

Chicago Catholic Forensic League

Spring Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 24, 2010

The spring meeting will be held at Resurrection High School, 8:00 a.m. coffee/donuts, 8:30 a.m. meeting.

I. Call to order 8:31 am

- Attendance: PJ Samorian (Loyola), Mary Beth Logas (Fenwick), Tyler Beattie (Notre Dame), Phil Donner (Notre Dame), Laine McGraw (Sandburg), Scott McGraw (Sandburg), Emily Anderson (Fenwick), Mary Pat Haley (St. Ignatius), Sr. Diane Weifenbach (St. Ignatius), Sue Valentino (Regina Dominican), Kathie Foszcz (Resurrection), Jack Helbig (Holy Trinity), Mike Colletti (A.A. Stagg), Linda Oddo (New Trier)

II. Greeting and prayer.

- Sr. Diane: Blessings for Nationals, Thanks for a successful year
- Mary Pat: Thanks for students, safe trip to Omaha, struggles (health, other), prayers for faculty battling cancer
- Mary Beth: Thanks for success of the year and continued wisdom in working with the students

III. Approval of Fall 2009 minutes-APPROVED

IV. Officer's Reports

A. President – P. J. Samorian

- Excited about the use of the new and improved website, went really well in terms of invitations and legislation
- Working on a form for legislation (Adam Jacobi) to eliminate problems with formatting and file types
- Pictures were great-continued encouragement to take pictures at the tournament to be posted on the website; bring a camera if you think you are going to be in the running to be one of the top teams.

B. Vice President – Mary Beth Logas

- I have been taking tons of pictures at tournaments and travel sites, we had success at Fenwick using the pictures for an Open House display which was really eye catching
- I have a picture of the Public Forum National team

C. Secretary – Sue Valentino

- If there are any coaching changes for next year or you would like any changes made to the coaches roster, let me know
- Mike: New coach at Marist (Kara Manske-Smith?)
- Sr. Diane: Is Fremd on the list?
- Laine: Fremd would like to join.
- Sr. Diane: They did join in February.

D. Treasurer – Sr. Diane Weifenbach

- Reminder: Please turn in all National tournament fees, three schools are missing their fees; these schools will be receiving calls in the next week
- \$6659.59 in the account per the last statement, there were no checks written since this statement

- Trophy procedures this year were really successful, one order at the end of each semester or the end of the season; duplicate trophies were sent to the schools after the end of the season
- PJ: Does anyone know if the Public Forum medals were received?
- Sr. Diane: A bill was paid Feb. 1, but that was for IE. I don't think I received an invoice for the Public Forum duplicates.
- PJ: Remember there is a form on the website for the duplicate awards that can help to keep track of who is getting the awards and who is getting a handshake.

E. Diocesan Director – Mike Colletti (Form referenced was sent to coaches 4/27/10)

- Nationals material coming around; first page is a breakdown of the Chicago judges and where they should be on Saturday and Sunday
- Speech is at Millar South and Millar North; I tried to split up the coaches so there was one adult at each site
- There are judging requirements for the out rounds in IE, those were split up according to National guidelines, Debate is a little bit different
- Second page is the list of tournament sites if you are driving or renting a car
- Next two pages are a tentative schedule for the two days
- The only other thing is to put together a contact list, please get your hotel info., cell phone numbers for coaches and judges. I will send an email this week.
- Sr. Diane: Where do we pick up info.?
- Mike I will be at the Hilton where reg. is. Reg. opens at noon and I will be there all day. I will not be there from 5:30 -7:00 because the Diocesan Directors meet during that time, I will be staying at the Homewood Suites which is about five minutes from the Quest Center
- Sr. Diane: This list will have the contact info.
- Mike: Yes and where everyone is staying and everyone's arrival/departure times. Awards are at 7:30 or so.
- Sr. Diane: If we leave earlier than that someone will get our awards?
- Mike: Yes, and the tournament results will be in a packet I will receive. I will get a
- PJ: Are there going to be postings on line this year?
- Mike: We tried that in Appleton. Learned the power of Twitter and Facebook. In Albany, they crashed the site, but we will be trying again. Prose/Verse will be decided by coin flip at the DD meeting, I will let everyone know
- Mike: Lunch is up on the website. You can order now until May 14. Follow the link I sent out. Congress and other debate styles will be able to order lunches for Sunday
- Laine: PF rules state Pro always goes first. Is there a coin flip?
- Mike/PJ: Final focus is 2 minutes now
- Mary Pat: I want to make sure I am reading this correctly, next to our name is what we will judge
- Mike: Yes, first column is Saturday rounds, Second column is Sunday judge pools
- Tyler: I think ND was left off of the judging list
- Mike; Oh, I will change that. Stagg and Sandburg are busing out to Omaha if you have large things that you cannot fly back we can help you get things back
- PJ: Extemp is electronic now, students can have laptops with e-files of research
- Mike: Everything is now online Congress info. Resolutions for debate
- PJ: We will have to look up flip for PF
- Laine: OK
- MP: They don't need their files for the tourn?
- Mike: They are not required to give you power and there is no internet access. You can use a flash drive. Everything is in the rules
- PJ: Are laptops allowed in PF?
- Mike: No. Not allowed in PF

- Mary Beth: Thank goodness!
- Mike: Laptops are allowed in Congress, LD, and Policy. PF did not exist when we made the rules for the other three
- Mike: Upcoming Nationals cities include DC and then Baltimore; Arlington and DC for next year.

