

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Tammie Ruda, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler.

1. Annual Meeting Agenda

2022-2023 Calendar

- 22 October: Novice Tournament (location TBA)
- 29 October: Probably Manchester-Essex
- 29 October: Open Speech Weekend
- 12 November: Gracia (Natick)
- 19 November: Little Lex
- 3 or 10 December: L-S (December 3 is an SAT date)
- 17 December: Holly Festival (Natick)
- 7 January: NSHS Winter Festival
- 14-16 January: Big Lex
- 21 January: open date (maybe Boston Latin?)
- 3-4 February: NSDA Quals (most likely)
- 11 February: NCFL combined quals (Shrewsbury)
- 19-20 February: Harvard
- 4 March: Mardi Gras (Shrewsbury)
- 18 March: March Merriness (Needham)
- 25 March: Debate States (Chelmsford)
- 1 April: Speech States (this is the MICA weekend) - Acton-Boxborough

There is also a possibility of some online debate tournaments with the NY league

Proposals

We previewed proposals that are on the Agenda and will discuss them at the Annual Meeting. These include proposals about Congress, Informative Speaking, Public Forum Debate topics at the novice tournament and decorum at in-person tournaments.

Congress Ideas (Sarah)

Sarah Donnelly has made some proposals to address some issues that she and her team have observed. We will discuss them at the Annual Meeting.

Informative Speaking Proposal (Joyce)

Joyce submitted a proposal hoping to bring some equity to the event. The preparation of visuals can be intimidating. Again, this will be up for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

Public Forum Proposal (PJ)

PJ proposes that for the Novice Festival PFD tournament, we write our own topic to be used each year. For example, "Resolved: The U.S. should have term limits for U.S. Supreme Court Justices." (We could tweak that or come up with a different resolution). If we use the same topic every year, experienced students will be able to help novices in subsequent years from their own experience. It means we don't have to wait to see if the October NSDA topic is suitable for novices each year. This is the Ronald Reagan topic, so there is a packet available online.

Decorum at In-Person Tournaments and Awards Ceremonies

This is a topic in need of discussion. Taking during the awards ceremony has been a serious problem now that we're back in person, especially at schools where award ceremonies are held in cafeterias. Also, the divisiveness in our country is seeping into discourse in the cafeteria and other places like that, making things unpleasant for some.

2. Gretchen Segars, Equity Officer (to answer any questions and just say hello)

Gretchen was unable to make it to the meeting this evening, so we were unable to ask her any questions. However, we talked about the MSDL continuing to pay for an Equity Officer for all MSDL sanctioned tournaments. In order to be equitable, the MSDL will pay for one day of the Equity Officer's time. If a tournament lasts more than one day, the host school would pay for additional days. By hiring the same person (or people), we provide important consistency to students from tournament to tournament and guarantee that a qualified individual will be present for MSDL students with concerns.

3. 2022-2023 Schedule

We did this earlier in the meeting.

4. Event cancelation insurance for 2022-2023

The cost was approximately \$1100 to cover four tournaments three years ago. We'd like to cover MSDL sanctioned tournaments against cancellations from December 1 through the Needham tournament in March. It has been several years since we bought this insurance, so Jim will reach out to them and see what is available and report back to the board.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jim gave us a brief update about where we stand financially. We spent about \$4500 more than we took in this year. States cost about \$7000. (\$3100 for trophies).

Our current balance is: \$30,039.

Lincoln-Sudbury still owes the MSDL \$317.60 for NSDA Tabroom fees used at their December tournament. Greg will contact L-S about this.

Fall MSDL Board meeting: Monday, September 12 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary