



**NCFL Newsletter  
Volume 51, Issue 1  
September 26-27, 2003**

***Please Note: The following minutes contain a listing of all of the revisions made in both the Master Ballot and Critique Sheet for each of the speech events offered at the Grand National Tournament. These detailed revisions, re-wordings and re-structurings belong in the minutes as part of our permanent record, yet they will make little sense to coaches and students who were not in attendance at this meeting of Diocesan Directors and were not privy to the corpus of proposed changes from which the directors worked. Therefore, the minutes to be distributed to the coaches of the NCFL through their diocesan directors will be somewhat abbreviated, and will summarize the major practical changes that will be incorporated into the Grand National Tournament, rather than focus on the detailed discussions that brought them into effect.***

The meeting was called to order by President Carmen Adkins on Friday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:09 PM. The invocation was delivered by S. Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg).

Executive Secretary Dick Gaudette called the roll. The following 40 dioceses – the largest number ever to attend the fall meeting - were represented: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Biloxi, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Camden, Chicago, Erie, Green Bay, Harrisburg, Houston-Galveston, Kansas City (KS), Kansas City-St. Joseph, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Miami, Milwaukee, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Ogdensburg, Orlando, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, Richmond, Rochester, Rockville Centre, Salina, Santa Fe, Scranton, Seattle, St. Petersburg, Washington, Winona, and Worcester.

Before the presentation of reports, members of the ballot revisions committee distributed copies of proposed changes to the bylaws, speech ballots and critiques for later consideration.

President's Report: Carmen Adkins appointed a nominating committee to organize the upcoming elections for national office. The committee will include Brother George Zehnle (Rockville Centre), Beth Young (Pittsburgh), Ryan McKeithan (Kansas City), Sandra Broussard (Lafayette) and herself.

1st Vice President's Report: Roland Burdett thanked all those who contributed to the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Arlington, and expressed relief that the task of hosting is now behind him. He reminded all that suggestions for LD topics for the 2004 Grand National Tournament should be sent to him by January 10, 2004.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report: Lynda Luce mentioned that in the absence of complaint or criticism from last year, the same extemp topic areas used in 2003 will be employed in 2004: US Political Issues, US Cultural/Social Issues, US Economic Issues, Business & Finance, Science & Technology, Religion & Philosophy, International Affairs, Human Rights, and Terrorism & Peacekeeping

Executive Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Dick Gaudette reminded all that data cards have already been distributed to diocesan directors to re-distribute, in turn, to their local member schools for completion.

Publicity Director's Report: Kieran Larkin urged directors to submit local forensics news for inclusion in the NCFL scrapbook.

Tournament Director's Report: Ron Steinhorst offered thanks to all tab room personnel. He reported an error in Dramatic Performance tabbing (the misrecording of a set of round 1 scores that prevented a student from advancing to octofinals. He informed us that Susanna Moore from Niceville HS (St. Petersburg) will be sent an award and a letter of apology for the error.

#### Tournament Reports:

**Arlington (2003)**: Roland Burdett, on behalf of the Dioceses of Washington and Arlington, extended thanks to all!

**Boston (2004)**: Marc Ruschitelli, Greg Cunningham, Sarah Donnelly, and Mark McNeill informed us that future communication – as well as e-mail inquiries – may be made through their local website: [www.massforensics.org](http://www.massforensics.org)

Hotels: The tournament hotels will be the Park Plaza and Westin. Room blocks for the Park Plaza are available now, Westin room blocks will be available in mid-October

Hotel Rates for Park Plaza: cost of single/double is \$140; cost of triple/quad is \$160

Hotel rates for Westin: cost of single/double is \$165; cost of triple/quad is \$185

Tax rate in Massachusetts: 12.5%

#### Sites:

Speech Events: Northeastern University for all prelims (Sat), elims at Park Plaza Hotel (Sun)

Congress: Westin Hotel (Sat/Sun)

LD Suffolk University (Sat/Sun)

Team Debate: Suffolk University (Sat), Westin Hotel (Sun)

Social: Saturday event for students at Park Plaza Hotel Castle

**Milwaukee (2005)**: Steve Sexton informed us of the sites to be used – Marquette University for LD and Team debate, and MATC for Speech Events

**Bid Proposal from Chicago for 2006**: In the absence of a bid for the 2006 Grand National Tournament at our spring meeting, Mike Coletti put together a bid for Chicago to host the 2006 Nationals. He offered the following information:

The tournament hotel would be the Chicago Hilton (NOT the Palmer House), with rates of \$129 for ALL rooms. The Essex Inn (across the street from the Hilton) and a consortium of other hotels will be able to offer additional rooms, if necessary. Two bus companies will be bidding against each other, which, hopefully will result in a cheaper rental rate. Competition sites have not yet been finalized, but will probably include the Hilton, St. Ignatius Prep, Regina Dominican HS and Fenwick HS.

