NCFL Diocesan Directors Meeting Minutes

Minneapolis, Minnesota • September 25th • Skyway A/B

Meeting information and attendance

Called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Katy Cecil.

Executive Council listed in the notes: Katy Cecil, President; Marc Rischitelli, First Vice President; Carolyn Cook, Second Vice President; Crawford Leavoy, Publicity Director; Greg Cunningham, Treasurer; and Susan Peebles, Executive Secretary.

Others listed: Ann Marie Duffy, Charlie Sloat, Frank Riccobono, Scott Pollack, and Sarah Donnelly.

Diocesan directors listed as attending in person: Dave Long (Allentown); Mark Deaton (Arlington); Steve Sprouse (Baltimore); Greg Cunningham (Boston); Adam King (Brooklyn); Mike Colletti (Chicago); Susan Peebles (Erie); Carolyn Cook (Kansas City); Scott Peterson (La Crosse); Scott Johnston (Lafayette); Eric Cecil (Louisville); Jonathan Knetzger (Milwaukee); Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans); Tommy Beck (New York); Traci Lowe (Palm Beach); Ashley Carter (Pensacola); Crawford Leavoy (Raleigh); Sandra Wheeler (Richmond); Deb Krotz (Salina); Katrina Joyce (Scranton); Jason Meyers (St. Paul); Ann Marie Duffy (Washington); and Travis Roether (Winona).

Diocesan directors listed as attending via Zoom:

Others listed in attendance via Zoom:: Roland Burdett, Tournament Director, Amanda Parker

Opening and officer reports

Jason and Travis reviewed dinner and optional local activities. Tommy Beck delivered the invocation, and Susan Peebles conducted roll call. President Cecil thanked Tommy Beck and outgoing treasurer Mike Colletti for their service, welcomed Crawford Leavoy to the Board and Susan Peebles and Greg Cunningham back to it, and thanked the Washington and Arlington hosts and volunteers for the 2026 tournament. Service award nominations are due January 10.

First Vice President Marc Rischitelli requested extemporaneous speaking questions from members. Topic areas are due January 10, followed by a two-month question submission period. Second Vice President Carolyn Cook requested topic area suggestions by January 10 and volunteers for the online process. Policy debate topic votes are due October 2; a secondary ballot will follow.

Crawford Leavoy thanked Amanda and Frank for their diligent work at Nationals 2026. We are currently working on website updates along with coming up with a plan to start to think about how to communicate with local media about our upcoming tournament in Minneapolis.

Executive Secretary Susan Peebles said a survey about local league operations and Board questions will be circulated by email in the coming weeks.

Tournament director report

Tournament Director Roland Burdett joining online, reported that the 2026 Washington, DC, tournament ran smoothly and thanked the Washington and Arlington volunteers, tab chairs, and tab staff. He noted strong hotel block performance and participation at approximately 80% of the 2014 Chicago tournament level. Internet access and electrical service exceeded budget expectations; convention center lunch lines were also a challenge. Further work includes the Open Door Policy, content warnings, judge panel diversity, ballot comments, and evaluation of an AI-supported approach used for Policy Debate ballot comments.

For 2027, a Diocesan Directors meeting is planned for Saturday, May 22. Judge training, ballot testing, and equity and bias training are planned during tournament week. Two-stage check-in will continue, with leagues checking in before schools on Friday. SpeakPipe will again support name pronunciation.

Future tournament sites

Minneapolis 2027: The convention center will host most competition on Saturday, and all competition on Sunday,, Mass, Postings Party, and awards. Oral Interpretation is planned at the Hyatt on Saturday. Duo and Dramatic Performance rounds will use hard-walled rooms at the Convention Center, with overflow as needed to the Hyatt, Sheraton, and Hilton. Early Elim rounds or play-in rounds may use pipe and drape cubicles on Sunday. Directors raised concerns about noise; organizers expect better acoustics than in Washington, DC, while acknowledging that the setup is imperfect. Hosts described light rail from the airport, the downtown skyway, and nearby dining and shopping.

