

Montana Creativity Quest Spring Board Meeting
Belgrade, Montana, March 30, 2001

Present: Heather Geiger – State Director
Heide Arneson – State Secretary
Alean Skinner – State Treasurer

Lorrie Campbell, Melora Elliot – South Central Region
Karen Davidson – Southeast Region
Kathy Bernstein – Northwest Region
Roy Mears, Laura Jo and Alvin McKamey – North Central Region
Kathleen Dent– South Central

Meeting called to order at 3:40pm. It was established that a quorum was present.

Kathy Bernstein moved that the Fall Montana Creativity Quest Board Meeting minutes be accepted as written. Karen Davidson seconded the motion. All present voted aye, the motion carried.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Southwest Region – A few teams dropped out before the tournament, but not as many teams as expected. The tournament went very smoothly. There was feedback on dates for regional and state tournaments. Teams would prefer December for the regional tournament and February for the state tournament. A few appraisers didn't show up (including two head appraisers.) Eventually recouped a bounced check for \$50.

South Central – Held training for team managers in November, maybe two team manager trainings? The Equinox Theater workshop went well. The team members didn't come, only managers were invited. At the tournament, the Belgrade Geography Club, who also supplied the concessions, provided the food for the appraisers. It is better to do the appraisers meals separately from concessions. There were not enough cold drinks for appraisers. There needs to be a custodian on site. It was nice to have two people to share job for region director.

Southeast Region – We had 22 teams, including one primary team. The tournament went well. Kathy Bowen helped in score room. For the appraisers training, several people wanted more time. How about running the Instant Challenge training in the morning followed by a joint training. Then the team challenge appraisers could be trained, followed by more time on the individual challenges. All of our head appraisers were new, so some strange things happened. One group posted scores on door instead of posting that scores were ready. For set up we had lots of people show up, same for clean up. Each team was responsible for cleaning up one area. By the time they came around to check, it was done. The Instant Challenges were held in a hall far from everything else. There is a swimming pool across from high school, which teams used in their down time. Some appraisers/team managers said it would be nice if the side trips were listed on

the score sheet, then they could circle one. We did our own concessions and gave appraisers tickets for \$4. We made money on concessions. Souvenirs were sold near the greeting table. It is in a centralized location, which worked well.

North Central Region – We had eight teams registered, seven showed up. It was all held in one big room as a showcase. There was one long-term problem appraisal team, and one Instant Challenge appraisal team. The long-term showcase was held in the high school auditorium. Concessions were at the other end of building, and we lost money. Many of the teams went out to lunch. We held one appraiser training. Everyone was slow getting registered and getting teams going. The Shelby coordinator quit the first week of school and they were unsuccessful in finding a replacement. Many schools are involved in too many things. It all came together fine. Kids didn't stay to watch showcase. Each of the long-term appraisers was assigned a challenge to be in charge of. The tournament opened with a parade of teams. They each introduced themselves and gave their age. It was fun.

Northwest Region – Pam Lamar asked us to look at Future Problem Solvers and not hold the regional tournament the same weekend. We have three co-directors, which works out well. Libby causing an appraiser problem, not sending any. The tournament seemed to flow well. We may be charged for a custodial fee.

Suggestions for next year:

Side trip categories need to be listed on both master and individual score sheets.

Teams would really like one hardcopy of rules and other information. We should encourage schools to pay the membership for the hardcopies. There should be a hard copy of EVERYTHING, such as tournament setup guide and other similar documents. Emails should notify Regional Directors that materials are ready. Problems with email service complicated matters. All materials for Regional Directors should come in hardcopy. Rule changes could be marked to clue you in to changes, in gray, or a different font, or all capital letters.

There is a possibility that a woman moving here from Wisconsin was an Regional Director. Susan Anderson has moved up here from Colorado. She will be the appraiser coordinator next year. She will be going to Global Finals as a Colorado appraiser this year, but will represent Montana next year.

Heather will not be going to Global Finals next year. Kathy Bernstein, Roy Mears, or Laura Jo MacKamey might consider going to represent Montana next year. The finals are held at the end of May. The Montana representative would go to the affiliate director's meetings, go watch Montana teams perform, and any other activities they choose. Room, board, and airfare are paid for.

Election of Officers:

Melora Elliot motioned to nominate the present slate, of officers. Lorrie Campbell seconded the motion. All present voted aye. The motion carried. The present slate was approved:

Heather Geiger – State Director
Heide Arneson – State Secretary
Alean Skinner – State Treasurer

A meeting topic for the upcoming Fall board meeting was discussed. Growth and Recruitment, and sponsorship were selected. Pizza Hut is willing to do table tents on tables at Pizza Huts in Southern Montana. The table tents would have Instant Challenges on them to do while they are waiting for their pizzas. They would also have program and contact information.

They would also provide coupons for each team at state to have 3 one topping pizzas at \$7.50 each. Burger King, Taco Time, and Stageline Pizza also donated coupons for the teams that came to state.

ABC affiliate in Bozeman (Butte, Missoula, and Kalispell stations) would be able to do a promotional public service announcement on the Destination Imagination program (video clip.) This would be done as spots for upcoming tournaments instead of announcing tournament results in the news after the tournaments. These stations do not do local newscasts.

