



NEWSLETTER

2023-2024
November: Issue #3

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the NJSDL and the New Jersey District of the National Speech & Debate Association

Happy November!

It's hard to believe that we are already back in the full swing of Speech & Debate season. We had an amazing showing at the Vinnie Borelli Speech & Debate Education Day at Summit HS on Oct 21 and at the Phillipsburg Fall Spooktacular on Oct 28. Plus, a great showing at the online October festival! A huge thank you to you all - plus the teams that ran these amazing events. After such an amazing start to the year, I can't wait to see what happens next! I hope each and every team across the NJSDL is busy prepping for future tournaments (including Randolph!) but more than that, making friends and building a community on their respective teams. Vinnie Borelli dedicated his coaching career to nurturing the next generation of Speech & Debaters - so I hope you take that energy into this season! Find a novice and give them some tips. Talk to a newer member about their ballots. Watch a piece from someone who has never tried that event before. The future of the NJSDL is bright, and in all of our hands. Hope to see you all soon at the Fall Classic on Nov 18!

Katie Burke, Randolph

Important Dates

Sat, Nov 18th: Randolph HS Fall Classic:
Registration at [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com)

Fri. Dec 1st: Videos due for our **December Online Festival.** Visit [NJSDL.LIVE/virtual2324](https://www.njsdl.org/virtual2324)

Sat. Dec 9th: Summit HS Hilltopper Holiday Classic Registration on [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com)

Visit [www.NJSDL.org](https://www.njsdl.org) for the complete 2023-2024 calendar.

NSDA Point Tutorials - Learn about linking your students to Tabroom and Speechwire.

Tuesday, 11/14 (3-3:30PM)

Sunday, 11/19 (6-6:30PM)

Tuesday, 12/5 (3-3:30PM)

Links will be emailed the week prior.



Do you run an after-school program?

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

After-School Coaches Meetup

November 16, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. CT

REGISTER NOW



NJSDL Virtual Tournament Series December 2023



International
Day of
Persons with
Disabilities

3 DECEMBER

Video Submissions Due 12/1/2023
Visit [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com) for more details.

Open to any middle school or high school team or students (including those outside of New Jersey)!

Featuring our themed events.

Congressional Debate (click for legislation)

Prepared Prompt (click for prompts)

Original Poetry, Children's Literature, & Pro-Con
in addition to our regular schedule of events.

Visit [NJSDDL.LIVE/virtual2324](https://www.njsdl.org/live/virtual2324)
or event info and links!

Click the image below to see the 'Awards' slideshow from our October Virtual Event featuring 9 schools from NJ, CA, GA & OH!



Virtual Awards Ceremony

NJSDL October 2023 Online Speech Festival

New Jersey District News



Apply For an NSDA Wording Committee

Are you interested in helping write the NSDA's topics? Do you know someone who would be an excellent addition to a wording committee? [The application form for the 2023-2024 Wording Committees is now open.](#)

We are seeking applicants who want to serve on the PF and LD wording committees and/or the 2024 National Tournament Topic committees. Each committee is responsible for researching, drafting questions, evaluating topic options based on the NSDA Topic Rubric, and attending a few onboarding virtual meetings with committee members between March and April. Submit your application today and encourage others in your district to do the same. Learn more about each wording committee and their responsibilities on the [Topic Creation Hub](#).

Scan QR Code to access interest form.



NJSDL Student News & Resources

2023-2024 NJSDL Student Advisory Board.

Brendan Angilello - Randolph
 Sasha Caracalos - Princeton
 Abhijay Edavalapati - Bridgewater-Raritan
 Catarina Fernandes - Elizabeth
 Faye Fletcher - Ridge
 Carolyn He - Randolph
 Saketha Kedarsetty - Ridge
 Atharva Makode - Bridgewater-Raritan
 Alexis Sherlaw - Phillipsburg

EVENT FEATURE

Public Forum Debate

By Student Advisory Board Member,
 Alexis Sherlaw - Phillipsburg High School

Are you a problem solver or someone who loves to connect concepts to real world events? Then Public Forum Debate is the place for you! Although the event may come off as intimidating, it allows you to learn so much about current world issues and improve your argumentation skills. Not to mention, you do it with a partner by your side!



If you are not sure how to get started in Public Forum, talk to current debaters, or your Forensics Coach. If those resources are not available to you, there are plenty of articles and videos on how to start your PF Journey on the internet! If you are stuck with a topic, just start researching key terms in the resolution, or look for videos discussing it. To prepare for your first event, make you have lots of evidence in your blockfile, as well as impacts in your case. Remember to take a deep breath, and go one speech at a time :)

EVENT FEATURE

Congressional Debate

By Student Advisory Board Member,
 Catarina Fernandes - Elizabeth High School



Do you have an interest in the U.S. Congress? Do you thrive when giving arguments and supporting your viewpoint with evidence? Well then, if you answered yes to these questions, join Congress!

Sign up for this event at your next tournament! Start by dipping your foot into the water and look at the legislation posted a week before the tournament. Write 3-4 speeches on the affirmative or negative with an attention-grabbing hook in your introduction, 2-3 main claims in your body paragraph, and a conclusion; that should last roughly 3 minutes total.

