



National Catholic Forensic League
Fall Meeting 2005

The meeting was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia on Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24, 2005. After an invocation by Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb of St. Petersburg, the roll was called.

Diocese Present: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Biloxi, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Erie, Green Bay, Houston-Galveston, Jackson, Kansas City KS, LaCrosse, Miami, Milwaukee, Newark, New York, Ogdensburg, Orlando, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Rochester, Rockville Center, Salina, Scranton, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Washington, Worcester.

Please note that all Diocesan Directors NOT present are obligated to contact a member of the Executive Council before January 1 to ensure they have been notified of new rules and procedures.

President Roland Burdett opened the meeting and asked for a change in the agenda to address the subject of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on member schools in the Gulf Coast area. Scott Walthrop and Michael Marks of Biloxi and Randy Patterson from Jackson were there to represent these areas. Many of the schools in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi as well as other areas have absorbed students from the hurricane affected areas. New Orleans city schools have closed for the year and will not reopen this year. From the reports given, basic survival is the major goal for people in these areas.

Based on these reports, Roland Burdett asked the group to empower the Executive Council to help these four dioceses (Lafayette, New Orleans, Biloxi and Jackson) remain alive in the NCFL. This would include, but is not limited to: Extending last year's NCFL membership through this year for all schools in those leagues; waiving all fees for those schools to join the NCFL this year; reducing judge quotas at nationals and establishing a judge bank with judges contributed by leagues throughout the country that the four leagues could draw from to provide judges for Nationals; developing a fund drive supported by donations from member NCFL schools to help pay for Gulf Coast students to attend nationals; facilitate an "adopt a school" program to support those schools, students, and teams affected; and the waiving of lunch fees at Nationals in 2006 for those students by the Chicago diocese.

The following motions were made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

- To extend the memberships of all schools in the Diocesan Leagues of Biloxi, Jackson, New Orleans, and Lafayette, from the 2004-2005 season through the 2005-2006 season.
- To implement and solicit funds for a Hurricane Relief Fund for Gulf Coast schools to be used for funding their trips to NCFL Nationals.

- To waive school membership fees and student entry fees for the schools and students attending NCFL Nationals 2006 from the four affected leagues.
- To ask the students from the affected leagues to stand and be recognized at NCFL Nationals 2006.

Officers' Reports

Roland Burdett, President's Report:

Roland thanked everyone for their support in moving the meeting from New Orleans to Arlington and to all who volunteered to host the meeting once the situation in New Orleans occurred.

He noted that Internet registration went very well last year and it will continue this year. All registration will be done via the Internet, directors will still have to fill out the fee schedule and league director's information sheet and enclose this with the check for registration to be sent to Dick Gaudette. There will be an additional spot for donations for the Gulf Coast fund.

Roland is working with Ron, Mike Colletti, and Chris Palmer to have computers used in the speech tab rooms this year, with the traditional card method shadowing the computers for double checking. We will use the TabRoom software from Chris Palmer of the Boston Diocese.

Roland announced that following on the heels of previous changes, this year students will receive a card with their code, room, section similar to the cards judges now receive. Individual schematics will not be printed or distributed in the Diocesan Packets this year. This will save a lot of money, time and effort. There will be schematics posted at each site, and each league director will have one paper copy plus a master code list.

Roland reminded everyone that this is an election year and if you would like to run you should download the nomination form from the web site and send it in by January 1, 2006 so the nomination committee may begin their work.

Lynda Luce, First Vice President's Report:

Lynda was absent for her daughter's wedding and her report was read. Lynda and Catherine Luhr attended the national high school debate topic selection committee meeting. Anyone interested in voting should send their choices to Lynda at footluce@charter.net by November 1. She will then cast the ballot for the NCFL.

If anyone has any suggestions for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic for Chicago 2006, please forward these to Lynda at the above address. There was good feedback in general about the topic used at nationals.

Lynda and Catherine also visited Chicago and met with Mike Colletti to review the plans for NCFL 2006. They toured the sites and were impressed with the locations and the overall status of Chicago's plans.

Kieran Larkin, Second Vice President's Report:

Kieran asked for suggestions for new topic areas in extemp. A number of the topic areas seem to overlap. An example would be the "Religion and Philosophy" area which really is just "Religion". If anyone has any ideas of how to clarify this or has new ideas for topic areas, please contact Kieran at knslarkin@yahoo.com.

Catherine Luhr, Publicity Director/Recording Secretary Report:

If anyone has any email changes, please direct them to cluhr@mtmercy.org as well as Roland Burdett at rburdett@wacfl.org. Directors will receive one hard copy of this newsletter and an email copy which they should send to their member schools. The scrapbook is now on disc, and anyone may send additions to Catherine.

