

Greetings all!

For those that do not know me, my name is Aaron Timmons, and I am Director of Debate at Greenhill School in Addison, Texas. I am drafting this email to indicate my willingness to serve as Region Representative for Region 2 (to be voted on during the TSCA Convention/TFA business meeting). It is my understanding that our current representative, Rory McKenzie, is not intending to run again for that position. It is my belief that now is the perfect time in my professional life to serve in this role if selected to do so.

The Texas Forensic Association is at a crossroads. We must be more than a state tournament, and the tournaments that qualify for that event. Region 2 is one of the most, if not THE most, competitive in the state (and frankly in the country) in my opinion. We have a group of veteran coaches with the experience to rival any in the state and the country. We also have a group of younger coaches, as well as coaches that feel disconnected from the larger group either due to distance, apprehension to voice a perspective, and real (or perceived) difference in pedagogical and/or competitive goals. My objective is to break down those barriers, have real conversations about what serves the needs of all our region, offer support and guidance given the wealth of resources we have amongst us, and as importantly, represent our region on the TFA Executive Council.

Internal questions will arise from many I would imagine regarding my candidacy, including but not limited, to the following:

“What is his “agenda”?

Answer: To serve an organization that I have been a member of for nearly 40 years at a time I feel it may be most needed.

“Can he represent all areas of forensics and not just debate”?

I believe I can. While it is fair to say I have not coached a full-service program every year I have coached, I understand (and respect) all areas of forensics. For example, in recent years I have had success with oral interpretation students on the local, state, and national scene, as well as various formats of debate. I was instrumental in getting the interpretation rules changed by NSDA regarding acceptable literature to allow more diverse voices to be heard and shared in competitions. I do not know every answer to every question related to every competitive event. I will listen to all parties that do have a perspective, and both consult with, and attempt to represent, the will of the region and the various stakeholders within.

“Can he represent the diversity within our large, and incredibly competitive, region”?

It is my goal to do just that. In our region we have mega large public schools with significant resources devoted to speech and debate with multiple coaches, public and private schools, full-service teams, and those programs that just focus on one event. We have rural schools, suburban schools, and increasingly urban schools/programs competing and we are all working to do all we can for our students. I think assessing needs of the region is a necessary first step, followed by an action plan that we all contribute to make us better as a region, as well as individual educators. We are too siloed currently. Transparency and communication will be something I will continue, if selected as Region Representative.

“Has he ever had any leadership roles previously”?

Yes! I served as TFA VP and President previously. I have served multiple terms on the National Debate Coaches Associations Board of Directors, served on the Lonestar District committee, in addition to other local and national leadership roles as well.

Email me at timmonsa@greenhill.org if you have questions.

I would appreciate your support.

Aaron Timmons