Lafayette 2028: The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is expected to host rounds, with area high schools available as backups. Transportation planning is underway because hotels may be dispersed and local air capacity is limited. The local host reported discussions with the visitors bureau about expanded air service.

Hosting bids remain open for 2029, 2030, and 2031. Interested leagues were invited to contact Sarah Donnelly or Roland Burdett.

Treasurer report and financial discussion

Former treasurer Mike Colletti reported a net loss of $22,537.42 for the prior fiscal year and a remaining balance of $8,407, which he described as including a $20,000 payment for the coming year's trophies. He also reported $10,254.85 held in the Lynda Luce savings account. Treasurer Greg Cunningham said the 2026 tournament cost approximately $150 per student while collecting approximately $120 per student. He warned that another comparable loss would be difficult to absorb and described a proposed $20 surcharge on the following day's agenda and his preference for a $75 per-student surcharge.

Directors discussed potential effects of higher fees on smaller leagues and Title I Schools. Sarah Donnelly cited $43,000 in convention center internet charges under a contract negotiated before internet use in rounds became standard. Greg noted that future dues revenue depends on how leagues respond to quota changes; his illustrative upper scenario yielded approximately $25,000 more.

Motion: Barbara Fontenot moved to accept the financial report; Eric Cecil seconded. The motion passed.

Finance committee and organizational structure

Ann Marie Duffy said no formal Finance Committee report was presented. She described work with pro bono legal counsel to resolve tax and corporate compliance issues, including the lapsed federal tax status, two IRS identification numbers, and missing Massachusetts filings. The proposed path, as described in the discussion, is to bring the existing organization into compliance, dissolve it, and incorporate a new educational entity in Delaware. A name change and revisions to governing documents were discussed as ways to reduce confusion about the organization's status and improve access to grants and donations. Speakers said local leagues' own names and incorporation would not be changed by the national action.

The proposed schedule was to send name suggestions to Katy Cecil by Thanksgiving, discuss options in winter, and vote on a name in the winter.

Motion: Ashley Carter moved, and Eric Cecil seconded, an authorization concerning the proposed reorganization. Following discussion, Dave Long moved the previous question and Barbara Fontenot seconded; the notes record a 34–7 vote to end debate. The substantive motion then passed 39–2.

Recess and follow-up

President Cecil announced that the meeting would resume at 9:00 a.m. Central Time the following day. Mike Colletti moved to recess; Ashley Carter seconded.

NCFL Saturday Diocesan Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • Minneapolis, Minnesota • September 26th • Skyway A/B

Meeting information and attendance

President Katy Cecil called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Central Time. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m. after a motion by Eric Cecil, seconded by Ashley Carter.

Executive Council listed: Katy Cecil, President; Marc Rischitelli, First Vice President; Carolyn Cook, Second Vice President; Crawford Leavoy, Publicity Director; Greg Cunningham, Treasurer; and Susan Peebles, Executive Secretary. Ann Marie Duffy and Sarah Donnelly were also listed.

Directors listed in person: Dave Long (Allentown); Mark Deaton (Arlington); Steve Sprouse (Baltimore); Greg Cunningham (Boston); Adam King (Brooklyn); Mike Colletti (Chicago); Susan Peebles (Erie); Carolyn Cook (Kansas City); Scott Peterson (La Crosse); Scott Johnston (Lafayette); Eric Cecil (Louisville); Jonathan Knetzger (Milwaukee); Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans); Tommy Beck (New York); Traci Lowe (Palm Beach); Ashley Carter (Pensacola); Crawford Leavoy (Raleigh); Sandra Wheeler (Richmond); Deb Krotz (Salina); Katrina Joyce (Scranton); Jason Meyer (St. Paul); Ann Marie Duffy (Washington); and Travis Roether (Winona).

Directors listed online: Ellen Nary (Albany); Shane Cole (Biloxi); Alexander Davidson (Detroit); David Harper (Green Bay); Gary Peters (Indianapolis); Darin Maier (Jackson); William Turner (Los Angeles); Mary Shick (Miami); Jim Regan (Newark); Dave Camous (Orlando); Chris Berdnik (Philadelphia); Beth Young (Pittsburgh); Amy Cody (Rochester); Eamonn Cummings (Rockville Centre); Chasity Hance (Springfield-Cape Girardeau); Marna Weston (St. Augustine); Jym Froelich (St. Petersburg-Tampa); Sue Hayes (Wilmington); and Chris Sheldon (Worcester).

