

MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

December 2017

LOGO CONTEST!

The MSDL needs a new logo, and we want YOU to design it!

It is time for us to freshen up the logo for the Massachusetts Speech & Debate League, and we are looking to our students, alumni, judges, coaches, and friends for help.

Logo designs should be high resolution files that work in full color or black & white.

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Files can be submitted through our website until Friday, March 16, 2018!

The MSDL Board will then review all submitted designs and our newly selected logo will be announced on our website and social media channels. The winner will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, as well as online recognition.

Our newly selected logo will help represent our league online, in print, and on other promotional materials.

Submit your designs at:
msdlonline.org/newlogo

SPEECH & DEBATE CITIZENSHIP

Happy Holidays everyone! Earlier this year, I had the privilege of talking to some of our newest members about speech and debate citizenship, and it got me thinking about how important it is to talk about this with all of our students, judges, and coaches.

One of the things that I believe makes our community so great is that while we are all here for competition – we are colleagues and collaborators first.

This is a safe place. A place where we all get to be ourselves, express ourselves, find our voices, speak our minds, be supported, and we get to listen to and support others who are doing the same thing. This is so important, especially in our current political climate. We have to be sure to remember this ourselves and remind our students, judges, and alumni. We owe it to one another to listen to and support each other.

We all work together to make each other better and we are all responsible for each other's experience. As we all know, the shared experiences found in this activity will be with all of us so much longer than any trophy. Let's remind our students of this as well.

When our students stand up to speak it is so important that they feel supported by the people they are speaking for. There should never be texting, mimicking, side conversations, or the "stone face" treatment. Each and every person deserves their chance to speak for a respectful audience that is engaged and ready to listen. It is up to all of us to ensure that all of our students are given that right.

We all have quite a lot to be thankful for, but today I am most grateful for all of you, and for this community. I hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Amanda Parker, MSDL President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 16
The Holly Festival
Natick High School
- January 6
The Winter Festival
Newton South High School
- January 13
Big Lex Winter Festival
Lexington High School
- January 13
NSDA Congress Qualifier
Site TBA
- January 27
Brandeis University
- February 2-3
NSDA Qualifier
- February 10
NCFL Qualifier
Shrewsbury High School
- March 3
Mardi Gras
Shrewsbury High School
- March 17
Needham High School

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

MSDL Dues & Forms

Please make sure you have submitted your MSDL Dues for the 2017-2018 season, complete with your principal or headmaster's approval and signature on the invoice. These are now past due. Only students from member schools in good standing may compete at our State Tournaments. Please contact MSDL Treasurer, Jim Honeyman (jimhoneyman@verizon.net) with questions.

Building Use

Hosting a tournament takes a great deal of work and preparation before, during, and after a tournament. Our tournament hosts rely on their MSDL guests to be respectful of the buildings and spaces designated for use during a tournament. It is important that all guests treat tournament spaces with respect and care. Please remind students and judges to only enter spaces designated for tournament use, and to refrain from sitting at teacher desks. It is up to all of us to work together to make sure buildings are treated respectfully so that we'll be allowed back in future years.

NCFL Registration

The deadline for school registration with the NCFL is fast approaching. If you have not completed a registration form but may like to compete at the Combined NCFL Qualifier Tournament at Shrewsbury High School in February (for both debate and speech), please contact:

- Boston League: Greg Cunningham (gregcjr@hotmail.com)
- Worcester League: Marc Richitelli (charc98@hotmail.com)

REMEMBERING SISTER LOUISE THOMAS

In November we learned of the passing of a member of our MSDL family. Sister Louise Thomas McIsaac was a beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Holyoke Catholic High School, and The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League. Sister Louise was inducted into the MSDL Hall of Fame in 2009, and will always be remembered for her service to the speech & debate students at Holyoke Catholic, and to our entire league. Our thoughts and prayers are with her former students, colleagues, and loved ones. She will be missed.