

National High School Mock Trial Championship, Inc.

State Coordinators' Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.

Sheraton Hotel, Room 212

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

State Coordinators Present

Heidi Brooks, Alabama
Michael D. White, Alaska
Susan Nusall, Arizona
Rando Hicks, Arkansas
Caren Klaver, CNMI
Carolyn Ferber, Colorado
Francis P. Jones, Delaware
Stacy Rieke, Georgia
Tanya Shiroma, Guam
Raydeen Graffam, Hawaii
Gregory C. Dickison for Beck Jansen, Idaho
Kelli M. Smith for Dana Schechter, Illinois
Susan Roberts, Indiana
John Wheeler, Iowa
Althea Hicks and Billy Stover, Kentucky
Bob Noel, Louisiana
Seth Boyd, Massachusetts
Emily Reilly, Minnesota
Ginger Blanchard, Mississippi
Ted Eckelkamp, Missouri
Doris Huffman, Nebraska
Marcia Stribling, Nevada
Michelle Giger, New Mexico
Mike Sammons, Ohio
Judy A. Spencer, Oklahoma
Jane Meyer for William Higgins, Pennsylvania
Cynthia Cothran, South Carolina
Daniel Meadors, South Korea
Judy Yarbro, Texas
Steve Retz for Janelle Nesbit, Washington
Dee Runaas, Wisconsin
Ian Shaw, Wyoming

I. Call to Order (Mr. Wheeler, Iowa)

The State Coordinators' meeting was called to order by Mr. Wheeler at 2:40 p.m. Renee Hildebrant welcomed everyone on behalf of Oklahoma and provided a short Host

Report as well as the announcement of orientation for the competition to be held at 4:30 p.m. later that same day.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Miller, Board Secretary, announced that no minutes were taken at the last State Coordinators' meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report (Mr. White, Alaska)

Mr. White announced the current assets of NHSMTTC, Inc. total \$60,601.17 with no outstanding debts. \$35,000 of the funds are in CDs that mature at different times and \$25,000 currently in a money market bank account.

IV. Archivist's Report (Ms. Runaas, Wisconsin)

Ms. Runaas reported that she has been scanning every document generated since 1989 and the process is 75% complete in PD format. She invited all coordinators to send her articles about mock trial participation for inclusion in the records of NHSMTTC, Inc., especially stories which focus on human interest topics.

At this time Ms. Giger of New Mexico suggested that everyone introduce himself or herself since there are a number of new coordinators attending this year, as indicated by the said coordinators present at the beginning of these meeting Minutes.

V. Host Committee Reports

A. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – 2006 (Ms. Hildebrant)

Ms. Hildebrant announced that this year's competition will include 44 teams, including three from Oklahoma due to unforeseen circumstances. Most of the questions received leading up to the competition were about the rules. She reported that the numbers for judges, for each round, appeared to be okay, although they have experienced the usual last minute cancellations which for the most part cannot be avoided. She indicated that security at the courthouse would not be an issue and that the metal detectors were not going to be in operation to facilitate easy and efficient entry into the building.

An incredible 1100 tickets have been sold for the Saturday night awards banquet. She strongly suggested that the Board adopt a uniform evaluation form for comments from State Coordinators to use after each national competition to assist future host sites in avoiding the repeat of any potential problem areas that need to be addressed to further improve the efficiency of the running of the national competitions.

B. Dallas, Texas – 2007 (Ms. Yarbrow)

Ms. Yarbrow reported pledges of \$165,000 with the rest of the money to be raised from individuals. The first round for each day of the competition on Friday and Saturday will be scheduled for 8:30 a.m. and the second round each day for Friday and Saturday will be scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Yarbrow reminded everyone that the student timekeeper orientation is mandatory and that states who missed the mandatory timekeeping orientation meeting on Thursday afternoon, if due to unexpected circumstances such as travel delay, will be required to attend an emergency timekeeping orientation session on Friday morning, prior to the beginning of the first round.

The student event on Friday night will be hosted at Mesquite Championship rodeo with buses providing transportation from the host hotel to the event. The location for the Thursday night pin exchange has still not been finalized, but the Saturday night awards dinner and dance will be at the host hotel, Hyatt Regency with a premier rock 'n roll band composed of attorneys and members of the Dallas Bar Association providing the entertainment.

C. Wilmington, Delaware – 2008 (Mr. Jones)

Mr. Jones presented his concise one-page 2008 Host Committee report. He began by stating that he had, at first, been worried about having enough volunteer judges but is now certain there will be plenty of judges to provide three (3) scoring judges and a presiding judge for each of the four preliminary rounds. He reported pledges totaling \$110,000 and that only the student pin exchange event has not been finalized. The first draft of the national case will be presented to the Case Materials Committee at the fall 2006 meeting of the Board in Dallas, Texas.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Site Selection Committee (Mr. Wheeler, Iowa)

Mr. Wheeler announced that Atlanta, Georgia has been granted the host bid for the year 2009. Ms. Stacy Rieke will serve as the designated Board representative. She announced that the Friday night student event will be at the new aquarium. She also invited everyone to consider hosting this event and offered all resources including a planning model available from the Board.

B. Articles and Bylaws Committee (Ms. Meyer, Pennsylvania)

Ms. Meyer announced that the Policy Committee will meet before the fall meeting of the Board to discuss the meaning of "membership" as included in the Bylaws of NHSMTC, Inc. This topic needs addressing in light of the new international aspect of mock trial and the inclusion of Korea and the possibility of additional countries in the near future.

