New Jersey Speech & Debate League

Spring Meeting Minutes – 9/18/2018

Chimney Rock Inn, Bridgewater, NJ

1. Welcome
   1. Renee Drummond called meeting to order at 4:52pm
   2. Present – Dana Cain (Trinity Hall), Kristina Hayda (Princeton), Mary Anne Walczuk (Livingston), Dina Roger (Livingston), LaJuan Faust (Delbarton), Anitha Irakam (Watchung Hills), Katie Burke (Randolph), Dave Yastremski (Ridge), Mary Gormley (Delbarton), Mark Iannelli (Montville), Amisha Mehta (Westfield), Ger McKnight (Bridgewater), Ally Bhuiyan (Noor-ul-Iman), Bruce Chamberlain (Morristown), John Petito (Oak Knoll) Tia Dionne Hodge (Montclair Kimberly), Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg), John Cierpial (Union Catholic), Peter Quinn (Randolph), Renee Drummond (Elizabeth), Martin Page (Delbarton), Leslie Patient (Ranney), Max Jacobs (Hatikvah IACS) Kory Loyola (High Point)
2. Officer Reports – Introductions
   1. Renee Drummond (President)
   2. Laurie Schmid (Debate VP)
   3. Dave Yastremski (Speech VP)
   4. Martin Page (Outreach VP)
   5. Peter Quinn (Secretary-Treasurer)
   6. Mary Gormley (NJ District Chair)
3. Public Forum Changes
   1. Martin Page – was part of NSDA committee about proposed PF debate changes – only one recommendation is currently in effect (Nov/Dec topic combination)
   2. Some other changes proposed currently eliminating coin flip, eliminating grand crossfire, adding 1m to prep time, adding 1m to summary, changing speech orders
   3. Reminder that we side-lock States currently anyway
   4. Any tournaments interested in piloting side-locking at locals before then, please contact Martin Page
4. District Tournament
   1. Mary Gormley – NSDA is piloting new District tournament procedures (and our committee wants to participate)
   2. Old double-elimination tournament is being replaced with a more traditional tournament structure
   3. Implications – all students will now be back for the second day (no eliminations at that point), so all rooms will still need to be available during prelims, and judge needs will not be lessened; scheduling can be much more predictable, with no open-ended time frames based on eliminations;
   4. Generally speaking for speech and PF/LD/CX, it will look more like States – potentially four prelims, with quarterfinals onward
   5. Dave Yastremski – in Congress, changes to House qualifications will allow more qualifiers; the NSDA is working on a plan to potentially double the number of House qualifiers (for NJ, at least – 3 to 6). This may require a super-session or final round at the conclusion. This may not take place this year at Dallas Nationals – delayed until they can ensure rooms are available.
5. Website
   1. Possibility of adding videos to the website for the benefit of new members – waivers and liability of filming students is an issue
   2. How else to help out new members – perhaps a visitor’s guide? A suggested time to come and observe? Visitors can contact host tournaments and make them aware of their interest, and the host tournament should figure out a plan to meet that visitor’s needs (shadowing, specific rounds/competitors, etc.)
   3. Amish Mehta - another resource for new programs – NYUDL does DebateCon on Election Day 9am-3pm – contact Amisha for more information (no LD)
6. Judge Training
   1. Delbarton Sunday, October 7, 12pm-4; Ridge October 24; Phillipsburg October 10
7. Tournament Schedule
   1. Lafayette College Invitational is December 15 instead of January 19
   2. Millburn is not hosting a tournament this year on October 20
   3. Ridge Debates will have Parliamentary Debate; Randolph may have World Schools Debate
   4. PF Women’s Round Robin October 21 from 9-7 hosted by Westfield
8. For the Good of the Order
   1. Renee Drummond – forgot to put the Congress question on the agenda
   2. **Motion to divide Congress into Novice and Varsity by Amisha Mehta, seconded by Ger McKnight – discussion opened**
   3. Laurie Schmid – make sure this is mirrored at local tournaments, when numbers allow only, however
   4. Dave Yastremski – be careful about local numbers, as well as judge quality and parliamentarian availability
   5. **Vote recorded as 6-4-10, motion fails**
   6. Renee Drummond motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm, seconded and enacted