

Notes from meeting of the State Finals Committee  
March 5, 2005 at Shrewsbury High School

Members present: Mark McNeil, Debbie Simon, PJ Wexler, Beena Koshy, Joyce Albert and Lisa Honeyman

The committee gathered to resolve issues around the planning and execution of the State Final tournament, to be held at Lexington H.S. on April 9, 2005.

Multiple

We have not been able to track multiple bids because some schools have been registering their multiples by names other than the title of the piece, for example, "TBA". In addition, we have not been able to track the casts entered in each multiple. We decided that we will trust coaches to enter teams that have actually received bids. On the State Final registration sheet, the coach must state the Title, Cast and two tournaments at which they believe they received bids. We will do our best to verify the claims.

Congress

Joyce has compiled a list of bids from all tournaments except for The Hall of Fame and Lincoln-Sudbury because she does not have records from those two tournaments. Joyce and Mark have contacted Will Crocker (VP Congress), asking for the results from those tournaments because they are not resident in the computer system. Will said he would send them to Joyce over a week ago. She is going to wait until Monday's mail (March 7). If she has not received them by that date, she is going to send the incomplete list of bids to Mark to send out to the membership and we will allow entries in congress at States as follows: A student needs two bids. (A student earns a bid by placing in the top half of the event or being in the super-session, whichever is smaller.) If a coach would like to enter a student in congress at States and believes that he/she received a bid at one or both of those tournaments, and is dependent upon that/those bids, the coach should contact Mark McNeil. We are doing our best to reconstruct who was in the super-session at those two tournaments so that Mark will be able to verify the coach's claims.

Congress legislation must be submitted by every school that has entries in congress at States by March 20. If a school does not submit at least one piece of legislation its students may not compete in congress at the tournament. Mark McNeil has asked Sara Ann Mehlretter to write a scenario for the super-session. We discussed whether or not students should be given the scenario prior to the tournament so they may do their own research or if they should be given background information at the tournament from which to formulate their speeches. We decided that Will Crocker should be involved with this decision. Mark McNeil will contact Will about this.

### Double-entry at States.

It was affirmed that students may double enter in speech events, but not in both congress and a speech event. Debate is being run separately, so students may not double-enter between debate and any other event.

### Wild Cards

Schools receive 2 wild cards to split between speech and congress events. They also receive 2 wild cards in debate.

### Debate

Debate will use the March/April topic.

The Public Forum Debate topic for States will be the April topic.

### Extemp

Mark McNeil has asked Rana Jarad and Ariel Schneller to write 80 topics. Then Debbie Simon and Mark McNeil will go over them to be sure they seem reasonable to use at the tournament.

### Group Discussion

Debbie Simon will write the questions/topic areas.

### Dues Issues

Because the computer system computes bids based upon when dues payments were entered into the computer, some schools that paid their dues did not receive bids because their payments were not entered into the computer for a few days after they submitted their check. Chris Palmer changed the dates to reflect actual payment dates for Ursuline, Silver Lake and Montrose on Saturday, so the list of bids being sent to coaches should be accurate for those schools. If there are still issues about bids that have to do with dues payment dates, Judy Crocker (treasurer) will need to confirm when the schools paid their dues and the bids will be adjusted accordingly.

### Bid Issues

Once the bid information is sent to coaches, coaches should address questions/issues about bids to the VP for the event involved.

Speech events: Debbie Simon

Debate events: PJ Wexler

Congress: Will Crocker

All questions/clarifications must be submitted by April 1 so there is time to research them and respond.

### Tournament Registration/Tabulation

Registration for speech events and congress will take place on the computer system. Chris Palmer will set it up so that the system will accept registration through April 5 at 5:00 pm. We will panel the tournament on the computer and print out the tabulation sheets. We will hand-tabulate during the tournament.

Debate registration will take place directly through e-mail. Details will be included in the invitation.

The committee will meet on Thursday evening, April 7, to finish preparing for the tournament.

### Ballots and Tabulation sheets

Debbie Simon will copy ballots and tabulation sheets (most tab sheets will come directly of the computer after registration closes.) Lisa Honeyman will pull together other tabulation sheets (sweepstakes, for example).

### Trophies

Mark McNeil will order the trophies

### Sweepstakes

Debate and speech will be handled separately. We will use the same formula we used at the 2004 State Finals tournament in speech/congress.

### Invitation

Mark McNeil is writing the invitation. Then he will send it to Debbie, PJ, and Will to review before it is sent out to the membership. This will be happening very soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Honeyman  
(acting secretary)