

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28, 2013 HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. INVOCATION: Sister Mary Patricia, St. Petersburg

II. ROLL CALL

- A. Moderators introduced themselves and gave reports on their activities
- B. Dioceses in attendance: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Beaumont, Biloxi, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Erie, Green Bay, Houston-Galveston, Jackson, Kansas City, LaCross, Lafayette, Miami, Milwaukee, New York, Newark, Omaha, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Richmond, Salina, Scranton, Seattle, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Washington, Worcester

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: GREG CUNNINGHAM

- 1. Notification of election for 2014-15
- 2. Candidate information sheet on website
- 3. Candidates must submit application to Greg by 1/1/13.
- 4. Email confirmation will be sent upon receipt
- 4. Nominating committee is arranged by region. Those wishing to serve should email Greg.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: CHARLIE SLOAT

- 1. Richard Gaudet Nominations due 1/15/14
- 2. Debate selection:
 - a. Topics selected for 2013 were effective
 - b. Topic areas due 1/15/14
 - c. Moderators wishing to serve on committee to select areas must apply by 1/15/14
 - d. Mike Nailor will coordinate

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERTA HYLAND

- 1. Extemp selection topic areas due 1/15
- 2. Those wishing to volunteer for committee to select areas must apply by 1/15/14
- 3. Topic areas will be announced following winter meeting
- 4. Questions for selected areas are due 4/21/14

EXECUTIVE SEC/TREASURER: MIKE COLLETTI

- 1. Update contact information including email
- 2. Forms available on web site

3. Financial statement deferred to later in meeting
4. Tax Exempt status continues
5. Roland Burdett: We are a nonprofit and will continue to act as one until paperwork is accepted. Currently working with Todd Piandetosi to complete tax exempt status

PUBLICITY/RECORDING SEC: BARBARA FONTENOT

1. Watch for fall minutes, approximately 30 days from meeting
2. Update contact information to assure access to minutes
3. Share minutes with league coaches

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: ROLAND BURDETT

1. Thanks to Philadelphia for 2013
2. Thanks to moderators and tab staff: No TAB error for 2012
3. Working on CD housing to make Chicago Housing more effective
4. Effective housing makes future nationals more powerful
5. Changes in booking
 - a. More than 10 rooms in sub blocks, list needed
 - b. Less than 10 rooms, one name can be used, but rooming list needed
 - c. Without rooming list, rooms will be lost
 - d. Moving up dates to make certain rooms are utilized
6. Sufficient inventory for 2014, working on 2015, 2016, 2018
7. On Line registration going forward
 - a. continue to email changes throughout
 - b. confirm with judges prior to Friday morning checkin
8. Members are encouraged to continue to contact board with issues
9. As requested, we are continuing to look for ways to streamline costs of running national tournament. Four Major expenses:
 - a. Busing continues to be number one cost issue. Bus alternatives:
 - 1.) fee per contestant, coach, judge
 - 2.) get rid of busing
 - 3.) look at convention centers only.
 - b. Awards
 - c. Sites & cost of rentals.
 - d. TAB Room food – highest expense is at hotels. Looking for alternative options (ie. cash rather than catering...)
 - e. Board asking for feedback from moderators

IV. TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

1. PHILADELPHIA, 2013, Barbara Giuliano
2. CHICAGO, 2014, Mike Colletti
3. FORT LAUDERDALE, 2015, Dario Camara
4. SACRAMENTO, 2016, Roland Burdett for Stephen Goldberg
5. WASHINGTON, DC, 2018, Roberta Hyland

V. POLICY DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE: ROBERTA HYLAND

1. Topics Proposed

- a. Oceans
 - b. International Humanitarian Law
 - c. Middle East Policy Reform
 - d. Export Control Reform
 - e. Domestic Water
2. Resolutions will be emailed to moderators
 3. Policy Debate Topics to be voted on by 10/7
 4. Email Roberta selections

