Becky Nay (Huntley) will collect pieces from tournament directors and the B/C members of the interp committee will create divisional and state selections.
- SPOI rules in alignment with other OIs (singing etc). Some discussion regarding the historical reasoning and purpose of event by Bonnie (Chinook). As it stands, SPOI is more restrictive.
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B/C passed EIGHT to state last season and it was not approved by MHSA. Jon (Shepherd) motion and Lisa (West Yellowstone) second to bring 8 to state to the main body once again. Motion passed unanimously

Proposal by Val (Power) concerning content and material of pieces specifically drama; she proposed rated "g". This will be brought up specifically in the drama committee.

Some concerns that this rating basically guts serious selections and it was suggested to look at amending wording more like "PG". Concern of what is a stronger word, interpretations could do to event.

There is concern about sexual innuendo and when kids are uncomfortable, that is indicator.

Coaches and tournament directors should be guiding throughout season students.

#### CONCERNS FROM LAST SEASON

Debate ethics about sending brand new teams to Divisional to gain sweeps points (skews points)

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Doug: Would all Coach of the year nominees stand up?

COY nominees stood & received a round of applause

#### **AA interim report-** Ezra Adriel Sheerer, Sentinel

Committee assignments were 1st year. Committee Chairs

Start keeping track of two year stint on Committees starts this year.

Interp

Shannon O'Donnal

Kyla Niva - Interp meeting - Voted In

Memorized

Nominated

Seaghan Herrin (Flathead) –

Oliver Nordlund (Helgate) – Voted in

Short Prep (Division)

Oliver Nordland -

Nick Melinack – Voted In

Scholarship (Division)

Danni Petak – Voted In

Julie Easton –

Hall of Fame – Not on the Agenda no need to replace Shawn

Ed Committee

Kerri

Steve “The Carpenter” McCartney – Voted

## Tournament Schedule

Propose the schedule distributed

- Issue of UofM space and Helena/Great Falls schools get invitation
- Discussion
- If Helena is invited to Uof M then Helena would be host on 10/31
  - Oliver – UofM said AA schools invite first
  - Motion to amend schedule to move the Helena kickoff to 10/31
    - o Amendment carries
  - Concern of allowing JV entries at the Missoula in Jan 15-16
    - o Judges not really a problem
    - o Capacity is not an issue
  - Debate topic issue – to be handled in the debate committee
  - Vote to adopt the schedule as amended – Passed

## Create a state tournament Report – Ezra

### Proposals Sent in Advance

#### 1. Jeff Botrell

- Rationale: There is no current rule mandating that registration be open to all speech and debate events at tournaments. New online registration allows for tournament directors to set up tournaments by offering only those events they choose from among the standard AA events. This freedom has the potential for misuse. No existing rule guides these decisions.
- Reference info: pages 5 and 6, sections D and E
- Current language: *no rule exists.*
- Proposed change: Add this rule to page 5 under Section D, fitting it as number 13 and altering existing numbers 13 and 14, making them 14 and 15.
- ***13. AA tournaments must initially offer all 12 sanctioned AA events (see Section E, #3) during their tournament registration periods. If fewer than 8 participants are registered for an event once the registration deadline has passed, tournament directors may cancel the event. Tournament directors should communicate with participating schools on these issues in an attempt to seek resolutions in the best interest of participating students.***

#### Discussion

- Jeff → Concerns about not registering students initially for students for registration, also problems of equality between West and East
- Keith → should have at least offered the event
- Alden → Tournament host decision about events
- Jen →
- Ivan Fritz – Glacier → Drama event, mime issue same event same room
- Steve “the Carpenter” McCartney → concern about rule way it is written that might not allow hosts to get creative
  - o Does not preclude finals or creative
  - o Registration phase rule
- Ezra – Hellgate → creativity can still be achieved with this
- Adam Thane – Bozeman → Make decisions based on registration numbers

Vote – Motion passes

## 2. Ezra Shearer

- At the state tournament an entry fee of \$3.50 for each participant in the events may be charged by the host school and an additional \$35.00 school registration fee at the state tournament may be charged.
- Proposed: Change state tournament to \$5.00/entry

Discussion

- Nick M – Big Sky → Other classes charge \$8/Entry
- Adam T – Bozeman → Why \$8?
- Oliver – Helgate →
- Alden - Skyview → What were our entries last year
- Ezra – Sential → Cost vs Equity, seems that smaller teams are paying more per entry than larger
- Alden – skyview → Want to make sure they get enough money in
- Greg – Glacier → invitational always loose money, state tournament made money
- Ezra → Awards could have been the difference
- Adam → Difference proposal would equate to about \$300 more than old one
  - o We are in it for the Mad skrilla

**Vote – Motion passes**

## 3. Ezra Shearer

## Current

- VI:Tournament Procedures
- F. Sweepstakes
- PF/DUO: 20, 16, 12, 8, 4, 4, 4, 4, 2, 88

## Change –

- POL would become POL/PF, DUO/FORUM would become DUO

Discussion

- Jen Helena – I love it horray
- Josh – Glacier → Issue of the points per student
- Ezra → issue of Policy getting more points, total amount of points per speaking minutes was how the rule was rationalized
- Jenna – Glacier → Track analogy, issue of initializing the points
- Derek – Helana → Should have the event worth the same event
- Oliver → More speech events so they get less points
- Jerry C - Capital → we can all stack a debate so every one can do that, PF has to do more work
- Nick → Need a longer discussion, from a statistical stand point there is a lot more uncertainty in debate could have a risk taking element for the coaches
- Josh → timing issue PF only have 6 minutes
- Adam T – Bozeman → Speech times, the longer speech times and prep work is heavier in PF and POL
- Nick → PF had more entries

Vote – Motion Fails

#### 4. Greg Adkins

“It’s time for a change and here is the Ballot to prove it” proposal

##### Discussion

- Meredith – Sentinel → Lay speech judge would really like it
- Nick – Big Sky → should we split it? – cant
- Tom C → Issue of holistic language
- Kathy – Billings Senior → Timing part should be implemented
- Jeremy – Capital → concerned about issues moving to 10:31 time issues
- Dave → get rid of time issue
- Oliver → why one death penalty and not the other, cell phone
- Andrea → discrepancy between speech and debate
- Lila – Bozeman → craft and control are essential for the know the length that is needed to hit the time, training issue
- Shannon O – Flathead → We are penalizing our kids because of our kids
- Nick → part B – careful of adding more information on the ballot box
- Tom → Move to divide the motion and remove 1.b. and create a second motion
  - o Ivan would like to keep the motion to show what it could be, each committee would get a chance to see it
  - o Tom → could get a viable motion if we divide the motion
  - o Gregg → If we take it then the problems of no holistic/comments
  - o Oliver → For dividing only because the confusion between different events
  - o Josh – Glacier → no division
  - o Derek → should not combine the issue of judge comments and timing
  - o Vote for dividing the motion 6 for dividing 7 for not dividing
- Ezra → timing issue need to be discussed, current tie breakers are not good need to move it forward
- Jeremy → Many times going to have the issue of 30sec
- Thom “not a carpenter” → Timing is like the minimum

Vote – Motion carries

#### 5. Nick

Timing issue, get rid of penalty, have kids count up

Vote – Motion Carries

#### 6. Nick

Adding a fourth judge in Semis and Finals in Leg and Speech

- Oliver → fully within the right of the judge to give a lower score
- Nick → In things like oratory cant offend judges, and therefore avoid topics
- Jen – Helena → problem of judge tiebreakers

Vote – Motion Fails

#### 7. Tom Cubage

Motion – computer assigns judges

- Tom → Some tournaments don't use the computer running judges
- Julie – GFH → Issue or concern with certain judges judging certain rounds, people know the chaos of handing out ballots at the table
- Tom – CMR → proposal says that if judge cant judge then you reassign
- Josh → Tabulating and matching is done by the computer, rules are there to indicate how to run the computer, enter those with conflicts, people at the table don't have time to cherry pick
- Ezra → Randomization is more important for debate than for speech, important to avoid the suspicion that things are not randomized, if we can over come the trust issue with this rule
- Ivan → Entered all the judges at state and still had to replace people at the table, don't have time to rig a tournament and would have to assume that entire community is biased, adds a lot of work for no reason
- Tom → Prevents a judge from seen the same competitor, this allows the best judges to stay in their events
- Oliver → as a non-teacher coach it is difficult to do this without time available

Vote – 7 to 6 motion fails

### **Proposal from the Floor**

Proposal from Tom – Add All-State competitors for the state

Vote carries Schedule done.