Richard Gaudette, Secretary Treasurer Report:

Attached to this is a copy of the financial statement for the past year. Congratulations to Steve Sexton and the Milwaukee league for not losing money on the national tournament. Listed below are the schools which still owe fines to the NCFL. These payments should be sent to Richard Gaudette, 21 Nancy Road, Milford, MA 01757.

Fines 2005

League	School	Last Name	Amount
Albany	Niskayuna HS	Glendening	600
Atlanta	Rome HS	Green	600
Chicago	Glenbrook North	O'Hara	50
Erie	Cathedral Prep	Smith	50
Erie	McDowell Interm	Andrzejczak	50
Galveston/Houston	Pearland	Victorick	600
Kansas City/ St Joe	Central HS	Franson	50
New York	Mon. Farrell	Heron	50
Newark	Ridge HS	Jacobas	50
Ogdensburg	Massena Central	Hill	50
Omaha	Spartan Forn. Club	Bunde	50
Philadelphia	Pennsbury HS	Hogland	50
Pittsburg	Baldwin HS	Unger	50
Portland	Cheverus HS	Glass	50
Providence	Barrington	Kidman	50
Providence	Wheeler School	Holmes	600
Providence	Wheeler School	Gognon	600
Richmond	Governor's	Shapiro	50
Richmond	Godwin HS	Bradley	600
Richmond	Godwin HS	Nguyen	600
Salt Lake	Judge Memorial	Johnson/Sayre TT6569	600
Salt Lake	Taylorville HS	Hawkes	50
Washington	Landon School	Pham	600

Washington	Landon School	Pomorski	600
Winona	Benilde-St Marg	Koshioi	600
Worcester	New Leadership	Snyder	50

Ron Steinhorst, Tournament Director's Report: Many thanks to all who tabbed and also to those leagues which supplied other people to assist with tabbing. Additional congratulations to Milwaukee for their fine job as hosts.

There were a few errors made and these have been corrected. In original Oratory, Katie Griggs of Silver Lake High School was left out of Octo-finals and was presented with an award. The Diocese of Orlando was the winner of the Cardinal Cooke Award and a new trophy has been made and sent to them.

For the next fall meeting we need to develop a rule concerning discrepancies between the master ballot and the critique sheets. We have always accepted the master ballot as the final ranking, but need to add this to the By-Laws to be clear. There would simply have to be a statement inserted saying "The signed master ballot of the judge will be the official record for the round." Until that By-Law is enacted, Ron indicated that this would continue to be the practice.

There is some question as to who may start the protest process. The uniform agreement of the protest committee is that a protest would have to be started by a judge from that round. This also needs to be brought up at next fall's meeting as it is a by-law change.

Milwaukee Report: Steve Sexton reported all went well and good reports were received from all site locations, including schools and hotels.

Chicago Report: As the 2006 nationals approaches, Mike Colletti and his committee report preparations are moving forward. There is a website which will have information and all are encouraged to visit it at www.chicagocfl.org. Hotel reservations will be done on-line and the website will link you once hotels are ready to take reservations. There are 2 airports in Chicago—O'Hare and Midway. The Chicago Hilton and Towers is the tournament hotel. They will take a first night's deposit when making reservations do make sure you do not overbook as these fees will not be refunded. There will be busses for extemp, LD and Student Congress. Policy debate will be in the Hilton and LD will be at Loyola Academy in Willamette. Student Congress will be at St. Ignatius Prep, about an 8 minute drive from the hotel. All speech events EXCEPT extemp will be in 2 nearby colleges-DePaul University and Roosevelt University. Extemp will be at De La Salle HS and bussing for those students will be provided. The tab room for speech will be at De La Salle, with protest committees at the colleges. Extemp will go 4 straight rounds and league directors will be asked when they register to indicate who will judge extemp all day. Speech rounds will be staggered as they were in Boston. Boxed lunches will be available for between \$6-7, but policy debaters will be on their own for lunch.

Appleton, Wisconsin 2008 Report: Ron Steinhorst and the Green Bay Diocese welcome you and are busy making plans. The Radisson hotel will be the tournament hotel and general rates in Appleton are between \$60-114 per room. Plans are being made for food tents to be used and competition sites to be Appleton HS, Hortonville HS and Neenah HS.

2007 Nationals: As many of you know, Orlando was scheduled to host the 2007 national tournament but rescinded their bid. The Diocese of Houston under the direction of Eloise Weisinger Blair has graciously offered to host the 2007 Nationals on short notice. The tournament hotel will be

the 2 Westin hotels which are at the Galleria Mall in Houston, with overflow going to either, or both, the Doubletree or Marriott nearby. The flat rate quoted is \$139 per room, plus tax. Lamar HS and Belle Aire HS will be the schools for competition. Two major airlines, Continental and Southwest have their hubs in Houston and current airfares all seem to be under \$250 at this time. Motion to accept Houston's gracious offer was unanimously approved.