C. Rules Committee (Mr. Miller, Texas)

Mr. Miller announced that the Committee was considering a revision to Rule 702 regarding a timekeeper issue and orientation for timekeepers.

D. Policy Committee (Mr. Noel, Louisiana)

Mr. Noel announced that 26 states voted not to adjust our current schedule based on the accommodation issue, including an email communication to all State Coordinators that was sent out following the decision made by the State Coordinators at last year's meeting. For the present time the competition will continue to take place on Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day weekend each year. Mr. Noel also announced that at the present time there will be no web links to any commercial sites and that his committee will be looking into the definition of membership as mentioned earlier by ms. Meyer.

E. Awards Committee (Mr. Miller, Texas)

Mr. Miller announced the Committee this year decided to award two winners of the Golden Gavel Award for the year 2006. This year's awardees are the late Marc Westbrook, Judge from South Carolina, and Ms. Kathleen Vick-Martini from Wisconsin. Mr. Miller reminded the state coordinators that the deadline for nominations for the Golden Gavel Award for the year 2007 is March 15, 2007.

F. Long Range Planning Committee (Ms. Yarbrow, Texas)

Ms. Yarbrow announced that her Committee will concentrate on grant writing for the purpose of increasing the financial ability of NHSMTTC, Inc. to host future events and possibly to include in the future the hiring of an Executive Director for the organization.

VII. Old Business

A. Information System Issues (Mr. Bakko, Wisconsin)

Mr. Bakko announced that he will send each State Coordinator a login name and a password to access the case library. He announced that usually this will be the email address of the respective State Coordinator. He also announced that he will provide a link to each State Coordinator's organizational website on NHSMTTC, Inc.'s website.

B. Case Library Issues (Mr. Jones, Delaware)

Mr. Jones announced that NHSMTTC, Inc. has been receiving 15 to 20 cases per year and currently has approximately 180 cases in its library. He announced the

cases received during the past year will be online by June 1, 2006. He further announced that each Coordinator will have direct access to the case library by the use of a password and will be allowed to access 10 cases per year. Any additional requests should be directed to Mr. Bakko. He also asked that any Coordinator who uses a case from the case library give recognition to the original author/organization if a case is used from the library.

C. New Jersey/North Carolina Update (Mr. Wheeler, Iowa)

i. Communications to Date

Mr. Wheeler responded to all inquiries about clarification from respective State organizations concerning this issue. He announced the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers decided not to send a representative from the State of North Carolina to this year's national event. New Jersey is the only other state to withdraw from NHSMTC, Inc.

ii. American Mock Trial Invitational

Mr. Wheeler announced the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers and the New Jersey Bar Foundation started the American Mock Trial Competition this year to take place on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the week beginning May 15, 2006. At the present time there are 10 teams competing in the inaugural competition. He announced the NHSMTC, Inc. Board would express no opinion about this competition.

VIII. New Business

A. Election Issues (Mr. Wheeler, Iowa)

i. Term Limit Proposal.

Ms. Giger of New Mexico expressed an interest the Board consider term limits for members and Ms. Huffman expressed a desire to make sure there is a balance of attorneys versus non-attorneys on the Board. Ms. Susan Nusall of Arizona made a motion for the Board to consider term limits and the balance of state coordinators versus non-coordinators and Ms. Giger seconded the motion which carried without opposition. Ms. Runaas encouraged everyone present to consider running for the Board but also mentioned there is a considerable cost and commitment to serving on the Board.

ii. Election Committee (Mr. Wheeler, Iowa)

Mr. Wheeler announced there were four nominations for current vacancies on the Board. Those nominated are Justice George

Carley, Cindy Coker, Steve Miller, and John Wheeler. There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were ultimately closed. Ballots were distributed and the Board members elected were announced later.

iii. Candidate “Stump Speeches” and Q&A with Coordinators

The four nominees for Board positions were each given a brief opportunity to state to the coordinators present why each would be honored to be nominated to serve on the Board.

iv. Election of Board Members

The ballots having been tabulated, it was announced that Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Miller were re-elected to 3-year terms on the Board and Justice Carley was elected to the 1-year term on the board, which is the remainder of the position vacated with the resignation of Andy McVey.

B. Involvement in NHSMTC, Inc. Committees by Non-Board Members

Ann Marie Wallen commented there is an appearance that membership on the NHSMTC, Inc. Board is an impenetrable group and she has volunteered to serve on committees in the past. Ms. Rieke suggested all committee lists be posted on the NHSMTC, Inc. website. Mr. Wheeler promised the list would be posted and kept current. It was the general consensus of the State Coordinators that everyone wants more non-Board membership on the committees.

Mr. Wheeler announced we need volunteers to put together Mock Trial Matters, our newsletter. Ms. Ferber encouraged more involvement from State Coordinators on committees as well as on the Board.

Ms. Graffam of Hawaii had a question about who is a member organization of NHSMTC, Inc. Mr. Wheeler pointed out the Board would be discussing this issue after getting suggestions from the Policy Committee. Ms. Walden suggested that State Coordinator is an evolving term since many state coordinators were more than one hat with regard to legal education related activities in the respective states.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the State Coordinators, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Stephen H. Miller, NHSMTC, Inc. Secretary

John Wheeler, Chair