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# NCFL Diocesan League Directors Spring Meeting 2024 May 18



This Meeting is Virtual  
(But we'll see you in Chicago soon!)

(This document will be posted to [NCFL.org](http://NCFL.org) after the conclusion of this meeting)



# Agenda

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- ❖ Welcome - Ann Marie Duffy (President)
- ❖ Invocation - Kieran Larkin
- ❖ Executive Council Elections
- ❖ Gaudette Award
- ❖ Tournament Updates - Roland Burdett (Tournament Director)
- ❖ Upcoming National Tournaments
- ❖ Fall Directors Meeting
- ❖ Questions



# Elections

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## Slate for NCFL Executive Council

- ❖ President – Tommy Beck
- ❖ First Vice President - Katy Cecil
- ❖ Second Vice President - Marc Rischitelli
- ❖ Executive Secretary & Treasurer - Mike Colletti
- ❖ Publicity Director - Carolyn Cook



# Gaudette Award



Mr. Richard Gaudette of Natick High School



# Gaudette Award



Roberta Hyland, Former President NCFL  
Nationals, Washington, DC 2018



# NCFL 2024 - Tournament Updates



- ❖ Competition Sites
- ❖ Tabroom Locations
- ❖ Logistics
- ❖ Health & Safety
- ❖ Tabroom & LiveDocs
- ❖ Posting Party
- ❖ Mass
- ❖ Service Project
- ❖ League and School Check-In
- ❖ Registration Assistance
- ❖ Before & After Awards
- ❖ ByLaws Updates (& Reminders)
- ❖ CHATgpt et al (Reminder)
- ❖ Observers
- ❖ Judge Training
- ❖ Getting Help
- ❖ Next Steps



# Competition Sites



## ❖ Saturday:

- Policy → Palmer House Hilton - 17 E Monroe Street
- LD, PF, & Congress → Hilton Chicago - 720 S Michigan Avenue
- Speech
  - Extemp → Palmer House - 17 E Monroe Street
  - OO → Roosevelt University - 430 S Michigan Avenue/425 S Wabash Avenue
  - DEC → Columbia College - 33 E. Ida B. Wells Drive
  - DUO → East-West University - 829 S Wabash Avenue (Enter thru Wabash Only)
  - DP, OI → Jones College Prep - 606 S State Street

## ❖ Sunday:

- PF & LD Elims → Palmer House
- Speech, Policy, & Congress Elims → Hilton Chicago



# Tab Room Locations - Saturday



- ❖ Policy @ Palmer House, Cresthill, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Extemp Prep @ Palmer House, State Ballroom + Grand Ballroom, Report at 7:15am
- ❖ Speech @ Hilton Chicago, Buckingham, Report at 7:30am
- ❖ LD @ Hilton Chicago, PDR #1 , Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Congress @ Hilton Chicago, PDR #2, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ PF @ Hilton Chicago, Mobley, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Protest, Hilton Chicago, PDR#3, Report at 9:00am
- ❖ Equity Advocates, Hilton Chicago, PDR#4, Report at 8:00am





# Tab Room Locations - Sunday



- ❖ Policy @ Hilton Chicago, PDR#1, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Speech @ Hilton Chicago, Buckingham, report at 8:00am
- ❖ Extemp Prep @ Hilton Chicago, Marquette, Report at 7:15am
- ❖ LD @ Palmer House, Cresthill , Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Congress @ Hilton Chicago, PDR #2, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ PF @ Palmer House, Harvard, Report at 6:45am
- ❖ Protest, Hilton Chicago, PDR #3, Report at 9:00am
- ❖ Equity Advocates, Hilton Chicago, PDR#4, Report at 8:00am



