

8:26:31 AM Prayers offered.

8:35:14 AM Introductions around the room: Wanda Teddy (Antioch), Mike Colletti (Stagg), Bernadette Colletti, Lainee Mcgraw (Sandburg), Scott Mcgraw (Sandburg), Barb Heyrman (Holy Trinity), Sam Paoletti (Marist), Kathie Foszcz (Independent), Jeff Hannan (Evanston), Ursula Gruber (New Trier), Arthur Wieckiewicz (Fenwick), Dan Conlin (DePaul); Jeff Watkins (Pritzker); Christine Reniff (Christ the King College Prep); Libby Kincannon (Fenwick); Robbie Distasio (DePaul); Kate Hardiman (Holy Trinity)

8:35:28 AM Treasurer report (Bernadette); about 8k in our account. Some teams haven't contributed their dues.

8:37:02 AM 2018 NCFL Nationals Info.

- Invoices distributed to schools, payments encouraged.
- Check the NCFLnationals.org website for more information and daily updates.
- Download the NCFL 2018 App (it's NCFL GrandNationals) from the App Store; no programs distributed this year.
- All debate judging will be done on Tabroom.com this year, so link your judges.
- Mike arrives Thursday night at the Marriot Renaissance; registration available from Friday at noon onward. Afternoon and evening at the Renaissance. If can't make it in person, text or email Mike for pictures of registration information.
- Be aware that we are using pipe and drape rooms at the convention center.

8:47:33 AM Jeff presents progress on by-laws; 5 pages of 12 revised! Mike will share with everyone so they can watch progress.

8:48:00 AM Speech qualifier process; exploring how we calculate missing a qualifier (which is giving a student a 7 for every round they miss at the missed qualifier). In Congress we add together preferential ballots across both tournaments. In LD/PF it's just record at the one qualifying tournament.

8:50:19 AM Discussion of calendar for 2018-2019.

- Speech proposal: 11/3, 12/1, 1/19
 - December 1st is Catholic entrance exams, so Catholic schools cannot host it
 - 1/19 is MLK weekend
- LD/PF proposal: 11/10 at Sandburg
- Congress proposal: 10/13 at Stagg, 1/12 at Fenwick

8:59:14 AM 2020 NCFL Nationals in Chicago Discussion

- Still working on host campuses (Jones, Columbia, East-West, Roosevelt, etc)
- Hotels are set: Hilton and Palmer House
- Trying to keep everything within 6 blocks to limit shuttle necessity
 - Ursula will check in with Chicago Public Library
 - Depaul University downtown another possibility
- Policy - Hilton; LD/PF - Palmer; Congress - Hilton; Speech - Schools

9:07:06 AM Officer structure proposal

- Split Vice President into two positions: VP for Recruitment, VP for Publicity
- This proposal is accepted. Sam Paoletti is elected VP of Publicity (Rebecca Orr remains VP of Recruitment).

9:09:27 AM Recruitment issues

- IE is down, Congress is down
- Congress may be bringing in GBN and GBS
- Looking to get schools involved with a flier and some pictures
 - Some discussion of which schools aren't in; Notre Dame, Loyola, Regina
 - New coach mentoring/support for folks, people need to reach out
 - Some discussion of new judges and judge training
 - August 25th proposed as a new coach training
 - Maybe giving a grant for new schools/coaches

9:29:36 AM Consider allowing 4 entries per event in speech

- Questions about impact on sweepstakes and qualifying
- Teams can bring more than the 3 entries as "ghost" entries to get experience

9:41:59 AM Discussing changing speech fees

- Proposing in speech to go from \$50 to \$150 at the 6th kid; seems like better solution is about tournament accounting to prevent late drops affecting entry fees; we are staying at \$50 for first five and \$10 per judge after that
- Clean judge requirement should only be if a team is in four categories or more
- Entries are due the Friday before a tournament
- Congress entry fees go to \$15
- PF and LD entry fees go to \$20
- Congress schools with more than ten entries need to provide a clean judge

9:54:53 AM Discussion of speech balance in speech

- The concern is that some rounds have four entries and others have seven, meaning ranking imbalance can affect kids
- Tournament hosts will make a conscientious effort to produce balanced sectioning numbers
- We will change the ballot language to create a more realistic speaking points range

10:08:38 AM Nationals advancement

- Proposal to set minimum requirements for attending nationals
 - Speech (two tournaments); Congress (20 rank points); LD/PF (winning record/3 wins)
- People like bringing the kids off waitlist so they can get experience, etc etc
- We will not set minimal requirements for qualifications

10:17:55 AM Jeff and Ursula plug the NDCA conference in Chicago, May 19-20.

10:18:09 AM Fall meeting is set for August 25th, at DePaul College Prep.

10:19:38 AM Meeting is adjourned to general acclaim.