



Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

September 2018

Welcome back to another Speech & Debate season! I hope you enjoyed your summer and are refreshed and re-energized to snap back into action. As we are all ramping up for this season, there are a number of updates and changes that were adopted back at our annual meeting in May that I want to be certain you are aware of.

- Amended the Rules & Regulations document regarding breaking ties to reach finals in speech events.
- Modified the Rules & Regulations document regarding combining middle school & high school debate entries for computer entry and pairing only.
- Revised the state tournament bid rules as they apply to PF and LD debate.
- Revised the rules for Multiple Reading.
- Standardized requests for time signals.
- Sanctioned Program Oral Interp as a MSDL event (binder may NOT be used as a prop).
- Sanctioned Informative Speaking as a MSDL event.
- Removed Novice Reading as a MSDL event and added the requirement for each tournament to have a break-out JV Oral Interp final round.

In addition, we finalized the 2018-2019 Tournament Calendar, reviewed our Events Mission Statement, and discussed the revised Participation Agreement, gender bias in our community, committee openings, and coach communication & training opportunities.

For more information about any of these updates or the discussion that took place, please visit MSDLOnline.org and read the "[MSDL Meeting Minutes](#)" found under the "About Us" section.

As you can see, there are a number of changes to look forward to implementing this year. It's truly exciting for me to see all of the ways that the MSDL continues to honor our history while still finding ways to evolve and move forward as a community. If you have changes you'd like to see us implement in the future, please feel free to reach out to me via [email](#) or find me at a tournament and share your ideas. We'd love to hear from you.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that we will be having an Open House for all MSDL Coaches this coming Monday, September 24 from 7 to 9 pm at 27 Strathmore Road, Natick, MA. Light refreshments will be served. [Kindly RSVP no later than Saturday, September 22nd so we can be sure to have enough refreshments to go around.](#)

Looking forward to another great MSDL season together! See you soon.

Amanda Parker, MSDL President



NEW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT & ANNUAL DUES

The MSDL has adopted a [new participation & membership agreement](#). Please read it closely. This signed participation agreement must be received by [MSDL Treasurer, Jim Honeyman](#) before your school registers for its first MSDL tournament of the academic year. Our dues will remain at \$50/school/year and are due by December 8th. A late fee of \$50 will be assessed after December 8th. Only students from schools that have paid annual dues may register for the State Speech or Debate Tournaments, so please get yours in on time. Any questions can be directed to [MSDL Treasurer, Jim Honeyman](#).

COACH TRAINING SESSIONS

This year the League will be holding coach training sessions/round table discussions at tournaments, but we need your input to figure out how to serve you best. Please take a few minutes to complete our [Google poll](#) that will help us put together sessions that are useful for you and all your colleagues.

ELECTION YEAR

2019 is an election year for the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League Board. Every two years our membership elects six officers to lead the League. Those officers in turn appoint six at-large members to the Board. In the coming months we will be looking for member coaches to self-nominate for the roles of President, VP/Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairs of Congress, Debate, and Speech. 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](#).

Specifics regarding the election process will be shared with the membership later this year, but we encourage you to start thinking now about serving the league.

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the MSDL Board, or have questions about any of the positions, please feel free to contact one of the members of this year's nominating committee. This year's nominating committee is: [Sue Hennessey](#), [Adam Nir](#), [Amanda Parker](#), and [Marc Rischitelli](#).



2018 - 2019 MSDL TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

- October 20, 2018 - Novice Meet @ Walpole HS (Speech & Debate)
- October 26-27, 2018 - The Averill Invitational @ Manchester Essex (Debate Only)
- October 27, 2018 - Festival of Imagination @ Dighton Rehoboth (Speech Only)
- November 10, 2018 - Gracia Burkill Memorial @ Natick (Speech Only)
- November 17, 2018 - Little Lex @ Lexington (Debate Only)
- December 8, 2018 - Lincoln Sudbury (Speech & Debate)
- December 15, 2018 - The Holly Festival @ Natick (Speech Only)
- January 12, 2019 - Winter Festival @ Newton South (Speech & PFD)
- January 19-21, 2019 - Big Lex Winter Festival @ Lexington (Debate Only)
- March 2, 2019 - Mardi Gras @ Shrewsbury (Speech, LD, & PFD)
- March 9, 2019 - Brandeis University (Debate Only)
- March 16, 2019 - March Merryness @ Needham (Speech & Debate)
- March 30, 2019 - State Debate @ Chelmsford (Debate Only)
- April 6, 2019 - State Speech @ Acton Boxboro (Speech Only)

BOARD MEETINGS & 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The MSDL Board meets a number of times each season to discuss topics important to our community, and to ensure the proper administration of the league and its events. These meetings are open to member coaches, though we do ask for RSVPs so that we can notify interested attendees in case of any scheduling changes. If you would like to attend one or more of this season's board meetings, [please click here to RSVP](#). These meetings will take place Monday evenings in Natick during the school year. Exact time & location to be determined. RSVPs will remain open throughout the year and reminders will be sent out in advance of each meeting.

- Monday, October 29, 2018
- Monday, January 14, 2019
- Monday, February 11, 2019
- Monday, March 25, 2019

Annual Meeting Save The Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 (Time & Location TBD)

If your school is interested in hosting the Annual League Meeting, please [contact me](#).

NCFL & NSDA INFORMATION & DATES

While the MSDL doesn't have oversight of our local NCFL & NSDA leagues, we do want to share some key information and dates to help you with your planning. Locally, the NCFL is split into the Boston diocese and the Worcester diocese. For questions about all things NCFL, please reach out to [Greg Cunningham](#) (Boston) or [Marc Rischitelli](#) (Worcester). Additionally, [Marc Rischitelli](#) is also your go-to for all things NSDA related.

- February 1-2, 2019 (Tentative) NSDA Qualifiers for speech & all or most debate. Location TBA. District Congress (and possibly Policy) will be held separately at a date that has yet to be determined. More definitive information later this fall from the NSDA District Committee.
- February 9, 2019 - NCFL Qualifiers @ Shrewsbury
- May 25-26, 2019 - NCFL Nationals in Milwaukee, WI
- June 16-21, 2019 - NSDA Nationals in Dallas, TX