# Logistics



## ❖ Buses

- Limited Number Staged at Palmer House + Hilton Chicago
- All venues are walkable from either hotel
- Limited looping between hotels only
  - Saturday = 6:15am - 9:15am; 4:00pm - 12:15am
  - Sunday = 6:15am - 10:15pm
- ADA Buses will be available
  - ADA Bus Saturday = 6:15am - 5:30pm to all sites; 5:30pm - 12:15am between hotels
  - ADA Bus Sunday = 6:15am - 10:15pm

## ❖ Reminder: Please make sure all ADA Requests have been emailed to our Tournament Director

- Roland Burdett - [rburdett@NCFL.org](mailto:rburdett@NCFL.org)







## Map of Sites

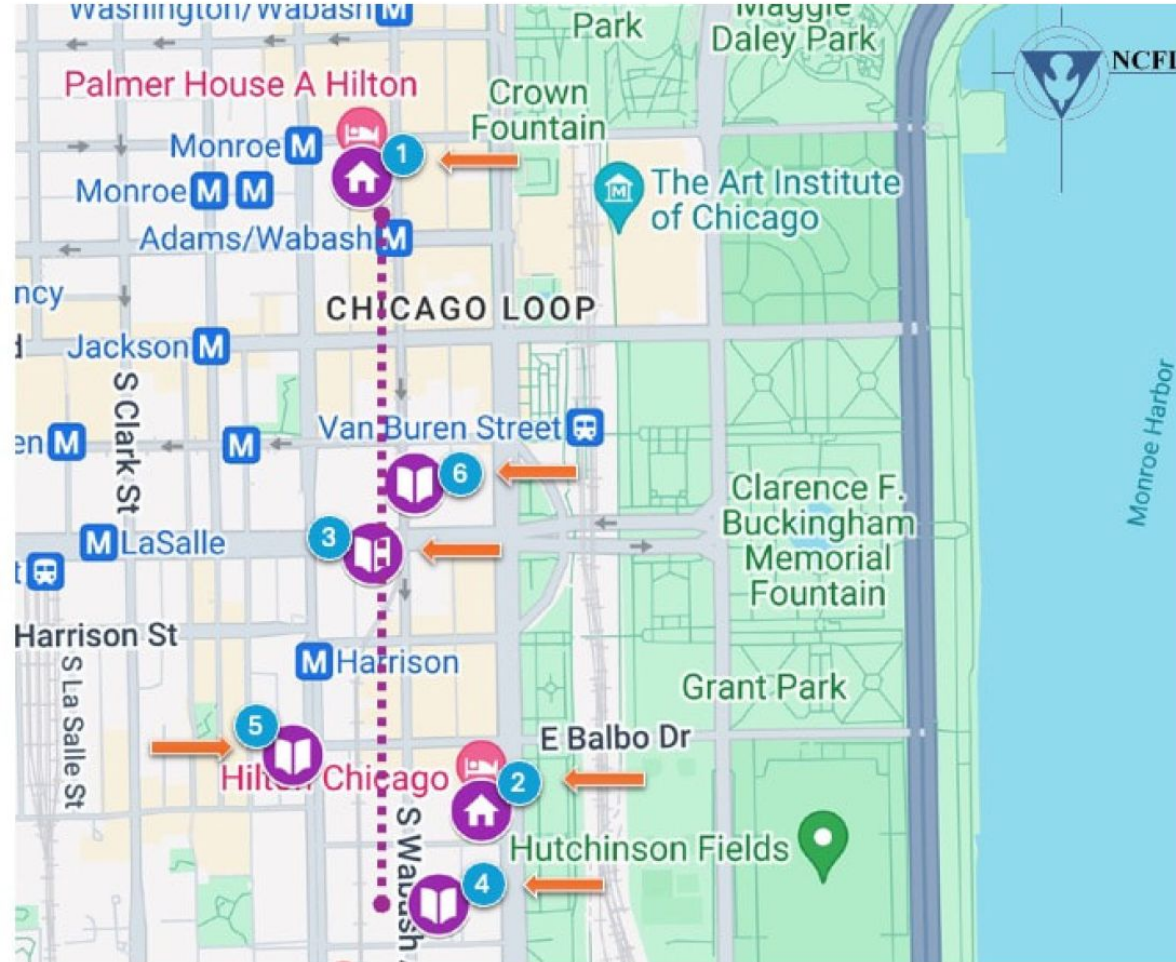
### NCFL 2024

#### Hotels

-  Palmer House a Hilton Hotel
-  Hilton Chicago

#### Schools

-  Columbia College Chicago
-  East-West University
-  Jones College Prep
-  Roosevelt University





