

Montana Destination Imagination Spring Board Meeting, March 28, 2003.

Present: Heather Geiger (Director), Heide Arneson (Secretary), Alean Skinner (Treasurer), Sharon Lamar (Northwest Region), Karen Davidson (Southeast Region), Melora Elliot & Linda Adams (South Central Region), Alvin and Laura Jo McKamey (North/Central Region), Roy Mears (member at large.)

3:55pm, quorum established. Acknowledgement of Karen Davidson's upcoming nuptials. Introductions.

Approval of Minutes: Sharon moved to accept the minutes as written, Laura Jo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Heather asked board members to consider writing a thank you to the Destination Imagination Board of Directors, to thank them for the name tags, which went to all Regional Directors program wide. Montana purchased name tags for members at large and officers.

Heather asked for copies of regional tournament programs for Headquarters.

Northwest Region Report - 17 teams. The tournament went well. There were 5 new teams in Kalispell. The St. Ignatius coach retired, so lost some teams (but not all.) Libby had schedule conflicts, they hope to participate next year. Facilities held at Edgerton School in Kalispell, great facilities. Great score room support. Problems: three teams registered in the wrong division, which was not discovered until tournament time. All were Kalispell teams, so we need to make sure they register correctly next year. This impacted the score room. Ann Kastren will be stepping down. Ann and Kathy discussed taking teams on the road, showing new schools. Per Heather, Trout Creek will be back next year.

Southeast: 18 teams, terrible weather. All judges, all teams, and most volunteers showed up. High school math teacher runs score room, great support. Two teams (one middle, one elementary) because of new team numbering confused their instant challenge times, took each other's instant challenges. Had a Parade of Teams at beginning of awards ceremony, everyone really enjoyed it. Not as successful with the cake walk, probably because lots of kids go to the swimming pool. Will need a local person to be co-regional director to still be able to use Hardin. Will be having a regional meeting to discuss these issues for next year.

North/Central - 4 teams, tournament held at East Middle School in Great Falls due to construction at Shelby High School. Two TV crews showed up, got on two TV channels talking about DI. Channel 3 from Great Falls filmed Improv team, Channel 5 filmed Theater Smarts presentation. Kids solved the problem on TV. Created packets, survival kits and problem solving for each team, with a problem to solve for each team member. Laura Jo had kids do them during down time. Worked really well. Only one judge showed up for training due to a snow storm. Color coded sheets for volunteers to comment, what they should comment on based on color turned it into a success. (Great creative thinking, Laura Jo!)

South Central - MSU student from Great Falls called to volunteer because she had such a wonderful experience and wanted to give back to the program (per Melora Elliott.) She will be appraising. Heather reported for the region - Glitches: Helena got 2.5 feet of snow, we told them we would still have the tournament. Emergency travel only in the Helena area was advised for Friday and Saturday. Three teams chose not to travel. Headquarters said to let them all come on to state competition. They were required to showcase before they came. Still had 26 teams compete. Two teams with different challenges ran into confusion for Instant Challenge. One team checked in and left their paperwork, then another team came in. The appraiser didn't call them correctly, got wrong team in there. Need to always have extra instant challenge supplies for every room. Appraisers need to check team manager's name, check numbers and challenge name and level. We tried to do a spectator's instant challenge, didn't work at all. Nobody did it. Polled audience. If they did it at state, would they do it. Yes, but not for \$5 per team. Stations for "quickie" challenges a possibility, pay 50cents or a dollar. Score room ran smoothly, with the exception of knowing which teams weren't competing, which cancelled, which didn't show up. This is not a problem at state because the unclaimed registration packets are turned in to the score room.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance \$21,814.79 with tournament expenses yet to be paid, expected balance \$9,091.16. Still have \$1400 in income outstanding (souvenir and registration.) Budget wise still sitting fine, not hurting. Discussion of the budget item regarding the expense to compensate Affiliate Director. Without D & O insurance, (talking to DI and others, looks like \$1,000+.) In Montana can name lots of people for a suit, but without a paid employee, we don't need it. Abuse situation is always a possibility when working with children. Something we have not totally addressed, requiring two adults at all times. A Hamilton team manager was cited for abuse of her own child, but did not involve the team. The school has asked that the manager not be here at state as a team manager, but will be here as a parent. Appraisers are never alone with kids, team managers are. Rider from National being looked into. Checked into other sources, but was more. Similar umbrella coverage for other national youth programs are about \$100 per quarter. Also looking into Montana Non-Profit Association, which is working on a liability program for Montana Non-Profits.

Reimbursement for Affiliate Director being rental of office works better for tax and liability purposes. Laura Jo moves that we rent Heather's office based on the previous agreement for reimbursement. Sharon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers: Linda Adams moves that the slate remain the same, Melora seconded, motion carried.

Membership Report: one membership gained, went down one team. We aren't hurting. More memberships competing at state due to the Helena snow storm. Have teams that made it to state go on the road, pick a school to go to, perform and explain the program. Teams that go on to Global can do it for practice. Next year teams going to state can perform as practice for state. For the first time, got enough judges for state, but volunteers were a problem. Still need people to help at the souvenir stand. Pleased to see that memberships didn't decline, more even grouping of challenges. Change in Direction was less. Theater Smarts was popular. New membership Bootstrap Ranch.

Fall Meeting: Asked Bob Purifico for permission to use DI intellectual property, to create after school program boxes with different monthly themes, using the curriculum activities and instant challenges. At the end of each month would have a challenge. Purchase kits, give after school activities, plus maybe bring in some memberships from Y's, Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Other fall meeting ideas: Representatives from civic organizations (Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber, Development corporations) for short presentations or panel discussion.

Getting Appraisers: Have "Invitation to Appraise" or brochure for teams to give their person who they are nominating to be an appraiser. The brochure is downloadable in Word format for local modification.

Regional Boards, did anybody get anything going? Kathy Bernstein has talked to some people. Karen Davidson feels that the people who are involved are so involved that we hate to ask for more. We discussed the points made at the fall board meeting: Share the work, share the joy. Find a person to liaison with local businesses. Divide up all the tasks into small jobs, give them titles, lots of hands make light work. Also spread it around the region.

Still need expense reports from most regions.

Single tournament survey results: Karen - keep it the way it is (teams vehement), not fair to teams to not have a competition before state. Sharon - everyone wants region to continue, showcase means teams wouldn't take it seriously, lower the standards. South Central - 75% wanted to keep a regional. Shelby - with showcase, not everybody came prepared. On a stage, take it seriously. In cafeteria, more casual. Look at the possibility of finding resources to offset the expenses for coming to South Central regional competitions (some expense reimbursement, host families, places to stay.)

Retiring Board Members: Roy, still is unsure of plans. Maybe have Julie Robinson from MSU become a board member, Karen recommends Adam Zelka, MSU - Billings, will be judging. Another fresh mind to bring on to the board.

Recommendations to the Affiliate:

Drop OM pledge from the scholarship application program since we have been a program for four years, no one knows the pledge anymore. Should we drop the OM pledge from the essay? Consider adding: DI, the most important course in education. Add as a transition, then be able to get away from the Odyssey of the Mind reference.

Do we want to make a recommendation that there be a minimum number on a team? Or just on a state level? Because DI focuses on teamwork, encourage teams to have a minimum number (not require because some teams just can't.)

Leave money in region? Keep money to expand in region, cover copying and postage costs. Alvin so moves, Linda second, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourned: 5:35pm.