



NCFL Diocesan League Directors Fall Meeting 2023 September 29 - 30 Pittsburgh, PA

Agenda

By-Laws Proposals
Discussion Items



Fall Diocesan League Directors Meeting





Reports of the Officers

**9/29/23 - 5:30PM - Meeting called to order
Invocation - Michael Nailor**

- President – Ann Marie Duffy
- 1st VP – Tom Beck
- 2nd VP – Katy Cecil
- Publicity Dir – Marc Rischitelli
- Treasurer’s Report – Mike Colletti
- Finance Committee Report – Ann Marie Duffy
- Tournament Director – Roland Burdett



President's Report

- Summit Meeting
 - NCFL, NSDA, NFHS, ToC, NIETOC, UDL
 - Four Objectives Set:
 - Guidebook for Best Practices in DEI
 - Event Safety + Emergency Action Planning
 - Workforce Development Coalition
 - Increase Participation = 30% by 2030 (in activity overall and not the size of the NCFL)
 - Joining forces with NSDA to form a Wellness Committee (Ann Marie will sit on the Committee)
- Richard Gaudette Service Award
 - Nominations to Ann Marie & Catherine by 1/10/2024
- Biennial Elections
 - Volunteers needed for the Nominations Committee
 - Officer Nomination Forms due by January 10, 2024



First Vice-President's Report

- LD & PF Topic Area Suggestions to Tommy by 1/10/2024



Second Vice-President's Report

- Also attended the Summit Meeting
- Local League Liaison outreach
- Extemp Topic Area Suggestions to Katy by 1/10/2024
- Topic Areas will be announced on/about January 31
 - Then Extemp questions to Katy between 2/15/2024 and 4/15/2024



Publicity Director's Report

- Website updates continue
- Will continue to work on standardizing the LiveDocs for Nationals
- Working to save money by not having to use an APP
- Thanks to Amanda Parker and Frank Riccobono
- All suggestions are welcome



Secretary / Treasurer's Report

- NFHS Policy Debate 2024 – 2024 Topic Selection

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

Financial Statement (next page) - **accepted without objection**



Financial Statement, 2023 - 2024

2022-2023 NCFL FINANCIAL STATEMENT									
Balance 9/1/2022	3326.89	2023 Operating Expenses		2023 Tournament Expenses		2023 Site Charge Breakdown			
Receipts	241437.75	Postage/Shipping	388.00	Insurance	5858.00	Site Charges - Omni	25424.86	Hotel	2619.11
Total	244764.64	Technology/Web/Zoom	1199.28	NASSP fee	195.00			Food/Beverage	3566.91
Expenses	194167.29	Fall Meeting - L'ville	9082.43	Tabroom Charge - NSDA	1313.60			AV/Internet	2719.38
Expenses paid forward	7775.00	Winter Meeting - DC	3293.73	Site Charges - Omni	25424.86			Attrition	16519.46
Total Expenses	201942.29	Nat'l Site Visits	3045.61	Site Charges - Marriott	28049.29	Site Charges - Marriott	28049.29	Hotel	163.32
Balance 8/31/2023	42822.35	Event Planner	10000.00	Site Charges - Hyatt	8541.71			Food/Beverage	17285.97
Net Gain	39495.46	Spring Meeting - Remote	0.00	Site Charges - Galt House	7408.32			AV/Internet	10600.00
		Executive Council	6874.70	Site Charges - U of L'ville	7421.51	Site Charges - Hyatt	8541.71	Hotel	132.10
Receipts		Bank Service Fees	485.27	Site Charges - Assumption	2642.24			Food/Beverage	1322.36
Membership Dues	38550.00	NFHS Debate Topic Mtg	1551.72	Site Charges - Trinity	3262.00			AV/Internet	7087.25
Membership Penalties	5050.00			Tourney Bussing	16235.00	Site Charges - Galt House	7408.32	Hotel	265.75
Tourney Registration	123990.00	NCFL Operating Expenses	35920.74	Awards	42865.50			Food/Beverage	6029.17
Block Surcharge	9130.00	NCFL Tourney Expenses	158246.55	GuideBook app	6500.00			AV/Internet	1113.40
Judge Fines	800.00			Supplies	143.17	Site Charges - U of L'ville	7421.51	Physical Plant	2513.12
Pins	0.00	Total Expenses	194167.29	Printing	611.62			Food/Beverage	4668.39
Misc-ConfDirect	26701.75			Mass	300.00			Security	240.00
Misc-L'ville CVB	37216.00	Paid forward for 2022-23		Parking	779.00	Site Charges - Assumption	2642.24	Physical Plant	1191.00
		Site Deposits for 2024	7775.00	Hygiene Products	370.73			Food/Beverage	1451.24
				Steve the Bugler	325.00	Site Charges - Trinity	3262.00	Physical Plant	1900.00
Total Receipts	241437.75	Total paid forward	7775.00					Food/Beverage	1362.00
				Total Tourney Expenses	158246.55	Total Site Charges	82749.93		82749.93



