

3-24-2000 Montana Creativity Quest Meeting Minutes

Present:

Heather Geiger – State Director
Heide Arneson – State Secretary
Janet Zimmerman – State Treasurer
Louise Rhode, Martha Kolberg, Kathleen Dent – Southwest Region
Roy Mears – Central Region Member At Large
Stacy Jovick – South Central Region
Karen Davidson, Becky Weber – Southeast Region
Mary Brady – Northeast Region
Laura Jo McKamey – North Central Region
Ann Castren – Northwest Region

It was established that a quorum was present.

Members were not sure if they had received or read the minutes from the last meeting. Mary Brady moved that we vote via email no later than April 15 to accept the fall meeting minutes. Martha Kolberg seconded, passed unanimously.

Regional Director Reports:

Northwest Regional Report – Ann Castren gave her tournament summary. A problem was teams not sending judges and the new score room. 15 teams competed. She suggested a possible rebate for teams sending judges or that the teams not be permitted to compete.

Southwest Regional Report – Kathleen Dent reported that 18 teams competed. They had lots of fun. There were enough judges, though she would have liked to have more. There were scoring glitches, so the scores were phoned to Heather Geiger. Heather ran the scores and faxed them back. The Destination Imagination problems seem to require more judges. Also videos might have helped for judges training. There were questions on how to deal with “violations.” The feedback on problems indicated that they were more kid-oriented. (more fees??)

South Central Regional - Stacy Jovick had 45 teams competing plus one primary team. There were 22 memberships, 70-80 judges, and 10-20 officials. The region really needs a judge coordinator to handle the staffing.

There was a team manager workshop that 18 team managers attended, plus another 4-5 team manager training books were sold.

There was a Meet the Judge, where teams and their managers could see the site and have some fun. An Instant Challenge class was held for the team members and there was instruction in Improv.

There was a Judges Training for 60 people (10-20 didn't show up.)

It was a great tournament. There was a game room with a TV/VCR, a parade of teams by school, passports were liked by all, Checker Table (Checker Table staff need to be trained.) Stacy used a lot of email to contact people. This is her last year. It is a job that needs to be shared, especially needing coordinators for judges and memberships. The region almost needs to be run by a board, or use members in training.

Northeast Region – Mary Brady, 2 memberships with 5 teams, so it was combined with North Central Region for competition.

North Central Region – Laura Jo had 25 teams, 22 teams competed. She held a coaches training. Email was a problem, she didn't always hear back, sometimes for 2-3 weeks. It was hard sometimes to get access to a computer.

The region lost a major supporter of the program to cancer. A plaque and a plant were sent to the family in Great Falls.

There were problems getting judges, as in other regions. The computer crashed. Alvin McKamey had to rebuild the crusher board to handle a "Big Bertha" pasta structure. They had a coaches training and a judges training. People often didn't read their communications. Coordinator training needed. **Laura Jo needs a copy of the budget form.

Southeast Region – 27 teams competed, judges were snowed in. They held two coaches training sessions, one in November and one in February. The scoring program was fabulous. The tournament was very quiet, ran very smoothly. Finding improv items was a task. Some people are still not comfortable with getting their information from a web site.

The debriefing room was great. Teams liked taking a coach into Instant Challenge with them! They also liked all members participating. Kathy will remain with the region as a member at large when she steps down as regional director. Kathy wouldn't let Becky not let the teams compete if they didn't have judges. Some teams provided no judges, no door monitors, no help of any kind. That is not fair to the other teams.

Many regions had problems recruiting judges. One suggestion for the judge recruitment problem is to have each team list judges on the registration form – no judges, the team is not registered. Another suggestion was a penalty after December 1st, not registered by then pay the penalty. The funds raised from the penalty could be used for monetary contribution to groups to staff positions such as door monitor, souvenir stand, runners.

The finance report from Janet Zimmerman.

Started with	\$12,506.20
Income	\$9,139.41
Expenses	\$20,088.98
Left with	\$1,576.68 (not counting \$1300 from Southwest Region not in yet.) Still tracking down some checks from South Central Region too.

Regions need to turn in the budget form with memberships, teams, and money. A suggestion was made to put form numbers on established forms and color code them.