VI. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2012-2013: MIKE COLLETTI

1. 47 schools incurred block surcharge, showing most schools supported Staying within the housing block
2. Financially in better shape than a year ago. Not healthy yet, but getting better
 - a. Question (Ray Shay) what is the goal balance ideally?
 - b. Answer: At least one tournament or tournament and a half, approximately \$170,000 to \$200,000.
3. No surcharge for Chicago 2013, however group might wish to recommend Permanently dropping \$10 surcharge based on last year's tournament or Anticipated Chicago expenditures or examine need yearly.
4. Clarification of the 501c3 process
 - a. Greg Cunningham: By definition we are a non-profit and have always acted as one, just waiting for final approval
5. Motion to accept financial report, Sara Donnelly
6. Second: Catherine Luhr
7. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORT OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS REVISIONS COMMITTEE

Mike Vigars, chair

- A. Proposed changes in manual:
 1. Cosmetic
 2. Simplification of wording
 3. Glossary of frequently used terms
 4. Sample constitutional amendment
 5. Summary of advance placement procedures
- B. Proposed structural changes/clarification
 1. Reduction in the size of chambers - capped at 22
 2. More judge based decision; students voice no longer the only determinate
 3. Larger judge panels for elimination rounds
 4. Increase geographic diversity for elimination rounds
 5. Ballot format
 6. Ranking form
- C. Legislation templates available on website in near future
- D. Amendments proposed

Discussion included what determines which diocese will sponsor bill if more than one league submits same or similar bill; are chambers allowed to debate resolutions not submitted; can you assure that both dioceses are not in same chamber if similar bill is use; can total points be changed to overall points to avoid confusion; will elimination numbers remain the same; does proposed Amendment B put less power in competitors hands; Clarification on instruction for scorers

Clarification (Roland Burdett) proposed to encourage more options for parliamentarians and judges for Student Congress and we will work with Tabroom.com to help with this during the registration process.

Greg Cunningham: Board discussed this issue and is in agreement

Sister Mary Patricia extended thanks to entire committee

Motion tabled to Saturday meeting: Greg Cunningham

Saturday Meeting resumed 9:00 a.m.:

Amendments passed:

- a. Speaker Ballot bottom line should say “overall Rating” instead of “Total Points”
- b. V7, Paragraph 2: add after the end of the last sentence...”who have either given a speech or served as Presiding Officer during the semi-final session
- c. VI, 4: change the second sentence to read...”Remember: at the end of the third Preliminary Session, one student you nominate will automatically advance to the Semi-Final Session.”
- d. VI, 6: add between 2nd and 3rd sentences...”Please direct all questions concerning tournament procedures, scoring guidelines, and scoring ranges to the TAB room
- e. VI, 5: add...”Legislation packets will be posted to the NCFL website on or around April 25th.
- f. VII, 2: Create a new subsection VII3, after “April 1st.” that includes the rest of VII 2 text and move all subsequent subsections down.
- g. VII, 3...add two sentences to the end...”in order to promote diversity of debate, the committee may choose amongst legislation addressing the same topic. Thus not all dioceses may be represented in the legislation packet.”

- h. V,7...All chambers rank the top eight only, not all students. Students less than top 8, get ranks of 9.
- i. Delete the sentence referring to submitting legislation not in the original packet.

Congress manual as a whole amended: Passed on a voice vote

VIII. AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A) Proposal to Create an Affiliate Service Program: Keiran Larkin

The Past Presidents and Gaudette Service Award Winners are authorized to function as a service committee of the NCFL. Their mission is to work, when authorized to do so by the NCFL Executive Council, to assist the forensics programs of the NCFL's member schools when natural disasters or other acts of God intervene, to help them recover their lost resources to enable them to return to full participation within the NCFL.

This standing committee will provide, or enable the provision of, material and/or financial assistance as may be necessary and appropriate when petition is made by the local diocesan director to the NCFL Executive Council when the local league or its members are in crisis.

