

September 29, 2006

National Catholic Forensic League Fall 2006 Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m. in Houston by President Lynda Luce, which was followed by an invocation by first Vice President Kieran Larkin.

The following leagues were represented at the meeting: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Beaumont, Biloxi, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Camden, Chicago, Erie, Green Bay, Houston-Galveston, Jackson, Kansas City, KS, Kansas City/St. Jos, Lacrosse, Lafayette, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Ogdensburg, Orlando, Palm Beach, Paterson, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Rockville Centre, Salina, Scranton, Seattle, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Washington, Worcester.

The following fines are still outstanding, as of November 24, 2006:

Albany	Albany HS	L/D	100
Arlington	Randolph-Macon	Speech	50
Atlanta	Lovett School	L/D	50
Austin	Atkins HS	Speech	50
Austin	Atkins HS	Speech	50
Austin	Del Valle	Team Debate	600
Boston	Lexington HS	L/D	300
Boston	Lexington HS	L/D	50
Brooklyn	Berkeley Carroll Sch.	L/D	50
Camden	Wildwood Catholic HS	Speech	50
Chicago	Glenbrook North	L/D	50
Cleveland	Canton Central Cath.	Team Debate	50
Detroit	Warren Mott	L/D	600
Erie	McDowell Sr.	Speech	550
Galveston-Houston	Aldine HS	L/D	50
Jackson	Laurel HS	Speech	50
Kansas City, KS	Central Heights	Speech	50
Kansas City, KS	Ottawa	Speech	50
LaCrosse	Menominee	Speech	600
New York	Regis HS	L/D	50
Palm Beach	Royal Palm Beach	Speech	50
Providence	Barrington HS	Speech	50
Rockville Centre	Chaminade HS	Speech	50
Sacramento	James Logan	Speech	50
Sacramento	James Logan	Speech	50
Scranton	Dallas HS	Speech	50
St. Augustine	Ridgeview	Speech	50
St.Petersburg	Booker HS	Speech	50
Wichita	Wichita Northwest HS	Congress	50

Reports from:

President Lynda Luce: Bonnie and Scott are working on a web site design. Will hopefully show us the design tomorrow.

Lynda has put a packet together for new leagues, which will be on the web site and also available to hand to new leagues to help them form and join the NCFL.

First Vice President Kieran Larkin: Focusing on debate topics...propose possible areas by Jan 10th to Kieran for LD via email. Public forum would also go to Kieran.

Kieran has also developed a certificate of participation for all students who come to nationals, and will be inserted in all packets at the end of nationals..

Second Vice President Catherine Luhr: Attended debate topic convention in Little Rock. Passed out the synopsis areas to moderators for those who would like to help determine the one vote the NCFL has toward next years Policy topic. Topic areas were required to be foreign topics.

Extemp topics are also handled by Catherine...moderators can submit suggestions for topics no later than Jan 10th. Concerns were expressed about too many domestic topics in the prelims, which will be addressed this year.

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Richard Gaudette: Sent out data cards for registration. Did not send out to leagues who use their own form. Due Dec 10th with no penalty, Jan 10th with 10% penalty. Pins are still available, \$9 each.

Publicity Director Greg Cunningham: Has accepted the digital scrap book and requests pictures to be sent to him from any past national tournaments or meetings. Will search for a way to share the pictures either via the website, or at next years fall meeting.

Tournament Director Roland Burdett: Several asked about school registration on website. Card forms will be available to download so they won't have to be sent out. Hard copies have to be sent back with a wet signature to the moderator, who will submit all forms to the NCFL, due to liability and insurance issues. Clarification will be given about faxed copies of the form...a legal opinion will be sought.

Web site for nationals registration worked well. Very few problems with missing entries. That process will continue this year. Results recording went well on the computer this year. This year, cards will be the back-up and the computer will be the official results. If all goes well, we should stop using cards after 2007. Debate is under discussion as to which will be official and which will be the back-up. Goal is to be totally computer run by 2008.

No schematics worked well, with one minor glitch, which will be fixed this year.

Suggestions, lessons learned, etc. please email to Roland to make things even better.

Ron Steinhorst will serve as a tab chair for IE tab, handling judge replacements, problems, troubleshooting, etc. This will free Roland up to be overall director.

