

Destination Imagination Spring Teleconference Meeting -3/30/2009 7:00 PM

Attendees: Heather Geiger, Barbie Potter, Anne Castren, Laura Jo McKamey, Kim McIntyre, Linda Troyer, Connie Ackerman, Sandy Palokovich, Stuart Kirkpatrick, Ernie Chang

Approval for minutes from August meeting: moved, seconded, approved. None opposed.

Treasurers Report:

Statement: 3/3/2009 (does not include state expenses that will be subtracted)

Checking Account: \$13,571.38

Petty Cash Account: \$130.48

SubTotal: \$13,701.86

Money Market Account \$8435.70 (includes \$435.70, from interest)

Total: \$22,137.56

Regional Directors Report:

Regional Directors summaries have all been sent out. Please read them.

Anne' report: they had 4 teams this year. Kalispell is the only active group. One team decided not to go on to state. The 4 teams competed at the regional level, but only one had competition at state. What is needed for growth in this region.

Big Fork: there isn't anyone committed to keeping the program going. We need to find someone with a passion for it. Heather will work with Anne and Anne's replacement to come up with a plan.

Membership

Membership and team count: everyone received a copy of this report.

The mailing and follow-up mailing sent by Headquarters was too late for any impact. There were 18 people who replied back to get the instant challenge packet. All the people received an invitation to attend the state tournament. Most of the interested people were from the eastern section.

We need to work on something to hit the really little schools, ie those with 15 or less students. They don't have the capabilities to do too many other activities so this is a good opportunity.

The Great Falls public schools are very interested. The superintendent wants to run it through the schools.

We need to get the Kick Off kits, maybe with less supplies if they are smaller schools to more people earlier. Heather has kits left, so she will get some to Great Falls.

Heather's Report:

Goals of Heather:

Getting more teams involved

Getting some regional directors so she can focus on main role rather than trying to fill three roles Target some alumni who are finished with college to be a regional directors.

Travel: Heather went to the southeast, training at Reed Point and Laurel. The newer people need to get started earlier. Get organized earlier with team managers in place by December.

It was suggested that even if the teams aren't completely ready, they should participate in the tournament with whatever they are ready for. The important thing is to encourage them to get to the tournament. It gives them ideas on how to keep it going and really learn what they need to do.

Heather did go to Darby tournament. They did an instant challenge workshop after the tournament. Heather met with 7 other schools in the greater Gallatin area. She talked to them about awareness and brainstormed on how we could get them involved again.

Kim did an awareness booth at the PTA meeting. Fifteen people signed an interest sheet, asking for more information – this is how we got Lincoln school. Some were from Great Falls. Heather will contact them all again. Instant challenge packets will be sent.

Small Instant Challenge kits in pencil cases. These will be sent to interested schools. The mailing will be greater cost than in the past, but we have the money. Over the summer Heather will be working on this.

Regional Tournaments:

Update is available in the reports on-line. The only outstanding issue we need to discuss is the Darby/Kalispell region. We need to find something that is more centrally located for Darby and Kalispell. Missoula would be a possibility. Frenchtown might be a better option, since they are already active.

Memorial:

First director in the state, Elaine Kohler (chairperson for scholarship program) passed away this year. A gift certificate to a Missoula nursery will be sent to her husband so he can plant a tree or bush in her name.

Appraiser Training:

Virtual appraiser training went well. It was suggested that we try to have each challenge at a different time so the RDs could participate in all of them.

It was also suggested that all the ACMs continue training with follow up e-mails to all appraisers in the state when clarifications are made or procedures are updated. It was also suggested that appraisal teams be encouraged to discuss solutions after they have scored so as to make sure everyone saw everything and also determine if they might want to nominate the team for a special award. All appraisers need to feel that their input is respected and important. It was felt that when there are subjective items to judge, it is useful to have appraiser discussion. Mistakes can be made by the appraisers when there is no discussion allowed. All volunteers need to feel that their time was used wisely and effectively. Additional team building before the state tournament might be useful.

Friday night appraiser meetings do not seem to work for people from out-of-town. It might work better to have it on Saturday morning. This might make the tournament run later on Saturday. This would work as long as the number of teams is small. This will be discussed at the fall meeting.

On-line Registration:

Some glitches in the technology, but these were remedied.
It worked great for most people.

Christmas Cards:

People seemed to like these.
We got some people to register as appraiser from the Christmas card.
We should think about an e-mail card also.

State Tournament:

- It went well.
- Many good comments from the lunchroom.
- Frustration about the down time between end of challenges and the beginning of awards. This was about 1 hour. We should think about what kind of activities we can do to keep the kids entertained.
 - Decorate your “team manager”
 - Bring duct tape for entertainment, create duct tape animal
 - Karaoke time, magician, jump rope performance
 - Training time, mini workshop – Mime, pvc etc
- Discuss on-site scoring – laptop and printer at all sights at fall meeting.
 - Maximum 5 printers and laptops

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed.