

Massachusetts Speech & Debate League
Board Meeting
September 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by the president, Susan Marianelli.

Present: Susan Marianelli (Milton Academy), Josh Cohen (Newton South), PJ Wexler (Needham), Debbie Simon (Milton Academy), Peter Zopes (Chelmsford), Jim Honeyman (Newton South), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Joyce Albert (Natick), Evonne Robbins (Manchester-Essex), Sue Hennessey (Acton-Boxborough), Mike Liang (BDL), Amanda Parker (Natick), Sarah Donnelly (Natick), Greg Cunningham (Catholic Memorial), Chris Sheldon (Bancroft) and Dan Sapir (Sacred Heart).

I. Debbie Simon

- a. History – Debbie is working on researching the history of the league. She will report back when she has more information.
- b. Instructional Videos – This is something Debbie would like to have the league make. She is willing to dedicate herself to create small, instructional videos for various events. These would be available online, with suggestion that judges watch on line prior to coming to judge at a tournament. We may do some filming at the judge training on October 25 and get this project under way.
- c. New rules/regs – Clarifying what the word “published” means for our league is important. How will TED talks be handled? Debbie suggests that the MSDL consider this in our own rules discussions.

Josh Cohen points out that there are new evidence rules in debate that are also responding to the changing times on both the national and local levels. Hard copies are no longer required there.

II. Current Students in TAB

We had a brief discussion about whether or not it is appropriate to have current students in the TAB room during competition, even if they are not actually competing at a particular tournament. They may be running to get ballots, helping to prepare materials for competition, sorting ballots etc. There was a question raised about having recent alumni in TAB, as well. Apparently some of these folks have disclosed information to competitors.

We affirmed that we need to be very sure that *everyone* helping in TAB knows that what they see or hear is not to leave TAB. We also need to be sure adults in TAB are aware when students are present so that students don't inadvertently hear things they shouldn't be privy to.

III. Novice Meet

Date change: October 25th at Sacred Heart. Joyce will not be able to be there. She will handle the tournament set-up and preparation. She can email the set-up to someone who will have to print that out. (Susan will help)

- Radio material is ready
- Susan will print ballots
- Dan will verify rooms and get the list to Joyce
- Lisa will do the judge training. (Jim will help if he can be at the tournament.)
- Josh has concerns about internet access – he and Dan discussed how to handle that
- Chris Sheldon will coordinate the performers at the exhibition round.
- Joyce will start the draft of the invitation and circulate it to Susan, Josh and Lisa.
- We will have a coaches meeting during the day. Sarah will coordinate this.
- Greg & Holly will work on Group Discussion.
- Lisa will convene the extemp question writing committee to write questions.

We discussed whether or not we should continue giving out medals at this tournament. It makes the kids who don't get medals feel terrible about their participation in the activity. What about something like an "I survived the Novice Tournament" button that we give to everyone who attends? We decided not give medals this year. Sue Hennessey will look into and order buttons.

We talked about different structures for the day, but decided keep things the same as it has been for the past several years.

IV. Changes/Deletes/Corrections to rules & regs document

- a. Over the summer, Joyce went through the document and made the appropriate changes to DP wording. She and Lisa also went back through the minutes and included everything the board had voted on and made sure they were in this new document. They also corrected some typos and numbering inconsistencies.
- b. Josh explained all of the things he did, including adding a table of contents. There was some discussion that the three debate event descriptions need to be examined more closely. PJ or Susan will send an email out to league coaches asking who would like to be on a committee to write the descriptions for debate that will be used in our final document. That will be sent to the board for a vote at a future date.
- c. We discussed several issues that Lisa pointed out and Lisa will make the appropriate changes/corrections in the document before sending it to the board for consideration.

Next Step: Susan will send a copy of our current working document to the entire board to look over. Folks should note cosmetic issues (spelling/grammatical/numbering mistakes) and send those to Lisa. Questions or more substantial suggestions should also be sent to Lisa. Cosmetic issues will be addressed. The others will be brought to the board at a future date for discussion. Deadline: Monday, September 22. At that point, Lisa will fix the cosmetic mistakes and send the revised document to the board, along with a list of more substantial suggestions and concerns that were raised and we will vote on whether or not to approve the document.

IV. Voting – The board will seek input about major issues that need to be voted upon. The board also will remind the league that when important issues will be discussed, league members are urged to attend the meetings in order to participate in the discussion and share their views. The board actively seeks the contributions of league members when making important decisions.

Motion to adjourn: Chris Sheldon

2nd : Everyone else (;-))

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary