

November 15, 2007
Chicago, IL
NCA National Convention
Phi Rho Pi Executive Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order – Cynthia Dewar-Kudsi

Call To Order at 3:30 pm
Introduction of John Schultz as appointed Recording Secretary

II. Officer Reports

A. Secretary Report – John Schultz

1. Presented minutes from Houston 2007 (PRP) and San Antonio 2006 (NCA) MSP.

B. Treasurer Report – Wade Hescht

1. Reported issue of Joy of Tournament access problems after tourney in Houston. Indicated that the organization made an approximately \$3,000 profit on Houston Nationals. Final disclosure at 2008 tournament business meeting.

C. Comptroller Report – Lisa Benedetti

1. Reported a \$199,314 beginning balance and a \$216,965 ending balance for last fiscal cycle. Investments did well in the market. Thanked Wade Hescht for assuming costs and donating approximately \$5000 for the greater good of the organization at the 2007 PRP National Tournament.
2. Wade Hescht thanked his college president for the donation. Also commended Texas schools for their assistance.

D. Vice President of Association Report – Jeff Przybylo

1. Highlighted that 57 people attended CRAFT including 19 presenters. Commented on the CRAFT tradition. Announced that NCA will run Friday through Monday next year at San Diego – November 2008. Encouraged members to propose panel ideas to him that may be transferred to other panels and areas (AFA, etc). Theme next year ‘Unconventional’ – bringing people outside of communication into NCA.
2. Indicated that attendees must pay fees by 8/6/08 or they will be dropped by NCA from the program. 400 people a year currently presenting and not paying. This policy change is a way of battling that

problem. Cynthia Dewar thanked Jeff Przybylo for successful CRAFT.

E. President Report – Cynthia Dewar-Kudsi

1. Highlighted the new website design and launch. Indicated that it will be more user friendly. It includes an online membership list. Committee proposal forms, standing committees, schedules, etc. will all be online.
2. The new site will expand from minutes and results online to include items like judging philosophy, etc to leave less of an environmental footprint. Wants PRP to be a model for other organizations. Wade Hescht will post membership stuff on web. Roland Petrello has been working with Cynthia Dewar and the website developer.

F. Vice President of Tournament – Duane Fish

1. Confirmed site visit to Pheasant Run for Spring 2008. The property is not a corporate model – described as quaint. Hotel staff was wonderful to work with. The property boasts pools which should be popular with the students. Golf is also available on the premises which should be popular with Wyman. Other amenities include: restaurants, lounge, social gathering areas, Ben and Jerry's, and a comedy club. The property has a sense of family resort. Close to other amenities like super-Target, super-Walmart, and good restaurants (Portillo's). Wi-Fi is available everywhere on site and was confirmed by officers at site visit. 2008 Nationals should be like all others with minor challenges to strive for the best experience possible.
2. Fielded questions from members. Petrello: which airport closer is closer to the property? Schoeder: O'Hare is a better choice than Midway.
3. Event Rules and Changes
 - a. CA / STE / IT – will allow again for cross entries for the good of the students. CA/STE will again be scheduled as speaker 1 – 3 to allow them to get to IT rounds.
 - b. Passage of NFA – LD – will be in pattern A. The event is now scheduled with CA/STE/IT/TEAM.
 - c. Approached by a member with the interpretation of the rule: Can a student double-enter in NFA-LD in NFA-LD and IT like CA/STE? Recommendation: Executive Committee discussed it. Dissimilarities exist: The intent of the body was to separate IT and STE/CA. When it was passed at Houston, it was not clearly a part of the intent of the body for other double entries. Not justified for the executive board to allow double entries. MSP.
3. Constitutional and Rule Changes

- a. Changed scripting rules in IT. One or multiple scripts will be permitted by IT teams.
- b. In debate an almanac as well as a dictionary will be allowed.
- c. Sweeps values for NFA LD and policy LD – they will now be included as 10/7.5/5 and only one slot for 2008.
- d. Voiced concern about the opening judging meeting. A new approach shall be implemented: The schedule on Monday prior to banquet will be amended to include a 3:30PM meeting for NEW coaches, judges, and hired highlighting the standard rules. At 4:00PM the meeting will include everyone and will be refocused to be more celebratory for the opening of the convention. The 4:00PM meeting will still be the place where everyone gets their dance card. These changes are based on Duane Fish's perusal of the tournament evaluations to address criticisms of prior tournaments.
- e. Announced intent to complete 2008 semifinal and final postings on the website to alleviate student need to have to come downstairs for information. Equal intent to have judging assignments available online. Danger: people will still need to refer to dance card as they may be standby and not on a panel for a given round. The tournament director is considering that PRP posts pairings prior to judge assignments to accelerate posting of schedule.

II. Host Report – Steve Schroeder, College of DuPage

- A. Steve Schroeder addressed the group on behalf of College of DuPage. He thanked Lauren Morgan, the other coaching staff, and the other Illinois programs for their assistance.
- B. Website test page is expected to be up soon.
- C. Elevators will not an issue. Challenge will be the vertical spread of competition rooms.
- D. IT will take place in a building with all brick walls. Challenge is that it is an old building which isn't ADA compliant. Also, the building has a stairway e. which may prohibit large IT sets for rounds on the second floor.
- E. Reaffirmed the theme: "Speak Easy" Al Capone hideaway in St. Charles. Roaring 20's theme for banquet. Indicated that he wanted "to under promise and over deliver."
- F. Fielded question: Radden: ceiling height? Schroeder: Would check heights and get information back to Radden and other coaches as necessary.
- G. Temporary chairs will be provided in competition rooms so students won't have to sit on beds.

III. Committee Reports

None

IV. Old Business

A. Website Redesign. Cynthia Dewar: webpage covered under pres report.

B. Duane Fish: Highlighted the Service Award published last year and asked Gretchen Wheeler to clarify the award and also encourage members to submit applications.

1. Wheeler: The award is not service learning, but rather student service and volunteerism. For example: last year Casper Community College brought 10 people to the Houston Food Bank to assist with operations. Very rewarding for students and provides social perspective for the students. Wheeler hoped to see members come together to contribute in the host city.

C. Other. No other old business.

V. New Business

A. Jeff Przybylo – spread the word about 2010 formal bids for national tournament.

B. Gretchen Wheeler – asked Przybylo to explore NCA logistics: 1. NCA website is NOT user friendly. 2. Having book early would be effective even if members pay for postage. Dewar and Fish indicated that changes made next year means that books will be published in host city.

VI. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn at 4:13.

Moved to a closed meeting at 4:22 pm.