# Logistics



## ❖ Internet

- Provided at All Sites
- Access instructions will be in the LiveDocs
- Do NOT use to stream video or music
- Reminder: competitors CANNOT connect to or communicate with persons outside the competition/prep room (including: coaches, assistants, teammates, etc.)



# Logistics



## ❖ Hotel Incidental Hold

➤ Incidentals will be turned off at both hotels

- If you want to charge incidentals to your room, you will need to ask them to turn them on, and you will need to provide a credit card at the front desk
- They will place a hold on your credit card in the amount of \$100 per room per night



# Logistics



## ❖ Wristband Pick-up

- ALL students, judges, observers, volunteers, + staff need them (Saturday + Sunday)
- Available Friday (10 am - 6pm) - outside Registration - Hilton Chicago, Boulevard A-C
- League Directors or Schools can pick up
- If you need extras for observers, stop by the pickup location and ask for the extras

## ❖ Lunch Ticket Pick-up

- Available Friday (10 am - 6pm) - outside Registration - Hilton Chicago, Boulevard A-C
- League Directors or Schools can pick up



# Logistics

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- ❖ Saturday Lunch Pick up with Tickets:
  - Roosevelt, Columbia, & Palmer House → Pick up at Roosevelt
    - Oratory, Dec, Extemp, + Policy
  
  - Jones, East-West Univ., & Hilton Chicago → Pick up at Jones
    - Duo, OI, DP, LD, PF, + Congress



# Logistics



- ❖ **2023 Fall Director's Meeting: Finance Committee Report**
  - Cost of food is high (and increasing each year), especially at hotels
  - Direction provided to Board + Events Planner: be creative with reducing costs
  - We want to provide for volunteers in Tab + for Judges
- ❖ **Tab Staff**
  - All Tabrooms will have coffee/pastry + afternoon snack (Saturday + Sunday)
  - All Tab Staff will be given \$60 each for lunches and supplemental snacks (covers Saturday + Sunday)
- ❖ **Judges = Lunch Saturday ONLY**
  - Coffee and pastries at hotels for one day can run well over \$10K
  - Chicago could provide lunches at a more reasonable cost
  - Lunch is a busy time for judges; finding lunch on their own could be time consuming
  - Free lunch tickets were available to order





# Health & Safety



- ❖ Masks Are Optional in Competition Spaces & Throughout the Tournament Weekend
  - May be worn by anyone at any time ... Students, Judges, Coaches, Staff
- ❖ Competitors can choose to wear their mask during their speech
  - Judges will not deduct points or make comments (in room or on ballot)
- ❖ If you are feeling sick or have symptoms, please consider wearing a mask or removing yourself from the tournament
- ❖ Up to date CDC Guidance can be found here:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0301-respiratory-virus.html>



# Tabroom & LiveDocs



- ❖ Tabroom Blasts will be used to update students and coaches real time for each event
  - Reminder: No text updates
- ❖ In addition, each Event will have LiveDocs
  - Pay attention to Event Specific updates in those
- ❖ Social Media and NCFLNationals.org will be updated as needed
  - #NCFL2024
  - All Social Media Updates through Facebook and Instagram



# Mass & Postings Party



- ❖ Mass
  - Palmer House - Grand Ballroom
  - 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Doors open at 8pm)
  