Opening remarks and tournament surcharge

President Cecil acknowledged directors' concerns about the financial and tax information presented Friday and said the Board would improve communication. She described a possible fiscal year change from an August to a July end date to give directors more timely information to prepare for the fall meeting. Carolyn Cook framed the fee proposals as difficult steps intended to sustain student access and the tournament.

The agenda proposed a $20 surcharge. Greg Cunningham said projected tournament costs called for a larger amount and recommended $75 per student. Ashley Carter proposed changing the surcharge amount to $75, and Ann Marie Duffy accepted it as a friendly amendment. Directors discussed affordability, local league assistance, possible cost reductions, fundraising limits, and tournament solvency. Tommy Beck moved the previous question, Ann Marie Duffy seconded, and the motion to close debate passed.

Action: The directors approved a $75 surcharge in addition to the $100 registration fee, for a total of $175 per student. The raw notes record 31 in favor, 5 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

Membership fees and quotas

Marc Rischitelli presented a revised package of membership fee and quota provisions that had been tabled the previous year. He said the proposal lowered some fees from the prior draft, added a seventh tier, gave local leagues more flexibility, and moved away from frozen quotas. Directors discussed school membership forms, school tracking, recruitment incentives, home schools, middle schools, local control over entry, voting weight, and the financial effect on small and large leagues. The discussion indicated that school forms would no longer be required for national membership under the proposal, while tournament registration and local league practices would remain separate.

Tommy Beck then moved the previous question; the motion passed 34–1. The notes record a subsequent straw poll before a weighted vote of 37–2–1 on the package.

Oral Interpretation movement bylaw

Traci Lowe presented a proposed change to Oral Interpretation movement language. Directors debated whether replacing advisory language with a prohibition on walking would create disqualification concerns, how walking should be defined, and how the event differs from Dramatic Performance and Program Oral Interpretation. A

proposed amendment addressing “walking or platform movement” was debated after discussion of excessive movement and judges’ rankings. The previous question passed on the amendment; the raw notes lists a vote of 33–5. The amendment failed, with a recorded aggregate tally of 7–26–3.

After further discussion, Ann Marie Duffy moved the previous question and Travis Roether seconded. The directors voted on Traci Lowe’s original proposal to prohibit walking during performances. The proposal failed by a weighted vote of 62–122–4.

Autoqualification proposal

Traci Lowe proposed allowing certain returning students who had advanced at the previous Grand National Tournament to qualify automatically outside their league’s regular quota, with registration fees still due. The discussion clarified that the intended first application would allow eligible 2026 participants to return in 2027. Friendly changes discussed in the notes expanded the debate threshold from semifinals to quarterfinals and addressed Congress placements. Directors discussed partner events and how to designate which entries would count toward sweepstakes; implementation in Tabroom remained to be researched.

Adam King moved the previous question; Barbara Fontenot seconded. The aggregate vote to close debate was recorded as 37–0–1 as a straw poll before a weighted vote.

Informative and Impromptu Speaking proposal

Mark Deaton proposed adding Informative and Impromptu Speaking to Grand Nationals. Discussion covered opportunities to grow speech, possible revenue, rooms, judges, food, and host capacity. Crawford Leavoy moved to refer the proposal to a committee for further study, and Ann Marie Duffy seconded. The referral passed 33–1. Interested directors were asked to contact Crawford Leavoy and Roland Burdett.

Tournament operations and future governance

Directors were asked to send Roland Burdett a preference for possible middle school tournament dates of April 2–3 or April 16–17. They discussed asking attendees to put phones away during awards except for photos. For Lafayette, they discussed airport transfers and possible information from the convention and visitors bureau; no transportation commitment was made.

