

KHSSL Board Meeting  
June 5, 2021  
Beechwood High School, Fort Mitchell, KY

**Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Steve Meadows, Executive Director.**

Members present on site: Chuck Stamper, Ryan Ray, Beth Randolph, Janet Martin, Karen Feldhaus, Woody Zorn, Scott Bonneau, Michael Robinson, Molly Seifert

Members present via Zoom: Katy Cecil, Rachel Page, Dustin Combs, Mary Amburgey

Member Absent: Tia Smith

Guest present: Neomia Hagans-Flores (1:15 pm - 1:45 pm)

**Order of Business:**

Officer Elections:

Chair: Michael Robinson  
Vice-chair: Woody Zorn  
Secretary: Rachel Page  
Treasurer: Beth Randolph

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Motion by Ryan Ray, seconded by Janet Martin  
Vote: passed unanimously to approve minutes

Membership Report:

2020 - 2021 membership: 30 Debate schools, 29 Junior Speech schools, 43 Senior Speech schools. This shows a decline from the 2019 - 2020 school year with 35 Debate schools, 38 Junior Speech schools, and 50 Senior Speech schools.

Financial Report:

Steve Meadows presented the 2020 - 2021 budget. Surplus money was used to make up the difference between total income and total spending. The executive director is in the process of researching and applying for grants as well as actions for the Board to take to help the organization become financially self-sufficient .

Total Income:	\$23,093
Total Spending:	\$33,591

**Annual Items:**

Regional Tournaments Report:

Junior Regional tournaments had 262 entries and 20 participating schools.  
Senior Regional tournaments had 510 entries and 31 participating schools  
Profits from Regionals: \$1879

Regional Tournament Directors Slate:

Motion by Michael Robinson, seconded by Janet Martin.

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve the following Regional managers:

Appalachian - Dustin Combs

Bluegrass - Beth Randolph

Bowling Green - Janet Martin

Louisville - Katy Cecil

Murray - Michael Robinson

Northern - Molly Seifert

Upper Kentucky River - Dustin Combs

State Tournaments Report:

Junior Speech had 258 entries, 20 schools

Debate had 83 entries, 21 schools

Senior Speech had 493 entries, 32 schools

Profits: \$3524.23

State of the Organization Report:

Our organization has seen a decline in the number of schools and the number of participants after a full year of virtual tournaments. Therefore, a goal for next year is to re-energize the organization through outreach. In addition, our organization must financially stabilize.

Tournament Calendar:

Motion by Janet Martin, seconded by Michael Robinson

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve the 2021 - 2022 Tournament Calendar

SPEAK Update:

Meadows indicated that SPEAK would occur in September. Date/location being set. KHSSL will again be the lead sponsor in coordination with KY CFL, KY NSDA, KESDA, Wyatt Debate, and the Bluegrass Debate Coalition.

Hall of Fame Nomination #1: Woody Zorn:

Motion by Janet Martin, seconded by Michael Robinson

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve Woody Zorn as 2022 inductee into the Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame Nomination #2: Karen Feldhaus:

Motion by Molly Seifert, seconded by Janet Martin

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve Karen Feldhaus as 2022 inductee into the Hall of Fame

Executive Director Contract/Evaluation/Role:

Meadows will begin the second year of his current two-year contract July 1. No action is needed. A committee he suggests will create an evaluation process for the Executive Director for use in the future after the current contract concludes. He noted that he had spoken at length with James Weaver of the National Federation of High Schools about his role as both an activist within the organization as well as its employee/agent of the Board of Directors and was encouraged to maintain this approach given the League's current status and his own experience within it.

Executive Director Focus for the Year:

The executive director's focus for the 2021 - 2022 year will be financial stability and growth of the organization.

**Recessed for lunch at 12:40 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 1:10 p.m.**

**Other Items:**

Improvisational Duo Rules Modifications:

No action was taken.

**New Business:**

Debate tournament prequalification:

No action was taken.

State Debate Prelims: 4 rounds instead of 5:

Motion by Michael Robinson, seconded by Janet Martin

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve this change

Debate Runoff round adjustments:

Proposal withdrawn. No action was taken.

Equalizing novice and varsity sweeps points at state:

Motion by Woody Zorn, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: 5 yes, 4 no, 3 abstentions: motion fails

Outside audit:

Motion by Chuck Stamper to begin a process of an external audit happening every two years; the cost of the audit should be no more than \$500; audit occurs in the year of a board election. Seconded by Ryan Ray.

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve

Board of Directors' duties added to the handbook:

Motion by Ryan Ray to add the Board of Directors' duties to the KHSSL, Inc. Handbook.

Seconded by Beth Randolph

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve

KHSSL-sponsored invitationals:

Motion by Scott Bonneau to extend KHSSL's support for additional tournaments in underserved Regions. Seconded by Woody Zorn

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve

Eliminate Policy Debate from State Debate Championship:

Motion by Woody Zorn, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 4 absentions. Motion passes.

## League Handbook:

### Proposal to remove Hall of Fame Nominee Qualifications Section C, #1, A - "Funding Scholarships":

Motion by Ryan Ray, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: 6 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes with tie-breaking vote by Executive Director.

### Proposal to remove Hall of Fame Nominee Selection Process #4 wording: "Feedback may be anonymous":

Motion by Ryan Ray, seconded by Woody Zorn

Vote: 6 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes with tie-breaking vote by Executive Director.

### Proposal to clarify Hall of Fame Nominee Qualifications Section D, A-C:

Motion by Ryan Ray, seconded by Beth Randolph

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 3 abstention. Motion passes.

### Junior Varsity Speech and Debate division:

No action was taken. This topic will be discussed in newly formed committees.

### Proposal to create a Grand Championship for Speech and Debate Tournaments:

Motion to vote on proposal by Michael Robinson, seconded by Scott Bonneau

Vote: 1 yes, 9 no, 2 abstention. Motion fails.

### Proposal to create Board Committees for 2021 - 2023:

Motion by Katy Cecil, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve the following committees:

Finance Committee - Beth Randolph, Chair

Evaluation Committee - Michael Robinson, Chair

Judge Training and Inclusion - Woody Zorn, Chair

Outreach - Rachel Page, Chair

### Proposal to rename the Blyton Scholarships to the Bale Scholarships:

Motion by Katy Cecil, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve the change

### Proposal to create new KHSSL email address: [khssl@khssl.org](mailto:khssl@khssl.org)

Motion by Ryan Ray, seconded by Molly Seifert

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve the change

### Proposal for the Executive Director to attend the NFHS annual Speech/Debate/Theatre conference in Denver September 19 - 21:

Motion by Chuck Stamper, seconded by Beth Randolph.

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve

### Proposal to grant permission for virtual tournaments only when in-person tournaments cannot be held:

Motion by Michael Robinson, seconded by Ryan Ray

Vote: 8 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

### Proposal to remove ballot wording: "Focus on the performance, not the piece."

Proposal withdrawn. No action was taken.

**Next meeting date set:** June 4th, 2022 in Upper Kentucky River Region

**Motion to adjourn by Michael Robinson, seconded by Ryan Ray.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.**