Motion to accept Chicago's 2006 bid was made and seconded – and carried unanimously.

Policy Debate Selection Committee Report (Ron Steinhorst): Ron distributed topic selection ballots to directors. Ron asked for directors to complete ballots for collation, so choice of NCFL can be forwarded.

Financial Report (Dick Gaudette): Dick distributed financial statements to the diocesan directors. The budget was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.(see appendix A)

Proposed Changes in the Constitution:

1. Proposal to change Article III, Membership, Section B, Application and Certification, 8, that: "Membership forms and annual dues should be received no later than December 1st of each academic year. A ten percent (10%) penalty on dues will be levied against schools and Leagues which submit after December 1<sup>st</sup>. Failure of a League to submit forms and dues by January 10<sup>th</sup> will result in the League's not being permitted to enter the Grand National Tournament for the academic year. Contestants' quotas for the tournament will be based upon forms received by January 10<sup>th</sup>." The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
2. Proposal to change Article III, Membership, Section B, Application and Certification, 9, that: "The Executive Council shall have the authority to extend the dates for submission of forms and dues for good and valid reasons. Such an extension shall not be later than January 31<sup>st</sup>." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
3. Proposal to change Article II, Section E, Awards, 1, Individuals, e, that: "The first place trophy in Dramatic Performance shall be named the 'James F.X. Lyness Award'". The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
4. Proposal to change Article II, Section E, Awards, 2, Sweepstakes, a, Debate, that: "These trophies shall be named the 'Eleanor E. Wright Awards of Excellence in Debate'". The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
5. Proposal to Change Article II, Section C, Events, 4, Debate procedures, that: "The power of each debater or team for purposes of pairing the non-random preliminary rounds of the Tournament shall be based on the following criteria in order: record and ballots. To determine the Double Octo-final bracket, ties in total record and ballots shall be broken on total points, and then on total ranks (where applicable)". The motion was seconded, and discussed.

A motion to amend the proposal to read "broken on *adjusted points*, total points and then total ranks" was made and seconded. The motion was discussed and approved. Motion to move the amended motion was seconded and carried by weighted vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM, and will resume tomorrow morning at 8:30 AM.

Carmen Adkins re-convened the meeting on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:31 AM.

Proposed Changes in ByLaws (found in Appendix B):

1. Proposal to change Article II, Section C, 4, b to change "'high-high' based on Round I" to "high-

The high' based on Rounds I and II" for *team debate only* was moved, seconded and discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Proposal to change Article II, Section C, 5, d to delete existing section and replace it with "In team debate only, in extraordinary circumstances, a team may be outperformed by their opponents in all judging criteria listed on the ballot, but may win a single critical issue (such as topicality) which should result in their winning the round. In order to keep the points awarded by each judge relative to other performances, a judge may award a win to a team with lower points, provided that it is so indicated on the ballot very clearly. In Lincoln-Douglas debate, the winning debater may not have fewer points than his or her opponent". The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion carried.

A motion was made to empower the Executive Council to bring the bylaws into compliance with the Master Ballots and Critique Sheets that are altered at today's meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### Proposed Changes in Speech Master Ballots and Critiques (found in Appendix C):

Carmen Adkins thanked members of the ballot revisions committee (Doug Hoverson, David Long, Laura Cristiano, Debbie Simon and Tony Figliola) for their hard work and insights.