Moved to accept the report. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ivanna. Motion carried

**MOTION:** Ivanna Fritz moved to table the 3 part proposal from Greg Adkins until we see what other committees say about it. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**MOTION:** *13. AA tournaments must initially offer all 12 sanctioned AA events (see Section E, #3) during their tournament registration periods. If fewer than 8 participants are registered for an event once the registration deadline has passed, tournament directors may cancel the event. Tournament directors should communicate with participating schools on these issues in an attempt to seek resolutions in the best interest of participating students.*  
2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Moved to change AA State entry fee to \$8.00. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Moved to change timing procedure to start at 0 and count up, with a 30 second grace period (like the timing procedures used at NFL tournaments). Moved to table after the discussion on 3 parter. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Moved to add: MHSA will recognize the top 4 State placing students in each of the AA state competitive events as All State competitors in speech and debate. Rationale: All MHSA events except S/D have all state designation. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bonnie Ortner: I move to amend to include all classes & include Drama. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Bonnie: they vote on it for all conference. The top 4 would be for each division.

The designation for SOI all state;

Adriel: why does MHSA not recognized this for SPEECH

Nick: National Guard eliminated this for golf & speech

Glacier: Now they provide a template & you print however many you want.

IN favor of amendment: passed.

Proposal: no more discussion. **Motion carried.**

**BC interim:** Marilyn Jenkins, Ennis

Marilyn Jenkins - Chair

Amy Smith - Secretary

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Some concerns that this rating basically guts serious selections and it was suggested to look at amending wording more like "PG". Concern of what is a stronger word, interpretations could do to event.

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**MOTION:** Moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. motion carried.

**MOTION:** Moved to change: VIII. State A and B-C Tournaments; A. Entries Rule #1: the top six places in each event at the divisional meets shall qualify for the State A *and the top eight places shall qualify for B-C Tournaments.* 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Move to go to committee reports. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Scholarship committee-** Kerry Gruizenga

Present Committee Members:

Danni Petak, Kerry Gruizenga, Kyla Niva, Becky Nay, Brynn Cadigan, Kathy Sulser, Edith Wagner, Kerry Ray Seyfert.

Kerry Gruizenga was nominated chair, seconded, and passed.

Kyla Niva nominated herself as secretary, seconded, and passed.

Discussion opened for late scholarship applications. Five were received after the March 1<sup>st</sup> cutoff.

Discussion: Should we penalize those who perhaps weren't in control of their application?

This could also set a precedent in the future so we should be careful.

Vote: 3 ay, 6 nay. Vote to not accept the late applications.

Nine applications were chosen for \$400 scholarships.

**Recipients:**

Grant Germann, Glacier High School

Dominica Grenada, Culbertson High School

Emma Massar, Northstar High School

Paul Miller, Shelby High School

Nora Minch, West High

Sarah Moen, Lincoln County High School

Summer Morkrid, CJI

Lydia Rumelhart, Three Forks

Hudson Therriault, Hellgate

5 apps eliminated because of deadline.

**MOTION :** Moved to accept the committee report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Education Committee report:** Tom Cabbage

The number of sessions last year at the MEA Convention and concerns of MFEA dropping out of organizations presenting, in fact MEA asked us to submit a participation agreement and request funds to have a keynote speaker and a luncheon meeting at the 2015 convention in Billings. We have submitted a plan for \$400 from MEA to allow MFEA to secure a keynote speaker as well as plan a luncheon meeting on Friday.

We are in contact with NSDA to secure a keynote speaker and have asked to find someone to address speech and debate activities that promote success with the Common Core and curricular impacts of our programs on schools.

Last year we handed around a sheet for people to sign up to present a workshop at the MEA Convention and will do that again this year, we hope to have even more presenters and workshops this year. We ask that anyone planning to attend the MEA Convention in Billings on October 15-16, 2015 at Skyview HS consider presenting and sharing something about our activity. We want to remind people to get

signed up by April 30<sup>th</sup> and are distributing the web address for sign up to present and to remember to list MFEA as the sponsoring organizations.

We also discussed attendees at the MEA/MFT Convention will want to take and use what is presented and encouraged presenters to bring handouts or even better email information to the people who attend our workshops. Ivanna Fritz shared that she collected emails during the workshop she presented and then she sent all of her materials electronically to those in attendance right after she finished the session.

We also brainstormed topics that others have presented in the past, that people would like to present, and those that we would like someone to present. The suggestions included; technology integration in speech and debate, techniques and activities that could be used in content area classrooms, middle school and elementary age activities, coaches forums on how to start a program, grow a program, and resources for coaches to use in finding material, etc.

We also talked about encouraging people to do Fall meetings in their divisions to talk about rules changes, workshops on how to do our activity, and also to put faces to names and make connections with colleagues at the beginning of the competitive season.

We also discussed the possibility of working with colleges and universities to facilitate credit for college students who volunteer their time as coaches and to try to pay them back for their time and hard work. The possibility for instance of the students getting internship credit for coaching.

The idea of contacting the colleges and universities in the city where the MEA Convention is being held, to present talks and workshops for our organization, and to work with us to collaborate on speech communications connections at that level.

Finally we discussed the fact that non-teacher coaches could present and would also receive the \$30 per workshop compensation and MFEA dues waved for their holding at least one 50 minute session.

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the committee report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Sent signup sheet for presenting. Talked about incentives for presenting. It is not binding. Has the URL to sign for presenting for MFEA at MEA. Make sure you chose MFEA when sign up as 1<sup>st</sup> preference so we can get credit.

Work with colleges to get credit for students who are volunteering to coach, either with credit or something.

~For those who are not educators, can we attend MEA & when are the days?

Tom: you can present, you do not need to an educator. Oct 15-16 at Billings Skyview.

**Hall of Fame committee:** Greg Adkins.

We are collecting nominations for 2017. There are several nominees from years past that did not receive endorsement for committee and were not endorsed. Discussed and not endorsed: Jerry Hatch: Myrna Watson, David Howell, Carolyn Ambrust, David Johnson, Christina Smalley.

Expecting paperwork from:  
Laurel Walker

Current Coaches  
Tara Norrick

Tim Walker?	Kari Blalock
Chuck Carroll	Sean O'Donnell (over 20 years)
Jennifer Collins	Ivanna Fritz
Shelley Fisher	Dee Hallock
James Maxwell	Shannon O'Donnell

2015- Lou Anne Foley – Skyview +  
Fritzi Walker – Columbus+

2016- Doug & Michelle McConnaha – Corvallis  
Greg Adkins – Glacier+

Discussed Laurel Walker for 2017: need info about her career, need nomination. - No paperwork.

-?Mike Walker – Columbus No paperwork

-Shelley Fisher – Libby: no paperwork

-Chuck Carroll- Billings Central: no paperwork

-Jennifer Collins-Red Lodge: no paperwork

Discussed Town House Inn in Great Falls, need caterer

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the committee report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** 2016 March 3-5<sup>th</sup>. Host date 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March.

WSS: move it 1 week back or 2 weeks forward due to tournaments/spring breaks

Dan Johnson: Laurel. In committee discussed this: for every week-end there is an objection.

Charlie Appleby: last year worked for Bigfork (BC State basket) in Bozeman....

