



MINUTES OF THE TDS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

NOVEMBER 11, 2015



Meeting Summary

The third TDS Executive meeting of the 2015-2016 season was held at King Henry VIII Ale Pub, in the Anne Boleyn Room, at 2469 Bloor St. West, at 6:30 p.m. Four members of the executive were in attendance: Heather B. (President), Daniele T. (Treasurer), Michelle W. (Communications) and Sem O. (Education). Regrets from Jerry K. (Membership) and Gerry L. (Outreach). David F. (Editor/Secretary) was absent. Heather B. agreed to take minutes and prepare this document.

Reports of Committee:

President: Review of Executive accomplishments to date include: creating a new club logo, creating a new website, securing a new domain host and revising the adjudication scoresheet.

Treasurer: Club balance has a surplus of around \$1,600 dollars. Accounts Payable are all up to date. Town Hall rental fees are due in December.

Director of Communications: Website preparation is well underway for soft launch.

Director of Education: Adjudication tutorial and club presentation pending. Mini-debate preparations underway.

MINUTES OF THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business, New Business, Website, 2016 Debate Topics

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Results of the TDS logo survey were discussed and ratified. The clear choice of club members (by a margin of nearly 4:1 upon final count) was the first option that includes the City Hall and original debating figures in a round shield with the full name of the club around the perimeter. This is now the official Toronto Debating Society logo.

The Communications Director noted the annual group photograph needs to be retaken with better lighting/equipment ahead of the website launch.

The Treasurer will extend the domain hosting package on Namespro for an additional two months, at a cost of approximately \$22.00, to ensure there is a smooth transition to the new domain host with the launch of the new website.

The new website will have a soft launch of December 15th, 2015 and a hard launch of January 1, 2016.

The revised adjudication scorecard will be posted on the new website, along with a description of the scoring categories. A hard copy of the scorecard will be printed on the back of the bi-weekly debate agenda. As well, a hard copy of the scoring category explanation will be available at meetings.

The Education Director recommended the current website be backed-up for the period of one year. Sem presented two back-up options: putting all of the content on a flash key, and/or in a drop-box. The group decided on having two back-up copies, using flash keys, that are securely stored.

The President suggested the new TDS website include a page for friends and supporters of the TDS. This page will be used to list credits to the graphic designers who created the new club logo (names forthcoming) and to Sem Onyalo for creating the new TDS website. The page will also list any sponsorship donours moving forward (this could be included in the drop down menu under 'About Us'). The group agreed.

The President will draft sponsorship letters with the intention of sending them to the top ten law offices in Bloor West Village, as well as other potential sponsors that complement the objectives of the community club.

The Treasurer will send a thank-you card and a \$25.00 gift card for coffee to each of the two graphic designers who created the new club logo.

NEW BUSINESS

Daniele, approved the purchase of three new flash drives to back-up the old website (2 separate copies) and to provide additional storage for debate videos.

Daniele suggested the TDS was in a position to pay \$10 towards one drink purchase for each member in attendance at the post-debate pub night on the last meeting before Christmas. The group agreed this would be offered to the club.

Michelle will actively promote TDS on ‘Meet-Up’ in Mid-December to boost attendance at the first meeting of the New Year and to promote the new TDS website.

Sem will connect with past Education Director, Anita, who has volunteered to host an adjudication tutorial in her home. Date TBD. The session will teach members how to present an adjudication. It will be predicated on consensus building. It will explain the adjudication form. Participants will watch a full TDS debate and adjudicate it. A discussion of how it was scored will follow. Participants will watch a few mini-debates, and/or examples taken from the web of what’s widely recognized as a good debate and a bad debate. They will be deconstructed from a scoring perspective. It was agreed the session should include ‘adult’ beverages.

Sem will organize a follow-up education session on adjudication for a TDS meeting.

Daniele suggested part of the incoming-year and year-end surplus be used as executive compensation to supplement the first and last executive meeting of each season. This would be intended to show a measure of appreciation to Executive members for making

the commitment to volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of the club. Amount to be decided, then presented to the general membership for approval.

WEBSITE SPECIFIC TOPICS

It was agreed the site will have a soft launch on December 15, 2015 and a hard launch on January 1, 2016. As of the soft launch, members will be invited to use the site and provide feedback and suggestions over the course of the following week. This provides an additional week to implement any necessary changes and modifications ahead of the official hard launch on January 1st, 2016.

The official club logo will be uploaded to the new website.

Executive bios will be uploaded under ‘About Us’.

The navigation bar will include a separate label, ‘Contact Us’. It will include the ‘Contact Us’ information that is currently in the drop down menu under ‘About Us’. The ‘Location’ section that is currently under ‘About Us’ will also be moved to ‘Contact Us’ and placed in a drop down menu.

A label for ‘Members’ will appear on the navigation bar. It will require a login password. Among other things, it will include the membership list and email contact information.

The page ‘How to Participate’ (currently under ‘About Us’) will be renamed ‘Debating Roles’ and moved to the section, ‘Meeting Roles’, appearing ahead of the ‘Non-Debating Roles’ section in the drop down menu. Its content will be modified accordingly.

‘Orientation for new members’, created by past VP Emily, will be uploaded to the new website.

Agendas will be updated and uploaded.

Video of debates that have not been uploaded to the current website will be uploaded onto the new site (October 2014 onwards).

Adjudication video over same period as above will be uploaded at the discretion of our Communications Director, Michelle.

The audio link for the Radio Regent program, Dum Dum's, which featured a show on debating with live guest interviews by TDS members David Furlong and Heather Bakken will be uploaded to the new website.

DEBATE TOPICS & AGENDA FOR SPRING 2016

JANUARY 12th: Church and State should be separated (Regular debate)

JANUARY 26th: TBD MINI DEBATE MARATHON

FEBRUARY 9th: Valentine's Day is no longer relevant. (Regular)

FEBRUARY 23rd: TBD BEGINNERS

MARCH 8th: Women spend too much time polishing the glass ceiling, rather than breaking it. (Int'l Womens' Day) CROSS-EXAMINATION

MARCH 22nd: Sunday mornings are better than Saturday nights (Comedy)

APRIL 5TH: TBD CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 19TH: TBD by Speaker -- IMPROMPTU

MAY 3rd: Edward Snowden is more like Robin Hood than Benedict Arnold (Random Roles)

MAY 17th: TBD. This is the last meeting; let's leave on a WINNER (Regular with POI).

WE NEED FIVE TOPICS FROM THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

The federal government must shut down the Alberta tar sands.

Municipalities should regulate the sharing economy.

Technology is threatening human progress.

Individuals should be able to sue any website that misrepresents them.

Cloud computing is a step back to George Orwell's 1984.

2015 exceeded the expectations of 'Back to the Future'.

Be it resolved that men are obsolete.

Children under five should not be allowed to play with smart phones.

User agreements should be limited to 140 characters.

Strategy planning is a waste of time.

Canada should accept more than 25,000 more Syrian refugees.

ISIS is an American creation.

The government should legislate gender parity on corporate boards.

State surveillance is a legitimate defence of our freedoms.

Working pets should be limited to dogs.

MINI-DEBATE MARATHON

- The next James Bond should be...
- New resolutions and any unused from above list

FORMATS:

- Regular
- Beginners
- Random Roles
- Impromptu
- Current Affairs
- Comedy
- Cross-Examination
- Regular debate with Points of Information