

Massachusetts Forensics League
Minutes from the September 20, 2001 Coaches' Meeting at Natick High School

Sarah Donnelly, Director of the Natick High School Speech and Debate Team welcomed us all to Natick High School. Debbie Simon, finishing up her term as Vice President of Speech, called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the September 11th tragedy. After, the moment of silence we followed with introductions.

Treasurer, Steve Makowski, reported current funds of \$2,507.

Debbie Simon made the report of the nominating committee. The offices were presented to the coaches individually for election:

- 1â,€ The nominating committee presented Marc Rischitelli (Shrewsbury High School) for President, seeing no other nominations from the floor, Marc Rischitelli was unanimously voted in as President.
- 2â,€ The nominating committee presented Sarah Donnelly (Natick High School) for Vice President of Speech, seeing no other nominations from the floor, Sarah Donnelly, was unanimously voted in as Vice President of Speech.
- 3â,€ The nominating committee presented Will Crocker (Silver Lake Regional High School) for Vice President of Student Congress, seeing no other nominations from the floor, Will Crocker was unanimously voted in as Vice President of Student Congress.
- 4â,€ The nominating committee presented Jenny Cook (Milton Academy) for Vice President of Debate, seeing no other nominations from the floor, Jenny Cook was unanimously voted in as Vice President of Debate.
- 5â,€ The nominating committee presented Judy Crocker (Silver Lake Regional High School) for Secretary, seeing no other nominations from the floor, Judy Crocker was unanimously voted in as Secretary.
- 6â,€ The nominating committee presented Steve Makowski (Holyoke High School) for Treasurer. A nomination was made and seconded for Rob Croteau (Catholic Memorial High School). After a secret ballot, Steve Makowski was voted in as Treasurer.

The 2001-2002 Calendar was amended, discussed and voted on. (See attached REVISED calendar within this mailing).

The Hall of Fame criteria was the next agenda item up for discussion. The MFL Hall of Fame began in 1999-2000 with the induction of 1 member, followed by six in 2000-2001. The following Constitution change was voted in unanimously:

- Section 1: The Hall of Fame will be made up of individuals who have served the Massachusetts Forensic League for at least 12 years or more.
- Section 2: Induction will be based on both service and performance.
- Section 3: After the first session which had one Hall of Fame Inductee, and the second session which had six; only three people maximum will be inducted every succeeding year; however, there does not have to be three.
- Section 4: The Hall of Fame Board will consist of three people. One active Hall of Fame member (whenever possible) and two members appointed by the MFL President. The membership will be regionally balanced. The MFL President will decide the Hall of Fame Board membership at the fall MFL Meeting.

- Section 5: The MFL President will appoint a Hall of Fame Chairperson (one of the three members of the board) for a two-year term with the possibility of renewal. The Chairperson will receive nominations, distribute and count ballots and emcee the induction at the State Tournament.
- Section 6: Nominations for the Hall of Fame may be made by any Massachusetts coach. They should be mailed directly to the Hall of Fame Chairperson. Coaches turning in nomination should do so in writing prior to December 1 in order for nominations to be considered. The reason for nomination should be clearly stated. Once nominated, a name will remain on the Hall of Fame ballot for three years if not elected or re-nominated. The Hall of Fame Board will make the final selections.
- Section 7: Honorees will be inducted at the Massachusetts State Speech Finals and/or State Debate Finals.
- Section 8: A plaque will be presented to each Inductee; the large plaque containing all the names of the inductees in Hall of Fame will reside with the President of the League. Every effort will be made to display the plaque at various tournaments throughout the year for the purpose of recognizing our history and prior honorees as well as to promote future Hall of Fame nominations.

The body agreed without objection to bypass the ten-day notice rule, since the Hall of Fame criteria was a published agenda item.

The Executive board will be meeting on October 14th to discuss the six available at-large positions.

A motion was made to donate \$250.00 from the Massachusetts Forensic League to one of the three World Trade Center Relief Funds through an organization that would provide some matching funds. Unanimously accepted.

It was requested that a new member liaison be put in place to help out schools new to the league. It will be discussed at the next board meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding how to handle the recent tragic events in our country. Some felt that the league should emphasize patriotism and open each tournament with the pledge of allegiance. Others felt that would make some students uncomfortable. The subject of extemp, group discussion and debate topics on the tragedy was also discussed. Some were concerned that students who had been directly effected by the tragedy would not want to discuss the events. Others felt that students should enter those events if they felt uncomfortable. No formal decision was made. However, it is asked that tournament directors use discretion and that students be reminded of the MFL Code of Ethics.

Lisa Honeyman spoke of a computer program she has come across for paneling and running a tournament. She asked that the league investigate this program and others. A sub-committee will be formed.

The subject of extemporaneous speaking and the definition of "novice" was discussed. As well as, declamation and whether the category should be limited to 9th and 10th graders. The current board will confer with previous board to see if any action needs to be taken and if any rules changes need to be made. The full membership will be notified if any changes occur.

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.