NJSDL Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2015

Chimney Rock Inn, Bound Brook, NJ

1. Greeting
   1. Meeting called to order at 5pm by Renee Drummond, President
   2. Members present
      1. Mimi Rosenbaum (University), Laurie Sodeno (Matawan), Mike Forte (Manville), Anne Poyner (Summit), Adam Murphy (Millburn), Carlos Astacio (University/Rutgers), Kevin Cenac (Eastside), Chip Leiher (Morris Knolls), Peter Quinn (Randolph), Jonathan Allston (Science Park), Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg), Philip Bauchan (Delbarton), Matt Tkachuk (Cavalry Christian), Dave Yastremski (Ridge), Renee Drummond (Elizabeth)Mary Gormley (Montville), Chris Kozak (Rutgers), John Cierpal (Union Catholic)
2. Website – NJSDL.org
   1. Matt Weiss has been doing excellent work on updating the league website
   2. Team pictures requested to display on the site
3. Logo
   1. Last year’s contest resulted in lower quality entries, no logo was selected
   2. Possibility of bringing the contest back, or getting a semi-professional to work on it, friends with relevant skills, etc.
   3. Outsourcing to freelance website for bids – fiverr.com recommended by Philip Bauchan
4. Dues
   1. Current dues are $150, with some schools having paid at States already
   2. Peter Quinn motions to increase dues to $200; seconded by Dave Yastremski
   3. Question on what increased dues would pay for – paying individuals to work tournaments, replenishing from previous States expenses, scholarships, etc.
   4. **Voice vote: all in favor except Mimi Rosenbaum; motion to increase dues to $200 carries**
5. Judge Training
   1. The Delbarton School – Sunday, October 11th. Time TBA
   2. Phillipsburg High School – Thursday, October 22nd. Time TBA
   3. Ridge High School – Wednesday, October 28th. Time: 6:30-9:00
   4. Randolph High School – Monday, November 2nd. Time 7-9pm
   5. Help requested from board members at these trainings to increase diversity of knowledge and experience – website will host Google Docs signups for this
6. Speech Wire
   1. League is continuing relationship with Speechwire
   2. Ben Stewart has asked about what could be improved upon in the software
      1. Jonathan Alston mentioned individual schedule availability, e-balloting
      2. During States discussion, judging records were mentioned
      3. Possibilities include posting individual schedules, e-balloting, persistent judging records (a current Tabroom feature)
7. Middle School Tournament
   1. Long Valley Middle School – Friday, May 20th, 2015 @ 3:30pm
      1. Dave Yastremski reported that the national organization has been focusing on middle school programs – recommendation to rollout on the local level with help from league members
         1. Recommends specific page on website for middle school materials from NSDA – handouts for teachers, etc.
         2. Also recommends setting up a booth at the NJEA convention this fall; booth can publicize MS and HS programs, schedules, information on hosting and scheduling tournaments
      2. Possibility of standardizing events offered at middle school events discussed
   2. Any districts with middle school programs should send their information to Dave Yastremski
8. States
   1. LD Judging at States
      1. Feasibility of requiring Varsity LD judges to have 1+ years experience or 20 rounds of experience
         1. Jonathan Alston – certification of experience from judges at registration
         2. Renee Drummond – school penalization for providing clearly unqualified judges
      2. Ensuring consistent judge quality from coaches
         1. Mimi Rosenbaum – ensure all judges are English speakers
         2. Dave Yastremski – judge quality has been emphasized at States in the previous few years
         3. Mary Gormley – a large pool of judges from diverse schools is needed, especially at Districts and with small schools
         4. Renee Drummond – judge training provides an opportunity to speak to these judges to help and support them
         5. Dave Yastremski – possibility of inexperienced judges shadowing experienced judges at tournaments
         6. Anne Poyner & Mary Gormley - possibility of judge training refresher in February/March, around the Montville tournament
         7. Dave Yastremski – allowing judges to specify or strike division/level (Novice, JV, Varsity)
      3. Discussion tabled until States approach and schools have better understandings of their judge pool
   2. LD/CX Disclosure at States
      1. Clarification from Jonathan Alston – proposed for varsity LD/CX only, disclosure only permitted after ballot submission, and ultimate right of refusal of judges to disclose
      2. Dave Yastremski – many oral critiques with coaches, students, and spectators essentially become verbal altercations with judges
         1. Very explicit directions and standards would be necessary regarding coach/spectator involvement, along with empowering judges to unilaterally end abusive dialogues
      3. Anne Poyner - judges should be able to report abusive disclosures/oral critiques, with consequences for offenders
      4. Mimi Rosenbaum – discussions with students to prevent abusive disclosures/oral critiques are a good opportunity for lessons in decorum, proper conduct, expectations, etc.
      5. Jonathan Alston – disclosure in CX is already the norm and should be permitted, regardless of any decision about LD
      6. Discussion tabled until local tournaments are held and more information is gathered by league members on the practice, including student input
   3. States Sweepstakes – John Cierpal
      1. Base point system created an expectation of the same schools each year – looked at past year to see differences without base points
         1. No difference in debate at all
         2. Speech and overall sweeps had changes in 4th, 5th, 6th
      2. Dave Yastremski – base was instituted originally to reward whole teams that qualify and compete
      3. Jonathan Alston – base points don’t necessarily reward larger schools, but rather reward any school that qualifies many students
      4. Mary Gormley – base encourages the growth of the district and individual programs
      5. No changes proposed on the matter
   4. Location still TBD, working on options
      1. Chris Kozak - possibility of Rutgers Newark hosting for free
9. Novice Festival/Midweek Event
   1. Little support voiced for a dedicated novice festival or festival that runs concurrently with an existing tournament
   2. Policy is now to encourage tournaments to have novice recognition in whatever way possible – division, honors/finals, top non-advancing award, etc.
      1. Several local tournaments do this currently
10. POI
    1. New category (Program Oral Interpretation) running at Yale; many locals plan to offer it
       1. Consensus reached to run Prose and Poetry as separate events at the start of the year, and folding them into OI beginning with Summit’s tournament in mid-December
    2. Other new category, Informational Speaking (INFO), will be offered at Districts
    3. Schools will be able to send two free entries in INFO and POI to Districts this year
    4. Ballots will be developed after coaches see what Yale comes up with
    5. World Debate
       1. NSDA’s World Debate selection guidelines via Mary Gormley, NJ District Chair
          1. Furthest advancers that did not qualify at Districts
          2. Seniors
          3. Highest NSDA point total
          4. Strength of application/letter
       2. Team NJ was very successful at Nationals– advanced to quarterfinals and found it to be a great team-building exercise
11. Calendar
    1. Distributed to coaches
12. Good of the Order
    1. Jonathan Alston proposes discussing debate strikes for States at next meeting
    2. Eastside HS will run a CX tournament on 9/26/15
    3. Meeting adjourned at 7pm