Be prepared to answer questions after your speech and you can ask other competitors questions once they finish their speech. There are motions to do everything in the chamber. You should second motions to make your chamber run smoothly such as a motion to nominate a docket, to move to the previous question, and for a 10-minute recess. In the chamber, you have a placard with "Representative. Your Last Name" on it; you can use it to vote or motion. Once you become more comfortable, you can write your own legislation to be debated!

In the preliminary chambers, there are normally 12-25 people, with 2-3 judges and one parliamentarian. Additionally, competitors in the chamber are called "Representatives" or "Senators" and the room is run by a competitor called the Presiding Officer (chair). If you are interested in Congressional Debate, take a chance, and dip your foot into the water.



The MLA is a learning community for coaches who are starting, or are early in, their DEI journey and passionate about understanding and supporting their students from all identities, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

What sets the MLA apart is its deliberate design as a safe space where coaches can explore critical topics without fear or threat of making a misstep. It is a judgment-free zone where you can expand your knowledge base, gain a foundational understanding of diversity-related subjects, and develop strategies to engage with the challenges that our diverse world presents.

REGISTER BY
[CLICKING HERE](#) OR
 SCAN QR CODE



New Jersey District Tournament Series

Congressional Debate

February 24th @ Montville High School

Big Questions

March 9th @ Newark Tech

Speech, LD, PF and CX

March 22nd and 23rd @ Delbarton



2024 NSDA NATIONALS

JUNE 16-21, 2024

DES MOINES, IOWA

Worlds Schools Debate

Student Application.

Details will be released in January

School Registration

2023-2024 Season

[Register online here](#) or complete the following form and mail with your registration fee to the address on the right.

Are you a High School (9-12) Middle School (5-8)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone #: _____

School Moderator: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Principal/Head of School: _____

Email: _____

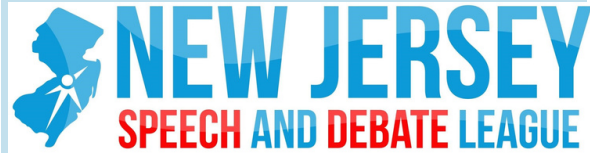
Additional Moderator/Coach: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: New Jersey Speech and Debate League
#337
203 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

All schools, new and returning, should complete the following information and remit annual dues payment each year [note that many schools pre-pay their annual dues in conjunction with the previous year's state championship tournament registration fees]. In order to compete at league-managed tournaments such as the State Championships, all materials should be received by January 31, 2024 to be eligible . You may pay your dues by October 31, 2023 at the discounted rate of \$175. Dues are \$200 if paid between October 31 and January 31. League W-9 can be accessed at njsdl.live/w9form

[Membership to the National Speech & Debate Association is separate.](#) **You can join the NSDA by clicking here!**



New Jersey Speech and Debate League
#337
203 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

a partner organization with



and



OFFICERS:

- President-Katie Burke (Randolph)
- VP-Speech-Renee Drummond (Elizabeth)
- VP-Debate-Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg)
- VP-Outreach-Vacancy
- Treasurer-Adam Leonard (Hunt. Central)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Brian Rodriguez (Elizabeth)
- Ray Shay (Princeton Academy)
- Dennis Philbert (Newark Central)
- Noelle Abbott (Phillipsburg)
- Michael Sowell (Barringer)
- Al Fischer (Bridgewater-Raritan)
- Mary Gormley (Delbarton)
- David Richardson (Newark School of Fashion and Design)
- David Yastremski (Ridge)

Alternates

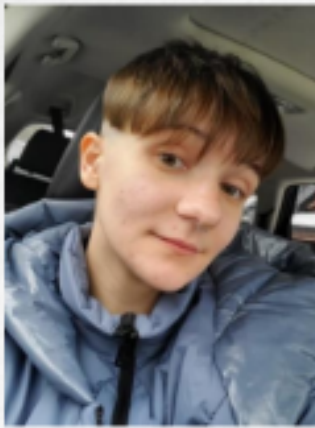
- Gary Yablon (Hudson Arts and Sciences)
- Saul Grullon (North Star Academy)
- Andrew Prescott (Montville Township)

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

- [David Yastremski \(Ridge\)](#) - Chair
- Katie Burke (Randolph)
- Adam Leonard (Hunterdon Central)
- Dennis Philbert (Newark Central)
- Anne Poyner (Summit)
- Laurie Schmid (Phillipsburg)



NEAL SHENOY
TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEUR
Montville Twp High School
CLASS OF 1993



CLAUDIA PIETRUS
SPACE FORCE
Randolph High School
CLASS OF 2019



MIKAYLA PETRILLA
ACTRESS & SINGER
Matawan Regional High School
CLASS OF 2011



MEREDITH RUSU
CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR
Ridge High School
CLASS OF 1999



ERIC SMITH
LITERARY AGENT
Elizabeth High School
CLASS OF 2001



JOHN BYERS
CONGRESSIONAL CHIEF OF STAFF
Summit High School
CLASS OF 2007

JOIN SPEECH & DEBATE

THEY DID!



Since 1925, the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) has been the authority on public speaking and debate in the United States. The NSDA works to create a platform for youth voices from around the globe, culminating in the National Speech & Debate Tournament, the pinnacle of public speaking. Learn more at www.speechanddebate.org