

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by the president, Amanda Parker

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Scott Caron, Lindsay Donovan, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Ryan Julian, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Janet Novack, Amanda Parker, Mike Plunkett, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler.

1. Professional Development Grant

We have had one submission which has been sent to the grant review committee.

Question: Should we keep the grant application period open? Any thoughts or ideas?

We will act upon the application we have first and then reopen the application period. Applications received by March 16 will receive priority. If there are any funds left (\$1500 were allocated), people can continue to apply until the date of the Annual meeting (May 5, 2024).

In order to be sure people know about this opportunity, Amanda will send out a grant-specific note to head coaches and will include it as a notice in the next newsletter. We will also try to remind folks at upcoming tournaments. (There is a link on the MSDL website, as well.)

2. Sanctioning Forms

- Anything specific we want to be sure to include?
 - perhaps a link to a calendar that shows holidays
 - and also a link to the previous year's general tournament calendar for reference
 - maybe a list of weekends where we really could use a tournament (Kaz will work on this)
 - Amanda will work on the form
- When will sanctioning applications be due?
 - Sanctioning applications will be made available in March
 - They will be due on April 22, 2024 (the first day after April school vacation).

3. States Planning

- Amanda will work on trophy order - any special requests?
 - Be sure to include BQ trophies
 - Be sure to order octo-finals LD trophies
- Catholic Memorial confirmed for Speech States on April 6, 2024!

- Amanda will do a site visit
- States entry fees - what do we want to charge? \$8/\$16 like we did at The Novice? (Amanda)
 - Yes.
- Bid list for debate?
 - No. Josh has a different system for tracking bids.
- Senior recognition - any volunteers to coordinate?

Silk roses

Amanda thinks we have enough, but will order more if we need them

Cupcakes

- Mike will order and pick up cupcakes for Speech/Congress States
- We are looking for someone to do this for Debate States - Lindsay may be able to do this
- Wild cards for Speech and Congress: Debate seems to offer more wild cards for state finals. Can we do something equivalent for next year? (Peter Zopes)

We talked about the current bid rules & wild card opportunities for each of the different debate events as well as speech & congress

There is a question about whether we might want to provide a few more wild cards to very small programs that have qualified fewer than 4 students to States. Joyce will pull together some numbers to see if there are any schools that are not brand new (because they already get 4 wild cards) that fall into this category. If there are, we will discuss an option such as this at a future board meeting.

- In our state tournament, can we provide greater access to the final debate round on Sunday so more students can learn from watching (via Zoom or another online platform)? (Peter Zopes)
 - We can rent a 300 person Zoom room for the State Final Final round.
 - Kaz said that she may have a big enough Zoom room for us to use, as well

For our next meeting: How can we best run the State Debate tournament?

Note: If we are planning a 3-day State Debate Tournament, including some online rounds on Friday, in person rounds on Saturday, and a potential final round on Sunday via Zoom -- we need to notify schools sooner, rather than later.

4. Tim Averill Fund (Janet)

- Messaging about the Tim Averill Fund <http://averilldebatefund.org>

Available for new programs. The fund provides professional development opportunities and also possible stipends. The website is still under development - but a link will be added to take people to

the application. (Janet will follow up with Tim about the link.)

5. Participation Agreements: (Jim)

If either the Head Coach or Principal of your high school has changed in the last year, you must submit a new Participation Agreement for the season ahead.

If BOTH head coach and principal have remained the same from last year, it is acceptable to email the treasurer to that effect, and we will consider last year's PA to be current.

Although we recognize that it is annoying for the treasurer to have to collect this form from every school, every year, we agreed that this document should be collected annually.

6. PO and POI programs (Jim)

Given that PO and POI programs tend to have LOTS of title/authors in their intros which are impossible for judges to register in the moment, I want a way to see and process the names and authors of these pieces *as I am witnessing the performance*.

I propose that anyone doing a program "by various authors" be required to submit a written list of their material to the judge before performing - just the title/author of each piece and, if it's journalism, name of publication. This serves two purposes. First, it allows judges actually to understand what pieces are being used in the performance, which is basically impossible at present. Second, it allows competitors to avoid speed-bursting a list of sources that no one can follow in their intros and go back to saying, "by various authors", since the judge already has their title/author list.

It's a snap for students to print out three or four short lists of their titles - or even hand write them, if necessary. I do NOT think it okay for them to show judges a list on their phone or laptop (a) because the judge won't have it for reference during the performance unless s/he writes it all down, which wastes time, and (b) because it would waste time anyway if students had to show judges their phone, etc., and (c) finally because it creates a "hard" sense for students and judges alike of the importance of giving credit to authors.

Question: Is there a way to require input of the titles/authors in Tabroom so that that information is handy for the judges without asking students to provide it in writing (either on paper or on the board)?

Answer: Not really - and there's no way to verify that what got entered when the coach registered is what the student actually used.

Maybe at the annual meeting we can talk about rules for providing evidence for both debate and speech events to judges. A judge asking for sources in a debate round is similar to a judge asking for sources in a speech round. After looking at it, the judge would give the paper back. (This would be good for PO, POI, INFO, and OO).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

This meeting will be dedicated to the discussion of the State Debate tournament.

We may also talk about the information Joyce is pulling together about State Speech.