



NCFL Fall Meeting Minutes (Volume LII, Issue 1)

Friday, September 24, 2004
Milwaukee Hilton Hotel

The Fall Meeting of the National Catholic Forensic League was called to order by President Roland Burdett. Brother George Zehnle of Rockville Center offered a prayer. The roll was called by Executive Secretary/Treasurer Richard Gaudette and 34 Diocese were represented.

Diocese Represented: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Biloxi, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Erie, Galveston, Green Bay, Harrisburg, Jackson, Kansas City/Kansas, La Crosse, Lafayette, Miami, Milwaukee, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Rockville Center, Salina, St. Petersburg, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Winona and Worcester.

Introductions of the Executive Council and Diocesan Moderators were made.

Tournament reports were given from the following representatives:

Boston 2004: The NCFL would like to thank everyone concerned with making the Boston nationals such a success.

Milwaukee 2005 report was given by Steve Sexton. A handout was given to the Diocesan Moderators present and that information is available at the Milwaukee league website www.milwaukeeecfl.org The handout contained information concerning hotels, tax exemption forms (do this early!) and cancellation policies. Please check the website when making reservations. There will be no transportation between the two hotels (The Hilton and Hyatt), but all competitors and judges will be bussed to Marquette for speech. Rooms are also available on the Marquette campus as well; Parking is available at both hotels, both in hotel lots and area surface lots. Should the hotels be booked up, other hotels will be added. Registration for Diocesan Moderators will be at the Hilton. Awards will be given at the Milwaukee Theater. The tournament lunch at Marquette and MATC site will be picnic style.

Chicago 2006 report was given by Michael Colletti. The Palmer House is not being used; rather a different hotel, the Hilton Hotel and Towers will be used. The rate of \$129 per room plus tax is still in effect. The Chicago CFL is looking in to using other competition sites than have traditionally used for the tournament. This should keep bussing costs down.

Orlando 2007 report was given by Dean Rhodes. Saturday competition sites will be in the Seminole County School district, which is about a 25 minute bus ride from the host hotel. Details are still being firmed up and will be available for the Fall 2005 meeting.

Any diocese wishing to make a bid for 2008 are reminded that their bid materials are due to Roland Burdett by January 2, 2005. The specifics for the bid are available on the web site.

The Executive Council Officers Reports were given.

Ron Steinhorst, Grand Tournament Director, reported that a letter of apology and Octo-Finalist trophies have been sent to the team of Doowon and Lee of Lexington High School, Diocese of Boston; since a mathematical error had the team seeded 31st and their record should have ranked them higher.

President's Report President Roland Burdett addressed the situation which occurred at Suffolk University and damage done by policy debaters. Diocesan Directors and coaches must make this clear to their students that damage such as this cannot and will not be tolerated. Thanks to the work of Greg Cunningham, Boston Diocesan Director and Vicki Kearns of Suffolk University, repairs were made, but this situation is not acceptable.

There is a strong possibility that registration for the Grand National Tournament may be able to be done on-line. If the tests are successful, they will be used. The deadline of April 15th will still be in place, but changes must be made in the traditional manner. If you are a Diocesan Director, please make sure Dick Gaudette has your correct email address.

First Vice-President Lynda Luce reported on the proposed topics for policy debate. If you are interested in adding your input, there is an on-line ballot available at the national debate website. You may use it to vote and email back to Lynda at footluce@charter.net but please return by October 16, 2004. Further, if you have any ideas for LD topics for the NCFL Grand Tournament, those are due to Lynda by Christmas.

Second Vice-President Kieran Larkin reviewed the current extemp topic areas. If anyone would like to make suggestions for new topic areas, please email Kieran at KnSLarkin@yahoo.com by Christmas.

Publicity Director Catherine Luhr introduced the topic of using the website for publication of the minutes rather than using paper copies and sending Diocesan Directors enough copies for each school in their league. Currently, the NCFL spends almost \$1,000 to produce the newsletters. The suggestion was made that each league would receive one paper copy this year only and Diocesan Directors would be responsible for distributing that newsletter to the schools in their area or directing the schools to download the newsletter from the website on their own. Therefore, this is the last paper copy of a newsletter which will be sent in the hopes of saving the NCFL money.

