ACTAA Fall Business Meeting

September 7, 2013

Fort Smith Holiday Inn City Center

When quorum was met, President Dawn Tucker called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming to the business meeting.

1. Tim Peerbolte moved to accept the minutes from last fall. Angela Wooley seconded. Motion passed.
2. President Tucker brought her report. She is excited about what is going on in our association and the high quality of professional development that ACTAA provides and educating the legislators and administrators about the importance of what we teach.
3. 1st Vice President Helen Strickland brought her report. He thanked all for coming to the wonderful fall conference. She recognized the members of the fall conference committee, Jennifer Akers, Dawn Tucker, Mary Richardson, Tim Peerbolte, Hannah Sawyer, Chris Flowers, Debbie Ashcraft, and Jane Balgavy. She also recognized everyone who brought door prizes and those who worked the registration table. We did have 80 people in attendance this year.

Summer conference will be in Little Rock this year on July 13-15th at UALR Center for Performing Arts. She made a plea for the committee members and chairs to please attend summer meeting. Summer workshop is also free. Vice President Strickland is also looking into hotel accommodations for this meeting. Those who are interested in providing professional development should contact Dawn Tucker.

1. President Tucker added that there are committees that are currently looking for members:
2. Audit
3. Demo Day
4. Recruitment/Mentoring
5. Publicity and Promotions
6. Second Vice President Jannetta Carney made a quick announcement and introduced Cynthia Haas with Poetry Out Loud. Jannetta spoke to her own experience in Poetry Out Loud. Helen’s student from Hall High School won last year.

Jannetta also gave her calendar report. The calendar is now electronic, which is feasible for everyone. It is a Google Calendar. You can go to the website and click the calendar tab to find this calendar. A list of events in a Word document is also available on the website. Tournament, ACTAA functions, and school performances are all on the calendar. Those hosting a tournament next season should meet with Jannetta before spring meeting to put their dates on next year’s calendar.

1. Tim Peerbolte brought his report. He thanked Helen Strickland for putting conference together. He also plugged summer conference. He mentioned that better attendance at summer conference would help keep the meetings at fall conference running on time. He wants people to serve on a committee to put together the 75th fall conference next year at Mount Magazine. This will be the diamond anniversary. In his excitement over this conference, Mr. Peerbolte serenaded us with “Shine bright like a diamond.” He also publicly noted Chris Flowers’s tardiness.
2. Mary Richardson brought the executive secretary report. She has been in this position since mid-July. A lot is going on in Mary’s role and with the growth of our constitution. There are, at this point, around 240 members in our association. Not all are active, but this is an encouraging number. She asked the membership to please update their profiles on our website to help maintain accurate records. Our goal for our strategic plan is to raise our membership to 500. Finally, Mary has been incredibly productive since taking this position, including obtaining an official mailing address for the association. If you change your email address within the website, you must still contact the executive secretary to change your address on the list serve.
3. Jennifer Akers gave the executive treasurer report. She took over this position July 31st. Treasury reports were given to the membership, one until July 31st and one since.
4. Recording Secretary Callie Ham is feverishly taking notes.
5. The always efficient John Gale came to give his report as the college representative. He and his colleagues have discussed their desire to provide professional development to junior high and high school teachers. However, they need to know what kind of professional development is needed. Additionally, they are working to bring more college faculty to this association, possibly by having a college presentation session. He also asked the membership to contact their professors who are not in attendance. In the past, 25-30 percent of the membership has been made up of college faculty. Mr. Gale also sought an editor for our journal.
6. High School Representative, Debbie Ashcraft, brought her report. Yesterday’s high school meeting included reports from demo day, student congress, and thespian festival. Some of the items discussed in the meeting will be voted on in this general business meeting. There was also some discussion in the high school meeting around copyright laws. Ashcraft said we all shined bright like diamonds in the meeting, which prompted Mr. Peerbolte to serenade those in attendance once again.
7. Jane Balgavy is not in attendance to bring her report
8. Hannah Sawyer brought a report as webmaster. This has been the smoothest year in regard to membership renewal and registration for fall conference. She asked that the membership to help her look for errors on the website and to send those to her, and reminded us that posting things on the website does take time, as Ms. Sawyer does teach 150 students each day. Two tournaments are already posted to the website. Other schools need to get this information to the Webmaster as soon as possible. We are doing event registration online now. “Additional Guests” on the Demo Day registration does mean “students.” Lesson plans and online resources are now going online again. Anyone with plans and resources to add should email them to the Webmaster. Additional website ideas should also be sent to the Webmaster. Finally, we do have a Facebook page which is only for users who are 18 and older to prevent our lovely students from accessing this page.
9. Tim Peerbolte has door prizes. He used Random.org to select the winners.
10. Mrs. Akers is very excited to turn over the position of professional development coordinator to Dawn Tucker. We offered 10-12 hours of professional development this summer as well as a number of professional development hours this fall. Mrs. Tucker’s committee will be working with the college member in order to utilize the resources already in this organization. President Tucker did comment on the volume of Time Peerbolte’s voice from the other room.
11. ARCHIVE MOMENT!!! We don’t have one, but will call Sara Cooke to get one.
12. We have no journal editor to report.
13. Mary Richardson has no report as the immediate past president
14. Committee reports began at this time
15. Audit committee will have to do an audit this year since we have a new treasurer. Christie Armbrust did ask for another member for her committee. Colton Gilbert took this position.
16. Scholarship committee chair, Dana McCutcheon added two new members, Wendy Wiggins and Kathy Edminsten. They are working on some changes to the scholarship applications and developing a rubric for the committee to use to decide on the winners. They will be asking that applications be due mid-February this year because of these changes.
17. Jannetta Carney spoke as TOC chair, who deferred to Tim Peerbolte to bring the report who has new rules:
    1. Extemp – electronic devices are allowed in the prep room with internet, but the host school does not have to provide access
    2. Reader’s Theatre – “costumes”
    3. Words and Music –
       1. Maximum of 8 minutes
       2. Continuous cutting from the original published script
       3. Must be published for the stage
       4. Within legal copyright parameters
18. Martene Mourning brought the Student Congress report. This year it will be November 10 – 12. Entries can be emailed to Martene and to Christie Armbrust. Registration and t-shirt orders will be done online. Bills are due September 27th. Confirmation emails will be sent upon receipt of entries and bills. Mourning made a plea for colleges to participate this year. Delegates running for office must be noted on the entry form this year.
19. Demo Day chair, Mandy Taylor, reported that Demo Day will be next Saturday at the Searcy High School Performing Arts Center. Eight schools are currently planning to attend. Rita Johnson has joined this committee.
20. Publicity and Promotions committee – Brandon Higdem reported. If you are hosting a tournament or event, have someone take pictures this year and send them to Brandon. We are also looking at local newspaper contacts that we can reach out to. Also using the photographs that come in for new signage and pamphlets.
21. Recruitment and Mentoring – needs new members. Those interested should see Callie Ham.
22. TAC – Jane Balgavy is not attendance. All tournament directors are members of this committee by default to help those who want to host a tournament or to handle issues that arise at tournaments
23. Professional Standards – Debbie Ashcraft – this committee does two things.