Motion carried

Called for the city:

Adrian: proposed it is in Great Falls. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No one from GF here to speak. Kari is the point person.

Val-I got all of the information from Kari last year. I went to Great Falls hotels. (Gave report about hotels). Heritage Hotel: If we have at least 25 paid sleeping rooms, the cost of the rooms much lower cost. Disadvantage is they don't have on site catering. I am willing to get it figured out & present

Bonnie: has been sometime since we worked out a full meal, we worked it out. We could work it out.

Mm: Townhouse is not as nice.

Doug: tentatively reserve this place in Bozeman so we do not lose this week-end

GF person: Townhouse Inn has been recently remodeled.

Charlie: move to table discussion to tomorrow. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

### **Memorized committee report:**

(get report)

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the committee report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

### **Drama committee report:**

(get report)

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the committee report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Add to ballot length of presentation should not affect presentation: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** a link on MHSA site should be added "point of emphasis"

Where is the link going?

Bonnie: a statement not a link should be added.

Reread proposal. 2<sup>nd</sup>. motion carried.

**MOTION:** change the date of published material for classical. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** change name to classic theater from classical : 2<sup>nd</sup>. motion carried.

Move to recess. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carried.

Reminder: Hall of Fame reception and presentation is at 7:00pm

Class A: please stick around for meeting.

## **MFEA General Session Saturday ~ March**

Reminders: get committee folders to Dee so she can collate

~Sending around sign up sheet for MEA workshops.

Introductions of new coaches.

Standing ovation for Kari Blalock Who missed hall of fame (on stage in Oklahoma)

### **Short Prep Committee Report-** Dee Hallock

Nominated for Chair: Dee Hallock. With no other nominations, elected to continue as chair

**Nominated to take notes:** Thom Smithlin. With no other nominations, elected to take notes.

Tara from C Falls: Thanks to Dave B. for expediting the process of getting quotes and cartoons sent to div and state tourneys.

Dave: 2 day shipping for 9 sealed envelopes this year cost 55\$. MHSA was sought after for reimbursement. MHSA told him to take it up to the spring meeting. Dave would like clarification and reimbursement.

Dave: MHSA should do this.

**MOTION:** Mark Flaerty- Cut Bank: Motion to reimburse Dave. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion.

Dee: Two separate motions: take care of Dave now; set in place a process for next year.

Tara: Price might go down next year; Class A eliminating Divisionals.

Aldin Barnes: Charge the tournament the fee for sending. Bill the tournament

John Ward, Sheppard: B/C tournies make no money; one school will be stuck with the bill. It's going to cause problems for individual schools.

Nick Big Sky: problem seems unlikely to occur due to . . .

Dee: problems with duplication

Doug M.: go back to old way; use email; trust each other.

Tara: Seemed to disagree with Doug.

Dave B. Clarification - there is nothing in the rule book that says which organization is billed for the cost of mailing.

If we continue to seal envelopes, we need to figure out where the reimbursement is coming from.

Mark. - we are under the proposal to reimburse Dave; we need to send the bill on to MHSA next year.

Kari B. - we have the money to reimburse Dave now.

Dee: Had no cost incurred to deliver the quotes/cartoons to AA.

**Motion: Tara: Motion on table is to reimburse Dave now.**

Dee: Should we add to the motion that MHSA will cover the future costs.

Tara: Add to minutes: IF MHSA does not cover the costs in the future, MFEA will cover cost.

**Motion Carried: Dave will get reimbursed.**

Tara: Extemp topics - worked very well with our process from this year - emailing questions.

Susan : Extemp draw in one big room; kids cannot go into separate rooms to work on speeches.

Q: extemp draw took place in multiple rooms.

: resource pods were used and it was impossible to monitor for copying speeches.

NSDA - two separate draw rooms; required more people

Andrea: there was no room large enough to house all kids. Increase number of adults in rooms.

Nick: the issue that was most problematic - kids taking topic of foreign draw and going to the other room. Keep kids in separate events in the separate rooms.

Tara - similar sources; similar topics; all kids in round are talking on same topic with different questions.

Dee: Talked about Nationals housing kids in the gym. It would be hard to do the same at our schools, especially since there was a basketball game concurrent with NSDA.

Linda Miller: NSDA kids were in separate rooms but double entered so was that part of the problem?

Dee: This was some of the issue.

### **New Business: Proposals**

**Adriel Shearer's proposal** - Minimum times are outmoded; remove min time for ext. and imp.

Adriel's clarification: min times should be removed; go back to only maximum time to help on

Jen; Helena high - only concern is that this will offset the draw times to perhaps allow

Dan J; laurel - this is not a concern - it already happens with kids not making minimum time.

If proposal goes through, it still won't help the formulaic nature of the problem.

Oliver - does not see how removing min times will make things better.

Dave; in favor of the proposal; does not know what min time adds to the event; if speech is not good - it's a content issue not a time issue. If the speech is done, let it be done.

Nick: against it as a stance; it would be nice to keep some kind of guidelines

Tara: there is value on eliminating min time - students focus too much on time - rather see them focus less on this than content.

Doug: speaks to larger issue - judges saying great job, two minutes left but still marked down. Why do they have min times and no one else does?

Melinda Hamilton - anecdote about kid not making min. time and getting last. Retain min. and focus on death penalty.

Aldin Barnes - isn't shorter speech better? Isn't conciseness really what we're going for?

Dee: rules are drastically different at Gonzaga. 6 min time limit for prep and talking.

Jeremy Capitol - instead of having automatic last it is ok to have a recommendation on time limits.

Gayle Sydney - likes to have the minimum for coaching.

Doug; Gettysburg address would not make time.

### **Motion was moved to a vote.**

Division called.

Motion passed with hand raising 5-4. **Motion passes.**

### **Next: Greg's Packet**

Look at impromptu first:

Read over the updated version of the proposed new comment sheet.

Tara: by discussing this, we are not discussing counting down or up.

Dee: this is a separate issue.

### **Motion and second to entertain proposal:**

Discussion:

Greg: did you say it's AA only?

This went through out meeting last night; was changed today; the whole idea is that we look at it and if we like it, we can maybe look at A B C.

Tara: ABC is looking at adapting this this year as well.

Other comments?

Dave: information from impromptu is coming from judge's handbook; we do not have a place to put them onto TRIPEC.

Greg: this is not an issue.

Jen Helena High: make rubric corresponded with rate the speaker exactly. This came out of memorized committee.

Use unprepared instead of below average on the rate the speaker points at the bottom.

Dave: thinks that proposal is great - timing proposal has to be separate from the rubric.

Dee: clarify we are voting on format - timing will have to match what we determine later.

Jennifer Hamilton - ?

Ivanna - write comments on the back to direct the judges to more space to write.

Nick - places to save room on the ballot. He suggests extemp moves answer question effectively up to top of the rubric.

Michelle- Corvallis: having second thoughts about the word unprepared in impromptu.

Dave: did we not already address this with the language?

We had to clarify what the language change should be.

Dee: top and bottom have to match: Outstanding; Excellent; Good; Average; Unprepared

Derrick: change to more practice

Jeremy Helena High -

Dee: Need a motion to move language "Answered question effectively" to top of rubric on the ext rubric.

Tara: Moved to amend motion and include both above language changes.

**Motion passes.**

**Original Motion to adopt comment sheets:**

**Motion passes**

**Motion to accept Ext. ballot with all impromptu changes.**

**Motion passes.**

Doug's proposal: topics for impromptu changes from seven day mail submission to EMAIL.

Motion to accept this proposal?

**Moved and seconded.**

Discussion

Doug/Corvallis –Shows a lack of trust between coaches and tournament directors. Why is impromptu treated differently than ext? Trust is a different issue. Simplify the process - go to email.

Nick: clarification? Not changing AA to ABC exchange, just delivery?

Doug: yes.

Tara: why change it? It's working fine.

Greg: this is awesome; it makes it easier; he likes it the way it is now.

