

MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

January 2018

HALL OF FAME

The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League Hall of Fame was established in 2000 to recognize those in the League's past and present who have compiled a distinguished career of service and dedication for their students, and all the students of the MSDL.

Nominations are now open!

If you'd like to nominate someone who has served the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League for at least 12 years, please visit

msdlonline.org/nominate

Submissions are due by
Sunday, February 25, 2018.

Honorees are inducted into the Hall of Fame at the State Championship Tournaments.

Visit msdlonline.org to see a list of previous Hall of Fame inductees.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE MSDL

Many years ago we reached out to league members and asked for help in creating a logo for what was then the Massachusetts Forensic League. A number of logos were submitted and our current logo was chosen to represent our organization. While our logo has served us well over the years, it is time for us to freshen up our look and re-brand the Massachusetts Speech & Debate League as the vibrant and diverse organization it is!

Please reach out to your students, alumni, judges, coaches, and friends and encourage them to create a new look for us. Logo designs should be high resolution files that work in full color or black & white.

**Submit your designs at: msdlonline.org/newlogo
by Friday, March 16, 2018!**

The MSDL Board will 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 new logo will help represent our league online, in print, and on other promotional materials. I would love to see all of our MSDL teams participate in this exciting contest. It is a great opportunity to show people what speech & debate really represents to all of us!

Amanda Parker, MSDL President

SAVE THE DATE! MSDL ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual MSDL League Meeting will take place on **Saturday, May 5, 2018** (time and location TBD). We will set our tournament calendar for next season and discuss important topics for our league. If you have a topic you'd like to add to our agenda, please email it to Amanda Parker (amandajane527@me.com) by Sunday, April 22, 2018.

All coaches are encouraged to participate in this meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27

Brandeis University

February 2-3

NSDA Qualifier

Sherwood Middle School

Shrewsbury

February 10

NCFL Qualifier

Shrewsbury High School

February 25

Hall of Fame Nomination
Deadline

March 3

Mardi Gras

Shrewsbury High School

March 17

March Merryness

Needham High School

March 24

State Debate

Chelmsford High School

April 7

State Speech

Acton Boxboro Regional

May 5

Annual MSDL Meeting

Location TBA

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATIONS

- Bids are not awarded until a team has paid their annual MSDL dues. Please contact MSDL Treasurer, Jim Honeyman (jimhoneyman@verizon.net) if you have any questions.
- Students must earn two bids in order to qualify for States in Congress or Speech events. Our current bid lists can be found on msdlonline.org.
 - In Speech events other than Novice Extemp or Novice Reading, any student who earns a cumulative average rank in preliminary rounds of 3 or less in an event will earn one bid towards States in that event. All students who advance to finals, regardless of their cumulative ranks, will also receive one bid each in the event in which they reach finals.
 - Novice Reading and Novice Extemp are not offered at States. A student may substitute a maximum of two half-bids in Novice Reading to count as a single bid to one State-qualifying reading event. A student may substitute a maximum of two half-bids in Novice Extemp to count as a single bid in Extemporaneous Speaking.
 - The State qualification for Multiple will be by piece and one more than 50% of the cast in that piece. Alternatively, 100% of a cast may qualify together and may enter with another piece. In order to qualify for States, casts and pieces must receive two bids.
 - To receive a bid for the State tournament in Student Congress, a student must place in the Super Session of an MSDL sanctioned tournament, or the top half of the entry, whichever is smaller.
- Students must earn one bid in order to qualify for States in Debate.
 - An entry earns a State bid in Debate by earning a winning preliminary record at any MSDL sanctioned tournament or by finishing among the top 8 entries. A student can earn an Open division or Varsity division State bid only if debating in an Open or Varsity division. An Open division or Varsity division State bid can be used as a Novice division State bid by students who qualify as Novice debaters.
- Events with two competitors qualify as teams, not as individuals.
- Schools receive two wild card entries to use combined between the State Speech and Congress. They receive four wild cards in policy debate and two additional wild cards to use combined between LD and PF debate. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification.
- A new school (a school that has not competed in the MSDL in the preceding four years) may enter up to four wild card entries to be used combined between State Speech and Congress during its first two years.