

NCFL Fall Meeting
September 27-28, 2007

Meeting was called to order by President Lynda Luce at 5:31 p.m.

Br. George offered an opening invocation.

President's Report: Lynda Luce

1. Lyn thanked Houston for a wonderful tournament in May.
2. This is an election year...nomination papers must be sent to Lyn at footluce@charter.net by January 1st, 2008.
3. An LD Committee was chartered last year, but no volunteers came forward to work the issues. If anyone would like to volunteer again this year, speak or get in touch with Lyn.
4. An Extemp committee was chartered last year, but no volunteers came forward to work the issues. If anyone would like to volunteer again this year, speak or get in touch with Lyn..
5. The suggestion was made to form an ad hoc committee in order to assist people finding material for Prose, Poetry and Dramatic Interp. Committee would form to help new or existing coaches to find resources for material.
6. Web site is in the process of being updated. If there is something you are having trouble with, let Lyn know and she will forward it to Jeff Alpi. Links for Appleton 2008 will be there.

First Vice-President's Report: Kieran Larkin

1. Working on forming LD and PF topics for use at nationals. Contact Kieran via email before January 10th with comments or suggestions.

Second Vice-President's Report: Catherine Luhr

1. Catherine and Lyn attended the debate selection meeting over the summer. Catherine presented options and asked if anyone would like to see the full briefings, she has copies. She also has the top 5 prospective resolutions and speak to her this weekend if you have a preference for next year. Meeting is in Austin, TX next year. The year after, the NCFL is sponsoring the meeting near Buffalo, NY.
2. Extemp Topic Areas...if you have suggestions, please contact Catherine

Recording Secretary/Publicity Director's Report: Greg Cunningham

1. Newsletters and minutes from this meeting will no longer be mailed out, but will be emailed and available online at the NCFL website. Anyone wishing to receive a paper copy should be in touch and one will be mailed out.
2. The NCFL scrapbook is now online. Login information will be posted at the website, and was distributed to the group.
3. Greg will be working on scanning old copies of results packets from previous nationals and posting them on the website. This will be an ongoing project that will hopefully be completed by May.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Richard Gaudette

1. Dick has new pins, they are now \$9 each.
2. Registration form is now downloadable from the web, but signatures must still be obtained from the principal.
3. Dick presented the financial report. The Grand National Tournament in Houston showed a profit this year of almost \$20,000. The raise in entry fees helped keep us from losing money this year. Motion to approve the financial report made by Tom Durkin, second by Charlie Sloat. Passed by unanimous consent.

Cards are due by Dec 10 at a cost of \$20 per school without penalty and Jan 10 with a 10% penalty (\$22 per school).

Current Fines for leagues (as of November 1st, 2007) are as follows:

Fine 2008	School	Name	Type	Round	Event	Fine	
Albany	Niskayura	Krobetsky	L/D		No Show	600	
Albany	Niskayura	Michael Welch	L/D		No Show	600	
Altoona-Johnstown	North Star	Susan Bissett	PFD	Quarters		50	
Altoona-Johnstown	Forest Hills	Melissa Stombaugh Liverm	PFD	Octos		50	
Altoona-Johnstown	Penn Cambria	Ruth Diehl	PFD	Octos		50	
Arlington	Randolph-Macon Academy	Jackson	Speech	Octos	Dec	50	
Atlanta	Hillcrest HS	Bill Evan	Speech		No Show	600	
Charlotte	Myers Park	Mark Jenkins	L/D	Semis		50	
Charlotte	Myers Park	Nicole Carter	L/D	Semis		50	
Chicago	New Trier Township HS	Robbie Quinn	Policy	Quarters		50	
Chicago	New Trier Township HS	Jamie Hartmaann	Policy	Quarters		50	
Erie	Cathedral Prep	Ken Ogden	L/D	Rd. 1 & 5		100	
Green Bay	Sheboygan North	Kirt Graves	Speech	Finals	Duo	50	
Kansas City, KS	St. Thomas Aquinas	Harrison	Speech	Octos	Extemp	50	
Milwaukee	Marquette Univ. HS	Ben Schultz	PFD	Rd. 4	Octos	100	
Milwaukee	Marquette Univ. HS	Quinn Olivares	L/D	Rd. 4 & 5	Doub & Octo	200	
Orlando	Celebration Academy	Laura Montalvo	Policy	Rd. 1		50	
Providence	Classical HS	Catherine Marks	Policy	Rd. 3		50	
Providence	Classical HS	DeBoo/Marks	L/D		No Show	600	
Raleigh	Cary Academy	Sandeep Shah	PFD	Rd. 1		50	
Richmond	Blacksburgh HS	Paula Wilder	Speech	Rd. 2	Duo	50	
Richmond	Governor's School/gifted	Matt Kiehl	L/D	Octos		50	
Richmond	Governor's School/gifted	Ashish Sehai	Policy	Semis		50	
Richmond	Fork Union Military	Ginger Welch	PFD	Doub/octos		50	
Richmond	Bishop Sullivan HS	Vinod Kondragunta	Policy	Octos		50	
Rochester	Bishop Kearney	Lisa Meying	Speech		No Show	600	
Sacramento	James Logan	Ashley Litsey	Speech	Quarters	Extemp	50	
Sacramento	James Logan	Stephanie Youroukos	Policy	Rd. 1 & 5		100	
Sacramento	James Logan	Mark Woodhead	Policy	Rd. 1 & 5		100	
Sacramento	James Logan	Terry Flannaugh/V. Graziano PFD		Rd. 5	Doub & Octo	150	
San Jose	Leland HS	Rachael Dupre	Speech	Octos	Duo	50	
Scranton	Scranton HS	Tim McDermott	Speech	Finals	OO	50	
St. Petersburg	Hillsborough HS	Matras	Speech	Quarters	Duo	50	
St. Petersburg	Berkeley Prep	Mary Speer	Policy	Rd. 5		50	
St. Petersburg	Berkeley Prep	Mike Speer	Policy	Quarters		50	
Washington	The Heights	Scott Phillips	Policy		No Show	600	
Washington	The Heights	Alex Foster	Policy		No Show	600	
Winona	Rosemount HS	Cort Sylvester	Policy	Semis		50	