Roland described Congress tabulation and judge-pool questions under review, including Saturday and Sunday parliamentarian coverage, clean judges for elimination rounds, and future language changes. Ann Marie Duffy outlined planned Executive Council work on governing documents, officer responsibilities, advisory roles, and procedures for meetings and votes outside the fall gathering. President Cecil said the Council expected to meet every other month and share updates with directors, with meetings anticipated in November, January, and March. No additional motion on these topics is recorded.

WIFI is Network: HYATT Meeting - PW: NCFL2026

NCFL Diocesan League Directors
Fall Meeting 2026
September 25 - 26
Minneapolis, MN

Agenda
Proposals
Discussion Items

Leagues Attending

- In-Person:
  - ?? Leagues

- Via Zoom:
  - ?? Leagues

Agenda

Invocation

Roll-Call

Officer’s Reports

NCFL 2026 Washington DC Report

NCFL 2027 Minneapolis Report

Finance Committee Report & Recommendations

Constitution Amendments Proposed

By-Laws Amendments Proposed

Discussion Items

New Business Items

Reminders & Next Meetings

Invocation

Reports of the Officers

- President – Katy Cecil
- 1st VP – Marc Rischitelli
- 2nd VP – Carolyn Cook
- Publicity Dir – Crawford Leavoy

- Secretary - Susan Peebles
- Treasurer's Report – Mike Colletti & Greg Cunningham

- Tournament Director – Roland Burdett

President's Report

- Thanks to Jason Meyer and Travis Rother for hosting us

- Thanks again to Mike Colletti for his years of service
- Thanks to Tommy Beck for his service on the Board

- Welcome to Crawford Leavoy as our newest member of the Executive Council
- Welcome back to Susan and Greg

- Thanks again to all the coaches and volunteers from WASDL for Hosting NCFL 2026

- Richard Gaudette Service Award
  - Nominations to Katy by 1/10/2027

First Vice-President's Report

- Thanks for all of the Extemp Questions that we used in 2026
- Extemp Topic Area Suggestions to Marc by 1/10/2027
- Topic Areas will be announced on/about January 31
  - Then Extemp questions to Marc between 2/15/2027 and 4/15/2027
  - email to Extemp@NCFL.org

Second Vice-President's Report

- LD & PF Topic Area Suggestions to Carolyn by 1/10/2027
  - email to: CarolynCook@smsd.org
- Thanks to last year's committee
- If you're interested in serving on this year's committee, please let Carolyn know
- Policy Debate Topic voting input to Carolyn by next Friday, October 2 !!

Publicity Director's Report

- Website updates continue
- Thanks again to Amanda Parker and Frank Riccobono for their help with LiveDocs and the websites
- All suggestions are welcome

Secretary's Report

- League Survey to gather data that will help us identify and better serve your needs as Local Leagues and Directors

Tournament Director's Report

- 2026 Wrap-Up: Washington, DC

The tournament went very smoothly:

- Thank you to all the Washington Arlington CFL Leaders and Volunteers!
- Thank you to all the Tab Chairs and Tab Staff!
    - Pleased to report there were NO errors this year
    - We appreciate your cooperation and dedication to the Front/Back-of-House approach, we got very positive feedback
- Thank you to all the Coaches, Judges, and Students who helped us get through everything.

Numbers for DC 2026 vs Chicago 2025:

We continued to recover, marginally. We were at 80% of Chicago 2014, our Pre-Pandemic High
Dioceses – 60 in DC vs 63 in Chicago
Schools – 422 in DC vs 427 in Chicago
Students – 2218 in DC vs 2171 in Chicago
Judges – 1613 in DC vs 1302 in Chicago
Total People – 3831 in DC vs 3473 in Chicago

Some Things We Need to Work On:

- We need to continue to work on ways to fully implement our "Open Door" Policy and handle Content Warnings.
- How to better implement Diversity-Enhanced Judge Panels
- Organize a Ballot Review Committee working across all events

Things We'll Keep Doing In 2027

- Front-of-House & Back-of-House Approach across all Tab Staffs
- An Informational Diocesan Directors meeting will be held virtually on the Saturday before NCFL 2027, May 22.
- OnLine Judge Training and a Ballot Test may be held during the week preceding NCFL 2027.
- Equity & Bias Training for Judges may be made available during the week preceding NCFL 2027.
- 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 2027, May 27 - 28.
- Use of SpeakPipe to allow students to record their names to help with pronunciation during Awards

