

Minutes of the Meeting of the Regional Directors of the NYSFL

Monday, November 13, 2017

Present: Bro. John, Joseph Vaughan, Thomas Beck, Lydia Esslinger, Charles Frodella, Eric DiMichele, Charles Sloat, Suzanne Culver, Catherine Luhr

The teleconference began at 7:30 pm.

1) Eric requested a review of the new sweepstakes formula. We need to examine the points awarded based upon how far students go. All received a copy of the formula for review. We will work on adjusting it for April.

2) Joe suggested online balloting for debate this year. Many tournaments have moved towards online balloting, some totally. Those who have done it consider it an overall benefit. Everyone was on board with the move. A few items to note:

A) It must be announced well in advance. Schools need to know to get their judges prepared for it.

B) Coaches and judges need instructions beforehand. Bro. John sent out the instructions that Long Island uses at tournaments. RD's will comment on it, and a finalized version will be put on the website in advance.

C) We will send out periodic reminders to coaches.

D) We will set up a table near the judge's lounge to assist any judges who wish to sign up for online balloting. (As an aside, Joe and Bro. John worked the table at LD for the NCFL Nationals this year. They signed up any judge who wished to do e-balloting.)

E) We will give the presentation to all judges before Round 1.

F) It will not be mandatory; we will still have paper ballots. However, we hope that everyone will see the advantages of e-balloting.

g) Lydia pointed out that right now, Tabroom only allows a debater to see only their own comments, not their opponent's. Since paper ballot allowed debaters to see both sides, all believed that it would be beneficial. A request was put into Tabroom to allow this option.

3) All is going well with Hofstra.

4) POI will be offered again this year. Speakers will need a single qual again this year. POI has caught the interest of many speakers. Students may not double enter in POI and OI.

5) We discussed the differing judge quotas. Regions 5, 6, and 7 have a lower quota than regions 1, 2, 3, and 4. For regions 5, 6, and 7, the quota is 1 judge for 8 speakers; 1 judge for 6 debaters; and 1 congress judge for the region. We will keep this ratio. However, it is impossible to put 2 different quotas into

tabroom. Schools from those regions will always show that they are short judges. Regional Directors from those areas are reminded to apprise their coaches of this.

6. If schools wish to prepay the dues for the next year at the State Tournament, we will record it as such on Tabroom so that we can keep the records straight.

The teleconference ended at 8:13.