Doug: Tourney directors have ability to appoint someone to deal with questions. This is a trust issue - take away the secret envelops.

Tara: don't change it; it works.

Nick: I'm for it because he trusts everyone else.

Derrick: quote vs. quotation language?

Doug: pay? It works? Prompts aren't there yet due to email.

Thom: more efficient with email; there are a lot of reasons it works now, but I'm all for efficiency.

Dave: mystery is increased, and it is on working on some level. Is it the best system, does not really know.

Shepherd: does not make sense to have one event mailed. For the proposal?

Tara: are we changing the exchange and the process?

Dan J: takes issue back to trust, the body can trust.

Doug: proposes accept it as written.

**Dee: moving to accept proposal as written - go back to old way of assigning topics.**

**Motion passed with hand voting.**

**Nick's proposal:** put impromptu double entries last like we do with Extemp to first. When possible, double entries in impromptu should be scheduled last in the round. Tara 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion.

Jen- Helena high: tabbed with this in Kalispell and it worked really well.

Move to a vote:

**Motion passed.**

Tara: we need to select the people who will be clearing house for Extemp and Impromptu next year.

Nick: volunteers for Extemp - he will be clearing house for Extemp. All committee members send 10 Domestic and 10 Foreign topics to Nick.

Dee: volunteers to compile impromptu suggestions from A & BC for AA State; Dave volunteers to be clearinghouse for impromptu suggestions from AA for A & BC Divisionals & State.

**Motion:** to sever the bottom part of Greg's proposal and look at it at Saturday meeting. No motion needed.

Motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting adjourned.

**MOTION:** Moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried

**MOTION:** Dee moved to reimburse Dave Budt for expenses incurred in sending out impromptu packets to divisional and state tournament chairs. (\$55.00) 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Dee moved to remove the minimum time on Extemp and Impromptu. New rule: Imp: time shall not exceed 5 minutes; Ext: time shall not exceed 7 minutes. (presented by Ezra Shearer-Sentinel) 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion

Ezra Shearer explained rational for removing the minimum times. If we removed the minimum time for Extemp and Imp this would be less likely and may foster more diversity. This may also increase the likelihood for increased participation by lowering the barrier to entry for some -Minimum time helps to coach students to explore the depths of ideas, elaborating & explaining.

Dee: for the most part, students who are under time end up last in the round. Rarely, you may have a student who makes a point succinctly and well and in under 2 minutes.

Bonnie Ortner: This rule is for the exception rather than the majority of students. We just start with the goal of making time.

Nick- Remove the severity of the penalty

Gail- this is a bad idea. Keep the rules

Kerry-You think this allows me to get rid of arbitrary time goal? NSDA doesn't have a time penalty. It allows kids to learn how to be succinct.

Kristen Wilcox: 3 minutes is not too much to ask.

Charlie Appleby-Bigfork: there is no minimum for any other event.

Question called: **Motion failed.**

**MOTION:** Dee moved to have impromptu topics sent to Division & State chairs by email instead of mailing packets, using same rules (from 2013). 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion.

Tara: I am against it is a matter of avoiding the appearance of impropriety.

Bonnie Ortner: Will AA continue to provide for A/BC and A/BC for AA?

Nick Melinak- Sentinel: It is a Sticky wicket if we fail to trust each other.

Move to amend the motion: AA committee members will select topics for A & B/C; A & B/C committee members will select topics for AA & send to Divisionals & state chairs by email. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion on amendment carried.

Vote on amended motion: motion carried. Prompts will be sent by email.

**MOTION:** Dee moved to schedule those double entered in Impromptu toward end of round (if using TRIEPC use code ZZZ). 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Rules committee-** Doug McConnaha. (get minutes)

### Report

Meeting opened by Doug at 8:55AM.

Doug nominated as Committee Chair – nominations closed – Doug elected as chair

Mitch nominated as Committee Secretary - nominations closed – Mitch elected as Secretary

1.) Doug read the Rules Committee Activity report from the 2014-2015 season  
motion to accept report/was made and accepted by Committee

2.) Proposal from (Shelby Moody) CutBank – 5 drop score – Proposal to not allow the 5 drop score for a rules violation to count as the drop score for elimination rounds.

Tim from Havre spoke to the proposal. He did not feel that we needed as strong of a penalty in the event that it is not a flagrant violation. Question was brought up then what is a flagrant violation. The proposal was brought to a vote and failed to pass the rules committee-Proposal did not pass!

3.) Proposal from Val Smelser Shelby - Proposal to change comment sheets for judges- This proposal would allow for changes in the judges comment sheet that would make the form more user friendly for judges. An amendment was added to add a section on the bottom that will allow the judge to note a reason for the ranking. The proposal was brought to a vote with the amendment and was approved by the committee. Motion Passed Committee.

4.)(Power Dutton Brady)- Proposal to change the warning for the material content in some Drama events. Currently it states that it should be appropriate for all audiences. The proposal is to restrict content to be for general audience "G" ratings. Do we truly need the violent events, sexual content, and etc.? Quite a bit of discussion was presented on how do we censure—is it coach's responsibility – do we restrict it as a coaching body?. Proposal was brought to a vote after discussion and the motion failed by a verbal vote of the committee.

5.) Proposal from Doug to establish a standing committee to research, track, and record our history of Forensics in Montana. This Proposal was passed by the committee with no discussion necessary.

6.) Proposal from Val (Power, Dutton, Brady) to require that a contact person be available to keep a current contact listing for all MFEA Coaches. This would be to establish a central coordinator to maintain an accessible database of all coaches. Proposal passed the committee.

7.) Housekeeping –AA forms (Ezzra Shearer) – AA Interim Rules/Housekeeping Proposal Passed

8.) Melissa Gallofon– Poplar - Single chair proposal - motion passed – to clarify the wording that “one Stationary chair” only will be allowed in Pantomime.

9.) A “Number of Contestants” proposal for some events came from BC – This was handled by BC Interim Committee and the Rules Committee voted to forward it on to BC schools to take it to their Activity Directors for further discussion and consideration.

10.) Timing proposal – change from current to time up and then a 30 second grace period.  
-this proposal would go to the body so that AA A & BC would agree across the board to change the timing proposal to count up and allow a 30 second grace period. AA will present this to the General assembly on Saturday. Proposal approved by the committee to move it to Saturday’s General Session.

11.) A proposal for the filming (from Belgrade) of the debate finals at state that could be used as a teaching tool. The film would be made available. Final rounds of debate be video taped and that film be available to coaches after the event for teaching. State Only.

-The issue was brought up about parental approval for media releases. A school would need to have approval forms from parents if the filmed debates were going to be distributed publicly. A lot of discussion took place concerning the legality of this issue.

-Allen from Bozeman offered to prepare a teaching tool. Proposal failed to pass the rules committee.

### **Housekeeping-**

- Page #7 Clarification- Add coach may not judge his/her own students in any events. Proposal Passed the Rules Committee.
- Page #8 Audience may not communicate with judge. The intent of the rule is? We are probably just looking for obvious issues? Wasn’t that great? Rule should work as written!
- Page #19 Clarification –Proposal Passed Rules Committee.
- Page #21 J #4 – Clarification-should say novel, and etc. Approved by Rules Committee
- Page #23 Ranking 1a – Proposal approved
- Page #26 – Clarification – move that the rule be stricken – Proposal passed by board.
- Page #32 – Clarification – Proposal Passed by Rules Committee
- Page 13 & 14 – evidence fabrication – 3b- switch from internally omitting words to Omitting words internally- Proposal Passed Rules Committee.

-Proposals from the floor: Add SPOI to the top of the comment sheets. Proposal Passed

-Housekeeping – Page #35 AA State – add 8 competitors– check this one for wording

-Question from Tom Cabbage - Great Falls on rules committee ruling and when does Rule Committee get involved. Doug addressed this issue during the session.

-Questions about judge’s training - MHSA provides a Judge’s Handbook available on line and it should be made available at your tournament and your judge’s training sessions.

