

MSDL Board Meeting Agenda
January 27, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
Needham High School

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Scott Caron, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, PJ Wexler. Joe Bowden joined us through Go-To-Meeting.

1. MSDL Hall of Fame Committee - Greg

Marc & Sarah have done this recently.

Wexler: Motion to appoint Marc Rischitelli, Sarah Donnelly & Debbie Simon as Hall of Fame Committee members.

Kacz: 2nd

Passes unanimously

PJ Wexler will act as board liaison to this committee.

2. How to track down online blank judge ballots - Greg

Greg talked about the benefits of being able to go back and put more comments in later in the day, but noted that this makes it very hard for us to track judges who are not writing comments at all.

Greg asked C. Palmer if there were a way for an administrator to download all of the comments into a single file so that we could scan for judges with no comments and also check for inappropriate comments.

Kacz showed us how coaches can view their own school's judge's ballots through their team dashboard. (Look at results of any tournament you've attended.) Then coaches can approach their own judges and talk to them about the importance of ballots and comments.

3. Dissolving MFL - Correspondence from the state and how to respond - Greg/Jim

Jim/Lisa received a very long email from the State Attorney General's office about this issue back in early December. It claims that there are missing items, but Amanda Parker says that we already gave all of this information to Choate. We don't know why it was never submitted.

Jim did call the woman who contacted us back and spoke with her once.

We need a lawyer with a clue to take care of this once and for all.

Greg & Jim will work on getting this situation cleared up during the next month or two and report back to the board about it. First step will be to contact Choate and get them involved. Jim/Greg may also seek additional legal assistance.

If, after consulting legal counsel, it becomes clear that it is going to cost us a significant amount of money to get this situation resolved, Jim/Greg will bring this to the board. (We agreed on a \$1000 limit.)

4. **Revisit the event cancellation insurance situation** - how people are feeling about it, especially Lisa, Sheryl, and Marc; how we imagine proceeding for next year. I don't see a need to have a decision at the January 27th meeting, just a gut check on where people are at, now that two of the insured tournaments are behind us, and at least a brief conversation about what people are thinking for the future. - jh

Sheryl pointed out that the storm that was heading our way during her tournament just missed us. She felt a lot better because she knew there was insurance. Lisa also was very relieved not to have to worry about anything that could cancel the NSHS tournament - snow, power outage, burst pipes, government action for the safety of the public, etc.

We talked earlier in the year about offering to cover every tournament up to some amount if the tournament director opted in. One suggestion was to offer coverage up to that cap to all MSDL tournaments. Tournament directors could pay more to insure their own personal tournament for more than the limit.

It is not a huge financial burden to the league and it's a great benefit. For example, there is enthusiasm for reaching out to some new schools to host tournaments - especially a speech tournament between the NSHS tournament and the Mardi Gras. It may help in the proposal to let them know that there is insurance in the event that something happens and their tournament has to be cancelled.

If we do choose to offer this sort of insurance to tournaments, we can help by creating a template for tournament directors to fill out to estimate expenses.

We will talk about this again at our next board meeting and decide what (if anything) to do for next year.

5. **MSDL Social Media** - Greg

Can we use social media in a positive way to benefit the league? Twitter? Instagram? Something else? Do we need to? We have Tabroom.com to send notes to coaches and judges already. We have a website where we can post information. We really don't need anything more.

6. **Congress Follow-Up** - Joe

a. **Parliamentarian guide** - Feedback and Discussion (shared with Board early January)

"It's pretty awesome." After being away from the event for a while, it became clear to Joe that we need to codify the way we do the things we do in Congress here in Massachusetts. This may lower the barrier as more people join the ranks - especially so that we can attract new parliamentarians.

PJ: Adam & he gave Joe B. some feedback and that was incorporated.

Seems like it's in good shape right now. **Let's post this document on the website as a resource.**

b. **Ideas for new documents** - common motions, procedures unique to MSDL Congress in an effort to increase education and reduce "tribal knowledge" about what we value and how we run the event

Joe solicited ideas and left it open for folks to send him ideas in the future.

7. IT discussion (Wi-Fi, Tabroom) - How we protect ourselves against outages, and whether to look for new equipment (routers, etc.) to improve redundancy and reliability - Joe

Back-up plans.

Band width in schools can be a problem. There is nothing that the MSDL is going to be able to do to improve individual school's infrastructure.

We should probably be more systematic about making backups along the way when running tournaments. For example, print out a pdf after each round so if we ever have to move to hand tabbing, we have everything from previous rounds backed up in hard copy.

We explored various ways to do backups on Tabroom.com.

Next meeting: March 9, 2020.

We will plan for State Debate & State Speech via email in the meantime.
Greg will order trophies after getting information from Josh and Joyce.

Motion to adjourn: Bowden

2nd: Cohen

The meeting was adjourned at 8:3 6PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary