New Jersey Speech & Debate League

Spring Meeting Minutes – 5/4/2017

Somerset Education Association Offices

Meeting called to order by Renee Drummond at 4:05pm

1. Greeting
   1. Coaches present: Renee Drummond (Elizabeth), Chip Leher (Morris Knolls), Martin Page (Delbarton), Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg), Jordy Barry (Millburn), Michael Stewart (Millburn), Peter Quinn (Randolph), Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central), Mimi Rosenbaum (University), Ger McKnight (Bridgewater-Raritan), Aslihan Odeh (Noor-ul-Iman), Victoria Anllo (Randolph), Katie Burke (Randolph), Jonathan Alston (Newark Science), John Cierpial (Union Catholic), Dave Yastremski (Ridge), Andrew Monagle (Ridge), Mary Gormley (Montville), Amisha Mehta (Westfield), Matthew Tkachuk (Cavalry Christian), Mark Ianelli (Montville), Anne Poyner (Summit)
2. Financial Report
   1. Peter Quinn presented attached financial report
3. Financial Standing and Eligibility
   1. Schools not eligible based on owed money – may happen to schools if they owe at states from previous year
4. State Bids
   1. Marty Page – idea of moving to a percentage system for bids at small tournaments – i.e., those that don't have enough to break – look into neighboring states
   2. Dave Yastremski – possibility of tracking over time with Speechwire
   3. Renee Drummond – explained reasoning behind states bids – revisit idea in the fall?
   4. Marty Page – additionally, possibility of strikes in LD/PF at states? One per student/team
   5. David Yastremski – agree in principle, but concern about if, due to logistics, some strikes could be honored and others not – this is a problem, at least perceptually
   6. **Motion by Renee Drummond** to establish a strike system identical to the one used at Districts for one year
      1. 12-0; **motion carries**
      2. Nonvoting member John Cierpial expressed particular concern as tournament manager
5. NJSDL Membership – Hybrid Teams/Clubs
   1. Renee Drummond – Hybrid teams not belonging to a school a concern
   2. Mary Gormley – linked to item 10 – holding events at Montville requires certificates of insurance now – this might also be a way to address the hybrid/club issue as well – League can collect this and make it available to tournament hosts
   3. Dave Yastremski – Ridge has banned such teams for close to a decade, but we need a more cohesive policy for all schools in the league. NJISAA says that magnet/Vo-Tech/homeschool students can compete depending on the individual BOE decisions – we would honor their decisions
   4. Chip Leher – these would only be required to show, not add other schools on the policy, correct? – Yes.
   5. Laurie Schmid – possibility of putting language to this effect in the constitution?
   6. Marty Page – possibility of “encouraging” this in the constitution without specific requirements or restrictions?
6. Middle School Events
   1. Amisha Mehta – MS events have been light on debate events; also looking for “starter packs” for research materials
   2. Mimi Rosenbaum – Newark has a MS league for policy and some interp events; Newark does offer such packets and training, too
7. PF – Side-locks vs. Coin-flips
   1. Renee Drummond – side-locking in PF would result in more equitable distribution of sides
   2. Peter Quinn – side-locking also results in fewer tabulation mistakes
   3. Mary Gormley – coin-flips also result in Con going first, which confuses judges and students
   4. **Motion by Marty Page** to institute side-locking at League tournaments; seconded by Peter Quinn
      1. 10-6 with one abstention; **motion carries**
8. Tabroom vs. Speechwire
   1. Jonathan Alston – Tabroom allows Newark to run its tournament very efficiently with e-balloting; offers a (flawed) method to auto-post NSDA points; and has no cost. Speechwire does not have the ease of use, does not announce rounds as well
   2. Mimi Rosenbaum – the number of different software is challenging
   3. Mary Gormley & John Cierpial – Ben Stewart is going toward e-balloting and auto-pointing
   4. Dave Yastremski – I like Tabroom better, but if you don’t know it, it’s a nightmare. Speechwire is best for one-off tournaments & those tournaments largely run by students. Also, Ben is a huge asset in favor of Speechwire – no substitute for his hands-on approach.
   5. Marty Page – Ben has always responded to our needs and requests, even very specific things at States
   6. Peter Quinn – some schools have very poor Wi-Fi infrastructure, which precludes e-balloting from ANY tab software
   7. **Motion by Marty Page** to table the question; Mimi Rosenbaum seconds
      1. **Question tabled**
9. Hall of Fame – Alum and Coaches
   1. Renee Drummond & Dave Yastremski – other states have this, and we really only honor people who have passed away – a HoF would rectify this. It would need a certain period of time to pass between active competition/service and nomination
   2. Volunteers to staff committee to explore Hall of Fame– Chip Leher, Jonathan Alston, Renee Drummond volunteer as members
10. Certificate of Insurance
    1. Discussed earlier.
11. Congress
    1. Jordy Barry – Parliamentarian at a lot of local tournaments, and happy to do it, but we should find others to do it, even if it’s just finding college students to train. Possibly adding this to a fall judge training as an additional workshop? People are also currently afraid to judge Congress – we should spend more time training judges to judge Congress
    2. Dave Yastremski – CFL is trying something new – students immediately organizing the docket with PO elections; then will run alongside speech, with four rounds of roughly 60-90 minutes with one bill each, in smaller chambers of no more than 16
    3. Jordy Barry – there is also a lot of legislation that students are expected to prep for – we need to keep the event accessible, but currently it isn’t in regards to legislation
    4. Anne Poyner – can we ask tournaments to put deadlines for legislation a bit earlier so kids have a weekend to prep?
    5. Dave Yastremski – coaches should take a more active role in gatekeeping their students’ legislation, and tournament directors should be more discerning in what they post
    6. **Motion by Peter Quinn** to encourage tournaments to reduce Congress chamber size, limit legislation to 6 pieces, clearly mark what legislation is being reserved for finals (if any), and for tournament directors to post legislation by the Friday before the tournament. Seconded by Marty Page.
       1. Voice vote, **motion carries**.
12. Coach Facebook Page
    1. Amisha Mehta – it may help coaches (especially new ones) to have a Facebook group to communicate and work with each other. Volunteers to take charge of its creation.
13. Schedule
    1. Schedule distributed, noting the addition of Millburn’s tournament, and the venue change for Districts to Delbarton.
14. States and Districts Date Change
    1. Renee Drummond – if we move States and Districts a week forward, we can have all of Hunterdon Central available for States, and Delbarton could still host Districts. Would also open up a weekend before States for a new tournament. This change will be reflected in the tentative calendar.
    2. Also available is the last school weekend in December. Manville has not responded as to whether they would like to continue their tournament. Borelli will likely return to Freehold Township again this year.
15. Elections
    1. Secretary/Treasurer
       1. Marty Page nominates Peter Quinn for Secretary/Treasurer; Jordy Barry seconds. Accepted.
       2. No other nominations; **Peter Quinn elected**.
    2. Vice-President of Outreach
       1. Peter Quinn nominates Marty Page for VP Outreach; Jordy Barry seconds. Accepted.
       2. No other nominations; **Marty Page elected**.
    3. Vice-President of Speech
       1. Anne Poyner nominates Mary Gormley for VP Speech; Jordy Barry seconds. Accepted in absentia.
       2. No other nominations; **Mary Gormley elected**.
    4. Vice-President of Debate
       1. Dave Yastremski nominates Laurie Schmid for VP Debate; Jordy Barry seconds. Accepted in absentia.
       2. No other nominations; **Laurie Schmid elected**.
    5. President
       1. Marty Page nominates Renee Drummond for President; Jordy Barry seconds. Accepted.
       2. No other nominations; **Renee Drummond elected**.
    6. Executive Committee
       1. Jonathan Alston
       2. Anne Poyner
       3. Dave Yastremski
       4. Jordy Barry
       5. Amisha Mehta
       6. Ger McKnight
       7. Adam Leonard
       8. Mark Ianelli
       9. Chip Leher
       10. Matthew Tkachuck (alternate)
       11. Michael Stewart (alternate)
       12. Mimi Rosenbaum (declined nomination)
           1. **All above candidates elected** by voice vote to executive committee, except as noted.
16. For the Good of the Order
    1. Jonathan Alston – encourage more students to try Policy (CX) debate; Millburn did this year and they enjoyed themselves
    2. Matthew Tkachuck – any camps locally this summer?
       1. Bridgewater, Millburn, Ridge (MS only)
17. Adjournment
    1. **Motion by Renee Drummond** to adjourn at 5:40pm, seconded by Dave Yastremski; voice vote, **motion carries**

