



NCFL Diocesan League Directors Fall Meeting 2022 September 24 - 25 Louisville, KY

President Ann Marie Duffy called the meeting to order at 6:02PM on Friday 9/24/22. A Motion to Recess was accepted at 7:15PM. The meeting was called back to order at 9:30AM on Saturday 9/25/22. The meeting Adjourned at 10:58AM.

Agenda

By-Laws Proposals For Discussion



Reports of the Officers

- 6:02pm meeting called to order by President Ann Marie Duffy
- Destiny from the Louisville CVB addressed the Directors
- Host Rosemary provided logistical information for the evening
- Attendee introductions
- Sarah announced availability of a microphone in the room if needed
- **President – Ann Marie Duffy**
 - Tournament Director, Roland's absence (knee surgery) - Charlie to read his report later
 - Freezing of quotas continues for 2022-2023
 - Richard Gaudette Service Award - nominations by Jan 10th (past honorees on website)
- **1st VP – Tom Beck**
 - LD & PF Wording Committees - let him know if you want to volunteer for either
 - Topic ideas to him by Jan 10th
- **2nd VP – Katy Cecil**
 - Extemp topic process: topic areas to her by Jan 10th / future date for question submissions
 - Assistance for new dioceses/directors-appointment by the Board of Susan Peebles as Local League Liaison
- **Publicity Dir – Marc Rischitelli**
 - Social Media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) - Greg live tweeting this meeting
 - Thanks to Amanda Parker for revamping our websites this summer



Tournament Director Report

- 2022 Wrap-Up – Washington, DC Presented by Charlie Sloat in Roland's absence:

The tournament went very smoothly:

- Thank you to all the WACFL Leaders and Volunteers!
- Thank you to all the Tab Chairs and Tab Staff!
- Thank you to all the Coaches, Judges, and Students who helped us get through everything.
- Numbers 2019 compared to 2022:

Dioceses - 66/59	Schools - 516/420	Students - 2499/1973	Judges - 1225/1522 (352 observers)
Total People - 3724/3500		Total Entries - 1999/1600	Total States - 32/30

Our apologies for an error with Sweepstakes.

- Reports were pulled before all the tournament results were finalized.
- Resulted in incorrect Sweepstakes Winners announced.
- We'll be correcting the record and sending the correct trophies to schools in October.
- Other than this, we had no errors in any of the event results ... thank you to all of our Tab Staff for your attention to detail.

Some Things We Need to Work On:

- We need to work on ways to fully implement our "Open Door" Policy and handle Trigger Warnings. We'll be convening our Tab Chairs and DEI Leaders to work through that this fall so we're ready for NCFL 2023.
- What do we think about Postings?? We didn't have an official "Party" but we know that teams and kids gathered throughout the hotel ... we could hear it.

Continued next 3 slides...



Executive Council Emergency Powers

Continued from 2020 – 2021. As we continue to work through what is needed to respond to the pandemic.

1. “Freezing” quotas again at the level they were for NCFL 2020. Leagues can increase their quotas by providing the requisite school memberships, but leagues cannot have their quotas reduced if they don’t get the requisite number of schools. This recognizes the continued difficulty that some schools have providing signed membership forms, and that some leagues may not have as many teams as they usually do.
2. Allow our NCFL Executive Committee (Diocesan League Directors) and Board Meetings to be held virtually.
3. Take whatever steps are necessary to hold an NCFL 2023 Tournament, either fully in-person, or hybrid or online if in-person is not possible.
4. Wild card entries used by leagues in response to COVID - Registration changes will not be subject to the 5 year wait period.

Motion made & seconded to continue previously granted Emergency Powers (see prior minutes) - PASSED without objection



Changes Made We'd Like To Keep

1. An Informational Diocesan Directors meeting may be held virtually on the Saturday before NCFL 2023, May 20.
2. OnLine Judge Training and a Ballot Test may be held during the week preceding NCFL 2023.
3. Equity & Bias Training for Judges may be made available during the week preceding NCFL 2023.
4. A Two-Tiered OnLine "Start of Tournament" Registration approach, first for Leagues and then for Schools, may be held on Thursday and Friday of NCFL 2023, May 25-26.
5. An OnLine Help Desk may be maintained for NCFL 2023, similar to what was used for NCFL 2021.
6. Use of FlipGrid to allow students to record their names to help with pronunciation during Awards
7. We may continue to skip the opening meetings like we did in DC 2022



We ARE Planning for In-Person NCFL 2023

May 27 - 28, 2023

- Louisville, KY

1. Tournament Entry and Judge Quotas would be those specified in the ByLaws.
2. LD & PF would be double-flighted, with a Play-In Round as specified in the ByLaws.
3. We will be subject to any Health & Safety Mandates of Louisville, KY, the University of Louisville, our Host Schools, and our Host Hotels. These may include the requirements for vaccination and/or testing, and that all attendees wear masks at all times when indoors (not in individual hotel sleeping rooms). We will keep you posted as we get closer and know what mandates will apply.