Finance Committee Report

Presentation by Ann Marie Duffy

Thank you to all who serve on the Committee

See link to the full separate report



Tournament Director's Report

- 2023 Wrap-Up: Louisville, KY :

The tournament went very smoothly:

- Thank you to all the KY CFL Leaders and Volunteers!
- Thank you to our hosts at U of L, Assumption, and Trinity Schools
- Thank you to all the Tab Chairs and Tab Staff!
 - Pleased to report there were NO errors this year
- Thank you to all the Coaches, Judges, and Students who helped us get through everything.

Numbers for Louisville 2023 compared to Louisville 2017 and DC 2022:

Dioceses – 63 vs 59, up from DC by 4

Schools – 412 vs 420, down from DC by 8

Students – 2051 vs 1973, up from DC by 78

Judges – 1168 vs 1161, up from DC by 7

Total People – 3219 vs 3134, up from DC by 85

We were at 75% of DC 2018 for DC 2022; and at 82% of LV 2017 for LV 2023 ... our target is 90-95% of Chicago 2014

Some Things We Need to Work On:

- We need to continue to work on ways to fully implement our “Open Door” Policy and handle Trigger Warnings.
- How to better implement Diversity-Enhanced Judge Panels
- We'll be convening our Tab Chairs and DEI Leaders to work through that this fall so we're ready for NCFL 2024.



Changes We'll Keep for 2024

- An Informational Diocesan Directors meeting will be held virtually on the Saturday before NCFL 2024, May 18.
- OnLine Judge Training and a Ballot Test may be held during the week preceding NCFL 2024.
- Equity & Bias Training for Judges may be made available during the week preceding NCFL 2024.
- 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 2024, May 23 - 24.
- We will continue to skip the opening meetings like we did in DC 2022 & Louisville 2023 ... means we don't need big spaces and we can get started faster
- Use of FlipGrid to allow students to record their names to help with pronunciation during Awards



NCFL 2024 Chicago Information

May 25 - 26, 2024

Sites

Chicago Hilton and Towers

Palmer House Hilton

East-West University

Columbia College

Roosevelt University

Jones College Prep High School

Hotels

Chicago Hilton and Towers, \$225/night for all rooms

Palmer House Hilton, \$225/night for all rooms



Future Tournaments

9/29/23 - 7:10PM - Recess

9/30/23 - 8:30AM - Reconvene/Called to Order

- 2024 – Chicago, IL (rescheduled from 2020)
- 2025 – Chicago, IL
- 2026 – Washington, DC
- 2027 – Minneapolis, MN (rescheduled from 2021)
- ***2028 is OPEN for Bidding***



Proposals



Finance Committee #1: School Fees

Finance Committee Recommendation #1. Increase School Membership Fees to \$60.

Constitution, Article III, Section B, Paragraph 8.

The NCFL Annual School Membership Dues shall be ~~\$50 (fifty~~ **\$60** (sixty dollars) per school **with at least \$5 (five dollars) of the Dues going into NCFL savings.**





Finance Committee #2: Site Visit

Finance Committee Recommendation #2. Eliminate requirement for Exec Council to visit City.

Constitution, Article V, Section D, Paragraph 4.



The National Tournament Director and/or NCFL Event Planner shall conduct at least one site visit to the city hosting that year's Grand National Tournament.

~~Either the Fall Executive Committee Meeting or the Winter Executive Council Meeting shall be hosted by the Diocesan League hosting that year's Grand National Tournament.~~



Finance Committee #3: Registration Fees \$75

Finance Committee Recommendation #3. Increase Tournament Registration Fees to \$75.

By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 2.

The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be ~~\$60~~ **\$75** per student staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks.





Finance Committee #4: Out-Of-Block Fee

Finance Committee Recommendation #4. Increase the Out-Of-Hotel-Block Surcharge Fee.

