New Jersey Speech & Debate League

Fall Meeting Minutes – 9/17/2019

Village Brewing Co., Somerville, NJ

1. Introductions
   1. **Meeting called to order by David Yastremski at 4:50pm.**
   2. Members present: David Yastremski (Ridge), Maryanne Wassel (Oak Knoll), LaJuan Faust (Delbarton), Caryn Burstein (Freehold Township), Tracey Rowell (Freehold Township), Andrew Prescott (Montville), Mary Gormley (Delbarton), Jonathan Barr (Timothy Christian), John Cierpial (Union Catholic), Cecilia Birge (Princeton), Jennifer Li (Princeton), Katie Burke (Randolph), Peter Quinn (Randolph), Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg), Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central), Ali Guilien (Noor-ul-Iman), Tia Dionna Hodge-Jones (Montclair Kimberly), Krista Smith (Long Valley Middle), Gale Murphy (Montgomery), Su-Jeung Lee, Amanda Hodge (Bridgewater-Raritan), Ger McKnight (Bridgewater-Raritan), Mary Papalski (Manville), Mike Forte (Manville), (Thomas Edison Energysmart)
2. Review of 19-20 Calendar
   1. CFL calendar is still up in the air as of now, so those dates are not included on the NJSDL calendar
   2. Calendar has remained the same except for Borelli (moved to the weekend before Thanksgiving @ Summit)
   3. Bridgewater plans to add CX; Phillipsburg, Bridgewater, and Randolph plan to add Parli
3. Tabroom or Speechwire
   1. Pros and cons of Tabroom vs. SpeechWire – unanimous agreement that the League should stick with SpeechWire for the coming season
   2. Tabroom has been improving greatly over the recent past but still has some issues and idiosyncrasies (but is free)
   3. SpeechWire has excellent support but costs money (with a discount)
4. Parliamentary Debate
   1. Manville Workshop on October 25th
      1. Time for NY Parli experts to explain the event and teach students, coaches, judges, etc. – rounds are easy to judge, topics are given 30m before the round starts
      2. Benefit to the Parli event is that it has a focus on education – “bringing the classroom back to the debate”
      3. League website will host more information about Parli for all member schools
   2. NJ Dates
      1. Phillipsburg (10/26)
      2. Randolph (11/16)
      3. Bridgewater (2/29)
      4. If more are added, tournaments and the League will announce them
   3. NYPDL Dates (these tournament schedules are all two-day but more relaxed than traditional tournaments)
      1. 10/25 – Friends Seminary
      2. 11/2 – Vassar College
      3. 11/15 – Stuyvesant HS
      4. 1/10 – Trinity
      5. 2/8 – Dalton
      6. 2/29 – Columbia University
      7. 4/3 – Stuyvesant HS
      8. 5/8 – NYPDL States @ Trinity
5. October 25th - Manville HS
   1. Schedule
      1. Hoping to make this a statewide tutorial with workshops (food provided)
      2. Goal is for student-focused, judge-focused, and potentially coaching-focused workshops
   2. Panels
      1. Two 45m sessions, dinner break, two more sessions
      2. Bringing new/newer kids to learn about everything, especially in conjunction with Phillipsburg the next day
      3. Looking for workshop leaders – some have been identified already, but more are needed (debate, interp, public address are 3 main areas)
      4. Potentially a new coach panel depending on numbers
   3. Outreach
      1. Outreach is beginning to all NJ high schools to encourage new participants
      2. Looking for new schools – schools typically find us, we’d rather reach out to them
6. State Qualifications
   1. Adam Leonard brought to the meetings attention the NJSDL Constitution regarding breaks by non-League members – ideally, the tournament should communicate to League members whose student would then receive a States bid. We will look into Ben being able to provide a list of these, but if not, individual tournament directors can send that information proactively to coaches.
7. Middle School Calendar
   1. November 15 – Montville
   2. January 17 – Montville
   3. April 24 – Montville
   4. Delbarton – TBA
   5. Randolph – early/mid May TBD
   6. States @Ridge – May 15
8. Judge Workshop Dates
   1. October 6 – Delbarton (12:30-4:30pm) –most comprehensive (with snacks!)
   2. October 15 & 17 – Bridgewater-Raritan
   3. October 16 – Phillipsburg (6:30pm) & Freehold (6:30pm)
   4. October 24 – Ridge (6-8:30pm)
   5. October 25 – Manville
   6. October 28 – Randolph (7-9pm)
   7. Additionally, NSDA has partnered with NFHS to create an online judge training program – link is on njsdl.org
9. Congress Concerns
   1. Parliamentarians Wanted
      1. If schools have good candidates to be trained as parliamentarian, put them in touch with the league
      2. League guidance will be for tournaments to credit parliamentarians as double-judge credits
      3. Jordy Barry and Katie Burke created a document to help with training
   2. Legislation – Vetting and Amount
      1. Tournaments just assemble packets without looking at the content – we ask that tournament directors look at legislation and hold back things that are unserious or have major formatting issues
      2. NSDA is piloting rules that will have rounds moving through legislation more quickly – so amount of quality legislation needed may increase
10. For the Good of the Order
    1. Laurie Schmid – Lafayette College is interested in hosting a tournament, but given the early break in December and the full calendar in January, would schools attend the tournament?
    2. **Meeting adjourned by David Yastremski at 5:40pm.**