Tara – previous discussion on providing training videos for judges. More discussion on the body stepping up to help with this.

-Meeting adjourned at 10:15

**MOTION:** Doug moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Motions from committee:

**MOTION:** Moved to create Historical Committee. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion.

Oliver: are we picking members this year? When will we start?

Doug: have a signup sheet for this. It would theoretically start today. Motion carried

**MOTION:** Move to start a contact list of SDD coaches. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. There will a list of contact information from every one available on the MHSA webpage.

**MOTION:** put word in ‘single’ before stationary chair in mime.

-‘a’ is an article & it means one.

Bonnie: What's the difference? Pass it. Moved to end discussion. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried & discussion ended.

Vote on original motion: division called. Count of hands. Motion fails. The article stands alone.

**MOTION:** Bonnie Ortner moved to reconsider the previous question on the SDD contact list. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. Discussion:

Bonnie: I am not a member of witness protection program. However, I do not want someone accidentally getting into my information

Adriel: the question came up because contact information was not updated. Joanne will put a form on the site for contact information & then you contact her for update. FYI your information is already on the web.

Question: 2<sup>nd</sup> to end discussion.

Vote on the proposal. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** BC would like to move from 6 entries to State to 8 entries to State from Divisionals. -Point of order it was passed last night.

**MOTION:** Moved to accept the Housekeeping changes. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

### **Debate Committee Report** – Adam Thane

Committee convened, elected Adam Thane of Bozeman chair for this meeting  
Thane asked if anyone had comments or concerns; no comments were made

Considered a proposal from Mark Flaherty of Cut Bank to amend Class A tie-breaking procedures in out rounds for Divisionals, dropping high and low speaker points if a tie occurred.

A motion to amend to use the same proposed procedure at state was approved.

The motion as amended to add a number four in the tie-breaking procedure to use speaker points with the highest and lowest dropped, and making number five the teams' opponents records and number six a coin flip passed the committee.

The committee heard a proposal from Greg Adkins of Glacier High School to amend ballots, specific to the debate committee to amend the ballot for legislative debate.

Ivana Fritz of Glacier High School said the change would take information on the criteria used to judge legislative debate and put it on the comment sheet. The cover sheet printed by the TRIEPC computer system does not list the criteria used to judge, she said.

Jennifer Hermanson of Helena High proposed a different rubric on the cover sheet, listing presentation and clarity first, also development, analysis and supporting material, and adding a time as presiding officer, amending it after a suggestion from Fritz that the criteria be supporting evidence rather than supporting material.

The motion to amend passed, and a motion to sever legislative debate ballot from other ballots in Adkins proposal also passed, and the motion to change the ballot passed.

The committee heard a proposal from Tom Cabbage of CM Russell High School to amend rules on computerized tabbing on pages 28 and 29 of the rule book to remind tournament directors and tabbers to use the computer program to assign judges rather than assigning at the table.

**After discussion, the committee approved clarifying the section on computerized tabbing to state judges assigned by the computer will judge the round unless a conflict occurs or the judge is unable to judge the assigned round**

The committee heard a proposal from Tara Norick of Columbia Falls to amend the policy debate ballot to list the criteria on which to judge debaters for speaker points, but to list only one number for each speaker instead of having three separate numbers totaling 3-30 for each speaker. The committee then discussed letting tournament directors use the different ballots for a season if they wished and then discuss how the change went, and Thane said that if printed on an invitation, existing ballots could be used instead of new ballots. The new ballot from Tara Norick passed.

The committee approved adopting the NSDA policy debate topic for the next season, Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially curtail its domestic surveillance.

-And adjusting the start of forum topic changes October 31 of 2015.

The committee approved a housekeeping rule adding legislative debate to events that receive a drop round, and another adding legislative debate to the rule determining novice versus varsity status in debate.

The Committee also approved a motion from Josh Munro of Glacier to change the minimum speaker point awarded in a debate round from 15 to 20.

The Committee also approved a motion from Josh Munro of Glacier to clarify Novice status for debate.

After a discussion of confusion in the way outrounds have been paired in Class A debate, the committee approved a motion from Tara Norick of Columbia Falls and Dan Johnson of Laurel to adopt the AA bracket system, starting with quarterfinals.

The committee also approved a motion from Josh Munro of Glacier to reverse a misprint on how brackets are set up.

The Committee discussed a request for information from Jon Petersen of Polson on when a team still can ask for evidence. Thane said that rebuttals still are part of the round and evidence read must be presented, although if it was not read, it does not need to be presented.

The committee also noted that a team must present the same evidence, in the same format, as was read at the round.

After a comment about debaters shaking hands with the judge before and after the round, and concerns with illness and with warming up the judge, the committee agreed that the debaters should simply thank the judge at the end of the round, not shake hands.

**MOTION:** moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carried.

**MOTION:** high low speaker points as tie break for ABC- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion  
It's a good idea. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** clarify rules on judge assignments using computer for manual override. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Josh Monroe: it failed in AA committee

Tom: it was amended in debate committee & passed unanimously

Motion carried.

**MOTION:** change the policy ballot: it brings in alignment with the other ballots. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion.

Bonnie: if we amend the ballot do we have to have the profession line at bottom.

No. Motion carried

**MOTION:** Moved to adopt the NSDA topic for the 2015-16 year: *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially curtail its domestic surveillance.* 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** PF topic selection date. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Amend to the date to 24 of Oct. Motion carried.

Date change motion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** rule change drop score for legislative debate. Add it is in practice but not in rules. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** changing minimum points for speaker points. Align it on the ballot. 32<sup>nd</sup>. Motions carried.

### Class A State Report – Tara Norick

(A interim- Doug gave report. For Tara)

#### **2015 MFEA Class A – Interim meeting- March 5, 2015**

State chair: Tara Norick (Doug McConnaha spoke for her as she lost her voice)

Tara gave state report:

- There were no protests
- Things ran smoothly
- Sweeps results as follows:
  - Speech/Debate Sweeps: 1<sup>st</sup> place: Columbia Falls; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Belgrade; 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Hamilton
  - Drama Sweeps: 1<sup>st</sup> place: Corvallis; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Stevensville; 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Belgrade

Report on actual entries at state: (get numbers from either Tara or Sara)

Discussion: If people asked their kids who were double entered, but completed in only 1 event, then how many would actually come to state?

**MOTION:** Tara moved to add Public Forum (PF) as a sanctioned event in Class A to class A Debate. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan. Doug explained how PF works: topics are based on current topics like LD.

Dan: the PF teams flip a coin to decide Pro or Con side and who starts.

Melinda: both sides do crossfire at same time, both asking questions

Doug: PF is a great introduction to debate for beginners. It doesn't require a great deal of research or evidence. It's about who is most persuasive. It's easier to find judges. They don't have to know debate and it doesn't use much jargon. It is double flighted so it takes few rooms & judges.

Are the sweeps points like policy debate?

-policy has more points for double, it takes longer

-Are we going to add this to Policy? Yes

-I appreciate that it is easier to find judges. We still have to find judges in other events.

-the goal is to limit debate entries to 2 LD, 2 Policy & 2 PF rather than offer 3-3-3

-At invitationals, numbers can be limited because of the size of the school. you do have to offer the event if it is a sanctioned event.

-at the start you won't have as many entries, and then it will grow. They will come from existing debates at first.

Jon-an advantage is that you will have cleaner judges for debate

Melinda-I am looking as using PF as an intro to debate. Many have not filled their debate squad. From a coaching stand point it is a great addition.

-Why add an event when we are not filling current events we have?

Kristen- Are we going to say only have a limit in debate?

Dan-This is an event with a lower barrier of entry and lower barrier for coaching.

-for Divisionals: policy is room heavy & judge heavy. This would help

-This is East vs West: East attend BC tournaments where it is not offered. We need to add more A meets in the East.

