

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021 @ 7:30 PM
ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Jim Honeyman, Lisa Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler

1. LS Tournament (who will attend, needs)

- Greg and Joyce are going to L-S on Friday (Nov 19) at 3:30 PM to do a walk-through. (Joe may join them.)
- Joyce reports that registrations are starting to come in. About 6 schools have confirmed that they will attend so far.
- Depending upon registration numbers, the board may meet one more time before the tournament to work out details.
- Most of the board will be able to attend the tournament in person to help run it. Tim Averill will be joining us to help with debate because Kaz and Tammie can't be there.
- We talked about where the TAB table will be located. Jim suggested that we have someone designated to manage the line (if a line forms.)
- L-S knows that many schools will send them a check after the tournament.
- Chris would like 45 minutes for the in-person judge meeting (instead of the 30).
- Joyce will pay for the use of Tabroom.com. The MSDL will invoice L-S for that amount and the league will reimburse Joyce.
- Greg will talk to L-S about trophies/awards.

2. Speech tournament participation (or lack thereof)

- Numbers in speech are way down this year. Debate seems to be down a bit, too, although Little Lex this year will be larger than last year.
- On the other hand, congress seems to be growing.
- We are concerned about what happens this year if numbers keep falling.

3. How Group is paired (Chris)

- Chris noticed that there are only 4-5 teams that do Group Discussion and they tend to come in large numbers. Being in a group round with a teammate appears to be an advantage and teams with large contingents end up with teammates, while teams with only one or two entries never get to have a teammate in the same round. Can we change the setting just in Group Discussion so this isn't the case. (It doesn't look like there is a setting for that.)

4. Need parliamentarians

- Joe asks that we do what we can to encourage our judges to learn how to be parliamentarians. Or maybe reach out to some alumni so that we have a larger pool of folks who can be parliamentarians at future tournaments.

- Chris asks if it would be helpful to require schools to bring someone who is qualified to be a parliamentarian if they regularly have congress entries. (For example, if you have 3 or more entries . . .)
- We talked about the difficulty of allowing judges & parliamentarians to judge/run chambers that contain students from their own schools. We have avoided using judges in those circumstances pretty successfully, but it may be unavoidable when it comes to parliamentarians because we have so few of them.
- We may be able to share PF/Congress judge pools at tournaments where both events are offered. This would be a win/win for both events.
- This lack of parliamentarians may be less of an issue when we're in person and chambers can be bigger.

5. BQ States

- The NSDA reached out to PJ about a partnership. This year they are offering more money. We have to do at least 3 rounds. We're awarded \$1500 if we have at least 10 students and a minimum of 3 schools (we think). For each additional student it's \$20, up to a cap of \$4000. Students who place in the top 4 win money for their team. The winner qualifies for NSDA Nationals.
- We will run this tournament on a separate date from Debate States. Tentative date: 28-29 April 2022.

Other News

Awards for first few online tournaments

Greg has the medals for the first two tournaments. He'll sort them and bring them to L-S to distribute to the teams that are there. He'll make arrangements with schools that are not there to get their awards some other time.

Possible Annual Meeting Conflict

Chris noted that May 7, 2022 (the annual meeting date) is the same weekend as the NSDA "Last Chance" Qualifier. This may be a conflict for some coaches and we may want to consider moving the annual meeting.

New Qualifying Opportunity » We are thrilled to announce that we will host a free, last-chance National Tournament qualifying opportunity in the spring as part of our Springboard Series. Top-placing entries in each main event will qualify to compete in that event at the 2022 National Tournament. There are no entry fees to attend. Participating schools must have attended their district tournament to be permitted to enter students in the last-chance qualifier. Participating students must be districts-eligible and must not have qualified in any event at their district tournament. More details will be announced by December.

NSDA Springboard Tournaments

PJ gave a plug for the NSDA Springboard tournaments. These have been both synchronous and asynchronous for speech and live for debate and congress. They don't last too long. Good for kids who want more feedback or another competitive opportunity. Participation is free.

Judge Instructions

- Remind judges that impromptu students need to have camera on during prep and that the time starts when they start prep, not when they start speaking.

Motion to adjourn: Bowden

2nd: Albert

Passed with no objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Our next meeting is on December 14, 2021. (Tuesday).

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

Secretary/Clerk