

## **MSDL Board Meeting Minutes**

March 19, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by the president, Amanda Parker

### Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Scott Caron, Lindsay Donovan, Ryan Julian, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Janet Novack, Amanda Parker and PJ Wexler.

- No Lisa & Jim tonight. Is someone willing to take minutes?

Sheryl Volunteers

### States Planning

#### **Debate**

Josh pulls up the document he circulated earlier. Josh will take the lead on the Live Doc and will do optional judge office hours. PJ will help on Thursday. Josh will remind judges about use of NSDA Campus on Friday. Josh has visited Chelmsford. Josh has also sent a reminder to coaches about Friday and Saturday judge obligations.

Janet asks whether Tabroom has been properly set up to make sure NSDA campus is properly configured for Friday virtual rounds.

Amanda noticed that judge fines for missing judges are enormous. Josh says those crazy looking numbers are in Base 4 (a nerd thing) – just a flag for missing judges, If they read the email they will know that.

Friday setup NSDA Campus on Friday and In Person on Saturday. Can't configure rooms without paying for them. Will set up configuration for Campus rooms on Friday afternoon with Jim and Josh at 3 p.m. Josh will test Zoom room provided by Amanda. Josh will also provide links to Util room in Tabroom and on Live Doc.

Friday night is pretty easy – is online. Anyone is welcome in the Judge lounge: Josh will staff it. Intention is that check-in will be online – Janet has verified. People should be called starting at around 5 p.m. Josh will start calling folks who have not registered.

Saturday – Might be a smidge of snow. Will definitely be raining. Worst case might need to delay the start a bit, but we could make it up. Registration Desk – Amanda will collect fees and welcome the guests. Josh – Judge briefing with PJ. Maybe extra people at the end. Briefing should end by 8:40 – Blast at 8:45. Kaz will hang out to take late questions BEFORE 8:45. Amanda will lead the student briefing with Lindsay accompanying.

Awards – Amanda is the MC – turn over to others to announce results. Amanda will do the cheering stuff and senior recognition. Need people to read the awards and hand out the hardware. Amanda will pick up awards. Josh says Peter’s kids, in the past, have wanted to hand out the awards. Amanda would like the students to meet with her in advance.

Amanda has the flowers, BJs has the best cupcakes deal – willing to get the regular ones if she can pass on gluten free cupcakes. Lindsay has the gluten free cupcakes. Will put cupcake time in the Live Docs. Seniors will get flowers later (at awards).

Sunday final round – Zoom Link is different for Final rounds as opposed to judge lounge. Will be able to finalize judging on Saturday

Lindsay – Info Table person.

### **Speech/Congressional Debate**

There will be a \$2500 fee for cleaning services / CM staff

Need to keep that fee in mind – room list and maps have been provided.

Extemp committee will do topics.

Joyce is doing group.

PJ will do radio copy and can copy it.

Amanda will do impromptu.

Staffing as usual – pop people into the right places. Biggest concern are numbers and spaces – how stretched out the tournament will be.

#### Senior receptions

- Form sent out
- Need cupcakes, napkins, tablecloths - Amanda can pick up

- Can someone handle gluten free cupcakes?  
Ryan will do the gluten free cupcakes
- Awards  
Amanda picking up on Friday

### Attendee survey

Janet – What is the purpose of the survey? Might need demographics but unless look at data that way, not sure it helps.

Sheryl – Ask about division of Debate or Speech? Where should Congress go?

Janet – Would rather hear from the people who do do specific events than people who don't even know about these events.

Amanda – Lindsay was helping me get it started. Would we like two separate surveys, the tournaments are fairly different. Wonder if would be confused if not separated.

PJ – Questions could stay the same if separated by tournament.

Joyce – Pieces of paper? No - electronic.

Janet – Each email address submit only once

Amanda – different experience for different tournaments. I would like to hear experiences from both sides.

PJ – If cut off response to debate survey by March 27 would be debate specific responses.

Amanda – Between now and Friday ship questions. Will start with Lindsay's set of questions. Get a pulse of how people are feeling. Thanks Lindsay.

### Coach gifts - arrived today

What else?

Collect data from members – what they like, whether there is equity between speech, debate and congress. Joe needs legislation for State Congress.

Food for tournament staff? – So host schools don't have to pay for those. Josh – hard to know what will be available. Door Dash would be hard and might be quite expensive (Amanda thinks). Janet – hard to know because of different arrangements and whatever host schools are providing. Make arrangements with host schools to purchase their food from there – a problem if we brought in outside food. At Catholic Memorial their dining service provides food. Brother ate those costs for the novice tournament.

Food for judges? Amanda – some had paid in the past and others have not. Probably can't afford to completely feed judges.

Any thoughts contact Amanda – need to figure out way people can be fed at reasonable costs. Janet – Maybe have order slips in advance for what the food table will be selling

### Wrapping up the year

Annual Meeting Planning: –

- May 4 – Send Invite and Sanctioning forms
  - Needham: 10-2 – Amanda – Guessing a longer meeting than in some years, changes to the speech rules, have been discussing debate rules, also other things, equity review
  - Food – Probably need to offer lunch
  - Zoom – and a Zoom option
  - RSVPs – will do this as well
    - Call for sanctioning forms
    - Call for annual meeting agenda items
- Online community posting board? Hired judges, coaching positions open, camps, etc? – Amanda – Had a student reaching out about a free camp, sometimes people want to judge and want to get contacted, post camp opportunities, would like to be hired as a judge.

Josh – Be useful to have something like that. Might be no way to escape the endorse.  
Amanda – would be useful. Josh – agree.

Sheryl – Nervous about listing people we have not looked into.

Janet – Webscraping Tabroom, get a lot of messages now. Really hate for us to fall into those. I don't look at these anymore. Worry about how people use our board.

PJ – Differences for NSDA lists or lawn mowing or ice cream stores offer services.

Janet – Judges or camps – not do CORIs or background checks – do we know who we are recommending to minors.

Joyce – Know no one vets in ice cream shop, but we are different because we are posting it on our web page.

Amanda – Are there ways we can facilitate contacts?

Lindsay – Like newsletters, can we just link the NSDA judge thing on bottom of newsletter.

PJ – Are a lot of really sketchy people out there, but for Needham have gotten people when they reached out to me, and individually vetted them, but do think is a positive and can help find judges. Also recognize sketchy people

Amanda – Like to direct to NSDA Judge board and connect as a resource. Coach openings. Place where we can share that,

Janet – BDL does CORI checks for volunteers, could have Google form. Could look at list.

Amanda – Having a form that we don't have firm intentions and never hear back  
Don't think we want to do CORIs as a league. We don't have a staff. We have a website which should help to support our members. Maybe a community board is not the way, which is fine. Needs to be new stuff on it or people won't look.

PJ – Figuring out ways to make connections would be good.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM

Next meeting: April 30, 2024 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.