By-Laws, Article II, Section B. 2.

For students not staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks the fee will be **double the registration fee \$110** per student **staying in the Hotel Blocks.**





Finance Committee #5: Late Fees

Finance Committee Recommendation #5. Increase the length of time for late registration to April 30 with a late fee per day.

By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 3.



Failure to register a Diocesan League for the Grand National Tournament by mail postmarked the date set and communicated by the Secretary/Treasurer will result in a fine of ~~fifty~~ **twenty-five** dollars (~~\$25~~ **\$50.00**) per day up for up to ~~15~~ **7** days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the ~~15~~ **7**th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year.



By-Laws #1: Quotas

Proposal #1. To Change the Quotas - Erie & Pittsburgh, Susan Peebles & Beth Young

a Motion was passed to divide into two Motions A & B (divided by — here in minutes only) - later also divided out part C.

A - PASSED B - FAILED

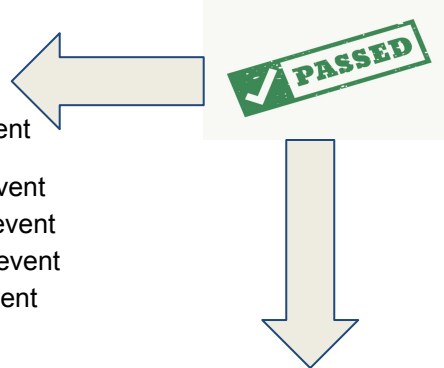
See updated By-Laws for full NEW language (yes, it creates 2-10 schools with same quotas)

By-Laws, Article II – Grand National Tournament; Section B – Registration; 1. Quotas

a. Contestants: Entries from Diocesan Leagues in the tournament shall be governed by the following quota system based upon school membership in the LEAGUE:

~~2 Schools: 03 entries with no more than 1 in any event~~
~~3 Schools: 04 entries with no more than 1 in any event~~
~~4 Schools: 05 entries with no more than 1 in any event~~
~~2-5 Schools: 20 40 entries with no more than 2 4 in any event~~

~~6-10 Schools: 30 20 entries with no more than 3 2 in any event~~
~~11-15 Schools: 40 30 entries with no more than 4 3 in any event~~
~~16-20 Schools: 50 40 entries with no more than 5 4 in any event~~
~~21+ Schools: 60 50 entries with no more than 6 5 in any event~~
~~26+ Schools: 60 entries with no more than 6 in any event~~



An individual school may have **up to three entries, with no more than 1 entry in any event**, ~~one entry~~ as an Independent School for one year only.



By-Laws #2: Freeze Quotas Again

Proposal #2. To Freeze the Quotas One Additional Year **Erie & Pittsburgh, Susan Peebles & Beth Young**



To extend the Emergency Powers of the NCFL Executive Council in the following manner: Keep the pre-pandemic quotas “frozen” at the canceled NCFL 2020 level for one additional year, for NCFL 2024, to encourage regrowth of programs and dioceses. As in prior years, Leagues can increase their quotas based on the number of school members, but they cannot have their quotas reduced regardless of the number of school members.

- **Reminder to utilize the NEW Membership Form on [NCFL.org](https://www.ncfl.org)**
- **Physical or electronic form accepted but must still submit them**



By-Laws #3: Policy Debate Double-Octos

Proposal #3. To adjust the criteria for clearing to Policy Debate Elimination Rounds Philadelphia, Chris Berdnik (Ashley)

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 4 Debate Procedures. b, add ...

In Policy Debate, only entries earning at least 4 preliminary wins or at least 10 preliminary ballots will be eligible for Round VII (Double octo-final), up to a maximum of 32 teams.





By-Laws #4: Use of Timers in Extemp

Proposal #4. To limit the use of timing devices in Extemp NCFL Tournament Director

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 1. Speech Events. c. Extemporaneous Speaking. 13.
Add ...

While students may time themselves during their speech, the judges have the final decision on when time expires. If a student is using any handheld device other than a physical stopwatch or timer, such as a phone or tablet, they cannot hold the device, and must put it on a desk or a stand throughout the speech, and cannot touch or access the device during their speech.





By-Laws #5: Speech Ranks of 5

Proposal #5. To set “5” as the highest ranks allowed in Speech. NCFL Tournament Director

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 2. Speech Events Procedures. a.