A sponsorship from Dairy Farmers of Montana, paid for state T-shirts, milk, and pins. Got Milk needed to be on the T-shirts.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance, after the reserved funds for judge and runners fees, and other tournament costs are deducted, would be \$8528.83 left (after tournament bills), possibly more. We are scheduled to receive \$2476 from the Dairy Farmers of Montana.

Date for Fall Montana Creativity Quest Board Meeting: September 21 and 22. Consider bringing marketing people in to suggest how to promote the program. Heide will ask the marketing person she knows. In addition, market the program to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, and other community youth programs. Work through these organizations instead of competing, offer a partial or full involvement. Montana PBS did a Healthy Choices show which included Destination Imagination as a great opportunity to build self-esteem. Might they do a spot with contact info? There is an appraiser here from Stevensville who is untrained and is a photographer. He will be coming with a camcorder to tape segments, interview participants, and make a marketing video. We might consider asking Jim Averitt to do music for it.

Some suggestions to kick off the new Destination Imagination season next fall: do an evening or Saturday event aimed at parents, teachers, and kids. Do old skits, do some Instant Challenges, and do some improvisation. Kathleen is sponsoring a Loon Lake challenge camp through 4H, August 5-20, for kids 6-9, with afternoon “survivor challenges.” The cost is \$315 including everything, activities, canoeing... Flyers with information on the camp will be available at the registration table.

Alvin McKamey made some suggestions. The ideas for Destination Imagination are good, but we are competing against everything else the kids are already involved in. To make it work, we need to consider condensing the program. Put it into a three month time period. Meet once a week to finish it long term, 2-3 times a week shorter term. Have DI establish a long term and short term curriculum so it can be wrapped into the curriculum. Curriculum guides need to work into the full school year, and as a 6-9 week curriculum, five days a week, to solve a problem. DI fits in into liberal arts and GATE curriculums. We need to have sectionals at all the GATE/teacher conferences.

Budget Report: We are doing well, partially because of the dairy grant.

Membership Report: We have lost ground. As far as appraiser recruitment, Heather suggests that we consider a policy that if you do not provide an appraiser for any tournament, the team will take a 10 point (or whatever) unsportsmanlike penalty for not providing an appraiser.

We recruit 8-10 per challenge for attrition, 4 for each Instant Challenge. We need to over recruit to allow for attrition.

Recruit from work, (single people), community organizations, teachers, past participants and team managers. Scholarships for appraisers from far away (pay state rates for Motels), OPI credits for teachers to be team managers or appraisers. This would require five hours of training, which could be done if we do the longer appraiser training described above.

Grant applications: Karen is going down to fewer hours, so she will help with grant applications.

D2K.1 Global Finals will be in Knoxville for the next three years. The cost went up about \$50 a person, but hopefully that rate will be locked in for the next three years.

We need to consider a policy for students on school discipline or suspension. If they are not allowed to participate in school extracurricular activities, they should not be participating in DI. Can they go on if suspended for region but eligible for state. That should be up to the team if the school policy does not address it. Our policy should reflect the school policy. The suggestion is that we follow local school district policy regarding suspension or discipline, even if the program is not affiliated with the local school. We also need to consider how this applies to appraisers. We need to think about

an Under 18 clause. We will review the policy in fall. Should we adopt a Drug Free policy? Future Problem Solvers has a behavior contract. OM used to have one also. We need to consider rewriting the student/parent contract to include violence, drug free, commitment, and any other relevant policies.

If they are in 4H, private school, home school we would still apply the local school district policy.

Gifts for team members going to Global Finals were discussed. We decided on a key chain and light wand (water shooters might cause problems.)

Roy Mears moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Melora Elliot. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

STATE TOURNAMENT WRAP UP:

Present: Heather Geiger and Heide Arneson

We need to have a different cell phone company. This company only provided two telephones and one of them never worked. We also need to make sure there is a person who has access to the method of communication that the custodians prefer (be it telephone, walkie talkie or whatever.)

There needs to be a Set Up Chairman. This person would run the set up the night before the tournament. They would meet with the state director in advance and plan set up, signs, and other details that need to be completed the night before the tournament. They would work with the Sign Chairman. This person would be able to do the work in advance, make all the signs, and make a map of where they go and what sizes they should be.

Having a Trouble Shooter who can set up the registration and checker tables, and resolves problems as they arise. Having a memo board where people can leave messages for each other is one consideration.

Board members really need to be there for set up, until at least 8:00pm. If every one helps out, we should be done by then.

We need to enforce registration not beginning until 8am. Doors will not be open until then (separate doors for appraisers and staff, or signs on each door.)

We also need to enforce the rule of no props in the hallway. Teams should check with the prep area appraiser to see when they can bring their props in. We also need to have a fix-it room where teams can fix broken props. There would need to be someone overseeing the room. Teams can only fix broken props there, not do assembly or store props there.

We need to remind the appraisers that award nominations need to be selective. They also need to be detailed so that the award review committee can make sure the award is appropriate.

Heide will send out the thank you's, including one to Lee and Dad's for being willing to store the milk in their cooler, and for their past support.

At the registration table we need to post where the copy machines are.

We need to make sure that team members don't stand in the hallways outside performances. It was a distraction. We can provide information on designated meeting areas on maps.

The rooms need to be completely set up the night before, especially in the Instant Challenges. Also remind the Instant Challenge appraisers that they can refer the teams back to the directions if they seem to be getting off track.

DONE!!!