2016-17 Treasurer’s Report

**2015-16 Carryover: $17,785.69**

Uncollectable income: $370.00

2016-17 Income

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Collected** | **Difference PY** | **Outstanding** | **Notes** |
| *Dues* | $3,900.00 | $3,900.00 | -$400.00 | $0.00 | 44 schools @ $175/200 |
| *Borelli* | $7,250.00 | $6,255.00 | +$1,390.00 | $995.00 | 1 outstanding |
| *District Congress* | $2,580.00 | $2,240.00 | +$170.00 | $185.00 | 3 outstanding |
| *States* | $19,475.00 | $15,310.00 | +$1,680.00 | $4,165.00 | 8 outstanding, 1 underpaid |
| *Districts* | $5,950.00 | $4,795.00 | -$1,415.00 | $1,155.00 | 3 outstanding, 1 underpaid |
| *Misc.* | $1,468.00 | $1,468.00 | -$374.00 | $0.00 | T-shirts, NSDA |
| *Total Inc.* | $40,623.00 | $33,968.00 | +$1,051.00 | $6,655.00 |  |

2016-17 Expenses

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Paid Out** | **Difference PY** | **Notes** |
| *Scholarships* | $7,250.00 | $7,250.00 | +$3,200.00 | x28; increased amount |
| *League Meetings* | $1,057.91 | $1,057.91 | -$276.68 | Not including today’s meeting |
| *Tournament Expenses* | $13,821.46 | $13,821.46 | +$1,463.37 |  |
| *Judge Hires* | $7,515.00 | $7,515.00 | +$333.76 | 4 unclaimed |
| *Outreach & Conferences* | $1,506.18 | $1,506.18 | -$1,082.06 | Not including NSDA subsidy |
| *Misc.* | $884.37 | $884.37 | -$497.75 | Not including Gov. Awards |
| *Total Exp.* | $32,034.92 | $32,034.92 | +$3,140.64 |  |

**Current Balance: $19,348.77**

**Expected Closing Balance: $26,373.77**

*Outstanding Accounts: East Brunswick (S), Elizabeth(C/S/D), Freehold Boro (S), Freehold Township (S/D), Hunterdon Central (D), Matawan (C), Summit (all), Technology (S), West Orange (S), Whippany Park (S)*

Delinquent Accounts: Long Branch, Newark Prep