



Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

MARCH 2019

It's hard to believe we almost through another speech & debate season. With just our State Tournaments ahead of us, it is time for us to think about end-of-season planning.

Elections. 2019 is an election year for the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League Board of Directors. Every two years our membership elects a President, VP/Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairs of Congress, Debate, and Speech. Self-nomination/statement of intent should be emailed to me (amandajane527@me.com) **by Friday, March 22nd**. More details are on page 2.

2019-2020 Tournament Planning & Sanctioning. Any school planning to host a tournament next season should visit www.msdlonline.org/sanction to download & complete the form required for sanctioning. Tournament sanctioning grants a host school MSDL State Tournament bids, and a spot on the upcoming season's calendar. Sanctioning will take place when the calendar is set at the 2019 MSDL Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday, May 4th. **Schools seeking sanctioning must apply by Friday, April 26th.**

MSDL Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 4th at Natick High School. The final date on our calendar this season is our Annual League Meeting, happening on Saturday, May 4th at 11am at Natick High School. The RSVP will be sent out soon. We invite and encourage all MSDL coaches to attend.

Coaches are also welcome to submit any agenda items for discussion by Friday, April 19th. All submitted items will be combined into a final agenda for the meeting, and shared with all coaches by Friday, April 26th.

Suggestion Box. As a reminder, the MSDL Board wants to hear from all of our members (students, judges, coaches). An online suggestion box is available on msdlonline.org for anyone who would like to share a suggestion for improvement. All ideas are welcome.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM SEYMOUR, MSDL HALL OF FAME MEMBER

On January 31, 2019 we lost a member of our speech & debate community. William (Bill) Seymour began the Acton-Boxborough Speech & Debate Team in 1992 and remained their coach until 2003. His enthusiasm and methods of teaching left a lasting impression on many of his students, without Bill realizing it. He was surprised, but honored, to be mentioned by a former student, Paula Abdul, as the teacher who made the most impression on her life. He was kind, generous, fair and was a great listener, coach, tournament director, and an outstanding member of our community. Bill was inducted into the MSDL Hall of Fame in 2007, and though he retired from teaching and coaching, he was always a proud supporter of speech and debate.

STATE TOURNAMENTS

DATES

March 30, 2019 - State Debate
@ Chelmsford (Debate Only)

April 6, 2019 - State Speech
@ Acton Boxborough (Speech Only)

STATE BIDS

Bid lists (not including Needham) for Speech & Congress are posted on the home page of msdlonline.org. The Needham bids will be added shortly.

If you have questions concerning bids please reach out to the following event chairs:

- Congress: PJ Wexler
- Debate: Josh Cohen
- Speech: Joyce Albert

Wild Card Reminders: Schools receive two wild card entries to use combined between the State Speech and Congress, and two additional wild cards to use combined between LD and PFD debate. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification.

Any 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.

Additionally, any schools that were registered to attend Mardi Gras also have bonus bids that have been assigned to them.

MSDL BOARD ELECTIONS

2019 is an election year for the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League Board of Directors. Every two years our membership elects a President, VP/Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairs of Congress, Debate, and Speech. Those officers in turn appoint six at-large members to the Board. The elected parties will serve the league for the 2019-2021 seasons.

We are very lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers who have served on the Board for many years, but we want to make it clear that each election is a new election, and new nominees are not only welcome but encouraged. In order for us to adequately serve our students, it is important to have representation from across the League.

We hope you will consider joining us. A description of the roles and responsibilities for each of the 6 officer roles can be [found here](#).

The process for our elections this year will be as follows:

- Self-nomination/statement of intent should be emailed to me (amandajane527@me.com) by Friday, March 22. If you are interested in running for a position in our upcoming election, please email me your name, school, the position you'd like to run for, and a brief statement describing why you'd be a good fit for that role. Your statement should be 500 words or less.
- Statements of intent will be combined into one document that will be sent out to member school coaches by Wednesday, March 27.
- A voting form will be created and available at our State Debate Tournament on March 30th, and at the State Speech Tournament on April 6th.
- Each member school is entitled to one vote that can be cast at either State Tournament.
- Votes will be tallied, and the new board will be announced via email following the State Speech Tournament.

If you have questions about any particular role or the election process in general, please feel free to contact me.