#### ***Duo Interp***

- 1 A motion was made to add to Rule of Procedure #1 the Note from Criteria for Judging #3: "Note: Students are not allowed to make direct eye contact with one another except during the introduction". The motion carried.
- 2 A motion was made to change Rules of Procedure #2 to read "the selection must be from a single published play, single fictional or non-fictional work, poem or series of poems united by a single author" and omit the line "If using an anthology, only a single work may be used". The motion carried.
- 3 A motion was made to move from Rules of Procedure #2 "Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection" to the Critique Sheet category of "Material" (at end of section). The motion carried unanimously.
- 4 A motion was made to delete from Rule of Procedure #2 "An interpreter may present only one character". The motion was discussed and defeated by a weighted vote of 125 to 50.
- 5 A motion was made to add to Rule of Procedure #2 after the line "An interpreter may present only one character" the statement "two-character duo is defined as "the performance of the lives of two distinct characters (which prohibits a two-character show wherein two actors play multiple roles independent of their respective personalities) ." The motion was discussed and carried.
- 6 A motion was made to move from the Critique Sheet (under "Physical Suggestiveness" section) to the end of Rule of Procedure #3 the following sentences: "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". The motion was discussed and carried unanimously.
- 7 A motion was made to change the last line in the "Materials" section of Critique Sheet to read "The material should be appropriate for high school student competition." The motion was discussed and

defeated by a weighted vote of 92 to 79.

- 8 A motion was made to delete from the “Materials” section of the Critique Sheet the words “exposition to denouement” The motion carried.
- 9 A motion was made to delete the section “ be composed by the speakers; it should...” from the Introduction” section of the Critique Sheet. The motion carried.
- 10 A motion was made to change the line in the “Introduction” section of the Critique Sheet to read “If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used...” The motion carried.
- 11 A motion was made to change the “Physical Suggestiveness” section on the Critique Sheet to read “pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic. (and cut the example)” and delete “Characters... objects”. The motion carried.
- 12 A motion was made to change the Critique Sheet section “Physical Suggestiveness” to “Physicality” and “Vocal Suggestiveness” to “Vocal Quality” on Critique Sheets for all speech events. The motion carried.
- 13 A motion was made to delay all amendments and changes until 2004-05 season, since students have already begun to work under existing rules of procedure and criteria for judging. The motion failed for lack of a second.
- 14 A motion was made to accept the Duo Interpretation Master Ballot and Critique Sheet as amended above. The motion was discussed and carried.

### ***Dramatic Performance***

1. A motion was made to allow use of prose in Dramatic Performance - in Rule of Procedure #1, to change the first sentence to read: “single published play, single published script or single fictional or non-fictional work (not poetry)”. The motion was discussed and carried.
2. A motion was made to automatically apply any changes that were made on the Duo Interpretation Master Ballot and Critique Sheet, where applicable, to other events. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made to change in Rule of Procedure #1 “plays” to “single or multiple character cuttings” and delete “from one character to...soliloquies”. The motion was discussed and carried.
4. A motion was made to move the above change (#3) to the beginning of the Critique Sheet “Materials” section. The motion carried.
5. A motion was made to delete “in the script” from Rule of Procedure #3. The motion carried.
6. A motion was made to delete “and see” from the Critique Sheet “Environment” section and end the sentence with “...him or her.”
7. A motion was made to delete the “i.e.” illustrations in the “Environment” section of the Critique Sheet.
8. A motion was made to change the wording in the “Environment” section of the Critique Sheet to read “When doing a multiple character selection, if used, the performers should create effective interaction between the characters.” The motion carried.
9. A motion was made to delete from the “Environment” section the words “a slower transition...varied.”. The motion carried.
10. A motion was made to change the wording in the “Overall Effect” section, to read “The performance should display another world outside the performance setting.” The motion carried.
11. A motion was made to accept the Dramatic Performance Master Ballot and Critique Sheet as amended above. The motion was discussed and carried.

### ***Oral Interpretation of Literature***

1. A motion was made to move the “Literary Merit” section from the Rules of Procedure to the end of the Critique Sheet “Projection of Literature” section. The motion carried
2. A motion was made to delete “in the text” in Rule of Procedure #4. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made to delete from Rule of Procedure #6 everything after “by the selection”. The motion carried.
4. A motion was made to change Rule of Procedure #6 to read “The selection must be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Walking is not permitted.” The motion was discussed and carried.
5. A motion was made to accept the Oral Interpretation of Literature Master Ballot and Critique

Sheet as amended. The motion carried.