- ❖ Postings Party is BACK!
  - Hilton Chicago - Grand Ballroom
  - 9:30 pm - 12:00 am
  - Postings expected to be released ~10:30 pm at the Party + Online
    - We do post as soon as we are able after all protests are resolved and all results are triple checked



# Service Project

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## About Elyssa's Mission®

The community-based organization was founded in 2006 in honor of Elyssa, a bright, gifted and outgoing Chicagoland girl who bravely battled post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Elyssa's Mission® provides hands-on support to area public and private schools in order to educate students, staff, parents and guardians on how to recognize and assist those teens most at-risk. We have helped educate over one million students, staff and parents since inception.



<https://elyssasmission.org/make-a-donation-ncfl/>



# League and School Check-In



- ❖ Two-Tiered OnLine "Start of Tournament" Registration:
  - TIER ONE - Diocesan League Registration (Thursday, May 23 from 12pm-6pm):
    - Local League Directors will Email or Zoom into Registration Office
      - Confirm everything is set with Registration
      - Identify changes/drops
  - TIER TWO - School Online Check-in (Friday, May 24 from 10am-6pm):
    - School Coaches will click the "Here" Button on Tabroom.com
    - Coaches can email or Zoom into Registration Office with problems or questions
    - School Coaches and Judges should pick up Lunch Tickets at this time



# Registration Assistance



- ❖ Registration Assistance
  - Email = [ncfl@tabroom.com](mailto:ncfl@tabroom.com)
  - Zoom = Email Invite is coming
  - Physical Location = Hilton Chicago 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boulevard ABC
    - Thursday afternoon 12pm to 6pm
    - Friday, 10am to 6pm
  
- ❖ Note that the codes you currently see in Tabroom.com are NOT final
  - Do NOT distribute or depend on those
  - They will be finalized by Thursday morning



# Before & After Awards



- ❖ Before Awards - FlipGrid will be available
  - Competitors receiving trophies should record the pronunciation of their names on Sunday afternoon prior to Awards
  - A link will be sent Sunday morning
- ❖ Before Awards - Medals
  - Debate Medals for Double-Octo Finalists can be picked up in their event Tab Rooms
  - Congress Medals for Semi-Finalists can be picked up in the Congress Tab Room
  - Speech Medals for Octo Finalists can be picked up in Hilton Chicago, lobby level 8th Street North Office between 12pm and 2pm on Sunday
- ❖ After Awards - There will be NO Diocesan League Packets



# ByLaws Reminders & Updates



- ❖ Read the NCFL ByLaws & Ballots !!
  
- ❖ LD & PF:
  - Double-flighted on Saturday
  - Play-In Round Sunday morning
  
- ❖ Internet Connectivity allowed in Congress & Extemp Prep
  
- ❖ Smaller Congress Chambers, Breaking to Semis, then Finals:
  - Prelim Chambers will be 16-18 students
  - Top 5 from each clear to Semi-Finals
  - Three Semi-Final Chambers will be 18-20 students
  - Top 8 from each clear to Finals
  - Final Chamber will be 24 students





# ByLaws Reminders & Updates



- ❖ Policy Elims
  - Must have: 4 preliminary wins or at least 10 preliminary ballots to advance to Double octo-final; up to a maximum of 32 teams
- ❖ Extemp - Use of Timers
  - “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.”
- ❖ Congress
  - New Congress Manual, be sure all your League’s entries and judges have read



# CHATgpt (Reminder for 2024)



## NCFL Statement on the Use of ChatGPT and Similar AI Tools

NCFL will not restrict the use of ChatGPT, Bard, CoPilot or other similar AI-based research tools in Extemp Prep, Student Congress, or Debate events. These can be legitimate research tools. However, given that some of these systems lack current data and often do not cite exact sources or evidence, using them directly for speech preparation will be challenging.

These tools are currently being used in schools and workplaces and usage will only increase as new versions and options are released. We need to teach students to use them, as first drafts or idea generators, and how to get to a finished product on their own after using them for a first draft.