NCFL 2027 Minneapolis Information

May 29 - 30, 2027

Competition Sites

Hyatt Regency

Hilton Minneapolis

Minneapolis Convention Center

Hotels

Hyatt Regency

Hilton Minneapolis

Hilton Garden Inn Downtown

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Marriott City Center

Sheraton Convention Center

Royal Sonesta Downtown

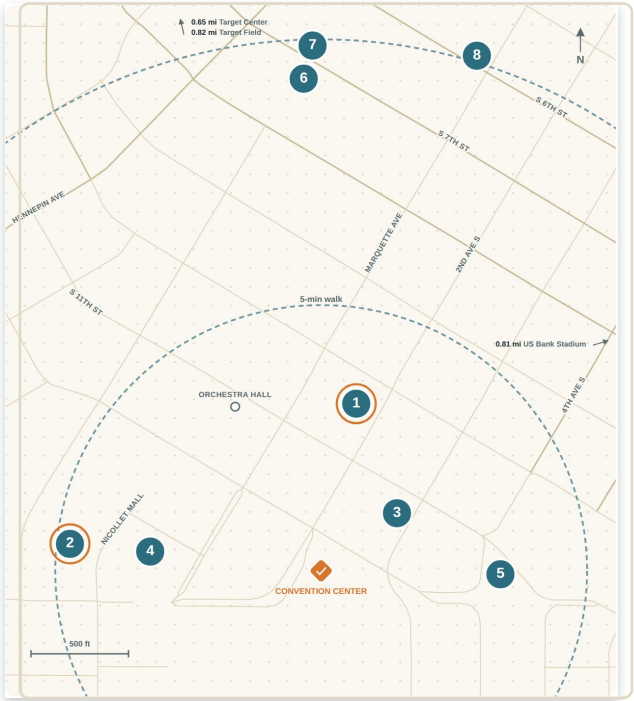
Westin Minneapolis

NCFL 2027 · MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Tournament Locations

MAY 29–30, 2027

The 8 hotels in the tournament housing block, with estimated walk time to each **Competition Site** — the Convention Center, Hilton, and Hyatt.



Streets are real OpenStreetMap geometry, oriented true north. A pin circled in orange is also a Competition Site.

COMPETITION SITES

		Conv Ctr	Hilton	Hyatt
✓	**Minneapolis Convention Center** 1301 2nd Ave S · COMPETITION SITE	–	3	5
1	**Hilton Minneapolis** 1001 S Marquette Ave · COMPETITION SITE	3	–	6
2	**Hyatt Regency Minneapolis** 1300 Nicollet Mall · COMPETITION SITE	5	6	–

OTHER HOTELS

		Conv Ctr	Hilton	Hyatt
3	**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Minneapolis–Dwtn (Conv Ctr)** 225 S 11th St	2	2	6
4	**Sheraton Minneapolis Downtown Convention Center** 1313 Nicollet Mall	3	5	2
5	**Hilton Garden Inn Minneapolis Downtown** 1101 4th Ave S	3	4	8
6	**The Royal Sonesta Minneapolis Downtown** 35 S 7th St	9	6	10
7	**Minneapolis Marriott City Center** 30 S 7th St	10	7	10
8	**The Westin Minneapolis** 88 South 6th St	10	7	12

To learn more, visit **ncflnationals.org**.

NCFL 2027 - What's Where When

Thursday & Friday:

Bracelet & Lunch Ticket Pickup @ Hyatt or Hilton, still TBD
Diocesan & School Registration Check-In, Questions, Problems @ Hyatt or Hilton, still TBD

Saturday:

Policy, LD, PF Debate Prelims @ Convention Center, Exhibit Hall Floor Cubicles
Student Congress Prelims @ Convention Center, Rooms
Ext Prep @ Convention Center, Room
Extemp, Declamation, Original Oratory Prelims @ Convention Center, Exhibit Hall Floor Cubicles
Oral Interp Prelims @ Hyatt
Dramatic Performance & Duo Interp Prelims @ Convention Center, Rooms
(Possible overflow out to Hilton & Sheraton as needed)
Mass @ Convention Center
Postings Party @ Convention Center

