



## NCFL Newsletter

**Volume Number 46, Issue 1**

**November 30, 1998**

The Fall Meeting of the NCFL Executive Committee was called to order on Friday, September 25, 1998 by President Ron Steinhorst at 7:05pm at the Hilton Hotel in Savannah, Georgia. After the invocation by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb, the roll was called. The twenty-seven leagues in attendance were:

Arlington	Atlanta	Baltimore
Boston	Brooklyn	Buffalo
Chicago	Erie	Green Bay
Houston	Miami	Milwaukee
Newark	New Orleans	New York
Orlando	Palm Beach	Philadelphia
Pittsburgh	Portland	Rochester
Rockville Centre	Salina	Scranton
St. Petersburg	Washington, DC	Worcester

Mr. Steinhorst introduced the new moderators and introduced our host, Mr. Phil Wertz of the Atlanta Diocese. Mr. Wertz discussed the plans for the weekend. Mr. Steinhorst welcomed Mr. Roland Burdett to the Executive Council and presented him with his Gold Officer's Pin.

Mr. Michael Nailor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, was introduced to present his Officer's Report. He asked for suggestions on Extemporaneous Speaking Topics and Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topics. He will be sending out a mailing providing information on last year's topics and suggesting topics for this year's.

Ms. Carmen Adkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, was introduced to present her Officer's Report. She indicated that she would be working with Mr. Nailor on the Extemp and L-D Debate Topics.

Mr. Dick Gaudette, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, was introduced to present his report. He reminded everyone of the NCFL Deadlines for School Membership, December 1<sup>st</sup> at \$20 per school and late membership by January 1<sup>st</sup> at a 10% penalty in addition to the fee, for a total of

\$22 per school.

Mr. Gaudette asked that all Diocesan Moderators return the Information Forms that he sent out to ensure that all the mailing lists are correct.

Mr. Gaudette reminded everyone that he had the NCFL Pins for sale at \$7.00 each. He indicated that the next order of pins would cost more, so he suggested you get them at this price "while supplies last".

Mr. Gaudette reported on the NCFL Incorporation process. The incorporation process has been completed and NCFL is now a non-profit corporation. To complete the official paperwork, he asked for a motion to adopt the By-Laws and Constitution of the NCFL as they currently exist as the By-Laws and Constitution of NCFL, Inc. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Roland Burdett, the Recording Secretary and Publicity Director, was introduced to present his report. He now has the Official NCFL Scrapbook of photos and news clippings. If anyone has any additions, he asked that they be sent to him.

Mr. Jim Lyness, the NCFL Grand National Tournament Director, was introduced to present his report. He thanked everyone who worked in the Tab Rooms at last year's National Tournament. He indicated that the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) had placed the NCFL Grand National Tournament in 1999 on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities. He distributed the NCFL Policy Debate Topic Selection Form to the Directors present and indicated he would mail it to those not present. Mr. Lyness needs the completed form returned to him by October 15, 1998.

Ms. Adkins reported on the Policy Debate Topic Selection Committee Meeting held in the summer of 1998. There were thirteen topics reviewed and eight were eliminated. If Directors are willing and interested in writing Topic Study Reports for future topics they should see Mr. Steinhorst.

Mr. Mike Colletti of the Chicago Diocese was introduced. He is the Host of the 1999 NCFL Grand National Tournament. He reported that the hotel rates at the Palmer House have been finalized. They will be:

\$92 for a Single,

\$95 for a Double,

\$110 for a Triple, and

\$128 for a Quad.

He reported that taxes are currently at 14%. If schools are interested in working on tax exempt status they should contact the hotel directly. Reservations can be made at the Palmer House now and forms will be mailed out as soon as they are available. He suggested that to avoid confusion, if you are asking for a double with two beds, you should be clear. He indicated that the Palmer House usually refers to these rooms as "double-doubles" and you should request them as such to avoid having only one bed in a room. He also noted that because of the number of rooms we were expecting to book at the Palmer House, the Palmer House was contributing \$3000 to help cover the costs of buses for the tournament.

Mr. Colletti reported that the competition sites would be:

For Policy Debate, the Palmer House Hotel;

For L-D Debate and Speech, the Wilmette area schools, Loyola, Regina, and Wilmette;

For Congress, St. Ignatius School.

He also reported that lunches on Saturday would need to be ordered in advance on forms provided in the spring. He expected the lunches to cost approximately \$7. He is working on arranging for a "cash and carry" breakfast at the Palmer House on Saturday morning.

