

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28 AND 29, 2012
PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

September 28, 2012

Call to order: 6:07 p.m.

I. INVOCATION

A. Catherine Luhr, past president

1. Deaths of Sister Raimonde & Lynda Luce, past president
Explanation of Lynda's illness and reading of eulogy she presented at service
2. Prayer – included in Catherine's "declamation"

ROLL CALL

A. Moderators individually spoke on summer events

B. Dioceses in attendance: Allentown, Arlington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Biloxi, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Erie, Green Bay, Houston-Galveston, Jackson, Kansas City, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Orlando, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Richmond, Salina, Scranton, Seattle, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg-Tampa, Washington, Worcester

C. Additional attendees Matt Dykstra, (Conference Direct), Philadelphia 2013 National Committee

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

A. PRESIDENT: GREG CUNNINGHAM

1. Welcome, expression of thanks for attending meeting
2. Reminder that Richard Gaudette Award nominations due no later than January 10, 2013.
3. Reminder that all past fines must be paid by January 10, 2013, in order for schools in violation to compete in the Grand National Tournament

B. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: CHARLIE SLOAT

1. The process of submitting extemp questions for the Grand National Tournament was successful. More than 350 questions were submitted by coaches and students. Positive feedback was given.
2. Deadlines
 - a. Deadline for extemp topic areas submission is January 15, 2013.
 - b. Deadline for LD and PF topic submission is January 15, 2013.
3. Email addresses for all moderators is necessary if they wish to vote for topic areas
4. Coaches wishing to be on selection committee need to inform Charles Sloat.
Be certain to include accurate email address_

C. SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERTA HYLAND

1. Policy meeting results over the summer in Boston provided
2. Moderators asked to look over topic handout and vote so NCFL can provide input
3. Anyone interested in submitting topics must write a topic paper. For policy coaches, this is worthwhile. Details are on NFHS web site or see Roberta.
4. The meeting for the following year will take place in Portland, Oregon the summer of 2013.

D. EXECUTIVE SEC/TREASURER: MIKE COLLETTI

1. Reminder of deadlines for submitting dues and membership forms without penalty is Dec 10th, 2012.
2. With penalty: January 10, 2013.
3. Outstanding fine list is attached. (See Appendix A)

E. PUBLICITY/RECORDING SEC: BARBARA FONTENOT

1. Expressed gratitude for being elected to board.
2. Will work alongside board on behalf of member leagues

F. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: ROLAND BURDETT

1. Extended thanks to Baltimore for hosting the 2012 NCFL Grand Nationals
2. Public Forum error: "During our regular review of the results from NCFL 2012, we determined that the Public Forum Debate Team from Battlefield High School of Bond & Lee from the Arlington Diocesan League should have been cleared into Double-Octo Finals with their 4-1 record with 10 ballots.

The NCFL extends our apologies to the team, and their coach, Mr. William Florer.

We sincerely regret that this error was made."

3. Input received regarding 2012 NCFL Grand Nationals appreciated.
4. Policy debate site was trashed. League has extended apologies to Baltimore City Schools. This is the second year this problem has occurred. If it continues, no one will provide sites for Policy Debate. Moderators are asked to discuss this problem with their coaches.
5. Moderators are reminded that we will be again using tabroom.com for entering nationals
 - a. email contact must be accurate
 - b. Include students with special needs when registering. This affects transportation as well as elimination rounds. Moderators are to send separate email regarding the need and accommodations required, not just the checked form. Information will remain confidential.
 - c. Moderators are reminded to send in changes to tabroom.com up until the date of departure for nationals. Do not wait until the day of on-site registration to help avoid problems in paneling sections.
6. Moderators thanked for their assistance in the 2012 tournament
7. Looking forward to Philadelphia

TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

A. BALTIMORE 2012 - Charles Donovan

1. Thanks given to all for attending
2. 2012 souvenirs are still available. Please contact Baltimore League if wishing to purchase
3. League would appreciate feedback in the event they offer to host again