Sunday:

ALL Elims @ Convention Center
Policy, LD, PF Debate start in Cubicles, move into rooms for Octos, Quarters, Semis, Finals
Congress in Rooms
DEC, DP, DUO, EXT, OI, OO in Rooms, though EXT and OO will start with Octos in Cubicles
Awards @ Convention Center

Future Tournaments

- 2028 – Lafayette, LA

- ***2029 - 2030 - 2031 are OPEN for bidding***

Treasurer’s Report

Thanks again to Mike Colletti !!

Financial Statement, 2025 - 2026

2025-2026 NCFL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance 09/01/2025	51107.18	**2025-26 Operating Expenses**		**2026 Tournament Expenses**		**2026 Site Charge Breakdown**			
Receipts	329943.50	Postage/Shipping	375.00	Insurance	7601.00	Site Charges - Convention Center	186811.04	Freeman	76205.85
Total	381050.68	Technology/Web*/Zoom	573.81	Technology/Web**/Zoom	0.00			HiTech	52637.50
Operating Expenses	22035.99	Fall Meeting - Cleveland	3142.87	Tabroom Charge - NSDA	1728.00			Smart City	43264.1
Tourney Expenses	350607.39	Site Visits - D.C. (Fall, '25)	1496.13	Site Charges - Convention Center	206973.50			CES Security	5032.71
Total Expenses	372643.38	Winter Meeting - Remote	0.00	Site Charges - Marriott	37893.24			Aramark Cleaning	6410.88
Balance 08/31/2026	8407.30	Event Planner	11756.70	Site Charges - Westin	17297.90			Med Faculty Assoc	2810.00
Net Loss	-22537.42	Spring Meeting - Remote	0.00	Judge Breakfast - Conv Ctr	12265.00			Events DC	450.00
		Executive Council	4656.48	Tab/Staff food	15267.08				
Receipts		Bank Service Fees	35.00	Awards/Medals/Shipping	46951.90	Site Charges - Marriott	37893.24	Encore	20162.46
Membership Dues	47530.00	NFHS Debate Topic Mtg	0.00	Wristbands	510.95			Hotel Charges	17730.78
Membership Savings	3578.00	NFHS Forensic Summit '25	0.00	Tourney Bussing	0.00				
Middle School Tourney	6574.00	**NCFL Operating Expenses**	22035.99	Posting Party	750.00	Site Charges - Westin	17297.90	Audio/Visual	12372.30
Tourney Registration	269665.00	**NCFL Tourney Expenses**	350607.39	Mass	500.00			Catering	4651.15
Block Surcharge				Printing - Red Cards	383.00			Room Charges	274.45
Judge Fines	2350.00	**Total Expenses**	372643.38	Office Supplies	535.32				
Pins	0.00			Tabroom Consulting	0.00				
Misc-ConfDirect	246.50	* NCFL.org		Host Gifts (for 2024-2026)	1380.50				
		** NCFLNationals.org		Miscellaneous Charges - Marriott	570.00				
Total Receipts	329943.50								
Paid forward:		**Lynda Luce Fund Balance:**							
for NCFL '26 AwardTec	20000.00	10,254.65		**Total Tourney Expenses**	350607.39	**Total Site Charges**	242002.18		242002.18

Finance Committee Report

PASSES !!!

- Next Formal Report due in September 2027

- Ann Marie is working with a legal team, Mike and Greg, to recover our 501(c)(3) non-profit status
  - Will require dissolving National Catholic Forensic League
  - Will require re-organizing as a new entity
    - This does NOT change our history or our values
    - But does require building a new platform for the future
    - Including a Name Change
      - Send your suggestions to Katy by Thanksgiving !
  - Requires a ***Motion authorizing the Executive Council to take all necessary actions to dissolve the NCFL, reconstitute a new NCFL entity, and file all the appropriate paperwork with the State of Delaware, Massachusetts, and IRS***