Tournament paperwork seemed to be a problem this year.

Mary Brady moved to accept the present slate of state officers (Director Heather Geiger, Secretary Heide Arneson, Treasurer Janet Zimmerman). Becky Weber seconded, approved unanimously.

The Fall Board Meeting was discussed. One idea is to have Buddy Coordinators and Buddy Coaches, team inexperienced school coordinators and coaches with experienced ones. Heather Geiger's church in Belgrade was suggested as a location for the meeting. Attendees could either stay locally or camp out.

Representation of MCQ and Destination Imagination were recommended at both the Montana Education Association and Advocates for Gifted and Talented Education conferences. Edufest was also suggested. Another suggestion was to mail DI information through the AGATE mailing list.

Stacy Jovick made a motion to include Edufest and pursue a break out session. Laura Jo McKamey seconded the motion, it passed unanimously. Karen Davidson and Heather Geiger will pursue AGATE. We need to provide a local contact, but also need the information to be succinct.

Coaches complained about all the paperwork required for the tournament.

There is a need to clearly define the School Coordinator's job. Also to give the coordinators a calendar with all the deadlines in the fall. A monthly newsletter with immediate deadlines would also be helpful. A video of how to form a team (though there are many different ways) would be helpful. Some schools with multiple teams form teams which then select a problem, others form teams by choice of problem.

There should be a May mailing for all the schools that have already participated. A postcard could be included which the coordinator could return, indicating options for next year.

Stacy Jovick suggests setting regional dates early in the year so judges can make the commitment. Set training and tournament dates about a year in advance.

Return registration fee – one month's notice to cancel (January 15 deadline.)

January 10th registration deadline would be required to be a month before all tournaments.

A suggestion was made for an Early Registration deadline of December 1st, with a regular deadline of January 1st.

Stacy Jovick moved that the Early Registration Deadline be December 1st with a discounted fee, and final registration by January 5th with the regular fee higher than the discounted fee. Mary Brady seconded, passed unanimously.

Louise Rhodes made a motion for the following price structure, Martha Kolberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Early Registration (discounted fee) \$70 per team.
Regular registration \$100 per team.

A discussion was held about different fund raisers, including selling Cheer Ads in the tournament programs. These ads would be sold by the team and the price would be shared by the team and the tournament.

There were 60 some memberships, but smaller schools and those with itinerant teachers have combined.

Judge recruitment has been a problem and needs to be discussed again in the fall.

Penalties for those not registered should be financial. We need to have dates set to make this work.

Stacy Jovick moved that we add to the registration form spaces for judges information, requiring one to two judges per team, as determined by the region. Louise Rhodes seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

A discussion was held on raffles. The regional director needed to be notified when the raffle tickets were sent out. Tickets cost about \$200, about \$3000 was received. One possible solution is that the teams must buy their raffle tickets, then do what they want with them. Raffle tickets need to be discussed with coordinators. The raffle costs the state about \$300 in printing and postage. Raffle tickets to be sold at concession/souvenir stands was an option. Another was that if your team is going on to state, they must sell tickets. If you don't contribute by selling your tickets, you don't get your share of the proceeds. If you sell them after a certain date, you get a 75% share. Another suggestion was to have a raffle coordinator at the registration desk.

Roy Mears moved that we set up raffle sales at concessions/souvenir stands at regional & state, and each team advancing to state be given a set amount of tickets to sell before coming to state and then turn them in at the registration table at state. Louise Rhodes seconded, passed unanimously.

Working on business sponsorships should help us. Heide Arneson will look into Mensa sponsorship.

Grant applications were discussed for the purpose of increasing membership. A reward for recruiting new schools. Heather Geiger will pursue the matter.

Talk to teachers about using challenges as class projects.

See about having a team perform at AGATE and at the State Superintendents meeting.

Recruit judges from among teachers.

D2K Global Finals is in Ames, IA. They are still recruiting Instant Challenge judges.

Look into lettering in creative problem solving in High School, academics, begin with the Montana High School Association, then work on local school boards.

Louise Rhodes moved to adjourn, Martha Kolberg seconded, passed unanimously.