B. PHILADELPHIA 2013 - Barbara Giuliano

1. Philadelphia attempting to sell items participants want to purchase
Coaches are asked to contact league with suggestions.
2. Items will be able to be ordered online
3. Philadelphia site promised to be user friendly.
4. Walking tour to show hotels and sights nearby to take place following the meeting on Saturday.
5. Prelim Competition sites:

- a. Speech: University of Pennsylvania (DP, OI, Duo)
St. Joseph's Prep and Gesu (Dec, Extemp, OO)
- b. CX Policy Debate: William Tennent High School
- c. Public Forum Debate: Pope John Paul II High School
- d. Lincoln Douglas Debate: LaSalle University
- e. Student Congress: Sheraton Hotel
- 6. Elim sites:
 - a. Congress, LD, Public Forum: Sheraton Hotel
 - b. CX Policy Debate: Marriott Courtyard
 - c. Speech: Marriott Downtown Hotel and PA Convention Center
- 7. Mass: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul
- 8. Competitors evening gathering/posting: Sheraton Hotel
- 9. Awards: Pennsylvania Convention Center connected to Marriott Downtown
- 10. Hotels: Marriott (\$149.00), Marriott Courtyard (\$139.00), Sheraton (\$150.00), Embassy Suites (\$158.00)
- 11. Tax rate: 15.2%
- 12. Food: Philadelphia is a restaurant town
 - a. Information on restaurants will be provided for leagues in proximity to hotels
 - b. Room keys will provide discounts at participating restaurants and stores.
Details will be provided at registration
- 13. Speech locations are two miles from Sheraton and Marriott.
- 14. Other competition sites are further away (20-30 minutes), making it more important to stay at host hotels to use buses.
- 15. Buses will load at Marriott downtown and Sheraton
- 16. Rooms: Reservations will be made and confirmed through Conference Direct.
(note: most double beds are not queen)
- 17. Parking: (Sarah Donnelly) Researching for affordable options for coaches.
Hotels do not own lots, therefore cannot offer deals.

C. CHICAGO, 2014: Mike Colletti

- 1. Progressing as usual. Will have more information fall of 2013
- 2. Hotel prices: Chicago Hilton \$159 single/double

D. FORT LAUDERDALE, 2015 – Mary Schick

- 1. Almost all events will be in one place at Nova Southeastern University.
- 2. Hotels: Hilton \$149 single/double, Hyatt \$149 single/double; Embassy Suites; On Beach - Sheraton \$149 single/double, Westin \$165 single/double; DoubleTree

E. PROPOSAL: WASHINGTON, DC, 2018

- 1. On agenda as component is time sensitive.
 - a. Motion to suspend rules, Sister Mary Patricia
 - b. Second: Kieran Larkin
 - c. Motion passed
- 2. Presentation: Roberta Hyland
 - a. All events will take place within a four block radius in DC, at the Convention Center and host Hotels, thus eliminating busing.
 - b. In 2011 the cost for busing was \$64,000. Eliminates busing, limits number of sites, lessens the cost and allows for simplification of process.
 - d. Convention Center cost: \$60,000. Includes use of pipe and drape to divide floor into competition rooms. "Noisier" events would be in hard walled rooms

- e. Convention Center, with plenty of gathering areas for competitors, would be used Saturday only (Policy, LD, PF, OO, Ext, Dec, OI)
 - f. Convention Bureau would help defray cost of convention center
 - g. Hotels bookings are key to success
3. Discussion:
- a. Charles Donovan: \$50,000 was Baltimore's cost for busing.
Elimination of transportation for would help bring cost down
 - b. Proposal tabled until Saturday discussion
 - c. Motion to adjourn: Ann Marie Duffy
 - d. Second: Charles Donovan
 - e. Meeting adjourned

9/29/12, 8:34 a.m. meeting resumed, called to order by Greg Cunningham, President

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012 - Mike Colletti (See Appendix B)

