

MFL Board Meeting
Thursday, 23 June 2011
Milton Academy

In Attendance: Debbie Simon (Milton), Joyce Albert (Natick), Sarah Donnelly (Natick), PJ Wexler (Needham), Dan Sapir (Sacred Heart), Josh Cohen (Newton South) and Lisa Honeyman (Newton South).

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm by the president, Debbie Simon.

1. Update on 501(c)3 status

Lisa has back-filed the annual reports for 2004-2008 and 2010 as well as a change of corporate address. Debbie has been in touch with a lawyer about what we need to do next. Once we know, we'll proceed.

2. Calendar

- October 15 – Novice Tournament will be at Sacred Heart in Kingston, MA. (YAY!)
- October 22 – Hall of Fame – NEED A LOCATION – or a new date

We reviewed the calendar and Debbie will contact the coaches who will be hosting tournaments notifying them that their tournaments have been approved and also clarify situations where we had questions (which events will be offered etc.)

We have several dates open on the calendar and are looking for a host site for the Hall of Fame tournament.

A brief discussion about States: we don't have a site yet. We also need to be sure that the entire burden of planning the State tournaments doesn't fall on just a few people. As a league, *every* coach needs to pitch in and help run the State tournaments.

We discussed ways to spread the word that we really need help from coaches from *all* schools to run this league. Too much is falling to a very small group of people.

3. Members-at-Large

We discussed this briefly and decided to postpone the assignment of special jobs until the next meeting.

4. Planning the Novice Tournament

Invitation - Joyce will revise last year's invitation and send it to PJ to fill in the debate information.

Registration - We will do registration on-line

Paneling - Joyce will panel speech. Debate is up in the air at the moment.

Radio - Joyce will take care of the radio copy.

Congress - PJ will take care of Congress legislation and will handle the congress session.

Extemp - Lisa will convene the Extemp Committee to write questions.

Debate Topics

- We will use the Modest Novice LD topic (Civil Disobedience).
- We'll plan to use the October PFD topic unless it's really terrible for novices, in which case we'll write our own.

Ballots - Dan Sapir will copy ballots. Someone needs to send him the special masters.
Awards - Lisa will order medals.

- Lisa will do a Judge Training from 9:30-12:00 noon on the day of the tournament
- Coach symposium – Debbie & Sarah will be available to answer questions etc.
This will be open to new and experienced coaches who are "Fine-Tuning the art."
- Lisa will contact 3 coaches about having students presenting a selection of pieces prior to awards

We'll attempt to get the invitation out as soon as school starts so teams can plan. There will also be separate postings on the website about judge training and coach symposium.

We will take care of final details at a Board Meeting in September.

5. Photos on the MFL website.

There is interest in using student pictures on the MFL website as well as videos of MFL student performances. But, we are concerned about posting images of minors without permission from parents. Lisa will look into finding or writing a consent form that we can ask parents of MFL students to sign so that we can make the website more useful and visually interesting.

6. Discussion about participation of students who attend schools that don't have speech/debate teams.

After much discussion, we confirmed that students may only compete under the name of the school they attend and must have the permission of their school principal or designee in order to participate in MFL tournaments. In addition, they must have an adult with them who will be legally responsible for them. However, if two schools agree, they can practice together, travel together etc.

New Business

7. The MFL needs a procedure/policy that allows us to deal with judges who behave inappropriately towards students.

How can a coach file a grievance requesting that a judge who has behaved inappropriately towards a student (or students) not be allowed judge at future MFL tournaments? We need to discuss what sorts of behavior would result in a warning and what sorts of behavior would result in an outright ban. Several board members have agreed to talk to coaches in other leagues and ask what they do in these cases and then we'll draft our own policy regarding these rare, but serious situations.

8. Next MFL Board Meeting – September 15, 2011 at Needham High School at 6:00 pm.

Preliminary agenda:

- Continue discussion about #7 – report back what we learn from other leagues
- Write States invitation(s) so we all know what to expect as we work throughout the season
- Write language to include in the Rules & Regulations document about requirements for board members. (The By-laws reference the Rules & Regs document, but the corresponding section is missing.)
- Set goals for the board for the next 2 years
- Look at final calendar

Motion to adjourn – Joyce Albert

2nd – Sarah Donnelly

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

Secretary/VP