Report by tournament hosts:

Chicago, 2006 (Mike Colletti): A batch of checks got lost, and asked all coaches if their checks cleared. (Letters distributed) If they have not, to please reissue. They were pleased with how the tournament went, with some minor issues on sites. Very favorable comments at the downtown universities. Hilton was wonderful to accommodate everyone on Sunday.

Houston, 2007 (Eloise Blair): Eloise went over the sites for the tournaments, and everything should be contained to four buildings. There are four hotels, 2 Westins @ \$138 per night, JW Marriott @ \$111 per night, West Loop Marriott @ \$111 per night (all prices do not include tax). Busses will loop from all four

hotels to tournament sights. Busses will also loop Sunday for Policy Debate (Marriott West Loop), JW Marriott PF and LD, Speech and Congress at the two Westins. Renting vans and cars will be encouraged for all attending schools, as public transportation is not readily available, especially from either airport. There is much for students to do and most places require driving. Much of the parking, even at the hotels, is free. The Houston Diocese web site with more information about sites and things to see in the area is www.ncflhouston.com and is under construction, but should be up and running soon. Links to the hotels to make reservations will also be at this site. Block opens on October 1st, under NCFL.

Discussion about lunch tickets ensued. Concerns were expressed that leagues do not get their lunch orders in on time. Moderators are encouraged to get that information from their local coaches quickly, and can even have them include that in the registration fee payment made to the local league. Host leagues were also encouraged to have the lunch information on the web site by February 1st so leagues that hold qualifiers early will be able to deal with lunch tickets as soon as they know their numbers.

Green Bay, 2008 (Ron Steinhorst and Lynda Luce): Located in the Appleton area. Hotels and food will be cheaper than the larger cities we have been recently in. Sites have been determined and there are plenty of rooms for all events. Contracts will be signed within the year.

Financial Statement for 9/1/05 – 8/31/06: Presented by Richard Gaudette. The National Tournament lost a total of \$23,812.76, based on amount collected in registration fees, and what the tournament cost. (However, it was later noted that the NCFL waived the entry fees for the gulf coast leagues as part of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, which reflects approximately \$8000 in fees normally collected. This reduced the amount lost to about \$15,000, which is about the same as other large city hosts.)

Other expenses of the league were also presented.

Motion made by Ron Steinhorst to accept the report, second by Tom Durkin. Passed unanimously.

Motion made to introduce Public Forum to the Grand National Tournament by Lynn Owen, second by Mike Colletti. Lynn explained the rationale for adding PF, the amendment and by-laws changes and how it will effect other parts of the tournament. The floor was opened for questions about the by-laws and constitution change. The wording of the quota entries were changed so that the quotas are not tied to events, but an overall quota based on size of the league. The proposal is for PF to be added as a full event, with full quotas allowed by each league.

Motion to recess until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning was made by Trish Zenczak seconded by Steve Sexton. Passed unanimously.

Saturday, September 30

Meeting was reconvened by President Lynda Luce at 8:58 a.m.

The meeting began with a presentation by Bonnie and Scott to demonstrate the new web site design. It was met with wide enthusiasm and should be up and running on our site within a few weeks.

Roland also reported he now has a national contact for Marriott, who will coordinate with any city to help book rooms for any league that is interested in bidding for a future nationals, and is working on a contact for the Hyatt and Hilton hotels as well.

Discussion continued about the proposed by-law change to add Public Forum. Concerns were expressed about the rules, and the difference between the rules that came out of the sub-committee and how they differ from other leagues.

Motion made by Sr. Mary Patricia Plum that the proposed rules be changed to match the already existing national criteria on the choosing of sides based on a coin toss, second by Mike Burton from Seattle. After discussion about the positives and negatives to the coin flip rule, versus assigning sides, the motion failed by a vote of 12 to 20 with 5 abstentions.

Steve Sexton made a motion to change the quotas in the proposed amendment for dioceses with 2, 3 or 4 schools, reducing the extra entries added by the proposed amendment...making the quotas 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Second by Bonnie Knight. After clarifications and discussion, the motion passed, 17 to 11 with 8 abstentions.

Discussion then ensued about the amendment itself and the addition of a new category. Motion made by Mary Schick to keep the quotas the same as they currently are and to allow leagues divide entries among the 3 debate categories but not increase the quotas. After discussion, the motion failed on a voice vote.

