

# NEW JERSEY SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE

ISSUE: 24--25: 1 Sept/Oct



## Upcoming Events

Phillipsburg HS

October 26

Randolph HS

November 23

Summit HS

December 14

Ridge Debates

December 13-15

## Upcoming

### Judge Trainings

October 7 - Delbarton

October 9 - Phillipsburg

October 26 - Hunt. Central

October 29 - Randolph

## Welcome to the 2024-2025 season for New Jersey Speech & Debate



If you are a coach, parent, student, educator or administrator the NJSDL offers all middle school and high school students the opportunity to engage their minds, express their voices and make a difference in the world around them.

Visit

[WWW.SPEECHANDDEBATE.ORG](http://WWW.SPEECHANDDEBATE.ORG)

and

[WWW.NJSDL.ORG](http://WWW.NJSDL.ORG)

for more information!

# *From our league president...*



**Katherine Burke**  
**Randolph High School**  
**President - NJSDL**

We had such a wonderful season last year, and I am so looking forward to seeing you all back in action this year! Though we often measure success with “wins and losses” or medals, I hope you all have truly recognized your own personal growth throughout last year’s season – and even this summer! To me, that is much more valuable than any trophy. To see our students grow their confidence through the activity, learn to advocate for their core beliefs, learn new things, and to find their voice? Now that is worth something!

Since the last time that I saw you all, Team New Jersey was on the national stage – and we showed the country just how special our state is! A huge congratulations to Amaya Wilson from North Star, Sarah Walsh from Summit, Malakai Yepes from University, and the PF team of Ezekiel Ehrenberg & Alex Calder from Delbarton for their success at NSDA Nationals last June! Amaya placed 2nd in Prose, Sarah placed 3rd in Storytelling, Malakai placed 5th in Prose, and Ezekiel & Alex placed 6th in Public Forum Debate. I know the rest of the country is just waiting to see what we can do this year in Des Moines!

Another huge congratulations and welcome to our coaches, moderators, and judges. We cannot possibly have a successful season without you all, as you dedicate your time and energy to our students. Without our parent judges, coaches, volunteers, and more, we simply would not be able to run such a competitive program of events for our students. Thank you for your commitment and your heart.

The most important thing within this activity is the humanity behind it. In Speech & Debate, we can see new world views, research different perspectives and viewpoints, and meet some of our (hopeful) lifelong friends. To each of our students involved, I hope you find your passion, your voice, and your confidence throughout the next few months. The world is waiting to see what your generation will do – and I predict BIG THINGS!

We have a lot of great plans for this season – and I can’t wait to see you all at our first tournament!

Katherine Burke

# NJ EXCELS AT 2024 NSDA NATIONALS



# NJSDL Students @ NSDA Nationals

**Amaya Wilson – North Star Academy**  
**2nd place – Prose Reading**

**Sarah Walsh – Summit HS**  
**3rd place – Storytelling**

**Malakai Yepes – University High School**  
**5th place – Prose Reading**

**Ezekiel Ehrenberg & Alex Calder – Delbarton**  
**6th place – Public Forum Debate**

## Top 14

Ayomide Adekoya – Newark Central- Prose

## Top 30 Main Speech Top 40 Debate

Zhu & Mahesh – Ridge – PF

Chen & Wang – Millburn – PF

New Jersey Pink – World Schools

## Top 60 Main Speech

Miriam Divo – Newark Central – DI

Ayomide Adekoya – Newark Central – DI

Macgill & Walsh – Summit – Duo

Ben Schachne – Summit – HI

Emma Vachal – Summit HS – Info

Aayush Bhakey – Ridge HS – Info

Akshaya Karanam – Mt. St. Mary – Intl Ext

Amaya Wilson – North Star Academy – POI

Natalie Ramirez Porras – Ridge – POI

Michaela White – University – POI

Navya Raju – Ridge – USX

## Congress

Semifinalists

Zain Jaffar – Millburn HS

Caroline Cheng – Millburn HS

Aaron Pan – Millburn HS

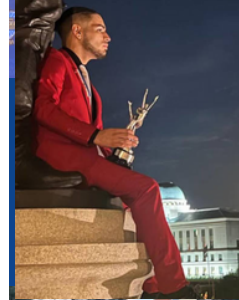
Quarterfinalists

Anshita Jaiswal – Bridgewater-Raritan HS

## Student of the Year

Anika Parthiban

Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School  
Finalist



**Congratulations to Mr. David Yastremski (Ridge HS) for being inducted into the NSDA National Hall of Fame & also receiving the Director's Commendation for District Communication.**

# Are you interested in starting a Speech & Debate program at your school?

The NJSDL and New Jersey District are here to support you.