-Motion to end discussion. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Motion passed 15-6.

**MOTION:** Dan moved to discuss limits on entries: at 6 debate total or 9. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion:

Tara-The reason for limits is to make it more manageable for those hosting State. We're not going to get a gazillion entries. We are not currently filling all of our events.

-suggestion: why not impose limits until we see events filled?

Dan: Point 1: If you go over it is too much. Sorry Laurel, you are all limited.

Tara: I propose that we have a December 15 date for all teams to submit a best guess for numbers that may go to state, and then State manager can send message to everyone if numbers are maxed out.

-If you qualify 3 in every event?

Kristen: I don't want to say no way, little schools can't compete.

-with numbers thing, a lot of schools struggle. Fitting PF in, it may fill more debate.

Doug: We have to decide to limit or not. I don't want to coach a kid all season then say: sorry you can't go.

-If we limit the numbers at State, then the number can be limited at an invitational.

Doug: If I have 4-5 Duos, they have to beat each other up in competition during the season to see who will be able to compete for a spot at state.

Melinda: If this is a sanctioned event, it has to be offered. If there are limits, then limits should be in all events.

Mitch: I voted against PF. It's not a matter of the event, it was a matter of numbers. I had a tough time accepting any more entries because of space and judges. I like to have a cap rather than turn people away.

Tim: Sweeps for PF are they the same for debate or speech? How do we set limits?

Melinda: We could separate Debate & Speech for sweeps.

Maria: If we allow limits, Have they noticed a drop in numbers?

Dan -AA has a solid cap of 42 kids/entries. Initially PF was fed out of policy. But then policy came back stronger. You have options for your students in debate.

**Straw vote** for 3-3-3 limits in debate entries: for & against even split.

Melinda- As an alternative, why not set cap at team level instead by event?

Mitch: as a point of history: limit lifted as team. ???

Dan- in reference to what was said: 18 for speech & 6 for debate versus 24. It doesn't solve the room issue.

Tara-at our school, this activity is more about life skills. We need the opportunities in order to have them compete.

-Numbers are going to magically double. Why are we leaving kids at home.

Melinda: PF is 8 students to a room

**MOTION:** Dan proposed to set the following limits: Speech/Debate-24 entries & Drama-15 entries. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION:** Kristen-Laurel moved to table the arguments until next year. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Kristen: You still only take 3 in any one event.

Doug: at the AD meeting, they did a straw vote for eliminating Divisionals. It was 15-3 in favor of eliminating.

-Whether or not we have Divisionals makes a difference.

Doug: If we lose Divisionals, then we need to have a backup plan.

Gail: Why did Doug present in January to the AD meeting?

-He did present both sides

Doug explained that he presented at the request of the ADs. It was primarily a surprise to present him with an award for 25+ years of service to this event.

Tara- Why wasn't there better communication about this?

-The issue is that he didn't talk to coaches when asked to present & speak on behalf of the body.

Sara-I've crunched the numbers. If we sent all students to State we could have 324 speech/debate and 48 debate.

The purpose of limiting entries is to be able to host and manage State.

-we could have the potential to have 360 speech entries and 120 debaters. With the proposed limits it would be 209 speech & 54 debate entries.

-Are we managing a problem we don't have? The purpose of control is for managing a tournament not a team.

Tim: If it becomes a problem then we could re-impose the Divisional rules.

Kristen: We lost 2 students at Divisionals & took the rest to State. The cap makes it worse for big schools.

-Can Belgrade handle no limit? Yes.

**MOTION:** Coach from Laurel moved to table argument until next year. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Proposal to discuss pairings if we lose the Divisionals. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

-Debate pairings would just like they are going to Divisionals. The season record would be submitted to determine rank for pairing first round.

Dan: Why are we protecting debate power match?

Doug: Debate is powered in 1<sup>st</sup> round only.

Tara: I was not a fan of it at first, but Doug pre-paired all preliminary rounds at his meet. The same students came out more or less the same as other meets. We had a few more ties but it worked out.

-We would have random 1<sup>st</sup> round is paired by computer.

**MOTION:** Dan moved to use the TRIEPC to randomly pair 1<sup>st</sup> round of debate and for preparing all preliminary rounds. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION:** Michelle moved to use computers to tab all events. Melinda 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dan: It worked really well. It tends to work well especially at the start of the tournament. I'm a big advocate for computer tabbing.

-Suggest using both computer and hand tabbing for a couple of years.

-If we are going to use it for tabbing, can we have practice sessions to learn?

Kristen: We are ok to do both tabbings at State.

**MOTION:** move to amend to add computer tabbing at state. Do both. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Original motion: Random pairing will be done for 1<sup>st</sup> round of debate and all 5 preliminary rounds in IEs. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Gail Gustafson proposed to remove dual entries at Class A. Tim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rationale: dual entries has turned into a huge problem. Kids are late to rounds or change the postings. We as coaches want to help as many students as possible, dual entries limits the number of students we can work with. The East doesn't have as many opportunities to have student dual enter because of going to BC meets. We want to get as many kids on stage as possible.

Dee- Our team was smaller this year. Dual entries benefitted our team. For the students who are good and can handle dual entry, they do place in more than 1 event. It is the same for track, talented athletes will place in more than 1 event as well. if a student can't handle dual entry then as a coach we tell them to focus on only 1 event.

Adrian- Dual entry in drama this year hurt our kids. Some penalized for leaving early or late.

Tim: Is 10 minutes late for a round penalized?

Doug: no. only in debate & the round is forfeited.

Gail: 6 years of double entry add to the problems of numbers, makes the tournament run late, there are issues with kids.

Doug: double entry works for some kids but it doesn't work out for everyone.

Tim: call for the question. Vote: 10 for, 14 against. Motion failed.

Moved to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned.

### **Friday NIGHT class A interim meeting:**

Doug: After the drama committee meeting- there was an impromptu meeting to change the name of some of the events: Serious Solo Acting, Serious Duo Acting and Serious Oral Inter.

**MOTION:** Doug moved to replace the name Serious for Dramatic: Serious Solo acting would become Dramatic Solo acting, Serious Duo would become Dramatic Duo, and Serious Interp to Dramatic Interp. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rationale: changes the connotation for these events. People see serious as negative. Hopefully the change in name will change this. Motion carries.

MHSA is expecting us to do an actual vote on divisional. They want to hear what we want. Vote: on do we want a divisional? Or would we be willing to accept an adjusted divisional option

Dan: when our AD talked to us we thought it was a done deal.

Mitch Evans: our AD is the AD rep for class A & has represented at

MHSA as met 3 times. & discussed divisions because of the changes in school

At the Kalispell meeting the vote for going straight to state 14-3. But his Ad stated that they need the input from the coaches. West is in favor of going straight to state & the east seems to be in favor of keeping divisional.

He wants a role call for 1 per school. If it is a close vote then he will bring these concerns to the state board.

If we keep Divisionals it will have to change because of the realignment.

Option 1: straight to state

Option 2: super Divisionals

Option 3: reunite with BC

Tara: in favor of reunite. I would like to see straw vote before an official vote.

Dan: the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing being the only scenario for decisions was straight to state. Would we need to meet & scramble to come up with a solution?

Doug: What we could do is meet & come up with a plan b & c. But there is no decision until April.

Kristen: would have a difficult time decide either way. Do I want a division, but it needs to change show me the way. Do I want straight to state? Maybe

Melinda: we thought we would discuss it and use plan B see how it works and reevaluate how it works. For 2 years.

Doug: it is what we need to do, we have to evaluate every year. Schools are moving around.

Jon: we wouldn't need to really change much for Divisionals.

--: don't want to get rid of Divisionals & see about super Divisionals. If we lose Divisionals we won't get them back

Doug: if we get a bunch of team with 45, it may change.

