

Montana Creativity Quest  
Spring Board Meeting  
March 22, 2002

Present: Heather Geiger – State Director, Heide Arneson – State Secretary, Alean Skinner – State Treasurer, Linda Adams – South Central Member at Large, Laura Jo and Alvin McKamey – North Central, Katrin Chandler Casey – South East, Karen Davidson – South East, Lorrie Campbell – South Central, Melora Elliot – South Central, Roy Mears – North Central Member at Large, Kathleen Dent – South West, and guests Marilyn Dykstra - Big Timber, Agnes Campbell– Bozeman.

The spring board meeting was called to order at 3:48pm by Heather Geiger.

A discussion was held on the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use Policy. Consideration of alcohol was intended to refer to activities not involving youth and for future fundraisers.

#### REGIONAL REPORTS:

Kathleen Dent, Southwest Region, reported that their tournament went really well. This was the third year in the same location with the same organizers. There were only six teams and only one Missoula school. The highlight of the tournament was that the judging teams were awesome, experienced, and took time with the teams. The volunteer staff was fantastic. The downfall was less teams in the valley, mostly due to lack of funding and time constraints (students have many activities), and kids moving into other activities, finding other things to do. DI is not picking up the new students and parents. Gifted education coordinators have 5 schools each, no time to push creative problem solving. Some ideas would be to have continuing education credit for coaches or appraisers, to have schools give extra credit. There is a gifted masters at university, and this would be a great tie in. College students were a great asset, mostly former OMers. There is a normal ebb and flow to any program. Jesse in Darby will hold the tournament in Darby next year, if she has a job (possible budget cuts may eliminate her position.) Church groups, 4H, scouting are some possible ways to bring in additional students. A grant to recruit would give the opportunity to take the time and have the resources to travel and recruit. There was good press coverage in the Ravalli Republic, as well as local radio coverage. The school district invited the team to a board meeting. The school board just loved it. The principal asked that we have an honoring ceremony for DI and drama. There was a parent conflict this year, but it has been worked out.

Lorrie Campbell and Melora Elliot, South Central Region, had 23 teams (down this year), 17 qualified to go on to state. The membership five pack was a benefit for school districts. Heather was a big help, training appraisers, and helping with the tournament. Andre ran the tournament in Helena. Lorrie handled registrations. Andre was very well organized, well set up, and was very helpful. Everything was set up the night before. Custodial services were a challenge. We had to pay and were going to have to have multiple custodians. The principal asked Heather not to send a letter to the school board, not to throw a wrench in with the middle school custodians who were very supportive. Heather agreed not to send the letter she had drafted. Helena only has middle school teams. The tournament finished half an hour early. Souvenirs were in a bad location. We need head appraiser training before appraisers training, so that head appraisers know what is expected of them.

Karen Davidson, South East region, had 29 teams registered, 27 competed (the other 2 were primary), 100 volunteers and appraisers. The list of volunteers and appraisers kept changing, as matters came up and they couldn't come. Score room team was new, did a terrific job. They were done early. There was terrific support from the communities involved. We sold a lot of stuff (\$1170 in souvenirs), mainly because there were so many new kids. Problems – appraisers and volunteers not doing what they said they were going to do, too many new appraisers, attrition of participants and appraisers. It was hard to anticipate their needs for training. There were number cruncher problems. There appears to be a need for number cruncher training. At appraiser training, two years in a row they have come up afterwards and said they needed more time in central challenge. Maybe add a practice and score sheets in the training. A suggestion was made to have a challenge video made by DI that is not tied to a particular challenge. Another suggestion is that all

number crunching done in score room, and that they go over the score sheet in training. More forms mean more chances for transposition error. Overall it was a good tournament, fairly well organized. There were four more teams than last year. What is needed is someone to take charge in the community. We wrote to superintendents stressing the state requirement for gifted education and that this is an inexpensive way to do it.

Laura Jo McKamey, North Central Region. We had four memberships and six teams. We tried to participate in the Helena tournament, but there was a conflict – a coach of two teams was expecting a baby. The competition was held in Shelby. We looked at Augusta and Cascade, but couldn't find a better location. Great Falls wanted \$250 plus rooms. Again we held a showcase, all teams performed on the stage. The appraiser team was fantastic, but most of them couldn't come to state. The appraisers do all challenges. The competition was done by 12:30, with the awards at 1pm. We did away with the cake walk, and instead sold cinnamon rolls and juice. We had a parade of teams to start the day, and a packet of goodies and thank you for coaches containing items such as Lifesavers, 100 Grand bars, hugs and kisses, and treasures. Press releases to Great Falls, one response – from Shelby, nice write up. Chill out room was very cold. The milk froze, and was still frozen at 5pm. It was 17 below the night before. The structure teams had problems, with one team forgetting their structure and the other coaches baby was in the hospital and they forgot to bring materials for their on site structure. The Augusta bus broke down, baby in hospital, and it was their first time for DI. They had an awesome backdrop. Roy needed roller blades. We didn't do food concessions, instead arranged discount coupons.

Northwest Region. Unable to make meeting due to long drive.

#### TREASURERS REPORT:

We have \$21,237 before bills (with appraisers fees, shirts, and state tournament costs still outstanding.) We expect to pay \$5400 in appraiser checks, though not all of them get cashed. We have money to put in a CD (Last year we put \$12,000 for six months which paid \$112 in interest.) Postage is a big expense. For raffle tickets alone the postage was \$90.

Many of the registrations were late, could we do a pre-registration, or for early bird registration, need page one by (Dec 1) and page two by (Jan 15) Your registration is not final until we have received your registration (money and two pages.) If we get page one, we can send a post card with ideas of how to get appraisers. Each region can set appraiser and date requirements.

Election of Officers – Why tamper with success as the current slate is willing to continue. Laura Jo moved that the officers remain same as currently elected, seconded by Kathleen, the motion passed unanimously.

Membership report: 34 memberships (down mostly due to five packs which allowed some schools to combine their memberships.) We lost some Missoula schools, with a total number of teams 89 (versus 95 last year) At the regional meets 85 teams competed, with 59 coming to state. 27 of 34 memberships were represented at state. There are 100 appraisers, many recruited in the last 1.5 weeks, which has been nerve wracking.) \$1100 was last year's membership rebate from DI. Any rebate is likely to be less next year due to there being fewer memberships because of the five packs.

FALL MEETING: The executive committee recommends a retreat in August for strategic planning. We need a marketing plan. A session at the Gifted Institute in Missoula might help. DI Program Process in the Classroom, home program meets the standards (on RD site.) Third weekend in September traditional, August before school starts but summer activities could conflict.

We need test results and anecdotal behavior, especially regarding social and risk taking benefits.

Grant applications: only Montana Milk. Regions need the address to send thank yous to Montana Milk.

Appraiser recruitment: consider the university as a resource, and possible OPI credits for appraiser training and team managers. MEA workshops, summer institutes maybe next summer.

D2k.2, extra security – costing teams about \$50 extra per person. Around \$400 each total. All spectators and participants without housing package need to register to attend. The global tournament will be held in Tennessee for five more years. What about Salt Lake City next? Laura Jo will get some info to pass on.

Motion to approve the fall board meeting minutes as written by Linda so moved, Katrin seconded, all approved and the motion carries.

Approval of the Drug and Alcohol Policy was called for. Kathleen so moved, Laura Jo seconded, all approved and the motion carried.

Laura Jo moved to adjourn the meeting, Linda seconded, all approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm.