New Jersey Speech & Debate League

Spring Meeting Minutes – 5/11/2018

Old Man Rafferty’s, New Brunswick, NJ

1. Welcome
   1. Meeting called to order by Renee Drummond at 4:45pm
   2. Coaches present: Renee Drummond, Brian Rodriguez (Elizabeth), John Cierpial (Union Catholic), Katie Burke, Peter Quinn (Randolph), Martin Page (Delbarton), Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg), Saul Grullon, Dennis Philbert (Newark Central), Jonathan Alston (Science), Caryn Burstein, Jennifer O’Brien (Freehold Township), Anne Poyner (Summit), Mary Gormley, Mark Iannelli (Montville), Dave Yastremski, Ryan Monagle (Ridge), Cecilia Birge (Princeton), Aslihan Yildiz-Odeh (Noor-ul-Iman), Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central), Amisha Mehta (Westfield)
2. Financial Report
   1. Peter Quinn distributed the 2017-18 Financial Report (attached). Items discussed include surplus funds, decreasing dues and team fees, and spending more on developing member coaches and teams.
3. Speechwire
   1. Coaches commented on the use of Speechwire this year, including new e-ballots.
   2. Jonathan Alston voiced support for using Tabroom, given the increased focus that the NSDA is putting on it, the ability to auto-post points, and the lack of cost.
   3. Laurie Schmid mentioned that there is a possibility that the service will no longer be free in the future.
   4. Several coaches appreciated Speechwire’s commitment to individualized tech help and the availability of Ben Stewart, the creator and owner.
4. States – Congress Entries
   1. Renee Drummond mentioned that the lack of a cap for Congress entries at States was initially made to help the event grow, which it has by leaps and bounds. The possibility of capping entries at a reasonable amount was discussed.
   2. Martin Page brought up an idea to create a cap, and split Congress into Novice and Varsity divisions at States, as was done at several local tournaments this year.
   3. Mary Gormley brought up an idea to create a cap, as well as dividing Congress in two divisions as is done at Districts (House and Senate, with different caps for each).
   4. Matter was tabled, to be revisited and voted on at the fall meeting, to take effect at States 2019.
5. Recruiting
   1. Amisha Mehta mentioned the creation of some kind of information session for new coaches/teams, as well as the possibility of assigning mentors.
   2. Aslihan Yildiz-Odeh mentioned the possibility of hosting an open house, once per year.
   3. Renee Drummond mentioned sending out letters to schools, and the mixed efficacy of the league attending the NJEA expo in the past.
   4. Peter Quinn and Dave Yastremski mentioned the possibility of reaching out to administrators and/or school board members to get programs started.
   5. Brian Rodriguez mentioned recurring issues with new programs and smaller schools becoming discouraged from tough competition, and the possibility of establishing exhibition and/or novice tournaments, possibly at the end of the season.
   6. Dave Yastremski and Mary Gormely recalled the Chase Cup, and the large amount of interest it sparked, especially among schools that did not and currently do not participate in competition. They also discussed the Poetry Out Loud competition, which had issues with quick elimination and lack of interest afterward.
   7. Jonathan Alston mentioned the possibility of streaming/televising final rounds of States or Districts on the league website, and/or televising or streaming them at a later time. Peter Quinn mentioned the issue of obtaining media releases from all competitors for streaming/televising.
6. Website.
   1. Renee Drummond asked coaches to let her know if anything with the league website could be improved or added to.
7. Clarification of NSDA Rules
   1. Renee Drummond and Brian Rodriguez brought up an issue that occurred at States regarding interpretation rules, and specifically the consolidation of characters. The NSDA has historically prohibited this, and the league judge’s manual does as well, but the actual NSDA rulebook is textually extremely vague on this rule, and without prior knowledge of the rule, coaches and students could easily violate it unknowingly (and many did, at local tournaments throughout the year without issue). The idea of adding a warning or disclaimer of some sort to the bylaws was brought up, as currently they simply defer to the NSDA rules without explanation. Tabled for a future meeting.
   2. Renee Drummond also mentioned taking a look at the judge’s manual with an eye to updating it.
8. Tournament Schedule
   1. Renee Drummond handed out the tentative league schedule for the 2018-19 season. If any errors are present or changes necessary, they should be directed to Renee before the fall meeting where the schedule will be adopted.
9. Elections
   1. **The following slate of candidates was assembled, all moved and seconded as necessary. Slate was elected unanimously by voice vote.**
      1. Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Quinn (Randolph)
      2. Vice-President of Outreach: Martin Page (Delbarton)
      3. Vice-President of Debate: Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg)
      4. Vice-President of Speech: Dave Yastremski (Ridge)
      5. President: Renee Drummond (Elizabeth)
      6. Executive Board (9): Mary Gormley (Delbarton), Mark Iannelli (Montville), Brian Rodriguez (Elizabeth), Amisha Mehta (Westfield), Dennis Philbert (Newark Central), Katie Burke (Randolph), Jonathan Alston (Science), Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central), Anne Poyner (Summit)
      7. Executive Board Alternates (2): Caryn Burstein (Freehold Township), Cecilia Birge (Princeton)
10. For the Good of the Order
    1. Renee Drummond motioned to adjourn at 6pm, motion carries
11. Appendix A: 2017-18 Treasurer’s Report

**2016-17 Carryover: $17,901.95**

$3,235.00 Outstanding

2017-18 Income

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Collected** | **Difference PY** | **Outstanding** | **Notes** |
| *Dues* | $4,725.00 | $4,725.00 | +$825.00 | $0.00 | 52 schools @ $175/200 |
| *Borelli* | $5,325.00 | $3,340.00 | -$1,925.00 | $1,985.00 | 4 outstanding |
| *District Congress* | $2,750.00 | $1,550.00 | +$170.00 | $1,200.00 | 4 outstanding |
| *States* | $19,860.00 | $15,680.00 | +$385.00 | $4,180.00 | 4 outstanding |
| *Districts* | $8,935.00 | $5,560.00 | +$2,985.00 | $3,375.00 | 6 outstanding |
| *Misc.* | $1,100.00 | $1,100.00 | -$368.00 | $0.00 | NSDA, etc. |
| *Total Inc.* | $42,695.00 | $31,955.00 | +$2,072.00 | $10,740.00 |  |

2017-18 Expenses

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Paid Out** | **Difference PY** | **Notes** |
| *Scholarships* | $8,100.00 | $8,100.00 | +$850.00 | x27; increased amount |
| *League Meetings* | $924.19 | $1,057.91 | -$133.72 | Not including today’s meeting |
| *Tournament Expenses* | $13,504.76 | $13,504.76 | -$316.70 |  |
| *Judge Hires* | $7,556.13 | $7,556.13 | +$41.13 | 4 unclaimed |
| *Outreach & Conferences* | $5,703.75 | $703.75 | +$546.93 | Includes estimated NSDA conference |
| *Misc.* | $1,209.87 | $1,209.87 | +$325.50 | Not including Gov. Awards |
| *Total Exp.* | $37,435.45 | $32,435.45 | +$3,440.64 |  |

**Current Balance: $17,421.50**

**Expected Closing Balance: $26,346.50**

*Outstanding Accounts: Freehold Township (B, D); Ridge (B, C, S, D); Ridgewood (B); Summit (B, S), Delbarton (C), Matawan (C, S, D), Manville (S), Hunterdon Central (D), Millburn (D), The Lawrenceville School (D)*

*B=Borelli; C=District Congress; S=States; D=Districts*