

Montana Destination Imagination Spring Board Meeting: Conference Call
March 20, 2005

Present: Heather Geiger – State Director, Heide Arneson – State Secretary, Alean Skinner (State Treasurer), Linda Adams (South Central Regional Director), Esther Wynne and Linda Troyer (South East Regional Directors), Joseph Hall – Southwest Region, Laura Jo McKamey – (North East Regional Director), Ann Castren (Northwest Regional Director),

August Meeting Minutes – No corrections or amendments, Linda Troyer moved to approve the minutes as written, Anne C. seconded, motion carried.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Southeast Region Report – We made a real effort to call the appraisers and make sure they would be there. Everything went well. Report is attached. We need a better way to tell memberships how to register online.

Southwest Region Report – Tournament went well. Dizzy Derby score sheet difference – difference is that they get the raw score, scores are scaled at the end. Unhappy Corvallis Bridges team. Need to get more appraisers to training.

Southcentral Region – no one signed up for DI Free membership, memberships half of the previous year. The competition went well, except one stolen purse.

Northeast Region – five memberships took advantage of DI Free, eleven teams up from four the previous year. Tournament in Cascade since there were three teams and it is centrally located. There were some miscommunications. We shared the facility with a middle school volleyball tournament, there were no conflicts. Online registration was a problem for some teams.

Northwest Region – Nineteen teams. It all went smoothly. Online registration was a concern. Summers and Whitefish new schools, Eureka was back. The two teams not going on to state were last minute teams, too much going on to pull it together to get to state.

Affiliate Directors Report: Membership team count, totals are almost the same from the previous year. We were challenged to grow ten teams. We lost six teams from Helena that dropped out before the tournament. We couldn't give away DI Free here. Heather will be speaking at the after school conference at the end of April, hoping that we pick up some memberships in the after school market. Without the funding issues being decided, we won't expect to see new schools. The state has included creativity and critical thinking, and Gifted and Talented as part of the definition of a quality education. It will depend on those mandates being funded. We are a low cost program.

Heather surveyed members regarding gifted and talented involvement through the schools. 21st Century grant money was used as stipends for team managers in Hardin. We don't want to target districts yet unless they let us know that they are interested.

Heather traveled to the Southwest region twice, once for team manager training. With so many new, we needed to do more follow up to support them – especially those taking the DI Free memberships. (HG – add rest here.)

Treasurer's Report – Our total at this time is \$22,254.80 balanced to this point with this month's bills paid. Some of the regions have not sent in their money yet.

We expect 100-120 officials at the tournament, of which we budget \$55 each. We do have four comped rooms donated. One is spoken for, we can see if they will room together. If an appraiser stays in a free room, they don't get a stipend check. We also are receiving a donation from Zoot Enterprises and possibly two others as site sponsors. Breakfast Optimists and Advanced Electronic Design, Bridger Engineering and Clear Channel Radio who is providing the comped rooms.

Election of Officers: We need nominations. Heide is stepping down and Heather has found another person, Lee Hiltz from Boulder. Alean is doing a great job and is willing to stay on. Heather is willing to stay on one more year, but we need to find someone to train as director for the following year.

Anne moves Heather as Director, Lee as secretary, and Alean as treasurer. Linda seconded, motion carried.

State meet only - Chief disadvantage is the lack of a practice tournament. Cost of going to state a concern. Local tournament/showcase is an option, appraiser training and scoring would be low key. Regional showcases as qualifiers? That decision can be made this fall. Positive feedback and comments, maybe have team managers from that challenge be the appraisers. Assign each region a challenge and you would train the appraisers in that challenge plus maybe three Instant Challenge appraisers. South Central would still train in all challenges.

With almost twenty teams in some challenges, then the tournament goes to two days or a very long day. We could start the evening before for the bigger challenges, may have to provide a bigger stipend for those appraisers. If we had a larger region, we would have to consider alternatives, or combining tournaments. If numbers stay the same, a state tournament should be enough.

Another drawback was the fact that besides the need for a longer tournament, we might lose income from souvenir sales. We also wouldn't be spending the extra money per tournament to run them in each region. If we go to a state-only tournament, we need to do more work with the team managers, like Instant Challenge days. There would be a charge due to insurance costs. Tournaments do not require additional insurance.

Teams are concerned by the lack of competition at regionals. RD's have a lot of work to do. This would free them up to do more trainings and work with the team managers. It would give the teams longer to prepare. Teams would only have to provide one appraiser instead of two. Appraisers would know up front that they have to go to the state tournament.

Costs would be less. Instead of fining for not providing an appraiser, rebate for providing a TRAINED appraiser who actually shows up.

Joseph suggested possibly taking it up to \$75 with a rebate. We actually charge \$100, with a \$30 rebate for having everything in by the deadline. RD's would have to keep track of who showed up for training. Quite a few teams paid that \$100 this year. About half paid the full \$100 in South Central, about 10 - 30% in other regions. The RD has a chance to waive it, and Laura Jo did because there were so many new teams. Consider a straight fee. For purchase orders, we can then just invoice them for the amount owed. The executive board will have to look at the budget and see how these fees will work.