Tara: if you are talking about driving being the issue with super Divisionals. Eliminating Divisionals won't solve the travel problems. The school would be divided: East 11 schools & West 9 schools

Mitch: they are talking about doing something similar for other activities

Melinda: look at competition quality. Divisionals as they are now don't provide adequate competition to put it aside. Super divisional would be good if it provides quality of competition then in favor.

Call for question: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion failed.

Jon: like the idea of super Divisionals. Don't like straight to State. It is something to get kids ready. A big tournament provides this. There should be honor of qualifying to state. Lastly: it would be very beneficial to host to have everything

Kriti from Sidney: super divisional would be awesome so that we can see competition before state. It would let us see competition right before state

Sarah: it is more competitive. I would like to see how the numbers if we have east /west.

Michelle: AA doesn't have a Divisionals right now and we take all now.

Kristen: don't really mind drive to super divisional. In favor of cutting the playing

Dan: what are the numbers?

Doug: Totals /event: (get numbers from Doug)

Dan: there are essentially 6 events where students were left behind.

Doug: super Divisionals is not going to trim numbers to state.

West : /East (get numbers)

We were worried about cutting down. But hoping that in the future would like to have something in place when our program to grow.

Doug: we would like to show MHSAA what we would like not just numbers.

Kristen: Anaconda is supposed to compete in tennis; MHSAA is looking to move them. They are moving schools

Dan: the numbers still show East is smaller than the west.

Mel: are trying to solve a future problem?

No: we like the Divisionals. AA goes straight to state.

Dan: I don't think that's the way AA works.

The reason we have this discussion is because MH is going to make a decision in 3 weeks. We want them to know what we are thinking.

Mitch: we agree to go with what is easiest, & we go straight to state. We will lose it permanently.

Doug: 1<sup>st</sup> straw vote:

This is a roll call vote: some sort of larger divisional that we know MH is going to create: for a divisional of some sort: 11 for straight to state: 5 against

Now statement: what is it going to look like? 11 & 9

12 to state

(will craft paragraph) we will present at tomorrow's meeting.

Tara: can we vote.

We can do this tomorrow & vote plan A & plan B.

Motion:

Michelle: we need a backup plan to host super divisional.

Who will host in the West? It is Hamilton's turn in the SW

**MOTION:** super Divisionals must include 12 to state must be included in the contingency plan

**MOTION:** Move to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Doug moved to add Public Forum to Class A debate events. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Doug moved to allow computer tabbing concurrent with hand tabbing for a year. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Doug move to change the term ‘Serious’ in drama & Interp ‘Dramatic’. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion:

-It is called dramatic at the national level.

Wilcox: Move to amend motion to include BC in the motion as well. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Amendment passed.

Clarification: it applies to all events at all class levels.

End discussion passed.

Vote on motion: motion carried.

### **Interp committee Report- Roger**

**(get minutes)**

Move to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** make SPOI make rules align with OI events. 2<sup>nd</sup> no discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Move to read selection as presented or stopping when timer goes off, whichever comes first. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Motion carried

**MOTION:** organized SPOI materials. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Pairing procedures in class A & BC. Instead of recalculation. see official rule. 2<sup>nd</sup>. motion carried.

Melinda miller: clarification in re: appropriate of pieces. Solution that was presented in terms students leaving the rounds if they are not offended.

Doug: They need to leave prior the piece presented. if it is the first time, they need to sit through it and not disrupt the performance.

The rule is written.

Simms: I thought it was the role of the student to talk to coach and have it dealt with coach to coach.

Doug: gave example of trauma of watching a piece over & over.

Kari: there was a specific plan in place

Kristen: concern that this will turn into a situation where it will be used as a way to manipulated judges.

Doug: 1<sup>st</sup> step has to go to coach to get permission.

Bonnie: recommend to continue the discussion on issues such as this. If there is a script that is going to offend the general then the piece should be motion failed.

Doug: bottom line if the student is not double entered they will be in violation of the rules.

Clarification: kids cannot leave the room. The rule exists already.

Lila b: is there a rule in place already about special needs.

Yes it is in the rule book.

**MOTION:** Moved to pass all Housekeeping motions as one. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Class A. Jon Petersen has been crafting letter to present to MHSA on behalf of the Class A coaches:

It is the recommendation of the Class-A Speech, Debate, and Drama coaches to replace the current four-division system (East, Central, Southwest, and Northwest) with a new format composed of two super-divisions: East and West. Using this new format, two super-divisional tournaments would occur each season during the weekend prior to the state meet. These larger tournaments would provide our Class-A competitors with a highly-challenging and meaningful seeding-tournament, each of which would comprise of roughly twice as many competitors as the old divisional meets. Overall, the same number of entries would advance to the state meet—12 per super-division rather than six per division. An important advantage of the super-divisional format is that it would continue to require all speech, debate, and drama competitors to earn their way to the state tournament—this is an incentive that can be very useful to coaches. Also, it would significantly help the host of the state meet because the maximum number of rooms and judges needed to conduct the state meet would remain the same as it was with the old divisional format. Consequently, the state host wouldn't have to worry about the possibility of the meet growing to a size that exceeds the capacity of the host's facilities. Since the maximum number of state entries would remain the same, the divisional tournament rules could continue to be used, although some obvious changes would need to be made (for example, adjustments to the codes on the seeding matrix: N1, S1, C1, E1 would be replaced with W1, W2, E1, E2, etc.). We also considered a "straight to state" model to replace the old divisional format, but the majority of coaches felt that this model devalued the honor of competing in the state tournament. In addition, the straight to state model limited the number of school districts that could host the state meet. Although unlikely, as many as 60 entries could potentially compete in each event unless caps were put into place, and determining a system for this was proving to be a divisive issue. We respectfully recognize the authority of the MHSA in this matter, and we hope that you consider our recommendation as our primary goal is to ensure and enhance the overall competitive nature of speech, debate, and drama in the state of Montana.

### **Financial Reports** - Kari Blalock

#### **MFEA Treasurer's Report.** Kari Blalock

Checking balance: March 15, 2015		\$ 15,152.13
<i>(Checking account changed to Opportunity Bank from American Federal)</i>		
Deposits	Banquet and Dues etc.	\$ 1,481.00
	MFEA Coaches Dues 2014-15	\$ 3,865.00
	Total Deposits:	<u>\$ 5,346.00</u>
	Subtotal:	<u>\$20,498.13</u>
Expenses:	Scholarship {4 @\$500.00}	\$ 2,000.00
	Holiday Inn	\$ 2,830.88
	Secretary Salary	\$ 100.00
	Treasurer Salary	\$ 180.00
	Hall of Fame (Greg)	\$ 25.98
	Coach of the Year (Elaine's Engraving)	\$ 395.40
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 5,532.26</u>
	<b>Balance as of March 15, 2015</b>	<b><u>\$ 14,965.87</u></b>
Anticipated Deposits:		

Reception (collected at registration)	\$ 1,500.00
Anticipated Expenses:	
Salaries:	\$ 300.00
Secretary (2015) meeting~ \$100.00	
Treasurer (2014-2015) ~ \$200.00	
Scholarships	\$ 1,500.00
Doug McConnaha (Awards)	\$ 395.40
Hall of Fame	\$ 45.00
Spring meeting expenses (estimate)	\$ 2,800.00
{Banquet, meeting rooms, miscellaneous }	

Submitted by: *Kari Blaylock, Treasurer*

*Date: March 5, 2015*

**MOTON:** Kari moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Moved to accept report. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Moved.

Kari gave checks for scholarship awards to the respective coaches.

Melinda Miller-Hamilton: clarification in re: appropriate of pieces. Solution that was presented in terms students leaving the rounds if they are not offended.

Doug: They need to leave prior the piece presented. If it is the first time, they need to sit through it and not disrupt the performance.

The rule is written.

Simms: thought it was the role of the student to talk to coach and have it dealt with coach to coach.

Doug: gave example of trauma of watching a piece over & over.

Kari: there was a specific plan in plac2

Kristen: concern that this will turn into a situation where it will be used as a way to manipulated judges.