This standing committee will maintain bank account(s) separate from the NCFL account(s) into which personal, diocesan, and corporate donations may be placed and from which discretionary funds may be dispersed.

Leadership of this standing committee will consist of a chairperson, who shall be the most recent President of the NCFL, and a treasurer, who shall be appointed by the chairperson with the approval of the NCFL Executive Council.

Proposed by Brooklyn on behalf of
"The Luce Cannons" and the
Past Presidents' Club

Keiran Larkin – justification – past presidents who wish to remain active in providing service to the league representing the league. Petitioner the executive council, they would pass the request to the Past President Club

Discussion: Is there a way to offer scholarships to needy students toward nationals
Keiran: rather than directing money toward NCFL, money is donated to PPC, the members could then make those determinations.

Ron Steinhurst: We need to remain true to Lyn's intent

Greg Cunningham: with 501c3 status, Group can make those decision

Account Clarification: Catherine Luhr and Dick Gaudette are signers

Motion: passed, one abstention

B) Article III, Section B, 8 – Delete “changing to \$50 (fifty dollars) per school with the 2013-2014 school year.”

Rationale: Rescinds the raise in school membership dues which was passed last fall.

Proposed by LaCrosse, Bonnie Knight

Table discussion regarding discussion of fee change from last year: Request for more financial information first:

C) Article V, Section E, 5, d, 7 - Proposal for a more detailed financial report annually regarding the NCFL Grand National Tournament.

Proposed by LaCrosse, Bonnie Knight

Rationale – in order to attempt to find ways to reduce costs, the published financial report needs to be more detailed.

Discussion: Clarification on Conference Direct profits; breakdown in overall national costs; long time financial picture requested; more hard data; request data be available on line, not in print; update bid packet;

Clarification (Greg Cunningham) Philadelphia Nationals was the first time we were able to have a footprint that we can now see clearly and work with in the future. Next fall will propose a new bid packet for approval.

Clarification (Roland Burdett): Conference Direct does make a profit, but makes things smoother and helped us decrease the attrition rate; helps pay for board rooms...

No formal motion made. Tabled

Greg Cunningham Motioned that the Board will work on issue at winter meeting and report back to members at the 2014 Fall meeting.

Seconded by David Long

Motion passed on unanimous consent.

Discussion returned to proposed change of membership fees:

Bonnie Knight: moving to change membership fees in 2013 from the scheduled \$50 back to \$25 per school.

Clarification (Mike Colletti): The \$10 surcharge got us \$25,000 in registration fees. An increase in dues will generate approximately \$28,000 in revenue. With no surcharge, the registration fee offsets the money raised with the surcharge. Increasing the bottom line balance, with both back, would continue to allow league to become fiscally healthy; if we eliminate the surcharge we are increasing the time it will take to get back to financial health. If we are only going to keep one of the two, then an increase in dues, rather than

surcharging those coming to nationals, is the lesser of two evils.

Discussion: Is there a way to get earnings from tournament booklet? IE. selling adds to schools, vendors...; request clarification on earnings from 2013 tournament; Is fine for staying within hotel block permanent; can we sustain by increasing less; Fee set way in the past, state fees, other leagues are much higher. We have to be prepared for unexpected problems. We need to have enough money in bank to prevent financial disasters. Currently do not have enough money to recover from something monumental. School paying, \$50 not unreasonable.

Greg Cunningham: We need to decide the direction and if our primary goal is truly in education, and not "sell our soul" through advertising.

Sarah Donnelly: Cost of our book is \$5,000. Adding advertising increases pages and costs. If is doubtful we would reap the benefit and not a huge revenue with vendors

Clarification: Yes was a vote to move back to \$25. No was a vote to keep dues at \$50. Motion failed on a voice vote.