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Richard Gaudette introduced the financial statement. A motion to pass the budget was made by Greg Cunningham and seconded by Tom Durkin. The budget passed.

Registration cards will still be used and they must be signed by the principal. The deadline for returned cards is January 10th. Your quota will be set as of that day. The question came up about using computers in Student Congress, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate and Extemp. The Executive Council would like input from coaches and moderators on this subject. Use in Student Congress, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Policy Debate is NOT prohibited at this time.

Before the meeting adjourned for the evening, Roland Burdett asked Debbie Simon of the Boston Diocese, who had been asked to chair a committee to examine the questions surrounding publishing, to introduce what the committee had discussed. After a brief introduction to the

situation, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 until Saturday morning.

Saturday, September 25, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

There was an open discussion led by Debbie Simon of Boston concerning changes in verification for published materials. The general consensus of the members present was that the intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and accessible to all members of the league. Passed 32-0. The rule will now say:

The intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and accessible to all members of the league. At the NCFL tournament, coaches should bring an original script with an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN. If the script does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script was purchased or obtained commercially; i.e. from a literary agent or publisher or bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date.

There was a discussion about the use of extemp briefing books and after discussion, a motion was made to have the Executive Council look at this during the January meeting and report back to the group next fall.

Motion from Debbie Simon of Boston that material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script. Motion passed 29-3.

Lynda Luce stated that Diocesan Directors must make sure that all students and coaches must know that both parties must have copies of their pieces; if the copy is not available, students may be disqualified.

Motion from Brother George Zehnle to have the agenda for the fall meeting published earlier to allow Diocesan Directors to meet with their schools earlier. This would require that by-law and constitutional proposals must be published in advance of the fall meeting. This motion passed 31-3. Proposals for new business for the fall agenda should be in to Dick Gaudette by September 1st.

Brother George Zehnle proposed removing the restriction on using high school Original Oratory pieces in Declamation, which had been passed last year. On a 106-66 weighted vote, the motion passed. Therefore, high school oratories may be used in Declamation.

Motion was made to expressly prohibit the use of dramatic monologues in prose. Confusion started at nationals concerning the use of certain scripts which were called "dramatic monologues" or "humorous monologues". To clarify, literature chosen in Oral Interpretation may not be a monologue from a play. The literature chosen may include any form of prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction, except drama such as monologues from a play and strictly oratorical composition written to be delivered in real life.

Diocese of Philadelphia asked that the Executive Council look into the possibility of introducing the event of Public Forum Debate. Motion was made and passed that the Executive Council will do this at the Winter Meeting and return with options for further action/consideration at the Fall 2005 meeting.

Motion was made by Laura Cristano of Newark that Declamation Critique sheet should add the wording: "Consideration should be given to the oratorical merit of the selection." Motion passed.

Brother George Zehnle brought up the idea of making drama cuttings available to all. Can a list of sources be made on the website? On the advice of Vicki Trimmer of Harrisburg, a disclaimer could be added, but links to certain website could be made available.

Question introduced by David Long of Allentown about the use of video and audio sources. A motion was made to allow videos and audio tapes into use however the motion failed.

Lona Dittmar of Salina asked that consideration be given to allow poetry in Dramatic Performance. The motion to table this discussion until next fall passed 30-2.

Laura Cristiano asked if Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate considered sharing flow sheets within the same school appropriate. The nearly unanimous consensus of the directors was that it is both an appropriate strategy and an important teaching tool. There is no rule against this and therefore is permitted.

A reminder that the By-Laws of the NCFL Constitution say that if absent Diocesan Directors do not contact the NCFL for info about the Fall Meeting, the diocese they represent are not eligible.

Mary Schick from Miami brought up the question of why when a debate team drops does the school still owe the judge after a certain point. Roland Burdett explained that the judge has been put in place and that the impact of a dropped judge is great in terms of the preparations for the tournament. There are constraints in debate concerning regional basis and a slate of cleaner judges are needed. The suggestion was made that directors should not necessarily register extra judges in their April 15th registrations in case there is a drop. Rather these extra judges should be inserted to replace drops after April 15th, or provide at on-site registration on Friday.

Motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine A. Luhr
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Last Modified: 02/21/05
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