

# Chicago Catholic Forensic League

Fall Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, August 28, 2010

The annual fall meeting of the Chicago Catholic Forensic League, held at St. Ignatius College Prep, was called to order by President PJ Samorian at approx. 8:50 a.m. on Saturday, August 28, 2010. There were 21 attendees total.

The following members were present (each school and events in which they participate):

PJ Samorian (president) – New Trier; PF, LD, Congress, Policy: Mike Colletti (diocesan director) – Amos Alonzo Stagg; PF, LD, Congress, IE: Sr. Diane Weifenbach (treasurer) – St. Ignatius; Congress, IE: Mary Beth Logas (vice president, secretary pro tem) – Fenwick; Congress, PF, LD, IE: Emily Anderson – Fenwick (IE): John McCluskey – Fenwick (LD): Tracy Repa – Buffalo Grove; IE, LD, PF: Wanda Teddy – Antioch; IE: Lanie & Scott McGraw – Sandburg; PF: Paul Denning – St. Ignatius; Congress, IE: Jack Helbig & Barb Hermann - Holy Trinity; IE, PF, LD: Holly Cox & Cara Smith – Marist; IE: Tom Herman – Northridge Prep; PF, LD: Cynthia Desmond-Schliessman – Loyola; IE, LD, PF, Congress: Phil Donner & Tyler Beattie – Notre Dame (Niles); Congress, IE: Kathy Phelps – Resurrection; IE.

Minutes of the spring meeting:

A clarification: on page 3, under Old Business, the form for duplicate awards is filled out, and submitted by the tournament host to Sr. Diane, who takes care of ordering duplicate awards at the end of January. If there are any later events, the form(s) will be submitted a second time at the end of the competition season.

Invitations used to be sent out 3 weeks in advance, as provided for in the CCFL Constitution. This means they need to be online 3 weeks in advance. The League may want to try for 4 weeks this year as an experiment. Sue Valentino did not renew her contract at Regina, and is looking for a teaching/coaching job. She would appreciate any leads.

Report from the diocesan director:

Nazareth Academy had expressed an interest, but will not be participating this year. There is, however, some interest from Martin Zacharia at Fremd in participating in CCFL in PF & LD. Lincolnway East has also expressed an interest in PF & LD. There is no word from Regina as to whether they will be participating this year.

In NCFL, some individual events competitors did well, and some of our Congress debaters made the semis. It was a good tournament in Omaha, but the costs exceeded proceeds. The fee may be raised from \$35.00 to \$50.00. If, as we usually do, we reserve a block of hotel rooms at a convention rate and don't sell them, there is a penalty. Apparently, a lot of teams stayed someplace else in Omaha.

Several of our schools also competed in NFL Nationals in Kansas City, and some of us did well (Congress debater to semis). The McGraws described a new, free-wheeling, extemporaneous style called Spar debate, which seems to be popular in other parts of the country.

In DC there will be long bus rides to the venues in and from northwest Washington. In 2012, NCFL is in Baltimore, and in 2013 it may be Philadelphia.

Report from the treasurer:

We have a lot of money, since we didn't actually have to pay for many extra judges last year. The big schools seem to have absorbed most of the cost. As of today, we have \$6019.59 on hand. The National Board may raise the membership fee to \$25.00.

Dues are due October 15.

Old business:

The possible new Congress ballot, which includes the “and/or” addition to part 4 concerning refutation and extension was presented. Refutation is *not* required either by NFL or NCFL rules. Further comment, part 7 on the ballot, is clearly marked as optional. The presiding officer ballot no longer has a category for the P.O. to exhibit a sense of humor, and substitutes “pleasant demeanor” in part 5. The consensus of the meeting is that refutation is not required in CCFL, but will be rewarded when well done.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 1 in favor of the new speech critique: 5 – 0 – 1 in favor of new P.O. critique.

Tournament invitations: PJ asks to maintain the 3-week requirement, but encourages a month in advance. At any rate, this really needs to be done in a timely manner. The mailing list can be cut and pasted. Proposal to do 4 weeks in advance this year, and discuss changing the CCFL Constitution at the spring meeting.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Tracy Repa was elected the new CCFL secretary. She will be responsible for minutes, contact lists, and keeping the official set of records.

The consensus was to renew the trophy bid with Zip products, which does a good job for us and has not raised prices. Tournament hosts should probably call, though, just to make sure.

New Business:

There is an opportunity for CCFL to put in a bid to host NCFL Grand Nationals in 2014. The last time we hosted was 2006, a very successful tournament. Our main hotel, the Hilton, is available for 2014 (we also have 2015 as a possible time). There will be more competition space at the Hilton this time, due to remodeling. We can also use more space at Roosevelt University and Columbia College (which would obviate the need to use DePaul’s downtown campus, our most expensive and troublesome venue in 2006). The hotel block room price is \$169.00, commensurate with other cities and venues. NCFL now has a convention planner to do a lot of the administrative work. After discussion, the meeting agreed to endorse the bid with many thanks to our diocesan director, Mike Colletti, for putting together the bid.

Calendar: Set after some discussion. Antioch and other possible schools found a conflict (with a non-CCFL conference competition in IE which is necessary to their IHSA bids) with the January 29<sup>th</sup> Varsity IE Qualifier. A change to February 26 was chosen by a vote of 5 – 4 – 1.

Returning to the subject of the proposed raise in NCFL fees, PJ Samorian proposed that since the League has the money, if the fee is raised the League will pick up the extra \$5.00 for this year. CCFL will recommend to NCFL that the increase apply to next year, since writing a second check for the increase seems an unnecessary inconvenience.

Proposal that CCFL cover the increase, if there is one, for this year adopted unanimously.

The extemp topics were handed out to the coaches with extemp teams, and discussed. Topics include education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development. The JV topics are Homeland Security, Defense, and the Veterans Administration.

Other news:

NFL district competition for Northern Illinois will be at Glenbrook South on March 4-5, 2011.

Buffalo Grove has competitions in LD & PF on December 4, and in IE on January 8.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Logas, Secretary pro tem