After discussion about the merits of Public Forum Debate, the motion to accept Public Forum Debate as a new category, beginning with the Grand National Tournament in 2007, on a weighted vote passed (99-56).

Requests from the tournament director: if you would like to be in a PF tab room, email that request as quickly as you can. Also, if you know someone who is used to using the Joy of Tournaments for debate, email that to Roland as well.

Proposed amendments to the by-laws:

1. Motion by Richard Gaudette to change the fee for registration to the \$35 at the NCFL tournament, second by Mike Colletti. Passed by unanimous consent.
2. Motion by Ron Steinhorst to codify the rule that the master ballot is the official record for the round, seconded by Tom Durkin. Motion passed on unanimous consent.
3. Motion by Roland to allow only the judge to file a protest about an infraction in the round. Seconded by KC. Discussion ensued about whether students in the round should be allowed to go to their coaches about a disqualification at least in preliminary rounds, and put that in the hands of the judges in elimination rounds.

Motion to amend the wording to allow adult coaches and judges to file a protest in preliminary rounds, and only allow judges to make that protest in elimination rounds, made by Charlie Sloat, seconded by Tom Durkin. After discussion, on a vote of 12-24 the motion failed.

Motion by Linda Vulcan to allow tab personnel, judges, or coaches to submit a challenge for protest, second by Lona Dittmar. Motion passed (29-6).

Motion to approve as amended, passed 133 to 35 on a weighted vote.

4. Motion to add how we set brackets in speech, to codify what has been past practice, and add this procedure to the by-laws made by Roland, second by Tom Durkin. Passed unanimous consent
5. Motion to move Student Congress information to codify past practice and add to the by-laws, made by Ron Steinhorst, second by Tom Durkin. Passed unanimous consent.
6. Motion made by Ann Burke to require Original Oratory speeches used in Declamation be published and available to all members of the league. Second by Bonnie. On a weighted vote, the motion failed (83-94).
7. Motion to remove the use of computers in Congress, made by Mary Schick, seconded by Lona.

Amendment to add Public Forum Debate to the motion allowing the use computers made by Tom Durkin, second by Don Ramsey. Motion failed on a voice vote.

Discussion ensued on the main motion on whether Congress should continue to allow the use of computers, with points included students who have special needs and use the computer to organize their speeches and take notes. After discussion, on a weighted vote of 76-99 the motion to remove computer use in Congress failed.

Discussion points

8. Discussion from Palm Beach about the number of students who are not bringing research materials into the prep room, but citing sources. Motion made by Jill to set up a committee to examine Extemp prep rules, seconded by Ron. Motion passed on a voice vote.
9. Request to publish the speech scores from preliminary scores from Congress. Should be able to be fixed easily.
10. School registration issues, submitted by Syracuse, were addressed earlier.
11. Steve asked tournament hosts that we put more emphasis on our champions and not on the executive council. Champions should be more visible during the awards ceremony. The executive council addressed this with both upcoming hosts.
12. Issues surrounding the speed of LD. Rule changes in the past in speech events have tried to fix problems with events. Is there a way to come up with a way to take back LD and reduce the speed of the speakers? Motion made by Charlie Sloat to form a committee to examine this issue, seconded by Tom Durkin. Passed on a voice vote.
13. OI is now becoming more Dramatic-like. Students have the piece memorized and wonder if someone should examine the event because they are not really reading. Is there interest in making a this reading event, a true reading event, and do the event extemporaneous? Motion by Charlie to form a committee to examine OI seconded by Bonnie. Motion failed 16-19.

New Business

Deb Simon called to say hello and missed seeing everyone at the meeting this year.

Charlie has heard that other national leagues have changed the prep time in LD to four minutes. This issue has been referred to the committee examining the LD rules.

Lona asked if the Gulf Coast leagues still need assistance and the board will pass that information on to the moderators when those requests are made.

Sarah asked if the tab rooms are going to need extra people again this year. Roland agreed that extra people will be needed in tab this year, and to start looking into finding additional tab people from local leagues.

Jerry asked that all cellphones should be on vibrate in the tab rooms.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Durkin, seconded by Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb at 12:11 p.m. Passed unanimous consent.