2023 Board of Directors Meeting Feb 3-4

Important dates for the upcoming season

State Meeting July 7-8 Friday board of directors, President and secretary session, train the trainer, Saturday general meeting and break out sessions. Houston is the host, we need a number of volunteers for Saturday. We also need to decide whether or not to run any kind of hospitality area. Unsure of the number of volunteers at this time

Dues deadline for taso is March 15, thereafter there is a $25 late charge

All Star matches are July 11-12 in Arlington, Houston is not officiating this year but will be supplying an R1 or R2 in 2024.

June is when we will know whether or not subvarsity matches will also get $5 raise

Regional Clinics are July 15, 16, 22, 23. None close to Houston. TASO is looking for clinicians to present, if anyone wishes to apply the deadline is May 15, there will be interviews during the State Meeting.

Testing opens July 12 and closes August 13.

District Director position deadline for applications , apply after August 1 and before October 1

December 15 is deadline for nominations for special awards. Honorary Life member requires 20 years of service and to be retired from officiating. Suggest

Barbara Graham, let me know of others if eligible, Chapter President submits.

Meeting Notes

Feb 3. UIL, most likely (not certain, they said) will still allow coaches to select their playoff officials up to the Regional Semifinal. Last year only 4 out of 48 officials were UIL designated

TAPPS , recognizing the shortage of officials, moved some of their matches to Thursdays and Saturdays to get a larger selectio

State Tournament people said that we need to train the benches better about celebrations after rallies, apparently there were several instances of non players on the courts. They also wanted to emphasize that officials need to be (1) available (2) recognize that travel is involved, cannot referee in your own backyard as they so said, and (3) that the official must WANT to be there.

They also, they being UIL, stated that if you are selected for a Regional

Final you cannot do a semifinal match, and you cannot turn back a Regional assignment to do a semifinal. I raised a question about that but it is coming from UIL and as far as I know as of this weekend that policy will be adhered to.

Houston chapter statistics are all over the board, some of them were improved, such as test score average and in some cases worse—we had the largest drop, 19.9 %, in enrollment, we are next to last in chapter retention, we are the oldest average age of all chapters, our percentage of new members is near the bottom, new member retention sixth from the bottom. Reversing these unfavorable statistics is to be a chapter goal, in my opinion and unfortunately we represented as having to make some changes to reverse these statistics.

There will be a course in “Active Shooter Training” in this season’s curriculum, no details yet

I reported earlier that TASO will charge $25 for walk ups at State, cash only, to encourage preregistration, and I assume that will be true for Regional Clinics.

We are providing a basket for the drawings, anyone interested in helping or putting that together please contact me, it’s $150 limit and you will be re imbursed. Joyce has volunteered to be the default basket person if no one comes forward, lets present that at March Chapter Meeting. There will be drawings for prizes throughout the sessions, to keep people interested I guess.

There was talk of a gray long sleeved shirt, nothing concrete yet, overshirt of white with taso logo is still the only overshirt, and chapters cannot mandate the use of exclusively gray shirts

We need to discuss at the chapter level the protocol and formation of a group to deal with Ethics issues, headed by the Past President and not staffed by board members. Also perhaps some more specific language about the use of social media. I also think that an idea I heard during the sessions about a specific person or persons to deal with making sure the new members are proceeding on the correct path. Another thing that was confirmed was that all chapters accepted new members up to Scrimmage date. None of them cut off new applications in early June, and two or three that I talked to do training after the State meeting. I am fully aware this would create hardships for training, scheduling, and most likely would result in some new people having very few matches, it just seems that according to their statistics the number of new official applications peaks in July.