All speakers will compete in 4 rounds of a prearranged schedule. **In each section of each prearranged round, there will be no more than 7 entries. Sections should be balanced to the greatest extent possible. No rank greater than “5” will be awarded, regardless of the number of entries in a section.** At the end of the fourth round, the top 48 contestants in each event, based upon the low totals of all the judges in the four qualifying rounds, will be selected as octo-finalists.





By-Laws #6: Size of Congress Chambers

Proposal #6. To adjust the number of Chambers in Student Congress **NCFL Tournament Director**

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6 Student Congress. a,

The goal for the size of preliminary chambers will be 18 members. ~~If there are 216 entries or less, as of 1 week prior to the Grand National Tournament, there will be 12 preliminary chambers. If there are more than 216 entries prior to the Grand National Tournament, then there will be an additional chamber added for every 18 entries above 216, or fraction thereof.~~ Five members will advance from each Chamber to the Semi-Finals. Selection will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.





By-Laws #7-1: Selection to Semi-Finals

Proposal #7 - 1. Move By-Law items from Student Congress Manual to the By-Laws.
NCFL Tournament Director, LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit, & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. Student Congress a.

... ~~Selection [from Semi-Finals to Finals] will be as defined in the Student Congress Manual.~~
Based on the cumulative rankings from all Scorers (including each of the three Preliminary Sessions), the four top-ranking members of each chamber will advance to Semi-Finals. The Parliamentarian ranks all members of the chamber. The highest-ranking member of the chamber from the Parliamentarian ballot who has not already advanced based on Scorer ranks will also advance to Semi-Finals.





By-Laws #7-2: Selection to Finals

Proposal #7 - 2. Move By-Law items from Student Congress Manual to the By-Laws.
NCFL Tournament Director, LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit, & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. Student Congress b.

... ~~Selection [from Semi-Finals to Finals] will be as defined in the Student Congress Manual.~~
Based on the cumulative rankings from all Scorers, the five or seven (five if there are 4 Chambers, or 7 if there are 3 Chambers) top-ranking members of each chamber will advance to Finals. The Parliamentarian ranks all members of the chamber. The highest-ranking member of the chamber from the Parliamentarian ballot who has not already advanced based on Scorer ranks will also advance to Finals.

Proposal #7 2-5 voted on together as a group





By-Laws #7-3: National Champion

Proposal #7 - 3. Move By-Law items from Student Congress Manual to the By-Laws.
NCFL Tournament Director, LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit, & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. Student Congress c.

... ~~Selection to determine the National Champion will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.~~ **The four Scorers and the Parliamentarian will rank the top 8 persons at the end of the Grand Final Session; each student unranked by an official will receive a rank of “9”. The ranks will be totaled to determine the final placement. The ballot cast by the Parliamentarian in Preliminary, Semi-Final, and Grand Final Sessions will be used to break any ties that may occur.**

Proposal #7 2-5 voted on together as a group





Proposal #7-4: Semis Judges

Proposal #7 - 4. Move By-Law items from Student Congress Manual to the By-Laws.

NCFL Tournament Director, LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit, & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. Student Congress d.

Semi-Finals and Grand Finals will consist of two two-hour ~~sessions~~ **parts using the same panel of judges for each**, with Presiding Officers elected for each.

Proposal #7 2-5 voted on together as a group





Proposal #7-5: Submitting Legislation

Proposal #7 - 5. Move By-Law items from Student Congress Manual to the By-Laws.

NCFL Tournament Director, LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit, & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. Student Congress e.

... Each diocese entering students is encouraged to submit legislation, and may submit up to ~~two items~~ **one item for each school the diocese is sending Congress qualifiers from** ...

Proposal #7 2-5 voted on together as a group





Proposal #8: Restate Student Congress Manual

Proposal #8. To restate the Student Congress Manual in its entirety
LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit & Keith Pittman, Charlotte

- **See separate link to the manual**

Please note some important differences for NCFL 2024 onward are:

- **Agendas are set in each Session of Prelims from the legislation packet established for each session by the Clerk of Congress**
- **Direct Questioning will be used allowing a single questioner to continue for up to 30 seconds**
- **No authorship or sponsorship speeches are permitted**





Proposal #9: Restate NCFL Bidder's Instructions

Proposal #9. To restate the NCFL National Tournament Bidder Instructions in its entirety.

NCFL Tournament Director & NCFL Event Planner

See separate document on the ncfl.org website





Discussions

See next pages for each Discussion item.

