

Chicago Catholic Forensic League

Spring Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2009

The fall meeting was held at New Trier (Northfield campus), 8:30 a.m. coffee/donuts thanks to Regina, 9:00 a.m. meeting.

Attendees: P.J. Samorian (LA), Susan Valentino (RD), Tom Herman (NP), Carla Hickey (SICP), Sr. Diane Weifenbach (SICP), Mike Colletti (AS), Kathie Foszycz (RES), Emily Anderson (FHS), Mary Beth Logas (FHS), Linda Oddo (NT), Mike Greenstein (NT), Aaron Solomon-Mills (MHS), Barbara Heyrman (HT), Phil Donner (ND), Francesca Smith (Buffalo Grove), Tracy Repa (Buffalo Grove)

I. Call to order – President Samorian called the meeting to order.

II. Greeting and prayer – Samorian offered a greeting to all and called for prayer led by Sr. Diane.

III. Approval of Fall 2008 minutes – The 2008 Fall minutes were approved.

IV. Officer's Reports

A. President – P.J. Samorian – No Report

B. Treasurer – Sr. Diane Weifenbach

As of March 31, 2009, there is a total of \$5677.64 in the treasury. (Outstanding bill to Regina for meeting refreshments is yet to be paid.)

C. Diocesan Director - Mike Colletti

Mike Colletti distributed the following handouts regarding the upcoming national competition in Albany:

- Albany 2009 Competition Sites
- Students from Chicago – six entries in each category except Declamation (5 competitors) and Duo which had a drop on April 24th
- Judge Assignments for Chicago- pay attention to this list – make sure your judges are aware of their assignment and show-up for the assignment to avoid league fines. Last year \$8000.00 in fines were assessed around the NCFL – we had no fines charged to the CCFL!

Mike passed around a contact sheet for the coaches to complete indicating flight, accommodation, and contact information for each team should he need to reach anyone. Mike arrives in Albany on Thursday - he will be at the Crown Plaza on Friday afternoon until about 7:00 – contact him to arrange to pick up your registration package during that time. Food tickets will be in the registration packs. Feel free to e-mail Mike with any questions.

D. Vice President – Mary Beth Logas – No report

E. Secretary – Carla Hickey – No Report

V. Old Business – None to report

VI. New Business

- A.** Mr. Samorian asked the group: How did this year's tournaments run? There is a continuing need to increase membership in the league – thus increase the number of kids competing at tournaments. Logas commented that Fenwick did not participate in LD this year, but she is attending a training workshop at Baylor this summer in order to compete in LD next year. This year's host schools certainly bared the

brunt of expenses incurred to host a tournament. Samorian reported that Loyola spent \$1300.00 above and beyond for the tournaments he ran, largely due to the hiring of extra judges. Hiring of extra judges was also an expense incurred by host schools Marist, Stagg and SICP. Sr. Diane motioned that the host school's extra responsibility be capped at \$200.00 – the league would then pay the rest. Motion seconded by Solomon-Mills. Discussion: This is mostly an IE problem – 18 judges are needed to cover final rounds. Independent judge pools currently at about 10 – enabled us to do final rounds. Other possible solutions offered: flight the rounds – eliminate final rounds. Samorian not in favor of motion because the problem doesn't apply to all tournaments like LD, PF. Seems to be an IE problem. Motion was withdrawn by Sr. Diane.

Discussion continued with a question posed, particularly to the smaller schools, regarding the obstacles to increasing the number of their students competing:

1. Budgets small and insufficient
2. Conflicts with sports and other activities
3. Not enough hours in the day!

B. Possible solutions to the problem of increasing numbers in the league, especially IE numbers:

1. Tracy from Buffalo Grove commented that many IE schools would be interested in participating at the tournaments but not necessarily as a member of the CCFL right away. Schools are often looking for tournaments. She proposed two tiers of registration for tournaments – members of CCFL and non-members. Sr. Diane reminded us that CCFL exists to qualify students for national competition. Non-CCFL schools must be aware upfront that they would not qualify for nationals. Perhaps non-member schools would join the league after a year or two of giving it a try. Mr. Samorian and Mr. Colletti thought that the accommodation could be handled in the Tab Room. Speaker points earned would be eligible for NFL points. Student competitors must be educated on slight variations in the rules of the Catholic League.
 - a. Motion – Oddo – Accept non-member schools to participate in IE CCFL tournaments with the understanding they would not qualify for nationals. Seconded by Valentino – Vote approved with a 12-0 count. Motion passed.
 - b. Motion – Samorian – League officers be empowered to make exceptions to membership deadline of Oct. 15th Approved by a vote of 12-0.
2. For IE tournaments hold one JV contest and three Varsity contests.

C. Oddo wanted to be certain that Sr. Diane watch for a ZIP credit for Policy awards that she returned to ZIP earlier this year. Sr. Diane confirmed the credit was reflected on the ZIP bill.

D. Elections for CCFL Officer positions

1. President – P.J. Samorian was nominated – PJ accepted nomination – voted President
2. Vice President – Mary Beth Logas was nominated – Mary Beth accepted nomination – voted Vice President
3. Secretary – Carla Hickey was nominated – Carla respectfully declined nomination – Sue Valentino was nominated – Sue accepted nomination and was voted Secretary.
4. Treasurer – Sr. Diane was nominated – Sr. Diane accepted nomination and was voted Treasurer.
5. Diocesan Director – Mike Colletti was nominated – Mike accepted and was voted Diocesan Director.

E. Congratulations to New Trier's Policy and Public Forum teams for earning the State Championship title and the Lincoln Douglas team is state runner up! Congrats too to Notre Dame for Boys' Congress team as state champs.

F. Proposed 2009-2010 Calendar (see attachment)

G. Other Business and announcements

1. Mary Beth received a judge's tip sheet from Public Forum with good useful information – she would like to make it available at all Public Forum tournaments.
2. A Public Forum Workshop will be held at Sandburg on Sept. 19, 2009 for students and coaches.
3. Stagg Charger Challenge for IE events will be held January 16, 2010
4. Buffalo Grove Public Forum and LD tournament on Dec. 19th
5. Aaron announced that Marist will hold summer camp for kids entering 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades – cost is \$100.00 for 2 weeks/ ½ days. More information is on the Marist website.
6. There was discussion regarding the rule that in Student Congress a student can only run for PO once. Even though by the 3rd contest the PO is sometimes weak, it was felt that there are many reasons why this rule is justified: - provides incentive for many kids to become PO, helps kids qualify that otherwise may have weak speeches, and more kids have opportunity to be PO. Of the top 15 kids in the league, 10 were PO – of the top 6, 3 were PO. Coaches should be mindful that kids need preparation and coaching to learn to be an effective PO.
7. Solomon-Mills suggested that next year we could sponsor a pre-nationals workshop or variety show to get the kids tuned up for national competition. As a fundraiser, it would help the kids prepare for nationals and we could showcase what Forensics is all about, thus serving as a great recruiting tool.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. Aaron Solomon-Mills offered Marist as the venue for the fall CCFL meeting on August 29, 2009.

These minutes respectfully submitted by:

Carla Hickey
CCFL Secretary