

SW WASHINGTON REGIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes for Monday, 11 April 2011, 6:30 PM, Clark College

Members present: David Bufford, Rick Grote, April Takashima, Erin Harwood, David Rosi, Garry Lee, Jo Shannahan, Barry Hoffmann, Ann Williams, Cheryl Kryger

SW WA Regional Tournament

Saturday, March 12, 2011, Lower Columbia College
David Rosi, tournament director, shared his feedback.

1. Overall, the tournament went well.
2. There were a lot of very difficult events that require specific knowledge and talents, especially in the physics field. This can be quite challenging for recruiting event supervisors at a small college.
3. The most difficult task to get through to the supervisors was to read their rules and prepare their tests early.
4. There was one arbitration concerning Wind Power C. It should no be a problem for the State Tournament.
5. The early morning testing option used this year helped alleviate time later in the day, however, it generally required either that much more time for the event supervisor to be there or another proctor.
6. It seemed as if the schedule didn't flow as well, especially with the events that had both B and C divisions.
7. The scores came in rather late, however, at 4:30 there were only three events still to go: Sounds of Music C, Reach for the Stars B/Remote Sensing C, and Write It/Do It B/C.
8. The Experimental Design supervisor used a very effective grading rubric that made scoring go much easier and quicker than what this event is notoriously known for.

Washington State Tournament

Saturday, April 16, 2011, Clark College

1. Erin Harwood, tournament director, has all the event supervisors except Dynamic Planet B/C for which she needs a proctor. The subject matter this year is fresh water including ground water.
2. After listening to David Rosi's comments, these proactive suggestions were made for the state tournament.
 - a. Explain to the event supervisors to get the grading in as soon as possible, with a goal of 4:30 PM.
 - b. If they anticipate needing help, to call as soon as possible, preferably before the tournament. David Rosi tried to stop by each event when the test time was ending to see how things were going.
 - c. Suggest that scoring can be done during down time.

- d. It would be helpful for Erin Harwood and Cheryl Kryger to be stationed at Headquarters and have runners.
 - e. Event supervisors and coaches should have a phone number to reach someone. This may be difficult as there is only one cell phone between Erin and Cheryl, and it is the only personal home phone in the family.
3. Two years ago, April Takashima and Jo Shannahan prepared food for about 150-200 supervisors and volunteers. Erin estimates around 50 supervisors and 100 volunteers.
 4. David Bufford will recruit and oversee the Arbitration Board with help from Rick Grote (for B events), and possibly Eric Nordquist (for C events). Effort will be made to include all regions.
 5. We are still finalizing award presenters and suggestions were welcomed. Erin will take care of that.
 6. The pre-award activity is scheduled to be the final bouts for Sumo Bots C, with a filler of "Bottle Rocket Bowling." It was suggested that a scavenger hunt would be preferable because the students could burn off energy by running around, instead of sitting and watching a limited number of people being active. Cheryl Kryger will try to revamp an old scavenger hunt to follow Sumo Bots, and then if there is still time to fill, we'll use the Bowling activity.
 7. Several specific event questions were raised.
 - a. A question was raised about the device timing for Awesome Aquifers B. It was suggested to allow the students 15 minutes to build and 5 minutes to explain.
 - b. Several questions have been submitted about floor surfaces and room dimensions. Answers have been posted on the website. One that will be added is that the floor surfaces for Mousetrap Vehicle C and Battery Buggy B are both linoleum.
 - c. Storm the Castle B: Can a laser pointer be used? The rules prohibit an AC device, but battery operated pointers run on DC.
 - d. Bottle Rockets B: Can the students use an umbrella? It was prohibited at the regional, possibly for safety reasons.

Annual Elections

1. Last fall it was proposed that our SW WA elections for 2011-12 be moved from October to May so they wouldn't conflict with the work for the Coaches Clinic and Elementary Invitational Tournament. We decided to carry through with that plan, so next month we will elect officers for the SW WA regional board.
2. David Bufford (Chair) would be willing to continue unless someone else would like to step forward. Rick Grote (Vice Chair) and Cheryl Kryger (Secretary) are willing to continue. April Takashima (Treasurer) would prefer to step down.
3. A note will be added to the meeting notification that nominations can be made in person at the meeting or beforehand by email.
4. As for the WSO Board,
 - a. It is believed that Rick Grote and Judy Bauer terms will end this year. Rick will be running again.

- b. WSO meetings are going to be held in Ellensburg due to its centralized location. Phone tele-conference is also available.

Other

1. David Rosi would like to get an elementary program started in the Longview area. He will be put on the contact list. Rick Grote also suggested that the schools could set up an event similar to the spring training day that Camas has done in the past. It's more low key and simpler to organize.
2. Rick shared that he has a contact at the Bonneville Power Administration who is the director of community relations. They deals with middle and high school education and outreach. This person expressed an interest in sponsoring a couple of events, possibly with donations of cash and/or prizes. Some events that would be particularly suited for this arrangement are Shock Value, Awesome Aquifers, and Wind Power.
3. Next board meeting (pending room reservation): Monday, 9 May 2011, at 6:00 PM, JSH 244 at Clark College. The main purposes will be to review the state tournament, plan for the elementary coaches clinic and tournament, and hold elections for officers.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Kryger
Secretary