- Membership to the league is “school-based.” We are happy to have a conversation with potential school advisors, coaches, teachers or administrators about starting a new program. All students who participate in league events must have their school’s permission and qualify under their school’s insurance & liability.
- Potential student leaders are encouraged to contact us for information; however, they should include an adult school contact in the conversation.
- The [NSDA posts many resources](#) to assist schools in getting started.
- School advisors should complete the School Registration Form online or use the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

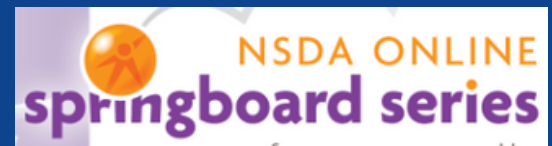


## Why join the National Speech & Debate Association

**Curriculum Resources** – The NSDA offers [curricula, texts and videos](#) to help guide your educators, coaches & students in the various competitive events.

**Program Grants** – The NSDA offers several grant opportunities to assist teams with financial resources.

[Access available programs here.](#)



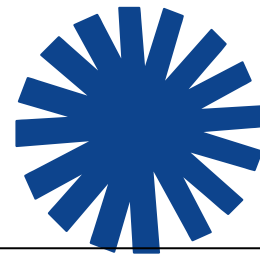
## **Free Online MS & HS Springboard**

**Scrimmages** – Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation, [the Springboard Series will again offer a variety of FREE, online opportunities](#) including after-school scrimmages and two weekend tournaments.

Are you interested in becoming a **Belonging & Inclusion Advocate** for our New Jersey tournaments and events? Email David Yastremski @ [dyastremski@bernardsboe.com](mailto:dyastremski@bernardsboe.com) and we will forward your name for upcoming trainings!



# NJSDL EVENT CALENDAR 24-25



<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Site for Info.</b>
October 26	Phillipsburg High School - HS	Speechwire.com
November 23	Randolph High School - HS	Speechwire.com
December 14	Summit High School- HS	Speechwire.com
December 13 & 14	Ridge High School (Ridge Debates)	Tabroom.com
January 3 & 4	Newark Debates (Science Park HS)	Tabroom.com
January 11	Hunterdon Central Regional- HS	Speechwire.com
January 25	Ridge High School- HS & MS	Speechwire.com
February 1	Freehold Township- HS	Speechwire.com
February 7	Hudson Arts & Science Charter - MS	Tabroom.com
February 22	Montville High School- HS	Speechwire.com
February 22	District Congress (@ Montville)- HS (NSDA)	Tabroom.com
March 8	Essex Tech Terriers @ Newark Tech - HS	Tabroom.com
March 8	Big Questions Qualifier- HS (NSDA)	Tabroom.com
March 14 - 15	HS State Championships @ Hunt.Ctl Regional	Speechwire.com
March 21 - 22	NJ Districts @ Delbarton School- HS (NSDA)	Tabroom.com
May TBD	MS State Championships @ Long Valley MS	Speechwire.com

(NSDA) = NSDA District Series (NSDA Member Schools only)





# JUDGE TRAINING

Date	Host	Contact
October 7	Delbarton School (in-person)- 6:30PM	mgormley@delbarton.org
October 9	Phillipsburg High School (in-person)- 7:00PM	fraulaurie@hotmail.com
October 26	Hunterdon Central HS (in-person) - 6:30PM	aleonard@hcrhs.org
October 29	Randolph HS (in-person) - 7:00PM	kburke@rtnj.org
November TBD	Judging Practice Workshop	dyastremski@bernardsboe.com
January 21	Ridge High School (virtual) - 7:00PM	dyastremski@bernardsboe.com

## NSDA Judge Accreditation

New Jersey judges are highly encouraged to complete their accreditation with the National Speech & Debate Association. Judges should complete Level 1 and 2, focusing on those events they will likely judge (speech, congress, LD, PF, Worlds/Parli). Judge courses are free-of-charge.

