New Jersey Speech & Debate League

Spring Meeting Minutes – 5/6/2019

Chimney Rock Inn, Gilette, NJ

1. Welcome
   1. **Meeting called to order by Renee Drummond at 4:15pm.**
   2. Caryn Burstein (Freehold Township), Jennifer Li (Princeton) Cecila Birge (Princeton), Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central), Mike Forte (Manville), Ger McKnight (Bridgewater), Anne Poyner (Summit), Mary Gormley (Delbarton), Jonathan Alston (Science Park), Amisha Mehta (Westfield), Stephen Bauschard (Westfield), Anitha Irakam (Watchung Hills), Martin Page (Delbarton), John Cierpial (Union Catholic, Peter Quinn (Randolph), Katie Burke (Randolph), Rodea John (NYPDL), Dave Yastremski (Ridge), Renee Drummond (Elizabeth)
2. Financial Report
   1. See Treasurer’s Report, addendum A.
3. Speechwire or Tabroom
   1. Dave Yastremski mentioned the lack of auto-posting for Speechwire. Cecila Birge mentioned that SpeechWire may in fact allow it as of March. Mary Gormley mentioned the issues with Tabroom auto-posting, especially for District Congress.
   2. Renee Drummond suggested sending an email with a list of our needs and issues to send to Ben Stewart of SpeechWire to ask that they be implemented before the start of the season. John Cierpial spoke about NCFL requests over the season for features, and estimated that 4/6 requests were fulfilled by the end of the season; he also voiced support for the idea of allowing individual tournaments to choose.
   3. Jonathan Alston voiced support for Tabroom’s online balloting, lack of cost, and increased support availability, and encouraged tournaments to give both systems a try. Dave Yastremski and Martin Page discussed that the major difference in online balloting between the two was the necessity of Ben to manually create ballots, and the PDF format and lack of ability of individual students to have accounts and see them.
   4. Renee Drummond voiced support for the ability of tournaments to choose between the two. Peter Quinn mentioned the issue of teams having to switch back and forth, and proposed the solution that each tournament must let the league know before the start of the season which they plan to use so it can be disseminated. Dave Yastremski recommended that each tournament list themselves on Tabroom even if they don’t plan on using it, because the NSDA allows it.
4. Online Balloting
   1. Anne Poyner voices support, but one issue in SpeechWire is that it requires a large amount of effort to check on the status of individual ballots. Amisha Mehta mentioned this may be due to delays in writing comments to keep the tournament moving.
   2. Mike Forte discussed the issue of judges not writing enough on ballots, and suggested the use of generic comments or a drop-down of some sort. Martin Page mentioned that Tabroom has an option to require a minimum character count on RFDs.
   3. Rene Drummond asked about the new ballot feedback program she ran to the league, and Ger McKnight voiced support for it.
   4. Amisha Mehta asked about the possibility of a check-box for judges to confirm that their ballot conforms to equity and inclusivity standards. Dave Yastremski mentioned that most college tournaments have an equity officer that is available for competitors to talk to and empowered to take action. Several in attendance discussed the logistics of creating this position and a rules/ombudsman position. Jonathan Alston reminded the group that schools’ own policies and guidelines are in effect at tournaments, using the training that security guards receive at Science Park as an example.
   5. Dave Yastremski advocated for announcements at the judges’ meeting (pronouns, use of language, relationship with students, etc.)
5. Parliamentary and Policy Debate
   1. Dave Yastremski advocated an interest in expanding the league’s debate offerings in these areas. Ridge Debates ran Parli for the first time this year, and Ridge students who went to Parli Nationals in CA enjoyed the experience. Parli in particular is very friendly to classroom applications. He mentioned the possibility of tournaments including these events, and