Ms. Joann Hamm of the Rochester Diocese was introduced to report on the NCFL Nationals in 2000 that she is hosting. She reported that all rounds would be held at the Rochester Institute of Technology on both days. RIT will be printing the Tournament Programs for cost. Lunches will be available for both Saturday and Sunday on the campus. Breakfast is being arranged at the hotels and at the RIT campus. Plans are being made for student entertainment each night, Thursday through Sunday. Niagara Falls tours are being planned, but these will be long drives with a round trip tour taking approximately 6 hours.

Mr. Jim Lyness of the New York Diocese reported that there is no new information for the NCFL Nationals in 2001 in New York City.

Ms. Beth Young of the Pittsburgh Diocese reported that Duquesne University is trying to hold all the rounds for Saturday and Sunday at their campus for the 2002 Nationals in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Steinhorst thanked Cheryl Gazlay and Kim White for hosting the 1998 NCFL Nationals in Detroit. Some directors have had questions about their hotel bills at the Westin Renaissance and Mr. Steinhorst indicated that you should work with the hotel directly if you have questions or problems.

Mr. Gaudette then presented the Financial Report. The Financial Statement for the 1997-1998 Year is:

Balance on 1 September 1997 \$63,302.00

Receipts for the Year \$64,782.35

Total \$128,084.35

Less Expenses for the Year \$85,686.91

Balance on 31 August 1998 \$42,397.44 with \$40,539.79 in Savings and \$1,857.65 in Checking.

He reported the Receipts and Expenses as follows:

<u>Receipts</u>			<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues	\$14,702.00		Supplies	\$222.30
Penalty	\$417.00		Printing	\$492.01
Pins	\$378.00		Postage	\$701.65

Nationals	\$43,840.00		Phone	\$1,230.09
Fines	\$3,050.00		Nationals	\$59,987.02
Interest	\$1,945.35		Executive Council	\$10,936.38
Misc.	\$450.00		Other Meeting Exp.	\$889.71
			Incorporation Fees	\$2,700.00
			Nationals '97 Repay	\$4,496.00
			Misc.	\$4,031.75
Total Receipts	\$64,782.35		Total Expenses	\$85,686.91

Mr. Gaudette reported that the Expenses for the 1998 NCFL Grand National Tournament were:

Awards	\$12,989.17
Postage	\$450.84
Ballots	\$709.00
Supplies	\$597.43
Congress	\$1,198.75
Phone	\$705.43
Insurance	\$583.60
Programs	\$1,600.00
Foods	\$1,362.23
DCFL Costs	\$6,897.24
Buses	\$20,352.00
Schools	\$12,540.73

Mr. Gaudette then discussed the fees for Nationals. He reported that the tournament has not been self-supporting recently as it is planned to be. This has resulted in our account balances going

down by over \$20,000 over the past few years. He presented the following data:

<u>Year and Host</u>	<u>Registration Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1993 Palm Beach	\$46,130.00	\$41,014.75	\$5,115.25
1994 Green Bay	\$41,400.00	\$32,185.58	\$9,214.42
1995 Chicago	\$42,340.00	\$49,933.67	(\$7,593.67)
1996 Topeka	\$44,735.00	\$41,411.65	\$3,323.35
1997 Baltimore	\$43,880.00	\$57,837.00	(\$13,957.00)
1998 Detroit	\$43,840.00	\$59,987.02	(\$16,147.02)

Based on this presentation, Mr. Gaudette proposed increasing the NCFL Grand National Tournament Entry Fee from \$20 to \$25 per student. These costs will help cover the increasing building, bus, custodial, and insurance costs. The proposal was seconded and passed with only one dissenting vote. The increased fee will be effective with the 1999 NCFL Grand National Tournament in Chicago. All Directors were asked to pass this information along to their member schools so that they plan their budgets accordingly for Nationals 1999 Registrations.

Mr. Gaudette presented the Budget for the 1998-1999 Year. A motion was made to accept the budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The budget is:

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues	\$19,720.00	Supplies	\$600.00
Penalty	\$500.00	Printing	\$1,000.00
Pins	\$700.00	Postage	\$1,000.00
Fines	\$2,500.00	Pins	\$1,200.00
Interest	\$1,800.00	Phone	\$1,100.00
Misc.	\$2,000.00	Executive Council	\$12,000.00
		Other Meeting Exp.	\$700.00
		Web Site Support	\$3,000.00
Total Receipts	\$27,220.00	Total Expenses	\$23,100.00

Mr. Steinhorst presented the Report of the Executive Council's 1998 Winter Meeting. At this meeting the Council reviewed several of the NCFL By-Laws with respect to the definition of events and tournament management. The Executive Council's Report consisted of seventeen possible changes to the NCFL By-Laws. The changes were addressed individually by the Executive Committee as follows.

