



## Texas Association Virtual Meeting Minutes – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Current Association Board:  
ADs: Steve Reist, Lilian Wannall,  
Judy Moore  
Treasurer: Mike Story  
Secretary: Suzanne Rieter  
Memberships: Adam Tutt  
Judge Coordinator: Beth Otilar

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm

### I. INTRODUCTIONS

- Introductions of new attendees were made (see attendees list at the bottom of the minutes)
- Suzanne Rieter, Secretary verified quorum

### II. FOLLOW-UP SINCE LAST MEETING

- The minutes from the meeting on January 24, 2023, were presented and a motion to approve was made by Beth Otilar, Second Gaby Komm
- It was announced that Sandy Sook has been appointed co-RD for North
- A reminder was made of procedures when a new appointment is recommended or needed, to remain in compliance with the standing rules.

### III. REGIONAL NEWS

- Team counts: Central/24, HARO/109, North/53, South
- Regional Director's 2023 summary and reports:  
**North:** Very excited with all the judges North was able to have at the Region and State tournament.  
**Central:** Increased their number of teams by two. Noted that other schools within Central are willing to host their region tournament in the future, opening up the possibility of hosting the State Tourney.  
**HARO:** San Jacinto College hosted their tournament, with a fee, allowing for more teams and room to grow.
- It was discussed that any requests for financial assistance from State to a Region, needed to be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup> in order to be incorporated in the 2024 State Budget.

### IV. STATE TOURNAMENT RECAP

- Gen Ricardo Sanchez Elementary School in the South participated directly at State and was very successful at the tournament coming in first in all categories.
- 94 Teams participated, which was a 10% increase from last year.
- The Tournament Directors did a great job. Kudos to Sandy Sook who went well above and beyond with her personal resources to make this a success. A postmortem meeting will take place to review lessons learned for the future next week.
- There was a little incident with damage to the weight tester in P4, during competition. It was successfully repaired, and a replacement tester was brought in and validated, as a backup.



- Officials' reimbursement: So far there are 34 reimbursement requests received. There was a negotiated arrangement with the Holiday Inn that gave us \$5/room booked by teams/officials in order to help defray the costs. Kudos to Noor Mithwani for accomplishing this.

## V. WORLD FINALS

- A. 37 teams advanced to World Finals (North/17, HARO/14, Central/5, South/1).
- B. Officials (18)- travel costs, procedures:
  1. The budget will cover up to \$500 in travel expenses: cost of ticket paid in dollars (not points), airport parking, DTW shuttle, etc. Submit all receipts together to the Treasurer for reimbursement by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The check request form is also available on our website.
  2. The goal is to send more actual judges to WF. We encourage PCs to socialize with judges and submit more recommendations to be sent to WF, for training and experience.
- C. CCI requested again that larger associations optionally send third-place teams to WF, since China could not obtain visas this year until very recently. The A.D.s approved sending third place from State and adjusted the budget to provide the extra teams with shirts instead of getting hats or other TX identifiers normally used during opening and closing ceremonies.
- D. Creativity Festival and Howdy Rep is Sam Pollicove.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **WF Committee**, Chair: Sam Pollicove: Has not yet met. This position will entail walking teams through the arena during opening and closing ceremonies, Thank You Cards at the Creativity Festival, and scheduling and arranging Howdy Teams.
- **Scholarship Committee**, Chair: Suzanne Rieter: The budget for scholarships this year is \$2500. There was a discussion on how the funds should be determined and divided among the recipients. The standing rules would have to be changed sometime in the next year. Proposed language: Applicants that are awarded a scholarship can expect a minimum of \$\_\_. Odyssey of the Mind Texas awards up to \$\_\_ every year.:
- **Pin and Tee Shirt Committee**, Chair, Gaby Komm: Due to cost-cutting measures we used lanyards instead of t-shirts for the officials. We sold out of Region shirts and 2 of the pins. Using Square helped with recollection. Sales were up \$16,000.
- **Technology Committee, Chair**, Amanda Coots: New email addresses can be set up for voting members using [@txodyssey.org](mailto:). Go to Discord and send a message to @admin to set up your email address. Google for non-profits was also discussed.

## VII. 2024 PLANNING

- **Target State dates:** March 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 due to the eclipse visible from Texas in early April, which will put a strain on all resources and increase costs. Also, Spring Break.
- **Candidate sites for State:** Lifecycle Christian in Conroe (Limited Parking). Sandy started talks with TWU in Denton. Another possibility is Springwoods HS
- **2024 Regional Tournaments** can start a little earlier for the same reason. HARO Feb 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> at San Jacinto College South. North, is also looking at the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, as is Central.



## VIII. ELECTIONS

The Board extended a nomination to Katie Dachniwsky, as interim chair of the Nominating Committee to avoid any conflicts of interest with upcoming candidates.

The slate submitted for vote:

**Association Director, Jr** Suzanne Rieter

**Secretary** Noor Mithwani

No nominations were made from the floor.

A motion was made to move forward with the slate by Mike Story. Second Steve Reist

Motion passed.

There was a discussion based on Judy Moore's stated intention to step down as AD Jr. at the end of the fiscal year leaving open the position of AD Sr.

A motion was made by Sandy Sook to accept the resignation. Amanda Coots Second. Motion Passed

Teri Reist then made a motion for the Executive Board to wait two weeks to get names to the nomination committee to submit a slate that we would then vote to elect the AD Sr. to a 2-year term as Senior AD in 2023-2024, and AD Emeritus in 2024-2025. Judy Moore Second. Motion Passed

It was decided that anyone interested in the position, or any nominations be submitted to the AD's and Katie Dachniwsky by April 25, 2023. The proposed slate will be disbursed to the voting members by Secretary, Suzanne Rieter on April 27, 2023. Voting would be open (digitally) April 28- May 1, 2023.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- Fall Association Meeting, proposed dates before back-to-school: Mon, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – Wed, Aug 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> .
- Donate all old pins to our Odyssey Store to support our scholarships.
- No other business.

Suzanne Rieter moved to adjourn. Teri Reist Second. Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm



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## Meeting Attendees

Suzanne Rieter  
Lilian Wannall  
Gaby Komm  
Lois Cromwell  
Cliff Cromwell  
Michael Dachniwsky  
Teri Reist  
Steve Reist  
Sandy Sook  
Rett Reist  
Samantha Pollicove  
Amanda Coots  
Mike Story  
Michael Chiles  
Adam Tutt  
Katie Dachniwsky  
Beth Ottilar  
Judy Moore  
Mason Story  
Jack Moore  
Ann Dachniwsky