Future Tournaments

- 2023 – Louisville, KY
 - See separate document with updates
- 2024 – Chicago, IL (rescheduled from 2020)
- 2025 – Chicago, IL
- 2026 – Washington, DC
- 2027 – Minneapolis, MN (rescheduled from 2021)

Points of Information:

Bid packet to be updated by Sarah, voted on by the Board and posted on the website in the future.
Dioceses with interest in hosting are encouraged to contact Sarah.



NCFL 2023 Louisville Information

May 27 - 28, 2023

Sites

University of Louisville

Area High Schools, exact ones still TBD

Hotels

Omni @ \$199 /night

Galt House @ \$199 /night

Marriott @ \$189 /night

Hyatt Regency @ \$209 /night

Embassy Suites @ \$210 /night

We will get other nearby overflow hotels as needed



Financial Statement, 2021 - 2022

		NCFL STATEMENT		2021-2022	
Balance 9/1/2021	140444.07	Expenses		2022 Tournament Expenses	
Receipts	180680.00	Postage/Shipping	422.00	Insurance	4091.00
Total	321124.07	Technology/Web	257.03	NASSP fee	195.00
Expenses	-302650.00	Fall Meeting - Remote	0.00	Tabroom Charge - NSDA	1553.01
Expenses paid forward	-15147.18	Winter Meeting - Remote	0.00	Site Charges - AV/Internet	41580.44
Balance 8/31/2022	3326.89	Nat'l Site Visits	344.17	Site Charges - Freeman	73551.27
		Event Planner	1313.85	Site Charges - Power	35934.00
Net Loss	137117.18	NCFL Tournament	296762.86	Site Charges - DigitalSign	3905.00
		Spring Meeting - Remote	0.00	Supplies	1316.20
Receipts		Executive Council	3443.09	VaccineCheck	13333.95
Membership Dues	40445.00	Bank Service Fees	107.00	Medical Personnel	1778.78
Membership Penalties	2720.00	NFHS Debate Topic Mtg	0.00	Judge Hospitality	32826.75
Tourney Registration	135355.00			Tab Hospitality	37995.57
Block Surcharge	0.00	Total Expenses	302650.00	Awards	41422.88
Judge Fines	2160.00			Security	4279.01
Pins	0.00	Paid forward for 2021-22		GuideBook app*	3000.00
Misc-	0.00	Awards 2023	15147.18		
Total Receipts	180680.00	Total paid forward	15147.18	Total Tourney Expenses	296762.86
		NOTE: Site Charges do not reflect the \$60K donation from the DC CVB for use of the Convention Center.		*GuideBook app charge does not reflect the \$3K credit given due to the cancellation of the 2020 Tournament.	



Secretary / Treasurer Report

- NFHS Policy Debate 2023– 2024 Topic Selection

Email was sent - Director voting for their league due to Mike by Oct 5th so he can submit our league vote

- Finance Committee ... Volunteers Requested

- Will report back in the Fall of 2023 any recommendations

Ann Marie - introduced the Secretary/Treasurer report with a reminder on the established Finance Committee, reasons for same and general work to date that will continue with recommendations to be made to the Board and the Directors.

Mike - went over certain line items to provide further insight and reasoning. Post pandemic etc...

Ann Marie - provided a reminder of the historical reasons for considering/using the convention center model including making it easier for getting host leagues. Extended an invitation to those who want to volunteer to serve on the Finance Committee.

Save further questions/conversation for Discussion Items portion of meeting.

Motion made & seconded to approve the Financial Statement - PASSED w/o objection



Item VII.A., By-Laws

NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 4, f.

The Wording Committee will prepare between ~~four~~ **three** and ~~six~~ **four** topics each for LD and PF Debate based on the given topic areas. At least ~~three~~ **two** of the topic areas each for LD and PF Debate should be reflected in the prepared topics.