Proposal 1. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, c, 12 [Extemporaneous Speaking] to read "Speakers will have thirty (30) minutes of preparation time. Upon instruction by the Director of the event, speakers must surrender all preparation materials with the exception of the topic slip and one note card containing no more than fifty (50) words. When delivering the speech, the speaker may use this note card as an aid." This amendment was *passed unanimously*.

Proposal 2. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section D, Paragraph 5, c to read "Speakers who violate the Prohibited Materials By Laws or use materials prohibited in the Speech Events Definitions shall be disqualified through the procedure described in By-Laws Section D, 7. Such speakers shall receive no ranks in any round(s) in which said violation occurred or in any subsequent round(s). Other speakers' ranks affected by such disqualification will be adjusted if possible, which determination shall rest with the Executive Council and the Tournament Director." This amendment was *passed unanimously*.

Proposal 3. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section D, Paragraph 7 to change the word "shall" to "may" in the first sentence. This amendment was *passed unanimously*.

Proposal 4. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section D, Paragraph 7 to change the words "Tournament Directorate" to "Executive Council and Tournament Director". This amendment was *passed unanimously*.

Proposal 5. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section D, Paragraph 7 to add the following description of an appeals process: "In determining whether or not to disqualify a contestant, the Executive Council and Tournament Director shall review all pertinent information and consult with the involved parties in a timely manner, so as to permit the continued efficient running of the Grand National Tournament. Should the Executive Council's and Tournament Director's deliberations result in a disqualification, such decision may be appealed by the director of the diocesan League of the disqualified contestant(s). Such appeal, together with the grounds for the appeal, shall be filed in writing by the diocesan League director with the LEAGUE President within two (2) weeks of the date of disqualification. The appeal will be considered at the fall meeting by the full Executive Committee of the LEAGUE, with the diocesan League director and the coach of the disqualified student(s) being permitted to address the Committee. Should the appeal be granted, the Executive Committee will determine the method of reparation." This amendment was *passed unanimously*.

Proposal 6. Amend NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, a, 1 [Oratorical Declamation] by inserting after the first sentence "The selection must not have been presented by its author in forensic competition." This amendment *failed on a weighted vote*.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was then recessed until 8:30am on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 1998.

Proposal 7. Amend the NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, b, 5 [Dramatic Performance] by inserting at the end of the clause "but cuttings from stand up comedy routines are prohibited." This amendment *failed unanimously*.

Proposal 8. Amend the NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, b, 2 [Dramatic Performance] by adding at the end of the first sentence "which has been published in script format." This amendment *failed on a weighted vote*.

Proposals 9 through 12 were grouped together. The proposed amendments are:

- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, b, 2 [Dramatic Performance] by adding at the end of the entire clause "The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted."
- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, f, 1 [Duo Interpretation of Literature] by adding at the end of the entire clause "The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with exception that cutting is permitted."
- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, d, 1 [Oral Interpretation of Literature] by adding at the end of the entire clause "The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted."
- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, a, 1 [Oratorical Declamation] by adding at the end of the entire clause "The original speaker's words may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted."

After much discussion these amendments were *approved on a weighted vote*.

Proposals 13 and 14 were grouped together. The proposed amendments are:

- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, d, 5 [Oral Interpretation of Literature] by adding at the end of the entire clause "Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation."
- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, f, 9 [Duo Interpretation of Literature] by adding at the end of the entire clause "Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation."

These amendments were *approved on a weighted vote*.

The Executive Committee then suspended the rules and introduced a similar proposal for Dramatic Performance to amend the NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, b, 4 by adding at the end of the entire clause "Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation. This amendment was *approved on a weighted vote*.

Proposals 15 and 16 were grouped together. The proposed amendments are:

- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, d, 4 [Oral Interpretation of Literature] by adding at the end of the entire clause "Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript may not be ranked first."
- To Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, f, 4 [Duo Interpretation of Literature] by inserting after the second sentence "Interpreters who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript may not be ranked first."

These amendments were *approved on a weighted vote*.

Proposal 17. To amend the NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, f, 4 [Duo Interpretation of Literature] by inserting after the word "audience" the phrase "or focal points". This

amendment was *passed on a weighted vote*.

This completed the Executive Council's Report. Mr. Steinhorst turned then to the other items for consideration from members of the Executive Committee.

The Palm Beach Diocese proposed a change to the NCFL By-Laws Article II, Section C, Paragraph 2, a to increase the number of preliminary rounds in Speech from four to five. This amendment *failed on a weighted vote*.

The Boston Diocese withdrew its proposal regarding the use of Original Oratory pieces in Oratorical Declamation as it had already been discussed as part of the Executive Council's Report.