Not having regional tournaments, we lose some income from souvenirs, but save expenses. By having regional showcases, keeping the cost up is justified. The time commitment and the site we need will likely be less. There could even be different challenges on different days. However, we only get one "tournament insurance" per region, so there would be an additional cost.

Heather thanks everyone for being fiscally responsible and helping us stay in good financial condition. Each region should still have money left.

Do we want to make a decision now, or do we want to ruminate on this and decide in the fall? Some RD's would like to poll more teams. Also, what if there were forty teams in a challenge? We can adjust the schedule to run three teams through in each hour. We may have to run a longer day, or even start some the night before. We do not want to go to less than twenty minutes per team. We need to thin about a contingency, in case we have a really large group. That is one of the reasons we need to know who is doing what challenge.

Can the regions determine themselves? Do we set a limit, if there are more than X number of teams, there should be a competition. Laura Jo, who has experience from when we were big, thinks we should let all come. The teams that get it, do get it. If they don't get it, they never do. The teams that don't get it, when they watch a team who does get it – it inspires them for the next year. Is it fair to the one region who has to cut people? The consensus is no, it all depends on geography. We can address the changes as needed. Nothing is carved in stone. The showcases will give them feedback on whether or not they are making the required parts.

Motion: Joseph moves to have a state only tournament. LJ seconds. Roll Call:

Esther – Yes
Linda T. - Yes
Linda A. – Yes
Alean – Yes
Heide –Yes
Joseph – Yes
Sharon – Yes
Laura Jo – Yes
Alvin – proxy, yes

Kathy –Adler – Yes
Keisa – proxy, No.

Motion carries. We will be going to a state only tournament.

Fall meeting items – how to address the change, how to train appraisers, what to we call them?
Make sure regions are all on the same page.

Kathy suggests we wait to tackle the additional costs next fall. Heide commented that since we are looking at it being a rebate and not a significant change to the fees, that we should stress the importance of high quality appraisers. Heather said that we should announce this at state so they know. Laura Jo thought that the amount should be equal to the stipend. Heather wants to make sure that it is ok to announce that the fee structure will be adjusted to take into account teams providing appraisers.

This fall, when we look at fee structures, do we want to look at late fees for those that don't register by January 15th. If they don't get them in, there has to be a fee – RD has the right to waive it. There needs to be clarification about DI Online. Maybe once they are registered on DI Online, we send them an invoice with the appraiser information. Some of them are having trouble even getting online, have them contact us then and we help get them online. Some did paper and not DI Online, some did DI Online and not the paper. Heather will try to find out what some of the concerns were so they can be taken to DI. We need step-by-step directions to make it work. The pay-to-play seemed to be an issue since the team manager couldn't do it themselves. This year there was more responsibility on the local coordinator who didn't always have all the information.

Which is easier, DI Online or paper? The paper seems better, since the names on DI Online were not correct. What if everyone registers on paper and RD's register them for DI Online. Esther had to call almost everyone because the paper forms were hard to read. What if we enter it in (or have a volunteer to enter it in), and then print it out and send it with the invoice and they verify that the spelling and information is correct.

If we do a state-only tournament, who does the money go to? Can the sheet go back to two sides? Front is team manager and appraiser, back is kids names – or put it all on one side? Or, have them send you the info and state invoices them and sends the check to state. Should we go back to mailing them the form instead of downloading, and send them step-by-step directions to register online.

It would be nice if National sent a memo to RD as well as AD. Heather can do that, if there is a new membership then Heather gets an email to assign them to a region. What if once a week Heather sends the RD's an update on their memberships. That would be a big help. She will send out one list which will list all the teams and their regions. It can be updated on the board page. Prefer it in an email so they don't forget. If it is posted to the web site, then everyone can check it when they want to.

No info yet on the world finals. Any concerns that can be taken up? To allow both team managers (if there are two) to go into the Instant Challenge. The DI Online registration concerns.

Team managers can not go into Chill Out at Global Finals.

State Tournament - If your team is not performing before 10:30, or you do not have a duty, please be there (or send a representative.) We need lots of help between 8 and 9:30. Ann will, Esther and Linda, to be troubleshooters and answer questions. Heide will be focusing on the score room. Linda Adams will be at registration. We really appreciate the help as those first few hours can be hectic. It helps if it is someone who understands how tournaments are run.

This is the board meeting, so we won't be having one. We have most of the people, but could still put a few to work setting up. There will be Bingo and Dari-oke while we wait for the scores. We need a photographer. Esther's husband is a possibility. He will be at the tournament that morning, through the awards. Take pictures throughout the day and project them as a slide show right before awards. Ernie could help with it. If Ernie and Bob worked together, they should be able to make it work. LJ has a digital camera and the program to download it into a slide show. There is a projector at the school. Please preview.

The fall meeting will discuss fee changes and format of the showcases and how the appraising will be done.

Motion to adjourn: LJ so moves, Alean seconds, adjourned at 3pm.