**Minutes from 7/15 Summer 14**

President Helen Strickland opened the meeting by asking everyone to clap once.

Karen and Kevin from UALR recognized for their hard work on helping put together this meeting and workshop.

Madam President had our new members in attendance introduce themselves.

Now we move on to business. Jackie Reff presented the professional standard report. They are concerned about the licensure issues for teachers to just pass a test and be able to teach oral communications. The second area of concern is the number of course approvals embedding the oral communications classes into other disciplines . So their committee worked up a statement from ACTAA to present to administrators who might be considering this option. This report was read to the body very beautifully to the body present. Thus Tim making a motion which was seconded by Micha Qualls. Discussion was opened upon the motion. Question was called and the motion was passed Unanimously.

Jennifer Akers was recognized as the pd person who signs you papers. She looks lovely in her BLUE SHIRT.

President Strickland recognized Mary R. Who took care of house cleaning roles. Mary also expressed that she had originally stepped into her role as Exc Director via her role of ex treasure. She announced her intention to roll off the position of Ex Director. She will serve through April 2013. She announced that Callie Hamm will take control of the Ex Director position. It was brought to the attention that Callie Hamm wears A LOT of hats. Well not really, I have never seen her wearing a hat, but she does serve still a part of TAC and TOC. But she will no longer be the recruitment and mentoring committee chair she will be replaced by Mrs. Mandy Taylor. Callie will also no longer serve as the recording secretary, Colton Gilbert will replace her; he was given the laptop to finish recording the minutes after the announcement.

President Strickland recognized Tim Peerbolte and Callie Ham to discuss the TAC/TOC concerns. Concerns include issues about competitive circuit; discuss ideas that have been presented and will be implemented this coming scholastic year. TAC chair, Callie Hamm, recognized Tim Peerbolte to discuss the rules pertaining to Words and Music. It was brought to the body that Words and Music did not follow copyright laws; Peerbolte was the one who brought up the issue. We proposed the rule change last year; said rule change has been found to be within the law. Certain schools were found to not have continuous cuttings from a play; brought to ACTAA’s attention at the Tournament of Champions 2014. Peerbolte just gave Ms. Jennifer Akers a high five then acknowledged her to speak. She stated that the three (3) judges didn’t say anything about the school(s) who may have violated the rule. Ms. Melinda Beith was acknowledged and stated that copyright law was violated and that costs $180,000 per violation. Mr. Ian Galloway was recognized and stated that judges should be able to disqualify/demerit competitors when they see fit. Ms. Patricia Treadway stated that we are setting a bad precedent if we allow them to continue to bend the rules. Treadway argues that the breaking of a law supersedes the discrepancy with the ballot. Ms. Micah Qualls stated that she doesn’t think the rules should be changed because it levels the playing field from small schools. Hannah Sawyer stated that as long as you have legally obtained a copy of the script or music you do not have to pay MTI for usage in Words and Music. Eric Gamble proposed that each Words and Music entry should be required to submit paperwork stating that they have permission to use the material. Jennifer Akers stated that if it is a continuous cutting then the teacher has been covered; she also stated that if it has not been released for production then it cannot be used for Words and Music. Ms. Callie Hamm stated that this rule change has improved the quality of the performances. Ms. Micah Qualls stated that a song can be used for free as long as it is under twenty (20) seconds. The general body agreed that the rules, currently written, as sufficient; it was also agreed upon that the tournament director has the responsibility to make sure the pieces have been released for usage. Jennifer Akers moved that the Ms. Callie Hamm rewrite the rule and Ms. Mandy Taylor seconded it.

Ms. Callie Ham moved the conversation on to JV Debate and entertained Mr. Chris Flowers to discuss the implementation of a JV division. He states that this could help students who are decent novices and have their spirits crushed. He states that this could help us better assign judge commitments. There would need to a classification/clarification of what constitutes JV Debate. This discussion was concluded at 1:20. Ms. Helen Strickland gave some closing remarks about the importance of professionalism and speedy decision making so that we have something to vote on in the Fall.

**4:30-5:30 TAC/TOC Open Discussion**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Callie Ham at 4:26. Ms. Jennifer Akers was acknowledged to speak about ACTAA IEs and group events. She stated that there is nothing on the W&M ballot that there isn’t something about the performance being an original work/script. Ms. Jennifer Aliquinez and Callie Ham stated that the ability to do original work could distract from the heart of the activity. Mr. Brandon Higdem stated that it would work if we had original works based off of literary content. Mr. Ian Galloway stated that Reader’s Theatre is more stylistic and interpretive than W&M. Ms. Debbie Ashcraft enjoys the creativity of a fresh storyline and she doesn’t think that creativity should suffer or be ignored. The body is in agreement that the ballot be changed to reflect the status quo.