Doug: 1<sup>st</sup> step has to go to coach to get permission.

Bonnie: recommend to continue the discussion on issues such as this. If there is a script that is going to offend the general then the piece should be modified.

Doug: bottom line if the student is not double entered they will be in violation of the rules.

Clarification: kids cannot leave the room. The rule exists already.

Lila Beard: is there a rule in place already about special needs.

Yes it is in the rule book.

### **New Business**

**MOTION:** move to send \$75 in flowers to her memorial service/ Celebration of life. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Tara: talked about Shelley had a lot of personality. The directions to get there or submit something on line. For her.

**MOTION:** moved to increase the salary of the treasurer and secretary to \$400 & 200 respectively. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Ivanna is moving to take from the table form AA.

Greg: thank you to all the committees who made changes to tweak the form.

**Discussion:** This was a AA issue originally. But discussion may lead to include A & AA. (Doug projected)

1<sup>st</sup> : Comment sheets

2<sup>nd</sup>: secondary points to help break ties.

3<sup>rd</sup> : dealing with the time proposal of a grace period.

Second page of the discussion how it is laid out in the rules book & make sure the judge's handbook will be changed to reflect changed along with the other changes passed.

AA did pass it. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION:** Move to divide issue in the order of 3-2-1. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**1<sup>st</sup> comment sheets:** a lot of discussion

Sara Piper-Stevi: Move the rubric to bottom of page to encourage comments but still get feedback.

Tom C: when we reduce comments, the judge's circle & move on.

-We need some vetting before we adopt this

Ivanna Fritz-Glacier: after doing judges' training, the judges are begging for some official hard copy, the book has many pages the judges don't read. A lot of work goes into making the change, when it comes to feedback for kids.

Meredith: As a debate coach, we need a rubric to judge, without it, it was tough. A lay person needs that guide.

~Hate these comment sheets. Sparked a better comments these comments do not meet these purposes. This is not something we can do in class A. Typical judges are going to look at this & see rules a rubric and size does matter. It says you are not qualified to judge.

~Rubric's message through your own opinion out it we want.

~Room for comments: There is little room for comments. Go ahead & fill out the back. The less room you have the less comments.

~What does it mean the 'poise & presentation'?

~Under the current system we can get comments about hair & grooming. We are skewing what the real world rubrics. All of the judges we use have valid ideas of what they are looking for. What they are looking for they are getting from the coaches.

~Why don't we just put a tiny box for the rubric & more room for comments?

Shannon-Flathead: I have been judge coordinator for flathead. Judges don't know what they are looking for. It gives them something to look for. Allows opportunity to look at what the event is about. I have worked for many different companies & they use rubrics. This will not affect the comments space is limited.

Shannon: it feels like about a lot of hostility for this. How many times do we get no comments? Would rather have this as guide and a place to start a conversation?

Lila: don't disagree with the intent. As coaches we try to train our judges. We role play for what they want. We have the judges' book, we hand them out. We like to give them some freedom to say what they like & don't. It looks overwhelming with this much stuff on the sheet.

Jon P: on average is number is disconcerting. It may drive scores down.

Melinda: went to a lot of effort of eliminating the rubric in debate so that the numbers are not driving the judge making a decision on the argument.

See this going in the opposite to direction than we want.

Jerry from Capital: just as frustrated with empty comment ballots.

**MOTION:** Nick Melanick moved to amend the titles of Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Nick moved to amend comment sheet: take the judge's signature off & add judge's name at the top. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Jennifer H. Helena: I suggest we move rules off comment sheets & leave on the cover sheet. This would give more room for comments.

Dave Budt-Bozeman: the new cover sheet is printed straight from the comments.

**MOTION:** I move to amend to have rules on separate sheet and print the TRIPEC comment sheets. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion failed.

Adriel Shearer-Sentinel: We are concerned about comments. I have never seen anyone run out of room. If they want to write more they can turn the sheet over & use the back.

Nick: keep guidelines & moves rules to separate sheet of paper.

Ivanna: I like it with the rules

Bonnie: I like most of the components, but it is hard to conceptualize

**MOTION:** Ivanna moved to put comment sheet on legal sized paper. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion:

Nick: leave it to the discretion of the coaches

~cost of legal paper is greater

Motion carried.

Tom Cabbage: Move to amend to remove the rubric from ballot. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion fails

Jennifer: Point of privilege: Can we see it closer?

(Comment sheet projected on screen. Adjustments made)

**MOTION:** Jeremy moved to move rubric below area of comment section. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Amendment fails  
No more discussion.

**MOTION:** Motion for AA comment sheet passes as amended.

**MOTION:** Move to adopt new Class A & BC comment sheets: adding columns for positive & negative comments. This makes it easier to remind judges that they should write something student did well and what needs to be improved.

-Add reason for ranking, it's a way to give judges a reason to write something.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** timing issue.

Adam read the rational & language of the proposal. Which right now for AA.

Oliver: if were giving a grace period and getting rid of minimum time, then why are we timing?

Nick: when I only went over time it was in class then I would have been shot. What we find at NFL every time we find a good middle ground. We have some punishment but not to kill the students. He gave example of student at state for time accident. Because she was way ahead she still placed 5<sup>th</sup>. Kids still will follow the guidelines.

-what happens now?

Bonnie: they could go under time or overtime all day and get 2s all day. No consequences

With this change is the rule, it's about the speech and the quality.

-had she gone over the grace period what's the consequence.

~: the idea that kids will consistently going over, it not going to happen. At nationals, was it is done & in Oregon, time has never been an issue.

Doug: clarification: anything that happens with the timer, breaks... it's automatic last place.

Question: carried.

**Vote on Motion:** AA timing motion carried.

**MOTION:** Secondary point rating system used for tiebreaking procedures,

Greg: read the portion: thus eliminating confusing matrix. I have included a screen shot of the setting TRIPEC and also the changes needed in rule book. Semifinal and Final round tiebreakers remain unchanged. First tiebreaker is lowest ranks (scores), Second tiebreaker is highest rates, Third tiebreakers are drop the highest rank, then the lowest rating as the fourth tiebreaker (Note:

I ran an entire tournament, and never got to the third or fourth tiebreaker). Rationale: use the computer based program to break ties into the first out rounds, thus eliminating the use of matrix. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion: none. Motion carried.

Kari – under new business: where are we going next year?

We have picked a date. There is a way to vet the other places? We will tentatively hold this spot until the decision is made about Great Falls

Last year we were speaking of moving the MFEA meeting to Great Falls, it is more centrally located. Val received from Kari for the requirements. And presented information about what was available in Great Falls:

In GF 3 hotels can handle it. Heritage not available, the Holiday Inn is more expensive. The Town House Inn has the meeting rooms with some amenities, such as coffee in the meetings. Catering would have to be arranged with an outside source.

Kari Make a motion to go the Townhouse Inn. Kari will confirm.

Bonnie thanked Val for all of her research. Discussion?

Oliver is a good idea to move around a little. Like Bozeman but it's a good idea to move around. Getting a rotation going.

Kari: do we want the same or let the caterers surprise us. SURPRISE!

In favor of using Town House. Motion carried.

Linda: would like to know when browning is having a meet.

Discussed schedule.

Tara: everybody goes to everybody's meets. It is requested that AA schools be open to inviting the A schools, so that we can experience the different rules and report back.

Bonnie: How are we going to set up or talk about rookie workshop in the Fall.

Doug: I will talk to Joanne, being careful to see if it counts as a meet or not. I will email everyone about it

Nick: I will ask AA to try to accommodate a few A & JV teams. There is a concern about hosting in January, at the end of the season.

### **Calendar**

Reminders: if you would like to get direct information email Doug, which will be available on the MHSa Website.

Email with name school & division in subject line so I can find it in junk mail.

Doug: Move to retirements & good byes. These people were acknowledged

**MOTION:** Move to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned. Pru Libeck won the pot.