

**Canadian National Debating Championships
Annual General Meeting
Toronto, Ontario
Saturday, March 03, 2007
10:00 PM – Hotel room 609**

1. **Call to order** – Michael Muir
2. **Election of Chair** – John motions for Michael to act as Chair for this AGM.
Carried
3. **Adoption of Agenda** – Brian moves to adopt agenda as is. Carried.
4. **Acceptance of Minutes** – John moves to approve minutes. Carried
unanimously.
5. **Report on 2007 Championships** (Michael Muir)
 - Increase of registration fees due to lack of support from school and subsequent lack of time and resources for fundraising.
 - Apologies that advance paperwork took some reminding to get out – life happened.
 - John believes Michael doesn't need to apologize as much as we recognize the effort required to put on this tournament.
 - Michael made special effort to train whichever judges were parents ahead of time, which resulted in consistent scores from them. Adult judging pool was limited because of 2 major debating events occurring simultaneously in Ottawa (provincials and Carleton University tournament).
 - Linda asked if coaches will have to judge on Sunday. Michael answers that Jen has arranged for quality parent/staff/volunteers to judge quarters and semis.
 - Discussion about whether to have coaches/provincial reps in judging panel. John and Harold feel strongly in favour. Will be revisited as a motion in Item 9.
 - Hotel accommodation discussed. Continues to work well for everyone, especially in the face of Thursday's storm and subsequent arrival difficulties.
 - John moves to thank Michael for doing a splendid job under most trying circumstances. Carried.
 - School Principal sends his apologies for not being able to make an appearance at the tournament.
6. **Report on 2008 Championships** (Martin Poirier)
 - Package handed out by Martin
 - To be hosted in Calgary, Alberta
 - Will follow traditional model, including hotel hosting
 - Cost is missing from package, but will be around the same as this year
 - C.A. will be Helen Timmons
 - Thursday will offer choice of going to Banff or Drumheller (Tyrell Museum)
 - Quarter, Semis, and Finals will take place at local schools on Monday to promote debate in the region

- Linda wants to know if the dates will interfere with Passover. In 2008, Passover will begin on April 19th, so the dates of April 10th to April 14th will not interfere. Agreed to stick with Martin's proposed dates.

7. Report on 2007/2008 North American Debate Championship (Martin Poirier)

- Proposed dates of October 19th to October 22nd, 2007
- Michael and Chris will sit down with organizers of this year's Oxford tournament to address their concerns with Canada's participation. Concerns stem from their questioning the validity of our qualifying tournament.
- John wants to know if the North Ams will be greatly affected if it no longer qualifies teams for Oxford. John suggests that if there is a change in the status quo (our eligibility for Oxford), that that is made known and we revisit the style of the North Americans.
- Michael suggests that he and Chris will submit a report on the issue after their return (March 20th).
- Martin says that he would be fine with changing the style, if that is what the provinces want. He also thinks that this decision should be made by the end of March so the invitation can be released.
- Martin would like to have at least 100 teams involved, including American teams. Last year there were about 32 teams.
- Martin wants explore possibility of piggybacking NorthAms with Western Seminar. He notes that this timing was chosen to be able to have the maximum available quality BP judges (university students).

8. Upcoming Hosts for National High School Championships

- Martin to host in Calgary in 2008
- Michael opens floor for discussion. Brian and John both suggest that they would be willing to host in the coming years.
- Brian would like to check with Josh to determine when he is hosting Jr. Nationals and would like to host HS Nationals in the off year from Josh (2009 or 2010). John will host in the other year in Winnipeg (2009 or 2010).
- All would like to see BC host in the next 3 years as well.

9. Varia

- John would like to see some measure put in place to ensure "provincial protection" – that teams from the same province do not hit each other too much, as far as is possible, particularly early on (and especially for weaker teams later on). This would enhance the learning experience for participants.
- Suggestion to leave the organization of this with the tabs director.
- John moves that where possible, without significantly affecting the integrity of the competition, the draw should be arranged so that teams from the same province do not debate each other. Carried unanimously.
- Martin moves that the Board create a motion subcommittee, no later than 3 months before the tournament, to determine what impromptu topics will

be debated and provide the motions no less than 1 week before the tournament. Carried unanimously.

- Martin moves on behalf of BC that this championship does not take place at the same time as a provincial championship.
 - John would be against because that involves accommodating 9 different provinces
 - Martin says that he thought this Board was created to consider more the needs of the provinces, not to impose from above
 - Brian thinks that once the date for nationals is set and plans have begun, it should not be expected to change if a province's date is set later
 - Michael understands concern given the Jr. Provincials, which are this weekend. He re-iterates the discussion from last year about BC's conflict, and his intention to change the nationals to the spring to accommodate BC, but that was not possible due to other factors such as Jewish holidays and IB exams.
 - Martin believes that this event should eventually end up taking place in April, as has been the intention.
 - Harold suggests that we make a motion to have Nationals take place in April. Michael suggests it be worded as "Spring Term" instead of April.
 - Brian wants to know the provincials dates for the West (Martin answers they are in the second or third week in March).
 - Original motion voted on and defeated.
- Michael moves that the National Championships take place after March 21st of any academic year. Motion carried with one abstention.
- John moves that if possible in 2007, and for all tournaments as of 2008, all the judges in the semi-final and final rounds of the National Championships be drawn exclusively from coaches whose teams are not in those rounds, provided there are sufficient numbers to do so. Motion carried on a split decision with 11 for and 7 against.
- Prima would like to see several styles in debating because the students would learn a lot. John suggests that that is the function of the National Seminar.
- John suggests reverting to the "old system" where the host province has the discretion of using speakers' points, rather than win-loss, to decide the outcome of rounds. Michael suggests that all you need are a few bad judges to skew the tournament. John suggests that the same is true for win-loss and that there are positives and negatives for both ways, but that discretion would be good to have.
- Michael appreciates the need for local discretion if local expertise in that style can help the tournament run efficiently. Martin asks what was done in Australia...Michael responds that it is win-loss. As is the case in Oxford. Michael uses a win-loss sports analogy at 11:30pm.

- The point is brought forward that using speaker points would not allow for bracketing. Martin and Michael agree that bracketing is needed to flesh out the really strong teams.
- Linda points out that if you use a prop or opp heavy resolution, judging on speaker points could make up for that.
- John moves that the host have the discretion of using speakers' points for team rankings, rather than win-loss. Brian seconded. 4 in favour, 15 opposed. Motion defeated.

10. **Election of Board of Governors**

- Kozo to run the election as impartial party.
- Call for nomination to fill 7 positions (including host).
 - Brian nominates Josh
 - Michael nominates Harold
 - Linda nominates John
 - Martin nominates Tracy
 - Martin automatically on board as host
 - Brian nominates Michael
 - Martin nominates Anne
- Nominations close, those nominated agree to serve if elected
- All are acclaimed as nominated

11. **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:44 PM.