1. Resources to post online

2. Fine Arts Specialist Lana Hallmark has posted a survey for the new national fine arts standards. Please take this survey to aid in the development of these courses.

1. Nominations Committee – Debbie Ashcraft, Pat Treadway, and Melinda Beith have results for 1st Vice President Elect, Elect. The winner is Jennifer Aliquinez. A new Debate Topic Selection representative was also selected this year. The winner was Kim Stanley. We made nominations for the new nominations committee.
2. Pat Treadway gave the Ethical Practices committee report. We were ethical this year with no incidents reported.
3. Debate topic selection – Meeting will be in South Dakota next year.
4. Michelle Moss brought the Arkansas Thespian report. Festival this year will be at UCA in Conway. Over 800 students are expected this year. Dates are January 23-25.
5. Rosie Valdez reported for NFL. We want to incorporate NFL events more into our high school tournaments.
6. John Gale brought the Teacher Assessment committee report. His group reviewed the TESS standards and made recommendation to ADA concerning these standards. These recommendations will be sent to the Webmaster to be posted on the website. Mr. Gale will continue meeting with this group.
7. President Tucker spoke to the new law allowing classes to be embedded. For example, an English class can embed oral communications standards, which will cut oral communications classes. There are also tech schools and charter schools who have banded together to write waivers for their oral communications classes to be covered by giving presentations in their other classes. Angela Wooley asked if the standards that if the English teachers will have to follow the English standards and the communications standards. The answer was yes. Wooley was not pleased with this, with the belief that the oral communications standards will not, in fact, be taught. Chris Flowers gave a report for the Oral Communications committee. This committee will be visible at admin AEAA and AEA meetings this year to promote our position statement as well as going more public with the information we have.
8. Constitutional revisions – we have them and we will vote on them.
9. Old Business
10. Constitutional Revisions – revisions have been sent out more than 30 days prior to today. Claudia moved that we accept the revisions. Tim Peerbolte seconded. A vote was taken. The new revisions were passed.
11. Strategic Plan – we are strategically planning and implementing.
12. TESS – no additional report
13. Scholarship – no new report
14. Debate Topic Selection – can this be hosted in Arkansas? Kim Stanley will be responsible for this. Angie Wooley said that when it was hosted in Arkansas several years ago, they really liked Arkansas and strongly recommended that we try to make that happen.
15. New Business
16. TOC Dress code – Mary Richardson directed us to all refer to the ACTAA Ethical Practices Statement. Dress code and decorum at tournaments have been brought to the attention of the association and will be considered by the Tournament Advisory Committee this year.
17. Publicity and Promotion Committee approached the Executive Council asking that their budget be increased to $2000. They will be resourceful with this money and purchasing new publicity materials to use in the future. Tim Peerbolte serenaded us once again with “Shine bright like a diamond.” A motion was made to increase their budget by Tim Peerbolte. Chris Flowers seconded. Mary Richardson disclosed that conference cost $750 this year. Higdem does not have to spend all of the money he is given, but should be allowed to spend more money on next year’s 75th anniversary conference. A vote was taken. The motion passed.
18. Mary Richardson discussed the new recruitment brochure. The Publicity and Promotions committee will update and revise this for use by the recruitment and mentoring committee.
19. We want to sell lapel pins to raise money for our scholarship fund. Micah Qualls mentioned Demo Day proceeds, which go to the Debate Topic Selection. President Tucker also asked for donations to the scholarship fund.
20. Debbie Ashcraft returned with the members of the new nominating committee:
21. Mandy Taylor
22. Terri Valentine
23. Chris Flowers (chair)
24. Announcements
25. Baylor Debate Clinic is this Wednesday and Thursday – Kim Stanley has information
26. Debbie Ashcraft wanted to thank her nominating committee members
27. Kristen Pitts announced the THEA dance workshop at UALR.
28. President Tucker thanked the Executive Council for their work and time.
29. Motion was made to adjourn. Motion was seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.