V. Old Business

A. CCFL Homepage Feedback

- Scott: Progressing very nicely
- Laine: If possible can tournament invitations could go out a little bit sooner
- PJ: Invites are supposed to go out a month before the tournament
- Sr. Diane: Const. says three weeks
- PJ: It should be a month
- Sr. Diane: Then we need to move to change it
- Mike: Responses should be a week before
- PJ: There will some new business to revamp things. Tracey had some really good ideas for FAQ's and things like that. We will continue to work on these things

B. Number of Competitions per category

- PJ: Comments about the number of tournaments for each event
- Linda: It would be great if the PF #2 was not the same weekend as Emory
- Sr. Diane: I would like to move the Congress back to where it was because of exam week, it is the largest speech area with 125 kids.
- Mary Beth: for us it is 6 of one half dozen of the other because we have another thing at the end of January
- Sr. Diane: It was hard to meet with everyone
- PJ: We moved the LD to Nov. and we need to look at that again because the LD used to be in January. We should give more priority to Congress and PF because as a league we are not fielding huge LD numbers
- MB: We are trying to do more LD at Fenwick but the calendar is really crucial in planning for making the LD team larger
- Sr. Di: We dropped a JV and went to three Varsity. Thoughts?
- Mike: The JV is too early. We barely broke even as the hosts
- Tyler: It is hard for the first Varsity to be so early and carry the same weight for nationals? Is that an accurate rep of the real skills of the kids when later in the year they are more polished
- Sr. Di: Everyone is in the same position. Our philosophy is the development of the kids, all kids not just a few stars. We used to do one killer tournament and everyone disliked it and everyone was very nervous. The three tournament idea helps to help the kids progress and get better and better
- MB: Home Congress tournaments are really good for my kids, they like it very much, well run and enjoyed. Hard league to break to nationals out of. I Like CCFL because the kids have to be good at every tournament. To establish the best speakers over the year. Asks the kids to really stick to the event and activity
- Mike: If you look at those who placed in the first and then the second and the third there is very little change.
- PJ: I like having three Varsity because I might have someone miss one of the tournaments that could still look for the 6th place spot so they can still go to nationals. Includes more kids. We used to have 2 JV and 3 Varsity, but now we are hearing the JV is still too early. We also

did a JV after the first varsity. I think you need a JV tournament, but you can't put it any later without getting rid of a Varsity

- Mike: Maybe we put LD in October and put JV in Nov. and then we add another LD tournament later. Couple weeks later and the kids are more ready, week before the first qualifier you get a better sense of new kids to fill varsity spots. Attendance would be much better.
- MB: I'd be willing to go with that as long as we do a later LD tournament.
- Sr. Diane: When you are coaching IE you coach a lot of different kinds of ideas in a lot of different areas when coaching debate you have a few kid in one area.
- MB: If CCFL is going to stick with only 1 LD it needs to be placed later in the year so the kids can get some more practice and really do well at CCFL or else we will continue to have a weak LD program.
- Laine: We should really consider adding another LD to make it seem more competitive. Are numbers in LD up?
- PJ: Yes, but not enough to warrant two tournaments. We could do an LD and a JV on the same day.
- Mike: More kids at LD qualifier than at PF #1.
- Laine: If Fremd comes to our league they will bring people
- Sr. Diane: You have Nov. Dec. Jan. for Varsity IE and Congress
- MB: I like the idea of doubling the JV IE and LD
- MP: I like Nov. 7
- Linda: A compromise would be Dec. for LD, but it is such a short month with break
- PJ: We only have the first 2 weekends in the month, PF qualifier is the first big tournament then Congress. JV IE was in between.

C. Other

- Tyler: When there are only three entries per event, how do you cut down the kids? Since we are a new program and this was a concern I had.
- PJ: Get involved in different categories where you can bring an unlimited number of kids in the events and there can be double entered kids
- Tyler: IHSA was more competitive than CCFL and using CCFL as the more important was a little counter intuitive
- Sr. Diane: The varsity are your best kids
- Linda: Invitational tournaments. Is where we start our novice kids to help acclimate them
- Linda: I wish ISTA would bring back their novice workshops in the beginning of the year, but it disappeared a few years back. It was similar to the workshops in Congress and PF.
- PJ: Grab a GBN/GBS schedule and see where they are taking their kids early in the season then you might be able to take as many as you want. Catholic league has always been limited
- Sr. Diane: When I first joined the league there was novice, JV and varsity in Congress and IE and you had to earn your way up just like in sports, we've gotten smaller, but also better
- Tyler: Big schools will go to more than one tournament per weekend
- Sr. Diane: Some dioceses don't have all of the categories like Dec.