Ashley (Philadelphia) - provided rationale and thought process behind the proposal

Discussion -

Dave - will the potential for only two topic areas provide a “lesser of two evils” choice?

Motion to Amend (& seconded) to strike “At least” and leave original “three”

Not accepted as “friendly”

Vote: 9 yes/11 no - Amendment fails

Greg (Boston) - Motion to call the question - seconded - question called

PASSES (weighted vote but on a clear voice approval w/o objection)



Item VII.B., By-Laws

NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 4, f.

Not later than ~~April 4~~ **March 28**, the Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended PF Debate topics prepared by the Wording Committee to the Diocesan Directors. Diocesan Directors will return their vote, each voting not more than once, for the PF Debate Topics not later than ~~April 11~~ **April 4**. Each voter will rank the topics First through Last. When voting closes, the ranks will be totaled and the topic receiving the lowest total among all the ballots cast, will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National PF Debate Tournament. In case of a tie, the topic receiving the highest number of first place votes would be chosen. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than ~~April 15~~ **April 8**.

Ashley (Philadelphia) - provided rationale and thought process behind the proposal

No Discussion

Motion made & seconded - Question called

PASSES (weighted vote but on a clear voice approval w/o objection)



Item VII.C., By-Laws

NCFL Congress Manual, Page 5.

When many members wish to speak, the Presiding Officer will choose those who have spoken least. Presiding Officers should maintain careful records of the number of times each student has spoken and use this as a guide in the selection of speakers. **The record should be shared with each following Presiding Officer as recency is not reset from round to round during preliminary sessions.** ~~At the start of each preliminary session, all students start with zero speeches (recency is reset).~~

Greg (Boston) provided reasoning/justification for the proposal - included that creating additional Congress chambers was not a viable option to propose - better chance at a more equitable number of speeches per student. Discussion:

Charlie - allows students to “plan their day” - helps balance the playing field

Leanne (Clerk of Congress) - neither she nor co-Clerk Keith P are in favor of this proposal as it allows students to “play the system” vs planning their day. Want to keep a level playing field for those newer to the competition.

David - point out the difference between recency and precedence

Kieran - should record keeping be done by the Parli vs PO

Richard - the students who prepare the most, stand the most and are called on more over the unprepared.

Steven - how much of a problem is it? Examples?

Greg -some students speak only 3 times and others can reach 5 or 6. His understanding that both recency & precedence reset under current rules. The proposal would actually help students not part of the national circuit group.

Richard - PO has no choice on who they pick as they must use the list. Solution in search of a problem?

David - Amendment - add “precedence and” before “recency” and change “is” to “are”. Second by Kieran.

Debate on the Amendment - discussion on whether “precedence” & “recency” are defined in the Congress manual. Upon review, the definition of recency in manual includes both. Amendment withdrawn

Question called - Weighted vote (27 dioceses) - 83 Yes - 43 No - 6 abstain - **PASSES**



Discussion Items

- TBD

- Zoom option - those on this weekend appreciated it and it worked well. Will consider as an option going forward. Comment on ONLY on Zoom for equity. Comment that having ALL options is the best model. Hotel contractual guarantees can be an issue so hybrid meeting will require adjustments to avoid attrition fees.
- Fall meeting host locations. Chicago Sept '23? (maybe - uncertain right now)
- Site visits at Fall meetings - why not happening/will they? Feedback given was that they were not overly helpful but not opposed in any given year if it seems to be needed/possible. Recommendation for hosts to attempt to do a video (GoPro) "tour" of sites to put on the tournament website for all beforehand. Often times sites for exact categories still in flux in the Fall. Advocacy for a tour regardless to see logistical aspects (parking, etc...) to pass along.
- Virtual Directors Meeting a week before the tournament - important that all leagues have a representative.



New Business

- TBD
None



Closing Items

- School Membership Forms and \$50 Fees due to Mike by 12/20/2022
 - With 10% penalty, \$55 total, by 1/15/2023
 - With 20% penalty, \$60 total, by 1/31/2023
- Tournament Entry Fees are \$60 per person per entry, due by 4/15/2023
- Extemp Topic Areas to Katy by 1/10/2023
- LD & PF Debate Topic Areas to Tom by 1/10/2023
- Richard Gaudette Award
 - Nominations to Ann Marie & Catherine by 1/10/2023
- Next Fall Meeting:
 - Location TBD, September 29 - 30, 2023

[10:58AM Meeting adjourns](#)