

Massachusetts Forensic League Annual Coaches' Meeting

September 10, 2003

1. Introduction from Marc Rischitelli

Thanks from Marc for a good 2 years, which saw the introduction of the Hall of Fame and the website among other achievements.

2. NFL information:

In the NFL, last year the MFL had 3 national championships and 6 other student national finalists. For information on joining the NFL contact Debbie Simon, the district chair.

Les Phillips serves as an alternate on the national executive committee of the NFL and is going to the Salt Lake City meeting; contact him if you'd like input on issues.

3. Update on Bill Seymour

Bill is recovering nicely from his recent health problems. However, this year he will not be able to coach at Acton-Boxborough, even though he will be teaching. The team will be parent run but Bill will be behind the scenes. The league/new board will see what we can do to help keep the team going.

4. Elections:

President: Nominees: Jenny Cook, Mark McNeil
Both candidates spoke.

Elected President: Mark McNeil.

VP of Speech: Debbie Simon was sole nominee.
VP of Congress: Will Crocker was sole nominee.
VP of Debate: Les Phillips was sole nominee.
Secretary: Chris Palmer was sole nominee.

Treasurer: Nominees: Lisa Honeyman, Rob Croteau, Judy Crocker, Steve Makowski.

Lisa, Rob, and Judy spoke. Steve was not present but asked to be nominated through Marc Rischitelli.

Elected Treasurer: Judy Crocker.

If you are interested in joining the board as one of the six at-large members, please contact Mark McNeil.

10/18 – Sacred Heart will host the Hall of Fame because Brookline is a site for the PSAT test that day.

10/25 Hull has secured permission to run their tournament in their district's middle school and so the Early Pumpkin is on.

The Last Chance tournament is no longer in effect as a League-run tournament as per decision by the last board. However, a tournament may run on the date formally used by the Last Chance if someone wishes to host it. PJ Wexler of Needham expressed tentative interest in hosting such a tournament.

Dan Jewett from Manchester spoke of debate scrimmages occurring on Wednesday afternoons. They are currently tentatively scheduled for 10/22, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14 and 2/11. Manchester is willing to host all of them, but Sacred Heart and Lexington and others expressed possible interest about hosting some as well. More details to come.

Sarah Donnelly expressed concern about the possibility of having to register all chaperones (coaches, possibly including judges) under the new CORI law requiring criminal background checks of anyone in unmonitored contact with school children. Various administrators from various schools have already expressed concern. Not much is yet known about this issue legally and so the new Board will take it up and explore what needs to be done.

Greg Cunningham moved to make Duo a memorized event for the time being. After discussion, Greg withdrew his motion and instead moved to recommend to the new Board that the CFL rules whatever they may turn out to be after the annual meeting inform the future of Duo in the MFL.

Congress Bills are due October 1st (this has been extended – CLP).

Will reminds schools that they may submit as many bills as they like, and that affiliate schools may submit bills.

Meeting was adjourned.