Ms. Melinda Beith stated that children are finding monologue pieces and using them in Prose. Beith defines Prose as, “something that involves a narrator and multiple characters in a script.” Children should not be allowed to use Solo pieces in Prose. Mr. Ian Galloway thinks that the rules are written that allow this crossover. Mr. Colton Gilbert read the rules from the Prose ballot from the ACTAA website. Ms. Debbie Ashcraft believes that requiring Prose to have multiple characters would penalize children who use Prose with works of non-fiction. Mr. Eric Gamble agrees with Ms. Ashcraft; Prose monologues should be allowed. Mr. Ian Galloway stated that sometimes movie scripts are used for Duet and Solo Acting. Some people in the meeting feel that the usage of movie scripts should not be allowed. Ms. Hannah Sawyer says that HI/DI is the only IE that states it must be from a play. Ms. Jennifer Akers thinks that the focus should be on acting skills and not the script they choose. Mr. Ian Galloway asks the body if Duet should be required to come from a play. There is some dissention that the same rules should apply to Solo and Duet Acting. Ms. Debbie Ashcraft articulates that the children should carry their original cuttings with them at tournaments if there is a discrepancy with their piece. Ms. Terri Valentine states that we focus too much on the props, costumes, etc. in W&M instead of the actual singing and acting qualities. Ms. Callie Ham states that we should input on the ballot for W&M that costumes, props, etc. should be evaluated but not a deal breaker for teams with/without them. Mr. Ian Galloway stated that we need to incorporate on the ballot that original works should only be used; they shouldn’t mimic what they see on YouTube. Ms. Valentine articulates that we should require Classical Poetry and that would alleviate this problem. Mr. Ian Galloway constantly does spirit-fingers while talking about Poetry.

Ms. Jennifer Akers talks about splitting HI/DI. She stated that it would help if we mirrored our events on NFL. If we are taking kids to nationals then they need to use those same rules within the state at ACTAA sanctioned tournaments. Possible NFL transitions include Extemp (split into US and International), Oratory (@ NFL it has to be memorized; make it optional on our ballot; also put that movement is optional), and splitting HI/DI (two separate categories). The body seems to be in agreement on these rules. Mr. Tim Peerbolte states that we are the only state that gives the topics out; nationals sends out categories. The body is in agreement that we should NOT give them the information prior to the tournament. Akers suggested that Colton Gilbert send out the subject areas to the tournament directors each month at when the topics are received. Movie scripts are allowed in NFL events. The body was in agreement that movement should be allowed; on the ballot it should state that movement/book are optional. Duo Interp can be offered as an NFL event or an ACTAA event (it would be up to the tournament directors discretion). Ms. Callie Ham turned the floor over to President Strickland to make some announcements. President Strickland dismissed us once the announcements were over. 5:28

**6:30-8 Whole Hog Café Dinner Meeting**

Ms. Callie Ham called the meeting to order at 6:21 while I was stuffing my face; she called on Ms. Rosie Valdez to discuss tournament structure. Ms. Valdez proposed that we offer preliminary rounds of IEs similar to what we do in debate; this would require us to start IEs on Friday night. This would allow the students to have more opportunities to participate at tournaments and qualify for state; this levels the playing field substantially. Ms. Christy Ambrust brought up the concern that this would exclude middle school/junior high students from participating. Ms. Valdez stated that this would not affect how we qualify students for the TOC. Mr. Tim Peerbolte stated that this would be the perfect way to expand our IE competitors. Ms. Hannah Sawyer asked how this would affect the group events; Ms. Valdez answers this by telling her that group events could be done on Saturday. There was some concern that some schools only comes to tournaments only on Saturday. There was also some concern about judge commitments; IE rounds could be flighted to keep up with the demand. Ms. Rosie Valdez will publish a sample schedule to show the skeptics how the schedule would work at a tournament. The committee is making this as a recommendation and a few tournaments will try it this year as a test run. Ms. Hannah Sawyer requested that Ms. Valdez be given time at Fall Conference during the High School Meetings. The group is in agreement that this has support if it doesn’t affect TOC qualifications.

Ms. Valdez has also brought to our attention that there is no enforcement of standardization of sweepstakes calculations. Ms. Valdez is suggesting that we do a squad efficiency sweepstakes. She articulates that this levels the playing field because teams are no longer awarded trophies based on participation points as the current policy requires. NFL uses squad efficiency to calculate sweeps. It seems that everyone is on board for this.