Tournament Director's Report: Roland Burdett

1. Thanks again to Houston for hosting and pulling it off on such short notice.
2. Thanks to everyone in tab, no errors were reported.
3. Apologies for the ballot snafu, some ballots did not get sorted and were sent out by the Houston folks as best they could after the tournament.
4. Medals for PF debate were sent out in June so each member of the team would have one. (Only one per team were put in packets)
5. E-mail Roland if you have suggestions or if something worked well, let him know.

6. Website updates will be finished in October. Links to league websites are welcome, send info to Roland.
7. Questions about home schooled students have been raised recently. Home schoolers are welcomed, but most follow rules for the local league. ALL home schoolers would be counted as one school in each league for league quotas.
8. Online registration is being worked on; debate will be fully computerized as well as congress, but speech will use the cards for one more year to be sure we know everything is working the way it should.

Houston 2007 Report: Eloise Blair

Eloise thought it was a lot better than she thought it would be. People seemed to have a wonderful time with the stores and the city itself. Hosting is not as bad as people sometimes think and members of the board were extremely helpful. She recommends others thinking about it should strongly consider it.

Appleton 2008 Report: Lynda Luce and Ron Steinhorst

1. Ron introduced the team members that are part of the hosting committee.
2. Memorial Day is early this year...mark your calendars.
3. Specifics about the tournament:
 - Policy is at Appleton North High School as well as the site for awards.
 - LD at Appleton West on Saturday and moves to Appleton North on Sunday.
 - Registration for moderators on Friday as well as Congress on Saturday and Sunday will be held at the Radisson.
 - Fox Valley Technical College will host PF, Duo, DP and OI on Saturday and Sunday.
 - Hortonville HS on Saturday only for OO, Dec and Extemp. These events move to Fox Valley for Sunday.
 - Food will be available at all sites, no box lunches. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served throughout the entire day. Pre-sold tickets will be one way to buy food, but they will also take cash. Pre-purchased tickets will speed up the process if people buy them ahead of time before they arrive or on Friday during registration.
4. Chris Church from the Fox Cities Convention Center presented information about transportation to Appleton as well information about the cities and area things to do. She provided information on flying into Appleton, renting cars and getting around.
5. Tina McMann with Kobussen Buses Ltd. presented information about getting around and can provide large and small buses to help schools get to Appleton from other cities and also around Appleton.
6. Buses will run from all tournament hotels on both Saturday and Sunday. Buses will run to and from the awards ceremony Sunday night.
7. Information can be found at www.foxcities.org/ncfl.cfm
8. People are asked not to block large blocks of rooms if they are not using them. If there are rooms you will not use, cancel them as soon as possible so they can be made available to other schools. A one night deposit is required for each room reserved.

Albany 2009 Report (tabled until Saturday).

Consideration of Bid for NCFL Grand National Tournament 2010

Omaha, presented by Jennifer Jerome presented a bid to host the Grand National Tournament in 2010. Motion to accept bid for 2010 made by Bonnie Knight, seconded by Barbara Fontenot. Passed unanimously.

Meeting was recessed for the night at 7:14 p.m. and set to begin Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Lynda Luce called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.