### ***Declamation***

1. A motion was made to change Rule of Procedure #1 to read “speaker must have an introduction which is, at most, 60 seconds.” The motion carried.
2. A motion was made to replace the last sentence in Rule of Procedure #1 with: “The introduction must name the work and author and describe the actual circumstances under which the speech was originally presented.” The motion carried.
3. A motion was made to delete “former competition speeches” from Rule of Procedure #1. The motion was discussed, and failed by a weighted vote of 129 to 52.
4. A motion was made to change Rule of Procedure #1 to read (*effective at the Grand National Tournament of 2005*) “Selections may include professional speeches, public orations, eulogies and sermons. Former HS competition speeches are not allowed.” Motion was discussed and carried by a weighted vote of 93-85.
5. A motion to change Rule of Procedure #5 by replacing the next to last sentence with. ”This event is an interpretation, not an impersonation” and delete the last sentence. The motion carried.
6. A motion was made to move Rules of Procedure #3 and #5 from the Master Ballot to the Critique Sheet and place them in the “Vocal Delivery” section.
7. A motion was made to create an “Introduction” section on the Critique Sheet – paralleling that found on the Critique Sheets for other speech events.
8. A motion was made to change “Physical Delivery” section to read “speaker should make eye contact with the audience.” (this is meant to be a simplification)
9. A motion was made to delete from the “Physical Delivery” section: “The speaker’s eyes... feeling”.
10. A motion was made to strike the last bullet on the Critique Sheet (“neither...performance”)
11. A motion was made to replace “physical tick” with “distracting movements” in bullet #3. The motion carried.
12. A motion was made to move the “Message” section to become the final bullet.
13. A motion was made to replace ”If the speaker chooses...oration” with “Movement, if used shall be motivated by transitions in thought or purpose” in the “Physical Delivery” section. The motion carried
14. A motion was made to accept the Declamation Master Ballot and Critique Sheet as amended, The motion carried.

### ***Original Oratory***

1. A motion was made to transfer all changes made re physical movement in Declamation to the appropriate sections of the Original Oratory and Extemp Speaking Master Ballots and Critique Sheets. The motion carried.
2. A motion was made to change “ought” to “must” in Rule of Procedure #5, and move Rule of Procedure #5 to the Critique Sheet “Topic” section. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made to delete the words “present” and “however” from Rule of Procedure #6. The motion carried.
4. A motion was made to accept the Original Oratory Rules of Procedure. The motion carried.
5. A motion was made to change the Critique Sheet “Development” section to read “The speaker should be held accountable for substantiating and supporting main positions. There should be a variety of effective supporting material from qualified sources. There should be clear explanation that helps the listener follow the speech’s flow and appreciate the use of supporting material.” The motion carried.

6. A motion was made to change the last bullet to read "Delivery and content should be evaluated equally."
7. A motion was made to change the last sentence of the "Language" section to read: "Figures of speech and rhetorical devices should be used effectively." The motion carried.
8. A motion was made to accept the Original Oratory Master Ballot and Critique Sheet as amended. The motion carried.

### ***Extemporaneous Speaking***

1. A motion was made to eliminate Rule of Procedure #4 re the use of note cards. The motion was discussed, and carried by a weighted vote of 89 to 88.
2. A motion was made to replace Rule of Procedure #4 with " The speech must be extemporaneous and delivered without notes."
3. A motion was made to move the first two sentences of Rule of Procedure #2 to the beginning of the Critique Sheet "Content" section. The motion carried.
4. A motion was made to accept the Extemporaneous Speaking Master Ballot as amended. The motion carried.
5. A motion was made to delete the last bullet on the Critique Sheet. The motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion was made to eliminate the second sentence in the "Content" section of the Critique Sheet and change the sentence to read "The sources should be varied and credible." The motion carried.
7. A motion was made to accept the Extemporaneous Speaking Critique Sheet as amended. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

1. A motion was made to form a committee to investigate the availability of scripts and the accuracy of ISBN numbers. The motion carried. Carmen Adkins asked Debbie Simon to chair this committee, and she invited the diocesan directors to join voluntarily.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kieran Larkin  
Recording Secretary

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**B A C K**

**H O M E**

*Last Modified: 11/15/03*  
by [Jeff Alpi](#)