Ms. Callie Ham brought up the issue about judges and judges issues. Ethics committee recommended that we should put on our website a code of conduct for judges. Each squad would be required to read this and sign a waiver stating that they understand what they read. This would shield coaches from being reprimanded by their principles. Someone will produce this and provide a copy at Fall Conference. This allows the Tournament Director and TAC will work in conjunction when problems arise. This would also need to be included in the tournament invitations when they are published and sent out. Mr. Eric Gamble suggested that the same people judge semis and finals of CX at most tournaments. Mr. Sean Peterson suggested that we have an alumni committee. Ms. Mary Richardson stated that we can input them into the system as student members. Mr. Peterson also suggested that we provide a “How-To” video on how to judge the different forms of debate. Ms. Hannah Sawyer has suggested we keep judges abreast with the changes that we make in event rules from year-to-year. Ms. Callie Ham suggested that we start a blog to discuss what should be on the judge waiver form. These will be voted on at Fall Conference. TOC could prevent TOC qualifications if a TD doesn’t enforce the waiver form system.

Ms. Callie Ham stated that IPDA ballots were not universal. We should try to make them the same across the board for IPDA, CX, PF, and LD. Ms. Ham stated that TAC would agree on ballots as a whole. Mr. Peterson stated that we need more structure for the IPDA circuit. The group is in agreement that we need to keep electronics out of the rounds.

Mr. Eric Gamble was recognized to speak from the discussion leader Ms. Callie Ham. Mr. Gamble stated that Debate/Forensics pulled him out of the slums and Food Stamps. As he looked at the ACTAA numbers he noticed a huge discrepancy in big schools vs. small schools. Small schools do not make it to finals/semis at the rate that they should. This means that small schools don’t have as many opportunities as the large schools. Mr. Gamble is advocating different divisions for the state championships. It could be set up by divisions: 1A-3A, 4A/5A, and 6A/7A. He states that this would not conflict with TOC. Mr. Gamble thinks it could be managed like Texas using the districts Quiz Bowl Teams. Each district gives two winners in each event and would go to compete against everyone else. Mr. Gamble has stated that this happens in nine (9) other states and they have measures to counteract this. He is speaking very modestly in his bright yellow shirt. Ms. Mary Richardson competed in the “State Festival” in ’76; she gave us a short history lesson about the TOC and its inception in 2004 in Searcy, AR. Peerbolte thinks that we are supplying a demand that isn’t needed. Mr. Gamble stated that the “districts tournament” would not need to give out trophies. Mr. Brandon Higdem stated that we need more time at Fall Conference to speak at the High School Meetings. Ms. Callie Ham concludes that we need to let this marinate for a year so we can find ways to implement these changes. President Strickland quickly ended the meeting with announcements about Fall Conference and dismissed at 7:54 pm. We HAD to be out of our designated area in Whole Hog Café by 8 pm.

**Minutes from 7/16**

**9-10 Committee Chairs Report to Entire Body**

Meeting was called to order by President Strickland at 8:59; she began the meeting by showing the body the ACTAA website and the new blog that Ms. Hannah Sawyer, our Webmaster, has added to the website. Madam President requested that the Committee Chairs not take too long with their reports to the General Body.

Ms. Rosie Valdez was recognized to speak about NFL. She stated that the NFL Committee is Flowers, Akers, Gamble, and Valdez. She made it known that we have been trying to include NFL style rules in our competitions. The Committee is happy to help ACTAA understand the differences and share experiences with the national tournament. The NFL District Tournament will be Feb 27-28 at Searcy HS. Ms. Mandy Taylor was so gracious to let us use her facilities; it will be run simultaneously as the Searcy HS Tournament. Member schools are looking to incorporate NFL events at their tournament. There will be a sign up at Fall Conference for when the Committee needs to meet. Travelers to this year’s nationals included Central High, Bentonville High, Cabot, and Episcopal Collegiate. The Committee ate at Zenzetti’s and went to the theme park Worlds of Fun.

Madam President stressed that the body get familiar with the Constitution of ACTAA. We have until August 4th to make corrections to the constitution and they will be voted on in September. Ms. Christy Ambrust was recognized to discuss the Audit Committee. As a committee they created a vision of what their mandate is as the Audit Committee. They report to the Executive Council and perform audits of the Treasurer at the Summer Conference. Audit took about thirty minutes and the only thing that was noticed was she didn’t have a couple records of refunds. We need to do a better job of forwarding the emails to Jennifer. She then shifted her focus to Student Congress. She stated that entries and bills will be due Sept. 26th. Committee will meet Oct 5th to put the bill book together; we hope to publish this on Oct 7th. They will be proposing three amendments to our bylaws.