Report from Albany

Sarah Donnolly from Worcester presented the report from Albany on behalf of Alcia Slavis. Hotel space and competition space has been secured for all events except Public Forum, which should be secured in the near future. Hotels are spread out, but the Albany Convention Bureau is working with the local league to coordinate the hotels and transportation to and from the competition sites.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Constitution, Article III, Section B, Paragraph 1 Proposed by the Executive Council. Roland presented the proposal. In a few states, state associations dictate which schools can compete against each other. This wording provides a solution in these states, on a case by case basis.

Motion made by Mike Colletti, second by Randy Pierce.

Brief discussion focused on different state calendars, other exception rules in the constitution and geographical boundaries.

Moved previous question by Tom Durkin, second by Laura Cristiano. Passed unanimous consent.

Constitution now reads: *Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE through the Diocesan League where such a League exists. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Council as necessary to conform to state requirements. Local Diocesan Leagues may exclude from membership a school within its geographical boundaries only for just cause. Such exclusion from a local Diocesan League shall result in loss of membership in the LEAGUE.*

Proposed By Law change, Article II, Section D, Paragraph 2.

Language clean up in order to allow for protests to go forward if logistically it is not possible to find the coach or the moderator, to approach the student for original copies.

Motion by Barbara Fontenot, seconded by Tom Durkin.

Brief discussion ensued concerning materials, multiple adults serving as contact people at buildings for each league and what constitutes original source material. Concerns were expressed about when the protest committee approached a student, the level of angst for that student would be raised, especially if the protest happened early in the day. It was strongly suggested that coaches do not use material that is not allowed in an event, and that students who have material that might be questionable be prepared for that challenge.

Previous question made Mike Nailor, second by Tom Durkin.

Passed unanimous consent.

By-Law now reads: *At the Grand National Tournament, a school coach must be prepared to present to the Executive Council a copy of any original oration being delivered by a representative from his/her school, should the validity of the selection be questioned. Likewise, the school coach must be prepared to present the original source (not a copy) of any published materials being used in an interpretive event by a representative from his/her school, should the validity of the selection be questioned. Individual contestants must have an unaltered photocopy of the published materials being used in an interpretative event, including the ISBN/ISSN/IFFN and title pages. In cases of challenges, the tournament directorate will make reasonable efforts to first contact the school's coach for the original source. However, timeliness may*

necessitate that the tournament directorship contact the student to review the photocopy. Failure to present the required materials will result in the disqualification from the Grand National Tournament of the student entry in question.

By Law change, Article II, Section D, Paragraph 5a.

Motion made by Mike Colletti, seconded by Tom Durkin.

Clarifies language about students using material performed in any previous academic year.

Discussion ensued about how to determine the main character who is in multiple sources. Questions about when students begin to use material, how well material would be presented by middle school age students, what constitutes a forensic competition and how to enforce this rule. Points were made that even if it cannot be policed, it will make it easier if a violation occurs and a piece is protested.

Moved to amend the motion by Randy Pierce to read “any *interscholastic* event.” Second by Bonnie Knight. Motion to amend passed.

Motion to amend by Randy Pierce to add words “*high school*” prior to the word event. Second by Eloise.

Discussion followed with questions about what now constitutes an interscholastic event. Wording would include any interscholastic competitive events, including speech and drama events that are not forensic competitions. There are also individual competitive events, at which students compete but are not affiliated with any school. Comments also included junior high and middle school students who use material and may benefit from reusing it in high school.

Previous question by Tom Durkin, second by Randy Pierce

Motion to amend passed by a voice vote majority.

Motion by David Long to Strike the wording “*main character(s)*,” second by Eloise Blair.

Discussion about the philosophies of using material that features the same characters that are in different plays...in some cases the characters are the same name, but older and different from previous material. Or characters who are spin-offs from larger plays.

Motion to amend passed unanimous consent.

Motion by Laura to change wording to read “*interscholastic high school forensics event*.” Second by Lona Ditmar. More discussion about plays being performed by students and using it in forensic competition. There is no prohibition from using material in these other events during the same year.

Motion to amend passed unanimous consent.

Motion by Charlie Sloat to change “*interscholastic high school forensics event*” to read “*in any of those categories*.” Second by Sarah Donnolly.

Discussion about how other leagues call our categories by different names, which would create a major loophole. Motion to amend failed on a unanimous vote.

Motion to amend the by laws, as amended, passed unanimous consent.

By-law now reads: *Speakers in the categories of Dramatic Performance, Oratorical Declamation, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Duo Interpretation of Literature, and Original Oratory may not use a selection or selections which they have used in any previous academic year in any interscholastic high school forensics event. Selection shall be defined as the use of the same title or cutting.*

Motion to amend by laws, article II, Section C, paragraph 1 sub paragraph c.12.

Motion to amend is a clean up of language to make sure students are not using electronic devices outside of the prep room.

Moved by Mike Colletti, second by Sarah Donnolly.