While we encourage all coaches, judges, students to carefully review the NCFL Bylaws prior to the National Competition, we do want to specifically remind coaches and students of some pertinent NCFL rules, set forth in the Bylaws, to keep in mind when working with these tools:

- In Extemporaneous Speaking, rule #1 states, "The speech should be an original synthesis by the contestant," and continues, "The speaker is responsible for the ethical use of source information."
- In Original Oratory, rule #3 states, "The speech must be one that has been composed by the student delivering it."
- Students using these tools should cite them as a source and judges will be allowed to consider if a student's sources are well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient when determining ranks.

As a general reminder, we have no control over whether our host facilities will have blocked access to these tools (and other websites) on their network routers. If your preparation depends on access to these tools, you should plan on using a private hotspot to access the internet.



# Observers (Updated for 2024)



## ❖ On Saturday:

- NO observers in PF, LD, or Extemp (cubicles)
- Observers are allowed in all other events:
  - ONLY with the permission of ALL Competitors & Judges in the Room
  - Anyone can say NO without penalty or prejudice
- If you are competing you CANNOT observe any other rounds in your event

## ❖ On Sunday:

- Observers are allowed, except in the early Elims in cubicles
- No permission is required
- If you are still competing you CANNOT observe rounds in your event until you are eliminated

## ❖ **Limited Seating on Sunday for all Rounds: Observers must be seated in a chair**



# Judge Training

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- ❖ Online Speech Judge Training
  - Wednesday, May 22 (7-8pm CDT)
  - Notifications will be sent via Tabroom
- ❖ Ballot Test on Friday for All Judges
  - All events
  - Notifications will be sent via Tabroom
- ❖ Equity & Bias Training for all Judges will be available this week
  - Recommended for all Judges
  - Email will be sent to Coaches and Judges via Tabroom



# Getting Help



- ❖ Chicago Host Volunteers will be in **BLUE Shirts**
- ❖ Judges or Students with Missing Judge, Missing Kid, Conflict, or Room Problems can text their Tab Team directly
  - Numbers in LiveDocs
- ❖ No “Dance Cards” distributed
  - Everything is Online





# Next Steps



- ❖ Scheduled Activities This Week, **All Times are Central Daylight Time:**
  - May 22 (7pm-8pm) = Speech Judge's Training, Online
  - May 23 (12pm-6pm) = Diocesan League Registration, Online
  - May 24 (10am-6pm)= School Online Check-in
  - May 24 (10am-6pm) = School Lunch Ticket + Wristband Pick-Up, Hilton Chicago, 2nd floor Boulevard Foyer
  - May 24 (~6pm) = Flip for OI Posted on Speech Live Doc
  - May 24 (~8pm) = LiveDocs Updated with any last minute announcements
  - May 24 (8pm-9pm) = In-Person (optional) Speech Judge Q&A [Hilton at Continental Ballroom A + Palmer House at Wilson Room]
  - May 25 (~7am) = Congress Chambers Released, and all Debate Pairings Released



# Upcoming National Tournaments

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- ❖ 2025 – Chicago, IL
- ❖ 2026 – Washington, DC
- ❖ 2027 – Minneapolis, MN (rescheduled from 2021)
- ❖ 2028 – Bid in Progress
- ❖ 2029 – Open for bid



# Fall Directors Meeting



## ❖ Fall Meeting

- In-Person preferred, but we will provide a virtual connection also
- Bylaws sets meeting for last weekend of September
  - September 27-28, 2024
- Milwaukee, WI (thanks John Knetzger & Milwaukee CFL)

## ❖ Finance Committee

- Volunteers Requested
- Email me directly: [annybird@gmail.com](mailto:annybird@gmail.com)
- Report Due at Fall 2025 Director's Meeting with any recommendations





# Questions

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## ❖ Questions from the Floor