   2. John runs the New York Parliamentary Debate League. It’s typical in CA, NY, and CT. It Is similar to PF with longer speech time, more similar to World Schools. Impromptu topics (typically 15m prep time) are used for each round, leading to a wider breadth of topic material. Teams that come from PF like it because it removes the necessity of learning technical aspects of PF. Topics are not only public policy based, but may also be off the beaten path – i.e., should one become a vigilante? It can be tabbed like a PF tournament; it is popular in middle schools and undergrad, but not in high school currently. There is also the opportunity to strike topics and announce topic areas ahead of time. Stylistically, the East and West Coasts have some differences; internet access also varies.
   3. Katie Burke judged Parli for the first time at Ridge Debates; she found it accessible to newer students, and mentioned a more friendly environment for new debaters and enjoyable for veteran debaters. Ger McKnight mentioned that it allows more slots for debaters at smaller tournaments, and that her students enjoyed it.
   4. Peter Quinn mentioned the crossover with World Schools, which the NSDA is putting a lot of effort into. The District sends two teams of 5 each year, and Parli would help them develop and use essentially the same skills.
   5. Martin Page mentioned the ongoing evolution of PF away from its roots and expressed concern about direction of the event, and that adding Parli might help alleviate that and help the league look to the future.
   6. Dave Yastremski advocated for taking a look at the CT and NY Parli league materials. CT in particular runs tournaments one weekend a month and three different sites, including Stamford/Greenwich area that is close to NJ, which could be an outlet for interested teams/students. NYPDL runs tournaments in the city and in CT, as well as university tournaments.
   7. Dave Yastremski mentioned that the students he had who were interested in and doing Policy are graduating, and with Parli, very few younger students are interested. With our regular schedule, it is difficult to get policy teams at local tournaments, since CX debate is happening at other tournaments.
   8. Jonathan Alston said that there are 5 CX tournaments in Newark that are open to newer schools.
6. Small School Recognition
   1. Renee Drummond mentioned the feeling among some small schools that it is difficult to
   2. Martin Page proposed forming an ad hoc committee to study how this recognition is done across the country and make recommendations at the Fall meeting.
   3. Dave Yastremski mentioned the use of Divisions and Open designations at NFA championships.
   4. Jonathan Alston expressed concern that the effect will not be enough to justify an award or recognition.
7. Manville Workshop Date
   1. Date for this is TBD, but ideally in late October/early November.
   2. Dave Yastremski mentioned this as a possibility to use as demo rounds for students, including Parli. He also mentioned the possibility of this being an opportunity to do more events for/with novices.
   3. Renee Drummond advocated for someone to be present at the Manville workshop to discuss and train on CX. Jonathan Alston mentioned there are people in NDA who can do this.
   4. Renee Drummond also advocated for Parliamentarian training for Congress. Mike Forte advocated for tournament software training. There will be an open call for suggestions for these trainings, with the possibility of professional development hours.
8. Borelli
   1. Renee Drummond discussed the possibility for Summit to host Borelli next season. The current date is difficult because there are two competition tournaments – a CFL and a tournament at Pennsbury.
9. States
   1. John Cierpial said that the tournament went well overall, and turned it over to the group for feedback:
      1. Difficult to find judges (esp. parents) on Friday evening.
      2. Pre-ordered sandwiches on Saturday night worked well.
      3. Friday night food was tough for judges – several didn’t get to eat because of the distance and time to move buildings.
      4. Adam Leonard discussed the past practice of the league to designate an adult outside the judge pool to help with site management.
   2. Renee Drummond and Dave Yastremski discussed the changes to the physical awards trophies. Karl Schmid and Dave Yastremski assembled all the awards this year, a large amount of work; however, the savings in cost is significant. It would be beneficial to the league if anyone had a person or two in mind to assign to trophy assembly.

