

September 2014 Newsletter

Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

Welcome back to the 2014-2015 Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

I hope everyone's summer was relaxing and had some interesting and fun adventures for all of us. Now that summertime is over, it is time to get back to speech! The league met last Saturday to iron out the details of the year and to work on the novice meet.

Very Important news: We are no longer offering HI and DI as separate events at league tournaments. Several years ago we had tested out having DP (dramatic performance) as the category, sharing pieces of humorous and dramatic content in the same event. We have returned to that model. The model will stay in place for the next four years.

On the novice meet....Originally we had wanted to have the novice meet earlier in the year – October 11. Unfortunately, Dan Sapir from Sacred heart, could not use the school that weekend. It was pushed to October 18, but there were already schools with commitments on that date and it is also the weekend of PSATs. October 25 worked the best in the long run. This gives all of you plenty of time to begin to work well with your new members. The novice meet will give them a taste of what to expect and then if they are ready they can jump right in at the first local tournaments at Dighton Rehoboth on November 1 and at Manchester-Essex on October 31-November 1.

The number of local tournaments has dropped over the years. Some school speech programs have waned. It has also been a function of trying to balance local meets with those offered at colleges, SAT, SSAT and ACT dates, holidays and school vacations. Hopefully with seven local tournaments this year students who want to compete will have the opportunity to attend as many of the local events as possible.

Again to new schools I am offering to come and work with judge training. If you have a group that would like to be trained in an evening session during the week, please let me know and we can work out a time to schedule that with for you. Any general questions that you may have direct them specifically to Chris Sheldon, our new schools coordinator.

We are currently working on cleaning up and clarifying the rules and regulations. Look for a new, updated version of them in the next few months.

Let's have a fantastic year!

Sincerely, Susan Marianelli

MSDL President