The Palm Beach Diocese suggested that both Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate Judge guidelines include a "translation" of the Speaker Points possible to "class grades". This suggestion was approved. The hope of the Committee is that this will help bring some standardization to the Speaker Points awarded in debate competitions. The Tournament Chairs of Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate were directed to include such information in their Directions to Judges beginning with the 1999 NCFL Grand National Tournament.

The Miami Diocese expressed concern over the first two Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topics chosen by the NFL. This was determined to be a NFL issue and not an NCFL issue.

The Boston Diocese questioned the definition of published and the use of the ISBN for sources as required in the NCFL By-Laws. It was explained by Mr. Lyness that having an ISBN does not necessarily mean a piece is published and the absence of an ISBN does not mean a piece is not published. He explained the **NCFL By-Laws require that pieces be "commercially published in print form" and commercially available to others and identifiable by ISBN, LC Number, or Acting or Book Club Edition Reference**. Mr. Lyness reminded everyone that the original, and therefore commercially available, source must be available for review in the event of a challenge at the NCFL Grand National Tournament.

The Boston Diocese asked if some mechanism could be instituted to review the cuttings of participants in the OctoFinal rounds of Speech to try to ensure that there would not be disqualifications once the elimination rounds began. The sense of the committee is that there was no practical way to implement this and stay on our current schedule. Mr. Steinhorst reminded the directors that they should help to enforce the NCFL By-Laws as they may apply in their local qualifying tournaments or at the point of their registration for the NCFL Grand National Tournament as their own processes can allow.

The "Student Entry Drop" process was discussed. Specifically, Mr. Nailor pointed out that there have been too many drops at Friday Registration for the Tournament. Mr. Lyness reminded directors that they should notify him immediately of any drops or changes in a diocesan registration as soon as possible. Don't wait until the On-Site Registration!

The Rockville Centre Diocese suggested that future hosts of the National Tournament try to include notification of as many changes as possible in scheduling or tournament activities in the packets distributed to the directors at the On-Site Registration. Waiting until the Friday Director's Meeting is often too late to circulate the information to the member schools of a diocese.

The revised Critique Sheets (Ballots) for each of the Individual Events were reviewed. Changes based on the Executive Committee's actions at this meeting would be included. The ballots were

approved for use beginning with the 1999 NCFL Grand National Tournament. The revised ballots will be available on the NCFL WebSite at [www.ncfl.org](http://www.ncfl.org) .

Mr. Lyness announced that the revised By-Laws based on the amendments passed at this meeting would also be available at the NCFL WebSite.

Mr. Lyness reminded all the directors that the NCFL By-Laws require that judges provided by schools and dioceses for the NCFL Grand National Tournament must be experienced in the event for which they are registered to judge. Directors were also encouraged to assign their most experienced judges to the later elimination rounds pools to help provide the most experienced judging panels possible.

Mr. Steinhorst asked for the Executive Committee to suspend the rules and allow the Executive Council to hold its Winter Meeting in some place other than Chicago. This proposal was made as Mr. Colletti and the Chicago Diocese are very experienced at holding Nationals. The Committee approved this motion on a voice vote.

Mr. Gaudette reported the following fines remain outstanding (as of 25 September 1998) from the 1998 NCFL Grand National Tournament:

<u>Diocese</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Arlington	James Madison	\$50.00
Chicago	Glenbrook South	\$50.00
Indianapolis	Merryville HS	\$50.00
Indianapolis	FW Northrop	\$50.00
Lafayette	Barbe	\$50.00
Orlando	Lake Mary	\$50.00
Palm Beach	Martin Country	\$550.00
St. Petersburg	Hillsborough	\$50.00
Atlanta	Warner Robins HS	\$600.00
Atlanta	Pike County	\$50.00
Atlanta	Mary Persons HS	\$50.00
Louisville	Trinity	\$100.00
Rockville Centre	Hewlett HS	\$50.00
Green Bay	Appleton West	\$50.00
Portland	Brunswick	\$2,400.00
Portland	Cape Elizabeth	\$900.00

Erie	Cathedral Prep	\$1,000.00
Rochester	Fairport	\$50.00
Salt Lake City	Payson	\$50.00
Salt Lake City	Jordan	\$50.00
Kansas/St. Joseph's	Bishop LeBlond	\$1,000.00
Kansas/St. Joseph's	Kansas City Central	\$400.00
Kansas/St. Joseph's	St. Joseph Central	\$500.00

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Roland E. Burdett, III  
NCFL Recording Secretary/Publicity Director

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**Last Modified: 1/4/99**  
by [Jeff Alpi](#)