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/learn/judge-accreditation/>

**NSDA JUDGE  
CERTIFICATION**





Speech, Debate &  
Theater educators -  
Join NFHS today!  
[CLICK HERE](#)



To Learn More about  
this amazing  
opportunity  
[CLICK HERE](#)



For more information  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**SURVEY PARTICIPANTS WANTED:** Please take a moment to complete the "[Speech & Debate Coach Satisfaction](#)" Survey, which is being conducted annually by the NFHS to help national efforts to recruit and retain Speech & Debate coaches.

If you have taken this survey before, **[please complete the survey again!](#)** With multiple years of data, the NFHS can begin to track and interpret trends in the profession, which will help identify “next steps” and build resources to support you! Additionally, this data helps the NFHS to build advocacy information and tools that you can use to promote your programs in your community. The survey’s live dashboard can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

The 85th edition of the **American Legion Oratorical Contest** program is underway. Students can compete at the local post, state and national level! First place gets \$25,000, \$22,500 for second, and \$20,000 for third place at the national level. Cash prizes are awarded at the state level as well.

**For more information on New Jersey contests**

Sophia Dmoch (District 1 (Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Passaic)) @ [slsvx@aol.com](mailto:slsvx@aol.com) or Tom Dresdner (District 2 (Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, Warren)) @ [t.dresdner@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:t.dresdner@njamericanlegion.org)

The National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) is an organization originating from the Catholic secondary school community in the United States for the purpose of

- encouraging and assisting in the development of articulate leaders through whose skills truth may be widely spread and become an influence in the life of the nation,
- **promoting curricular and co-curricular speech and debate activities in Catholic, private, and public secondary schools** throughout the nation,

**Every year the NCFL sponsors the annual Grand National Tournament on Memorial Day weekend, offering six forensics events and four debate events.**

For more information, contact Fr. Michael Tidd OSB - Delbarton School ([michael@delbarton.org](mailto:michael@delbarton.org)) or Dr. James Reagan - Union Catholic HS ([jreagan@unioncatholic.org](mailto:jreagan@unioncatholic.org)).



# School Registration

## 2024–2025 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

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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, 2025 to be eligible. You may pay your dues by October 31, 2024 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](https://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



**NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

### OFFICERS:

President–[Katie Burke \(Randolph\)](#)

VP–Speech–[Renee Drummond \(Elizabeth\)](#)

VP–Debate–[Laurie Schmid \(Phillipsburg\)](#)

VP–Outreach–[Dennis Philbert \(Newark Central\)](#)

Treasurer–[Adam Leonard \(Hunt. Central\)](#)

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[Natasha Doski \(Ridge\)](#)

[Al Fischer \(Bridgewater–Raritan\)](#)

[Mary Gormley \(Delbarton\)](#)

[Saul Grullon \(University\)](#)

[Kyle Parker \(Phillipsburg\)](#)

[Melissa Pierce \(Bridgewater–Raritan\)\\*](#)

[Anne Poyner \(Summit\)](#)

[Brian Rodriguez \(Elizabeth\)](#)

[Ray Shay \(Friends Academy, NY\)\\*](#)

[Michael Sowell \(Barringer\)](#)

[Gary Yablon \(Hudson Arts and Sciences\)](#)

[David Yastremski \(Ridge\)\\*\\*](#)

- alternate      \*\*NSDA Dist. Chair

### NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

[David Yastremski \(Ridge\)](#) – Chair

[Katie Burke \(Randolph\)](#)

[Adam Leonard \(Hunterdon Central\)](#)

[Dennis Philbert \(Newark Central\)](#)

[Anne Poyner \(Summit\)](#)

[Laurie Schmid \(Phillipsburg\)](#)