A. Explanation of losses for past tournament

- 1. Unanticipated expenses: buses, more elimination rooms, hotel food charges, room blocks not filled.
- 2. Attrition was a result of member schools not booking at host hotels. Original Penalty of over \$40,000 was worked down to a little more than \$14,000.
- 3. Cost of hosting national tournaments more expensive than ever
- 4. Discussion

Discussion included questions about options regarding catering for tab on Sunday, and that we are at the mercy of the hotels we use, that things have not worked financially for the past few years. Without large hotels and convention centers, we would have no large elimination rooms. We would have to go back to schools, using smaller rooms for finals and not have space for audiences.

“Discussion about attrition due to lack of hotel room nights booked. In 2010, the Omaha hosts provided lower cost options and still schools went out of the block, causing initial attrition penalties of over \$100K (Conference Direct was able to negotiate these fees down to \$32K, but those fines could have been financially devastating to the league

- 1.) Motion: Sister Mary Patricia
- 2.) Second: Kieran Larkin
- 3.) Motion passed

Greg Cunningham requested a change in order of agenda. Discussing in the following order: B, A, C

B) Article II, Section B, 2. ... per student staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks. For students not staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks the fee will be \$150 each. ... Proposed by the Executive Board

Discussion:

The Executive Board began the discussion clarifying it does not have any easy answers. Youth sports leagues and other organizations are having the same issue.

A friendly amendment to adjust the fee to \$100 for students staying outside of the NCFL Tournament block passed without objection.

Discussion continued about an understanding of the process and problems. Coaches may not understand the big picture. Suggestions to change the fee to \$100 per school would not cover attrition. A bus fee was also considered, but what do we do if a kid says “I lost my bus pass, I never got my bus pass” would you really turn a student down? There has been discussion to charge for transportation, but it is a logistical nightmare.

Mike Colletti pointed out that one more year like this and the league is done. Matt Dykstra also shared that the hotels are asking what are we doing to fix the problem? Conference Direct has successfully negotiated on our behalf, but history is showing that our league is not fulfilling its obligation, so these negotiations are getting harder. Attrition liability is more than \$100 per room night. Bills have been a fraction of the real cost.

Further discussion about equity being the issue: Marriott is paying the convention center for use of it based on use of their hotel. The direct impact comes when the league is not contributing to the hotel's sponsor funding by using rooms.

Bylaw vote (Weighted):

Yes: 124 No: 33 Result: passed

A) Article II, Section B, 2. ... The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$50 per student. For students of the NCFL Grand National Tournament Host League the fee will be \$40 each. Proposed by the Executive Board

Comments from Executive Council

Discussion to change the entry fee to \$65 per student permanently would be detrimental.

Schools would be willing to pay more for school membership rather than increase in entry fees. Could pay increase one year, but annually would hurt us.

Dave Long: Motion to strike last sentence – “for students of the National Tournament Grand National Host

League the fee will be \$40 each”

Sr. Mary Patricia: second

Voice vote: Passed unanimously

Steve DuBois:

Is there a way to make tournament cheaper?

Can we reduce the number of debate judges required?

Can we form a committee to look at big picture?

Greg Cunningham: make a formal motion – instruct board to look at this at the winter meeting

| Bylaw vote (Weighted):

Voice Vote taken. Result: passed

C) For the NCFL Grand National Tournament in 2013 there will be an additional \$10 charge for each student.
Proposed by the Executive Board

Discussion: The Executive Board is seeking to add a one time fee 2013 to help offset the losses from the past tournaments. According to business process, the league should have 3 times the estimated annual costs to be safe. If revenue is neutral or under budget the next two years, we should get budget back to where we need it. There was no anticipation of the attrition rates in Albany and the fees were incorrectly interpreted as an anomaly.

On a voice vote: 2 in opposition. Motion Passed

Catherine Luhr:

Move to discuss the Washington DC 2018 hosting

Marna Weston: second

Voice vote: passed

Discussion included clarification on items presented on Friday evening. After further clarification, the motion for Washington DC to host in 2018 passed unanimously.