IX. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS:

A) Article II, Section C.1.f.11 – Change the word "should" to "must." It will now read:

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

Rationale: Makes it consistent with subpoint 10.

Proposed by the Milwaukee, Steve Stexton

Rationale: Just a clarification – language cleanup. Must from should

Discussion: none

Motion Passed

B) Article II Section C various locations - Change the word "published" to "readily available to all" in all instances where the word published is mentioned.

Rationale: Consistency in wording to eliminate confusion.

Proposed by Boston, Deb Simon (Greg Cunningham)

Rationale: The word "published" may not reflect current practice.

Discussion: The NCFL publication requirements already reflect current publishing practices, and electronic publication is already allowed.

Clarification: Yes = changing No = stays the same. Motion failed

C) Article II, Section C.1.d.3 – Strike the phrase "with the exception of the speaker's manuscript." and add the sentence "A manuscript may not be used as a prop."

Rationale: Moves to better clarify the NCFL Bylaws regarding the use of a speaker's manuscript in Oral Interpretation of Literature.

Proposed by Philadelphia, Ray Shay

Ray: justification

Call the question: passed, one nay

D) Article II, Section C.1.b.4 – Strike the phrase "provided that the singing be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation" leaving the sentence as "Scenes from musicals are acceptable."

Article II, Section C.1.d.5 – Strike the sentence "Any singing... presentation."

Article II, Section C.1.e.7 – Strike the sentence "Any singing... oration."

Article II, Section C.1.f.9 – Strike the sentence "Any singing... presentation."

Rationale: Allows for more than thirty seconds of singing in Dramatic Performance, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Original Oratory and Duo Interpretation of Literature.

Proposed by Philadelphia, Ray Shay

Ray: justification – Allow for judges to not have to watch their stopwatch when a performance includes singing.

Discussion:

Motion withdrawn; Tabled discussion and combined with discussion from Philadelphia about rules and disqualifications.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Ask for clarification and discussion about what event rules (especially in Speech events) lead to disqualification and which are open to judge's interpretation/regional preferences.

Proposed by Philadelphia, Ray Shay

Discussion: Concern over regional preferences; violations provable issue; interpretation of fairness; committee created to explore issued;

Greg Cunningham: can put chart/matrix on the web if members wish

Roland Burdett: we generally send someone from the protest committee into the next round with a stop watch. Process Protest committee talks to student, coach, sometimes goes to next round to determine.

David Long: Motion to move to form committee to study with AnnMarie Duffy as chair.

Sister Mary Patricia seconded. Motion passed on unanimous consent.

Roland: do you want to defer to committee or want matrix published. No

Motion to move to committee – Sister Mary Patricia

Second – David Long

Motion passed

Interested members interested in serving on the committee should email AnnMarie Duffy

XI. NEW BUSINESS -

A) Reminder: Nominating Committee for the biennial officer elections.

B) Reminder: Richard Gaudette Service Award selection committee. Send to Charlie by January 15

C. Motion to suspend the rules to allow winter committee meeting to be held outside of Chicago. Rules state that as fall meeting did not take place at host city, board needs approval.

Motion passed.

XII. OTHER ITEMS

A. Roland Burdett : Exploring a possible tournament program app on phone. Not certain how much money we would save. Current estimate is \$5,000. Do competitors still want, like and want to keep programs? Can we save money, trees if we eliminate a print version?

Discussion: We can continuously update by going online; too much white space, consider sponsorship; consider a book per school; not everyone has a smart phone; can we have both app and print; template on website rather than app; could a board member (or Sarah Donnelly) be charged with pursuing companies for advertising or a new position added; consensus of opinion is clearly NOT to do the App without the Program Booklet.

Clarification Roland Burdett: a. In terms of booklet cost, numbers don't matter after the first copy run b. As for the task of advertising it takes a lot of time to pursue. Better to look for a sponsor.

The board will look into possible viable options at the Winter Meeting.

Motion made to adjourn

Passed unanimously.

