

MSDL Board Meeting Agenda

October 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Via Zoom

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

Board Members in attendance

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

We were joined by Peter Zopes for the first part of the meeting.

1. Using Sept/Oct PF topic in Nov/Dec for Novice PF (Peter Zopes)

We don't have control of any November PF Tournaments

- November 7 is a NY tournament. We don't run that one.
- Little Lex is not an MSDL run tournament
- By December, does it make sense to go back to the Sept/Oct topic?

Why should we do this? It's hard to gain any initial momentum right now because of the late start to the school year and the hybrid/online school situation.

On November 14 we have a speech tournament. Might we run a novice only PFD division using the Sept/Oct topic? We'd need to have enough interest to make that happen. Chelmsford said they would have 8 or more teams they could bring.

We will offer the tournament and if we don't have at least 4 schools enter, we will not move forward with it. Kaz said she might be willing to float the possibility of offering a division of Novice PF using the Sept/Oct topic if it looks like there is enough interest.

- *For the November 14 speech tournament, Greg will send out a note asking if there is interest in holding a novice division of PF using the Sept/Oct topic. If there is enough interest, we will move forward with offering it.*

2. Novice Tournament planning (Joyce, Josh and PJ)

Registration is low on the speech side and slightly lower on the debate side so far. What we need:

Debate Room Needs

- Zoom account (in Josh's name) for the judge opening meeting & lounge

Speech Room Needs

- Zoom room (in Chris's name) for judge opening meeting. Then we can use that Zoom room for congress, later in the day.
- Zoom room for extemp prep (use Lisa's account) - Lisa will do Extemp Prep
- Zoom room for radio prep (?)
- Use Webinar for opening meeting (Greg will do this), showcase and round-table discussion in the afternoon. After the meeting is over, Greg will keep the webinar open for people who have issues or questions with tech. Jim will help out on the chat.
- Joe B. will start the day helping manage tech and then move into Congress, once things are under control.
- Mark Fellowes is going to do a session with group discussion entries. (Seminar for round 1 and then compete in rounds 2 & 3).
- Jim will order 1 more Zoom room.
- We will use the built in Tabroom option
- Josh will order the NSDA campus rooms on Tuesday. Joyce will tell him how many she needs. He will order a few extra rooms. (This can be done on Wednesday morning if needed.)

The “2 days before” email: Greg will consolidate information for debate, speech & congress divisions and send one email out to teams. Josh, PJ and Joyce will send Greg the information that needs to go into that email by Thursday morning.

Judge information: We will make short, 2-3 minute “event tutorials” for special events like Impromptu, DUO and Group Discussion. These will be linked to ballots so judges will have the needed video at their fingertips when they get their ballots. (We won't have this together for the Novice tournament.) Joyce will outline some of the “tips and tricks.” Chris & Greg will help Chris put the videos together. PJ & Joe create the instructional video for Congress.

Showcase: Joyce will let Chris know after 5:00 PM tomorrow. At the moment, presenters should be on the Webinar at 2:45 to go over the details with Greg.

Staffing for Debate: Josh, Tammie, PJ + maybe one more

Staffing for Speech: Joyce, Greg, Julia, Lisa (prep), Joe (tech)

3. Add educational item to the MSDL website
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oV4ytr_GYkDmHniEoFoXdihMqKLwEdbvRVQ0cpEmk0E/edit?usp=sharing (Joe)

There is agreement that we would like a curated list of resources on the MSDL website. If we don't find something that meets our needs, we can write our own. We'll post this one on the website under “resources.”

4. League-wide judge training (Chris)

- Wednesday, November 11 for **Speech Events** from 7:00-8:30 PM (run by Chris)
 - People should watch the video before the meeting
 - Also send out the handbook
 - The rest of the event-specific training
 - Sue will help manage the webinar if Chris decides to run it as a webinar.

Josh & PJ will work on dates for PF debate judge training and LD judge training. Greg will send out all of this information to the league once the dates are set.

We can also assign “shadow” judges if we want to do training during tournaments. (It’s a little complicated, but possible.)

5. Proposal we include debate at Dec 5 tournament (Josh)

- This tournament is the stand-in for Lincoln-Sudbury, which typically has speech and debate.
- The MSDL should have a December debate tournament option. Right now, we have nothing offered by the MSDL for debate that month.
- It is true that Princeton runs the same weekend. But lots of people will not get into that (there are likely to be very tight school caps), and many others would prefer a one-day local to a 3-day national circuit tournament.

- **PJ also suggests we include BQ at this tournament.**
PJ is willing to write it up as a grant opportunity for the MSDL.

Because the BQ topic is about math, maybe we can reach out to math teams on this.

We will do this. It has been added to the MSDL schedule.

6. Adding “special” speech categories to a few tournaments. (Joyce)

We will add some special events to some of the tournaments starting in late December or early January.

Maybe just one round (like Needham) instead of 3 rounds & finals.

Joyce had some ideas: modified TV News Team

Maybe Original Literature (instead of Original Poetry) - maybe do this one 3x + finals?

One round of “Do Something Creative” with your camera, mic, etc.

Joyce asks for ideas (Josh suggests instead of L-D debate, B-T (Biden-Trump) Debate.)

7. Feature a “showcase” final round at tournaments starting in December with one final round on Zoom to allow for an audience. (Greg)

Because it would be broadcast on the Zoom Webinar and it is a closed link (only Tabroom.com users who are registered for the tournament can access it), we think we don’t need special permission from parents.

We may be able to offer this in more than one event if we purchase additional webinar licenses. (Perhaps December 5 and/or December 19).

Future Board Meetings

- Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Monday, January 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Monday, February 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn: Sheldon

2nd: Cohen

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

clerk/secretary