VI. New Business

A. Special Officer Election

- Not needed at this time

B. Congress Committee Report on New Ballots for 2010-11

- PJ: I will default to Diane

- Sr. Diane: We didn't meet and we haven't met and I didn't think to ask Paul to fax me the ballot critiques for Speakers and PO's. there were a couple of things I wanted to address and maybe we can change now and approve at the Sept. meeting
- #1: Refute/Add New Info./Extend Previous Info.: It says these three things, but I would still get these ballots that say you only did two of the three things, no matter what I said at the beginning of the tournament. My solution would be to say AND/OR
- #2: PO should have a sense of humor: Does this mean cracking jokes? Does it mean it is okay to misbehave within the event/ chamber? I think PO should have a pleasant demeanor would be an appropriate change. I just don't think sense of humor is the wrong wording.
- Linda: In response to the first point, I bring this from championship judging, this template says strengths on one side, weaknesses on the other side, and then the speech organization items across the tops which are then graded on the rubrics
- Sr. Diane: Let's look at these other ballots for the fall. But can we make these changes so we can have a better ballot for the next year.
- Sr. Diane: Not all of the three things listed have to be done, could be a combination of the three in any way.
- Add AND/OR between items listed in point # 4.-will be voted on at Fall meeting
- Strike "sense of humor" from the ballot.-will be voted on at the Fall meeting
- Sr. Diane: We will bring these ballots to the fall meeting so everyone can review and we can vote in the spring on possible changes

C. Judge Issues at Tournaments

- Tyler: Relates to a critique sheet thing, but Duo with the movement issue. I know it has changed since I was in high school. There is something in that critique sheet that would help point the judge in the right direction. There seems to be confusion of the "realistic" movement wording. I hear something at almost every tournament about the idea of movement.
- Linda; This would help to clarify things for the kids too
- PJ: We use the NCFL ballot and in our league we tend to take it seriously. What is winning at Nationals might get kicked out of competition in the league.
- Mike: We can't change the ballot if we are going to use the nationals ballots
- Tyler: It was comfortable to know that the judge was not responsible for the DQ of a kid, if there is a concern about a rule bring it to the tab room.
- PJ: What is the difference between NFL Duo and NCFL duo?
- Mike: There is not much difference, but I have seen touching in NFL
- PJ: NFL has the duos online and can watch how the events can be done.
- Sue: Can we do a judge workshop for IE during the JV tournament? This might help to train newer judges/coaches
- PJ: It always ends up that the judges who really needed to attend the workshop don't.
- Sr. Diane: There used to be a three hour video we used to make judges watch
- Mike: We can post some various links on our website that the coaches for each school to strongly encourage
- MB: Judging is not reviewed for PF
- Laine: I can't believe there are so many tournaments where schools are sending parents and people who have never judged which is great, but it gets a little scary. I have been putting a copy of the resolution in the tournament materials. That way everyone knows what the resolution is.
- PJ: We try really hard to match an inexperienced judge with a new judge
- MB: We handle this really well in CCFL, but to have this info. from various other sources (IHSA, etc.) we can help to have our judges be even better

- Lain: Make sure we readdress the make sure the right school is on the right side of the ballot
- MB: the only improvement I can suggest would be to make sure that all of the important info. online
- Linda: I have a couple of PF issues, is there any reason we do the ABC thing when we do the win/loss anyway. The only thing we reflect on the tab sheet is the win/loss and speaker points
- MB: My kids don't pay attention to this anyway. It would be good to have the criteria listed at the top in paragraph form.
- Sr. Diane: Let's draw up something for the fall meeting.
- Linda: The other thing that the kids don't like is the topic for Nationals. How is it chosen?
- Mike: Council selects various options, it is sent to someone for analysis and then the analysis that comes back to the group and we voted.
- Laine: The resolution for PF is very values based
- Mike: The topic wasn't up two minutes before we were getting emails, we had an email discussion about potentially changing the topic completely, but we decided not to go that way.
- Scott: I think it will spark some creativity among our debaters.
- Linda: One other thing, I would like to suggest in JV and novice, if something happens and only one partner shows up the kids should be allowed to compete maverick (Alone). For JV and Novice only, but not in Varsity. They will not be allowed to break.
- Laine: If you look at it from a learning perspective the kids get the practice.
- Mike: You also don't have to rearrange the schedule. You don't have lots of people with a bye round
- PJ: That assumes we have the right amount of judges
- Laine: Is there a penalty for schools who don't have the right numbers of judges.
- PJ: That is why this is on the list.
- Mike: There is a penalty we are allowed to drop kids from the school tournament, but we don't because we don't want to hurt the kids.
- Laine: People have to bring the right numbers of judges or there has to be a real cost
- Mike: The issue is you can't have a check judge we need the body
- Sr.Diane: I told people we had to drop kids if they didn't have the right judge #'s for the third Congress tournament.
- Laine: We don't want to hurt the kids but if kids are dropped then there will be the correct number of judges at the next tournament.

D. Tentative 2010-11 Tournament Schedule

- See forthcoming document

E. Other

VII. Location and Date for Fall 2010 Meeting-See forthcoming schedule

VIII. Adjourned 11:28 am

Respectfully submitted by Sue Valentino (5/4/2010)