D) Article II, Section C, # 3, b., 1.

Replace the current wording "No plan shall be offered by the affirmative" with the line "No plan or counterplan shall be offered by either debater."

Proposed by the Beaumont League

Discussion included a note that this is a housekeeping change, to make certain it runs as it is on the books – for LD. Currently, competitors are doing what they learned in camps rather than following the rules.

Dave Long requested clarification: no ramification if you do it. Just strategy. Judges will be made aware of the rules and use when determining winner.

Vote to replace current wording passed unanimously.

E) Article II, Section D, 9.

Add "Public Forum Debate" after "LD Debate" (this allows the use of computers and other electronic devices for use in PF rounds. Same rules of use for other debates will apply).

Proposed by the Palm Beach League

Discussion

Mary Schick: Palm Beach League supports action in order to keep up with other national competitions, keeping up with times. Some concerns were raised that PFD would morph into more evidence based debate.

After some discussion, a roll call weighted vote was held:

Yes 132 No 25 Results: passed

F) Article II, Section A - Eligibility, 3. Students - Add eighth grade before "current high school undergraduates" on first line. In third sentence, add 8th after All (so it reads "All 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th year secondary students . . ." At the beginning of the fourth sentence, add "8th."

Proposed by the Palm Beach League

Discussion from Mary Schick: Allowing 8th grade participation would increase high school participation. Palm Beach would like to allow participation at local, not at nationals. There was not much support to include 8th graders at the Grand Nationals.

On a voice vote: Motion failed

G) Article II, Section D, #2: add "There must be a coach, judge, school representative or parent in attendance with each student or group of students registered from each school."

Proposed by the Buffalo League

Discussion from Catherine Luhr: It seems obvious that students should be accompanied by an adult, but there was a situation with a school last year who had a student without any supervision at all at the tournament. Concern is about responsibility, liability, insurance. In this age of litigation, we need to protect ourselves.

Steve DuBois: Motion to amend the main motion to add at the end :

“ registered for each school or school district.” Catherine Luhr accepted as a friendly amendment

On a voice vote: Motion passed

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) All venues used for competition must have air conditioning.

Proposed by the Palm Beach League

Charles Donovan discussed issues at Baltimore: Air conditioning is wonderful but in the real world it is not always possible.

Much discussion objecting to the wording “MUST.” Roland indicated air conditioning is preferred but should not be required. No official motion made after discussion.

B) On the Saturday of nationals, a few (2?) buses circling from venue to venue so that coaches who have students at different competition venues can check on their students.

Proposed by the Palm Beach League

Discussion centered on costs associated with extra buses. No motion was generated by the discussion.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Steve DuBois requested that the board:

- a. Look at ways to make ways to make NCFL Grand National Tournament less expensive and report back with answers.
- b. Look for ways to increase revenues and sponsorships for funding.

2. Mike Wascher:

- a. Coaches looking to teach debate for two weeks in China next summer are asked to drop Mike a note via email: miwascher@gmail.com

b. Dates not definitive until post NFL nationals. Probably the last week in July to mid August

3. Catherine Luhr: Past Presidents & Service Award Winners Club was formed to assist schools who have been affected by natural disasters. Much of this came about due to the impact from Katrina to member schools and the desire to help those impacted by the storm. It was Lynda Luce's desire that this worthy cause continue. In her memory, her family asked that donations be made in her name. Donations can be in her name and sent to her husband Paul at:

N2209 Birchwood Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981

Kieran Larkin added the importance to have past presidents take on projects specified by the National Catholic Forensic League.

Barbara Fontenot added that in the year of Katrina, the national office waived membership fees, entry fees, provided lunch, schools donated judges and materials for the leagues impacted. We would not have been able to exist or participate without their generosity.

4. Linda Vulcan requested the board put a letter together to provide explanation of changes in fees to schools and principals. The Board will compose such a letter.