 1. Pages may only pass communication originating from a delegate

 2. Student research should take place prior to competition

-No electronic devices allowed in chambers, committee, or floor debate. Report to coach for disciplinary action.

 3. Pages may not take part in delegation process

Ms. Mary Richardson made a quick announcement to go grab donuts. Reports should be sent to Mary Richardson so she can archive them. Chris Flowers was recognized to speak for the Nominations committee. Dana Mcctuchecn and Ian Galloway for 2nd vice president. Melinda Beith and Jacki will be running for 1st VP. They need info from the candidates to get said information to the membership. Nominees for teacher and administrator of the year are still in the process of being evaluated; taking applications until Monday as well. July 21st is when bios of nominees are due and be voted on in Fall conference. Ms. Hannah Sawyer said that we did electronic voting last year. Vote must take place by August 4th.

Madam President recognized Rosie Valdez to speak on behalf of Peerbolte; she states they are doing a great job. April 11-12 will be the weekend and it WILL be in Central AR they are shooting to have it at LR Central.

Madam President stated that we need to frequent the ACTAA site on Facebook. Ms. Sawyer stated that we should focus more attention to the blogs. Madam President then recognized the Scholarship Committee; Liz Davis is the new chairperson. She is making an informational flier to be given out at Fall Conference. 3 scholarships: student, college, and teacher. Rosie Valdez and other recipients are posted on the website. They ask that coaches take a few minutes and proof read some students’ applications. She requested that we keep Jennifer and her brother in our prayers; he is going through surgery this morning. We had 7-8 applications for the HS scholarship. We must remind our students there is an essay that accompanies this. Ms. Hannah Sawyer is doubling as Dawn Tucker to sign all PD forms for the day.

Micah Qualls was recognized as the Demo Day Committee Chair. She inadvertently stole Salazar’s prescription sunglasses. Micah is ecstatic to be the Chair this year. Demo Day will be at Maumelle HS the week after Fall Conference, Sept 13th. This is a great time to have your students come watch instead of just listening/learning. Reviewed best practices and will keep the same schedule; 9:30-2:30 with a lunch break. They have secured all of the adult presenters and past champions to show off their pieces. We will have a pull out for debate, StuCo, Mock Trial. Everyone on the Committee has duties; they got help this year! They are actively seeking that new people join the committee; Ms. Melinda Beith stated that it is a safe committee to join and get your feet wet. They ask that coaches be more motivated to bring their students to Demo Day. The cost of Demo Day is $10 per person; money used from this to send people to topic selection.

Mr. Brandon was recognized to speak on behalf of Peerbolte to discuss Fall Conference 2014 and Publicity/Promotions. Brandon wants consistency on publicity. The committee has worked towards developing a logo for the 75th anniversary. There is a post card that goes out telling people about ACTAA and what we do. They want a more public persona of ACTAA. Brandon needs us to get on email and email him their personal cities contacts for publications. This is something he is doing to get us more publicity. They just ordered vinyl banners that include the logo and can be reused at other Fall Conferences. The theme of gifts will include diamonds. He is still attempting to secure keynote speakers for the conference. Proceeds of t-shirt go to the scholarships; body agrees that shirts should be black and not powder blue.

Recruitment and Mentoring Committee chair Mandy Taylor was recognized. She is in need of committee members; 3 more should be ok. This committee needs to have about 11 members. State has been divided into regions and these co-ops were organized. Members were assigned to co-ops; members create a list of schools within their co-op. It will be shared via Google Docs and color coded by region. August 14-20 is the dates info will be shared with Committee members. Working on a master spreadsheet; 22-29 will be used to complete. Committee members would contact their co-op to develop PD for their region. Goal is to contact principles of committee members to let them know how great members are doing. Created their goals for the committee and worked on the spreadsheet during their committee meetings.

Professional Standards/Oral Comm Committees spoken on by Jacki Reiff. One area that may affect job is AIMS replacing PATHWISE. Hours will be done online; documented through the activities only. Upload evidence for the domain standards. People have been working on the Fine Arts Frameworks. State committee will implement standards by Fall of 2015. We are urged as ACTAA members that we voice concerns early and not after the fact. Committee wants to collect syllabi from course offerings. Goal is to match specific lesson plans and activities with Framework domains. We need to be more proactive and add strong wording to the Oral Comm position statement. Planning to contact members about the new position and communicate with education higher-ups. Squo opens door for successful education to be lost because we are diluted programs and teacher requirements. Entertained a lengthy discussion about Oral Comm positions being integrated into other classes. They want to research a list of new, approved courses being done through waiver. End product could be that we need to create and develop and EOC test for Oral Communication. This will help counterbalance job integration. Two Committees worked together because their issues overlapped and it made since to meet jointly. ADE meeting will be August 10th 8 am and august 15th at 10 am. High school deadline is February 20, 2014, college and teacher is April 24, 2014.