Following discussion:

#1-The Executive Council will further discuss the overall idea of middle school competition at their Winter meeting

#2-3 (Protest Committee seeking guidance)

#2- While the Protest Committee's issues arise here, it would be good to consider publishing their report for all members to see. By-laws still require Diocese representation at the Fall Meeting. Executive Council to task the Local League Liaison to reach out to those not in attendance to ensure proper compliance with rules regarding reading minutes, etc...

#3- May require future proposed by-law changes. Directors should think about it and send thoughts to the Executive Council to discuss at their Winter meeting.

#4- Similar to above, requires further detailed thought. Possible consideration of a Committee to explore this and similar issues.



Discussion Item #1: NCFL for Middle Schools

New Business Discussion Item #1. To allow NCFL Middle School NCFL Membership and to hold an NCFL Middle School National Online Tournament

LeAnne Schmidt, Detroit

Several schools and leagues have asked about NCFL supporting Middle School teams.

The Executive Council should develop rules for membership, and establish guidelines and a plan for running an NCFL Middle School National Online Tournament. Report back to the Fall Meeting 2024 recommending appropriate Constitution & By-Laws Amendments for implementation.



Discussion Item #2

New Business Discussion Item #2. Pieces approved/accepted by the Local Diocesan League, do not mean they are/will be accepted at the National Tournament.

The Protest Committee

The vast majority of our protests this year regarded using drama in prose. Our rules are clear and they put the onus on the coach/student to prove what they are reading is prose if questioned. I think the consensus of our group is that no changes in rules are needed. If there is a way to reinforce that coaches/students should read the rules of the events in which they qualify to Nationals - it would be great. But again I think we do all we can. Perhaps we need some statement that just because a piece goes through a qualifying tournament, it does not mean that the National rules have been applied. Getting through the Diocese is not a defense against protest at Nationals.

The use of a piece of literature in a Local Diocesan League tournament does not mean that National League rules have been applied to it. Getting through the Diocese with a piece is not a defense against protest at Nationals.



Discussion Item #3: “Single Work”

New Business Discussion Item #3. Definition of “single work”

The Protest Committee

This is a fairness issue to which we need to give some thought. In the DP and DUO events when we indicate that the presentation should be from a “single published play,” “single work,” - do multiple episodes from a show meet our definition? As web shows get shorter and shorter - with multiple episodes providing the “rising action” “climax” and “falling action” - not to mention television series, etc. it is just a matter of time until we have to rule on this. Being able to select from multiple episodes would seem to give a competitor an unfair advantage over someone who sticks to one single episode. But a lot that is being written in series form - includes the “climax” in the 3rd or 4th episode of a 6 part series. Is BRIDGERTON a single work - or 16 single works (8 episodes over 2 seasons)?

Do cuttings that draw from multiple episodes and/or multiple seasons of the same show constitute a “single work” for the purposes of our definitions?



Discussion Item #4: Forms of Literature

New Business Discussion Item #4. Forms of “literature”

The Protest Committee

There are always new sources being developed which may or may not fit our rules. The discussion came up about podcasts at Nationals - some of which are “dramatic” in nature and some of which are “informational.”

Are there new sources of “literature” that we should be cognizant of?



New Business

- TBD



Due Date & Fees Reminders

- School Membership Forms and \$60 Fees due to Mike by 12/20/2023
 - With 10% penalty, \$66 total, by 1/15/2024
 - With 20% penalty, \$72 total, by 1/31/2024
- Tournament Entry Fees are \$75 per person per entry, due by 4/15/2024
 - Students staying outside the hotel block pay **double the fee**
- Tournament Registration, due by 4/15/2024
 - Late entries accepted through 4/30/2024 at \$25 per day
- Extemp Topic Areas to Katy by 1/10/2024
 - Extemp questions to Katy between 2/15/2024 and 4/15/2024
- LD & PF Debate Topic Areas to Tom by 1/10/2024
- Biennial Elections
 - Nomination Forms for Officer Positions due to Ann Marie by 1/10/2024
 - Volunteers for Nominations Committee due to Ann Marie by 11/15/2024
- Richard Gaudette Service Award
 - Nominations to Ann Marie & Catherine by 1/10/2024



Next Meetings

Next Spring Meeting:

Saturday, May 18, 2024
Via ZOOM

NCFL Nationals 2024:

Saturday - Sunday, May 25-26, 2024
Chicago, IL

Next Fall Meeting:

September 27 - 28, 2024
Milwaukee, WI

Meeting adjourned 11:44AM