Mary Schick asked if can we develop ideas for generating money for league. Consider increasing membership dues for 2014 on from \$25 to \$50? It would be a positive addition to revenue. While we cannot vote until 2013 fall, if we could determine a specific increase now, member schools would be prepared.

Mary Schick made a motion to permanently increase school membership fee from \$25 to \$50 for the year beginning 2013-2014

AnneMarie Duffy: Second

Discussion included the idea that the extra amount can still be decreased or overturned. With this motion, it will give leagues notice and time to discuss and prepare for the increase.

The motion to increase school membership fees from \$25 to \$50 beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year passed on a voice vote.

5. Dave Long: Motion to adjourn
Seconded, Motion passed

Appendix A (Outstanding Fines)

Diocese	School	Code	Name	Event	Fine
Atlanta	Brady HS	FF 1637	Lucas Bailey	LD	50
Baltimore	Notre Dame HS	B 1508	Jennifer Banach	LD	50
Brooklyn	Christ the King HS	Q 1578	Jeff Ramdass	LD	50
Burlington	Lamole Union HS	YY 3695	Rhianna Weiss	PF	50
Houston-Galveston	Bellaire HS	K 3554	Erik Nelson	PF	50
Jackson	Oxford HS	JJ 3663	Leo Mallette	PF	50
Kansas City	Sumner Academy	E 1526	Candace Villanueva	LD	50
Kansas City	Blue Valley HS	E 1522	Andrea Hiesberger	LD	50
Lafayette	Comeaux HS	GG 3652	Tracy Ledoux	PF	50
Lafayette	Lafayette HS	GG 1643	Om Pal	LD	50
Louisville	Kentucky Country Day	F	Chris Roberts	PF	50
New York	Regis HS	L 3560	Andrew Nezi	PF	50
New York	Regis HS	L 3559	Mike Mitchell	PF	50
New York	Regis HS	L 1556	Mike Barton	LD	50
Orlando	Lake Hyland HS	M 8161	Heather Walsh	PF	50
Pittsburgh	Fox Chapel HS	DD 1631	Akansh Murthy	LD	100
Portland	Falmouth HS	RR 3682	Karen Wolf	PF	100
Richmond	Governors School	PP 3675	Ayn Kellan	PF	50
Richmond	Governors School	PP 3674	Mitch Candell	PF	50
Rockville Centre	Syosset HS	U 3599	Mia Gembardella	PF	50
Seattle	Snohomish HS	HHH 3707	Lillian Rusk	PF	50
Springfield-Cape Girardeau	Marshfield HS	SSS 3711	Chris Roberds	PF	50
St Petersburg	Golf Breeze HS	H 1538	Marcia Parlin	LD	50
Washington	Walt Whitman HS	J 1548	Eva Caldera	LD	50
Winona	Forest Lake HS	Y 3616	Darra Bergarten	PF	100

**NCFL
STATEMENT**

2011-2012

Receipts

Dues	28765.00
Penalty	915.00
Pins	80.00
Fines	1250.00
NCFL Registration	122185.00
Misc-Conf Direct	2075.00
Total	155270.00

9/1/2011	25952.41
Receipts	155270.00
Total	181222.41
Expenses	-160519.99
Attrition 2012	-14240.00
8/31/2012	6462.42

Expenses

Supplies/Printing	422.76
Postage	279.30
Phone	180.00
Exec Council	15886.01
Nat'l Fed Meeting	400.00
Web	250.00
Event Planner	0.00
NCFL Tournament	142967.92
Misc	134.00
Total	160519.99

Tournament

Insurance	2170.00
NASSP fee	145.00
Site Charges	26477.46
Trophies	24267.05
Technology	600.00
Printing	5723.10
Ballots	2006.32
Supplies	3449.05
Busses	49773.50
Congress	400.00
Tab Food	21785.00
Judge Food	5446.25
Misc. Exp.	725.19
Total	142967.92