*Renee Drummond called a recess for dinner at 5:30pm; session resumed at 6pm.*

1. Districts
   1. Mary Gormley discussed the pilot program used at Districts. She felt it went well despite the massive amount of preparation and reading it required. It lessened the anxiety that students had, and anecdotally probably did not affect the ultimate outcomes too much.
   2. Jonathan Alston agreed that it was less anxiety-producing, and felt neutral about the differences otherwise.
   3. Dave Yastremski agreed, with the small caveat about coach-overs in debate.
   4. We are waiting on other comments to the NSDA about other Districts that piloted the rules to see if it will continue.
2. Middle School
   1. Amisha discussed the differences in size with NJ middle school tournaments and teams and NYUDL tournaments and teams. It’s a big ask in terms of time. Speech tends to be bigger than debate in NJ. Amisha also discussed the middle school meeting from earlier in the year, trying to strike a balance between offering enough competition and overloading the calendar. Less-common middle school events in NJ would hopefully be taught and demo’d at the Manville workshop.
   2. Dave Yastremski mentioned the importance of team emphasis – to both students and schools (especially given the trends with club teams in NJ).
   3. Ridge is hosting Middle School States on May 17. All high school students are welcome to judge, and registration is still open.
3. Website
   1. Peter Quinn spoke about the Archives section and put out the call for any information about results and awards from years past. Dave Yastremski reminded tournament directors to send the full team detail sheets from their tournaments so that points can continue to be entered.
4. Tournament Schedule
   1. Changes
   2. Jonathan Alston discussed the prospect of 2022 NSDA Nationals in Newark, with rounds on college campuses and at the Prudential Center. Louisville is also bidding, and hotel rooms are potentially an issue. There is also a possibility of pushing for 2024 if the bid is unsuccessful.
5. Elections
   1. Slate of candidates
      1. VP of Outreach
         1. Amish Mehta nominated by Dave Yastremski.
         2. Seconded and accepted.
      2. Secretary-Treasurer
         1. Peter Quinn nominated by Dave Yastremski.
         2. Seconded and accepted.
      3. VP of Debate
         1. Laurie Schmid nominated by Mary Gormley.
         2. Seconded and accepted.
      4. VP of Speech
         1. Dave Yastremski nominated by Renee Drummond.
         2. Seconded and accepted.
      5. President
         1. Renee Drummond nominated by Dave Yastremski.
         2. Seconded and accepted.
      6. Executive Board
         1. Adam Leonard, Mary Gormley, Katie Burke, Caryn Burstein, Ger McKnight, Jonathan Alston, Celia Birge, Mike Forte, Anne Poyner, John Cierpial (alternate) nominated by Renee Drummond. Seconded and accepted.
   2. **Slate of candidates elected unanimously via voice vote.**
6. For the Good of the Order
   1. **Meeting adjourned by Renee Drummond at 6:20pm.**

**Addendum A:**

2018-19 Treasurer’s Report

**2017-18 Carryover: $17,355.62**

2018-19 Income

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Collected** | **Difference PY** | **Outstanding** | **Notes** |
| *Dues* | $3,825.00 | $3,825.00 | -$900.00 | $0.00 | 50 schools @ $150/$175 |
| *Borelli* | $4,420.00 | $3,380.00 | -$905.00 | $1,040.00 | 2 outstanding |
| *District Congress* | $2,540.00 | $1,140.00 | -$210.00 | $1,400.00 | 7 outstanding  (push to Dist.) |
| *States* | $20,279.00 | $13,906.00 | +$419.00 | $6,373.00 | 6 outstanding |
| *Districts* | $9,024.00 | $2,894.00 | +$89.00 | $6,405.00 | 12 outstanding |
| *Misc.* | $325.00 | $325.00 | -$775.00 | $0.00 | NSDA, etc. |
| ***Total Inc.*** | **$40,413.00** | **$25,470.00** | **-2,282.00** | **$14,943.00** |  |

2018-19 Expenses

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Expected** | **Paid Out** | **Difference PY** | **Notes** |
| *Scholarships* | $6,750.00 | $6,750.00 | -$1350.00 | x26 @$300 |
| *League Meetings* | $1,991.76 | $1,991.76 | +$1,067.57 | +2 planning meetings |
| *Tournament Expenses* | $15,412.25 | $15,412.25 | +$1,907.49 | Supplies, food, topics, trophies |
| *Judge Hires* | $8,339.98 | $8,339.98 | +$783.85 |  |
| *Outreach & Conferences* | $6,685.00 | $685.00 | +$981.25 | Includes estimated NSDA conference |
| *Misc.* | $562.63 | $562.63 | -$647.24 | Not including Gov. Awards |
| ***Total Exp.*** | **$39,741.62** | **$33,741.62** | **+$2,742.92** |  |

**Current Balance: $19,987.60**

**Current Balance Less Paid Out Expenses: $9,084.00**

**Expected Closing Balance: $17,767.00**

*Outstanding Accounts: Freehold Township (D), Hanover Park (S), Hunterdon Central (D), Manville (D), Matawan (C, S, D), Millburn (D), Montville (C), Randolph (S,D) Ridge (all), Stuart Country Day (D), Summit (B, S, D)*

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