Motion to amend by Sarah “*upon leaving the preparation room*” at the beginning of the second sentence. Second by Randy Pierce.

Brief discussion that this amendment represents present practice.

Motion to amend the proposal passed unanimous consent.

Discussion about what the penalty would be and there is language already in existence that covers this rule.

David Long motions to amend to add the word “*oral*” to before research materials. Second by Laura Cristiano. Motion passed unanimous consent.

Main motion to amend by laws, as amended, passed unanimous consent.

By-law now reads: *Speakers will have thirty (30) minutes of preparation time. Upon leaving the preparation room speakers must relinquish all preparation materials except the drawn question. During the preparation for, and during the competition round, students may not access any research materials, oral, written, or electronic, outside of the preparation room.*

(Motion to recess for ten minutes passed unanimous consent.)

Proposal to amend by laws section II, section C sub paragraphs b2, d1 and f1.

Proposed to establish in writing what has been practiced by the protest committee for the past few years.

Motion made by Lona Ditmar seconded by Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb.

Discussion about how to define readily accessible and if we are using the internet as a source, what happens if the site goes down two days before nationals, and that there are ways to access archived web sites. Out of print texts may not fit the rule as written but could be readily accessible from libraries or used copies are available for purchase. There are other scripts that were purchased legally but may not be readily accessible to all coaches. Do adding these words help or hurt? Is this the common current practice of the protest committee?

Previous question moved by Charlie Sloat second by Tom Durkin.

Roll call vote was taken by Richard Gaudette (while wearing his Red Sox jersey after the team clinched the Eastern Division last evening).

The weighted vote result was 92 to 84 , in favor of the amendment.

The by-law now reads: *The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single fictional or non-fictional work. (Not poetry.) The intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and readily 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. Lines which are attributed to one character in a published play or script may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script.*

Proposed change to the length of time in the Congress Final Session, made by Boston.

Intention is to allow all students to make two speeches during the final round. Right now, only half of the finalists have the time to make two speeches.

Motion made by Eloise Blair, second by Tom Durkin.

Discussion about if this will add too much time to the day, but Roland indicated it will not be a problem. Questions about whether this could snowball into a much longer request for time to get even more speeches. Roland indicated that this is merely a procedural change, not a by-law. An additional hour would impact the length of the tournament on Sunday, thirty minutes will not have an impact.

Motion passed on a voice vote.

By law change Article II, Section C, Paragraph 1, sub paragraph f. 10 and 11.

Bonnie Knight presented that this was an attempt clean up language.

Motion made by Bonnie Knight, second by Tom Durkin.

Discussion centered around this is not just a language clean-up, but a total change into making this an acting event. The point was also made that this language reflects what is currently being done in Duo, especially in the final rounds.

David moved to amend to keep the line about movement that was struck by the proposal to remain in the bylaws. (*"Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated"*) Seconded by Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb.

Discussion of this amendment focused on if this now remained germane to other rules in other sections. The point was also made that there are differences between the rules for NCFL Duo and rules for other leagues. Philosophically, do we want our rules to be the same or different as other leagues? And if that is happening, are we preparing the judges to understand the NCFL rules.

Tom Durkin moved previous question, seconded by Phil. Motion to amend the proposal passed on a vote of 23-15.

Laura moved to amend the original motion to add the words “*but such movement is not required*” after the word completely, seconded by David Long. Motion failed on a voice vote.

Previous question moved by lack of further discussion. On a weighted vote, the motion passed.

The by-law now reads: *10) Speakers should keep gestures and bodily movement to a minimum. Performers are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance, except during the introduction. Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. Students must remain standing.*

11) Physically, the characters should react to each other’s verbal and non-verbal expressions but they may not touch each other. Speakers should remain standing.

Proposed change to the constitution, made by Milwaukee, Article III, Section B, Insert new paragraph 2 and change numbering of subsequent paragraphs.

Steve Sexton explained the rationale for the proposal based on experiences in his own league. Motion made by Steve Sexton, seconded by Kristie Taylor. Discussion focused on if this were to be implemented, it would change the philosophical concepts that have been established deliberately to allow local leagues to operate as they see fit.

Previous question moved by Tom Durkin seconded by Mike Colletti. Motion failed on a voice vote.

New Business

1. Barbara Fontenot presented information and materials on the “Katrina Congress.” She asked for a sense of the room if schools would be interested in attending such an event, which would include a tour of disaster areas, and opportunities to volunteer working to help those who are still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina. Information will be available on the website. The sense of the room is that this will be a popular and successful event.

2. Randy Pierce moved the NCFL go on record to oppose the change of the release date of the Policy Debate Topic. Seconded by Tom Durkin. Randy Pierce presented to the room that this would be counterproductive to preparation for Policy students during the year. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:44 p.m.