Ms. Callie Ham was recognized again to speak about TAC. We will make decisions to present to TOC to present at Fall Conference. Ballot changes will be recommended to TOC Committee. Qualifying Tournament Consistency issues, judging issues (waiver), other things were discussed that will be at TD’s discretion. Ms. Sawyer pleaded that we spend more time on the blogs and not lose the dialogue we started thus far.

Ms. Pat Treadway was acknowledged to represent the Ethical Practices Committee. Ms. Treadway is so bubbly and bright today. They have issues coming before them have not come up before in the past. The committee felt that we had informal complaints in: 1) expressions of social media complaining, 2) confidentiality breaches in committees and Exec Council, 3) suggestions that committee create negative sanctioning for ACTAA members, and 4) personally aware of violations but didn’t have conveyed by a particular member. They want members to not vent to social media or the list serve. When a member is disturbed please do so in a positive way and if it is negative do not be in earshot of others. Griping on Facebook violates item 6 of Ethical Practices. Mr. Ian Galloway will go fact-finding to determine if students are subjected to things they should not be subjected to. Students were being subjected to profanity by judges; judges left rooms during round, and didn’t have respect to the activity as a whole. Suggest that TAC Committee hold the coach who brought the guest judge responsible. ACTAA will hold the TD personally responsible. Treadway told an awesome story about a Parkview Tournament (Go Patriots!). Develop a list of best practices for judges, to be developed by TAC, which will be signed before every tournament. See report of Committee for specific details.

Madam President addressed the body and thanked us for our loyalty to the Association. Ms. Debbie Ashcraft was recognized. She stated that if a school has a forensics handbook, send it to Hannah so she can post examples on the website. If you are hosting a tournament please help attendees by posting entry forms 2-3 months ahead of time; it would be ideal to have them done by September. Madam President also stated that if you have ideas for next year’s Summer Meeting. We were dismissed for a PD session at 10:34.

**Executive Council Minutes 7/15**

Madam President stated that if we have any suggestions to make things better we should come to her with them. Brandon had a pressing question about video taping PD. Hannah Sawyer stated that people CANNOT get credit for watching PD online. Anyone who put themselves on camera has to sign a waiver granting ACTAA to use their likeness. Ms. Hannah Sawyer created the YouTube channel so that we can upload videos that can be used. Sample videos would be under Callie and TAC. Brandon and Dawn need to look at the logistics of how this would work.

Ms. Hannah Sawyer stated that we could follow up with Sean about practicality of an alumni committee. They could work at TOC to enroll seniors through member management. This would require a different classification of alumni. The purpose is to obtain a database that would allow us to work on retention of members. She brought up the idea of doing a drawing for prizes; every time they judge would put their name in. If they need hours ACTAA can document their hours and time spent judging at tournaments. Ms. Mary Richardson stated that anyone should be able to come off the street and watch it. They should be able to understand it with sound logic and make a sound conclusion based on what they saw. Ms. Richardson is skeptical about what it means to be a “qualified judge.”

The administrator’s meeting is August 4-5. Someone is going to have to take this on but Mary Richardson is not going to be able to make it there. We still need to apply and do that now. We need to say no we aren’t doing it if someone in this room needs to pick up the slack. Mary Richardson had bottles of water with ACTAA labels at this convention in the past. The application is online and should be filled out soon. Callie Ham is the one who may need to orchestrate it; Hannah Sawyer will talk with Callie. Hannah MAY be able to go on the 5th but not the 4th. Brandon will have the brochures, Mary will print out the Oral Comm statement, and Hannah will follow up with Callie. Hannah will follow up with the Executive Council via email once she has an update for us. Executive Council meeting will be Thursday of Fall Conference before and Sunday after Fall Conference. Melinda Beith may get the agenda and modify it from Ashcraft.

Ms. Hannah Sawyer suggested that we add no adult be alone in a room with a student on to the judge waiver form. Ms. Hannah Sawyer will post the minutes to the website once I email them to Mary Richardson. In our current duties the Executive Director was responsible for the member management website. We need to turn that over to the Webmaster. Sawyer articulates that this would free up Callie to perform her other duties better. Our ListServe account has a 250-person cap and it would cost more money to increase capacity. Mary has told Hannah that she may need to double check to make sure new members are added to the ListServe. Mary will send out the new letterhead with Colton and Callie’s new Executive Council jobs. Madam President dismissed us at 12:55.