Roland indicated that if anyone is interested in making a bid for 2009 and/or 2010, the information may be found on the web site. You can contact Roland and/or Ron for assistance.

Meeting adjourned to be continued on Saturday, September 24.

Saturday, September 24, 2005

Meeting called to order by Roland Burdett. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were discussed next.

Item 1: Diocese of Orlando proposed changing the existing procedure of establishing a new diocese from an existing diocese. Motion failed on a vote of 2 – 31.

Item 2: Diocese of Scranton proposed to allow multiple characters in Dramatic Duo. This action stems from the protest committee's work at the most recent nationals. Discussion ensued and the motion was passed 88 - 47 and will be in effect for 2006. An additional motion was passed to allow the Executive Council to make the necessary rule changes within the Dramatic Duo critique sheet and ballot to reflect these changes.

Item 3: Proposal from Scranton to clarify what "one source" means in duo. Current wording implies work can be from multiple poems from an author of many books. Wording will be changed to say "must be from a single play, fictional or non-fictional work. A series of poems is permitted. The poetry may be taken from a variety of published sources united by a single poet." The section which begins "material from more than one source" is now deleted. The motion passed.

Item 4: Diocese of Boston proposal to pair the 3rd round of policy debate based on the 1st round, rather than the 2nd round results. The general consensus is that the timing element is important and needs to be fixed in the policy debate event. The hope is that by pairing round 3 on round 1 only, the tournament will move faster. Passes 89 - 64.

Item 5: Proposal from the Pittsburgh Diocese to change Policy Debate and LD to 4 rounds not 5 to speed up the tournament. Motion fails unanimously.

Item 6: From the Executive Council. The Executive Council was asked to look at the idea of limiting/expanding computers in certain events. Since computers are generally used for flowing, computers may be used in the following events: Policy, LD and Congress. BUT, they may not be allowed to have connectivity to other computers, persons or the Internet. Discussion ensued and concerns were expressed over expense, economic issues, printers, integrity, intimidation and power sources. By a vote of 108 - 42, computers may be used in those 3 events BUT students found using connectivity will be disqualified. No computers may be used in Extemp. A reminder: A student is responsible for his/her own battery and power. Tournaments are not responsible for providing outlets.

Item 7: From the Executive Council. To address concerns of recording and photographing students and competitions or specific pieces, the use of audio and video recording and still photography during any round of competition is forbidden. Passes unanimously.

The two remaining items left on the table from last year's meeting: concerning the use of briefing books in extemp and allowing poetry in DI, remained on the table since no suggestions for appropriate legislation were submitted.

General Discussion:

Diocese of Salina wanted the question of computer use in tab room to be discussed. No further discussion was had since this had already been addressed earlier in the meeting. Salina also asked if there could be a screening process of judges who are inexperienced or/are are inappropriate. Ron Steinhorst said again, a reminder that as league directors, we need to ensure judges are experienced. If a judge is found to be acting in an inappropriate manner, they will be dropped from the tournament and fees will be assessed.

Diocese of St. Augustine would like the NCFL to examine adding Public Forum Debate to the national tournament. The idea is that this opens the tournament to more students and certain diocesan leagues already offer it. The concern is space, both hotel and competition rooms, transportation, and costs as the national tournament continues to grow. A committee was formed to examine this event and propose appropriate By-Laws changes to introduce Public Forum at nationals in 2007. The committee will report their findings at the Fall 2006 meeting with regards to how it would affect rules, quotas, sweepstakes and room numbers.

Diocese of Philadelphia asked if a minimum number of speaker points be established in debate rounds. As a result of the discussion, instructions will be given out at the opening meetings for debate.

Diocese of Philadelphia asked if the top 25 Original Oratories could be gathered and put on the web site for people to see or use as Declamation speeches. This was rejected by the group for legal reasons.

Diocese of LaCrosse was concerned with the amount of movement in speech events. The general consensus was the speaker should be able to "create an environment" and that movement must have motivation. The general idea is to have limited movement.

Diocese of LaCrosse asked if the ballots for Declamation could be changed to say "Oratorical Declamation". In addition, they asked that the 9th and 10th grade rule be placed on the ballot.

Diocese of LaCrosse asked if the website could be expanded upon as it not "new member friendly." Roland Burdett requested that anyone with any ideas should email him with ideas. It is a barebones website designed and implemented to pass along news. The group voted to establish a committee be formed to review our current website and provide recommendations. Michael Nailor of Scranton volunteered to lead the committee.

Motion to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine A. Luhr

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by [Jeff Alpi](#)