Recess Friday Night, NLT 7pm

Constitution Amendment Proposals

No stand-alone amendments proposed

Note that the League Based Quotas Proposal does include both By-Laws and Constitution Amendments wrapped together

By-Laws Amendment Proposals

#1. Surcharge for Minneapolis Registration fees, like DC
#2. Change to League-Based Quota System and Dues
#3. No Walking in Oral Interp
#4. Automatic Qualification to NCFL Nationals
#5. Add Impromptu and Informative as NCFL Events

By-Laws #1: Add Minneapolis 2027 Surcharge

Proposal #1. *By-Laws Amendment:*

From NCFL Finance Committee

PASSES !!!

Article II, Section B, 2.

For the NCFL Grand National Tournament 2027 there will be an additional surcharge levied of ~~$20~~ 75 per student. This fee is the same regardless of whether the student is staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Block or not. This is a surcharge imposed for this year only and is planned to be removed for future years.

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 1 of 9

PASSES !!!

Constitution, Article III, Section B.

1. Application for membership shall be made t~~o the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE~~***directly*** through ~~the~~ ***an established Local*** Diocesan League ~~where such a League exists. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Council as necessary to conform to state requirements~~. Local Diocesan Leagues ***have the authority to set local membership application rules and for the management of their membership and*** may exclude from membership a school within its geographical boundaries only for just cause. Such exclusion from a local Diocesan League shall result in loss of membership in the LEAGUE.

~~3. An individual school within a diocese where the diocese does not have an established Diocesan League, and which can not join a neighboring Diocesan League may make application directly to the LEAGUE for Independent School membership. The deadlines for Independent School membership forms and fees shall be the same as for all member schools, with none admitted after January 31.~~

~~5. Application for membership in the LEAGUE shall be made with the written consent of the appropriate administrator of each school on the LEAGUE membership form.~~

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 2 of 9

Constitution, Article III, Section B.

PASSES !!!

~~6. The membership rosters of a Diocesan League shall contain at least one Catholic school to be considered for membership in the LEAGUE. Exceptions to this may be granted by the Executive Council in areas where no Catholic school exists or is active in forensics.~~

~~7.~~ ***4.*** Membership ***for schools in good standing with their Local Diocesan League*** shall become effective upon receipt of the ~~form and~~ ***Local Diocesan League*** annual dues by the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE. All ~~applications for~~ membership shall be subject to the review of the Executive Council. ~~The Council must also sanction the shift of a given school or schools from one League to an adjacent League.~~

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 3 of 9

Constitution, Article III, Section B.

PASSES !!!

5. ~~Membership forms and~~ ***Local Diocesan League*** annual dues should be postmarked no later than December 20 of each academic year. The NCFL Annual ~~School~~ Membership Dues ***per League*** shall be ~~$60 (sixty dollars) per school~~ ***based on the following fee schedule with the numerical figure representing a Local League's chosen quota per event based upon their determined competitive needs*** ***[Note that this is NOT Entry Fees to Nationals, only Membership Dues]:***

- ***$200 for 10 entries, no more than 1 in each event*** ***[Currently 2 Schools is $120, 3 Schools is $180, and 5 Schools is $300]***
- ***$400 for 20 entries, no more than 2 in each event*** ***[Currently 6 Schools is $360 and 10 Schools is $600]***
- ***$700 for 30 entries, no more than 3 in each event*** ***[Currently 11 Schools is $660 and 15 Schools is $900]***
- ***$1000 for 40 entries, no more than 4 in each event*** ***[Currently 16 Schools is $960 and 20 Schools is $1200]***
- ***$1300 for 50 entries, no more than 5 in each event*** ***[Currently 21 Schools is $1260 and 25 Schools is $1500]***
- ***$1600 for 60 entries, no more than 6 in each event*** ***[Currently 26 Schools is $1560 and up]***
- ***$3000 for 70 entries, no more than 7 in each event*** ***[This is a new tier]***

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 4 of 9

Constitution, Article III, Section B.

PASSES !!!

5. (Continued) The chosen contestant quota is locked for the year with no reduction/refund based on actual entry numbers at Grand Nationals. ~~with~~ ***Of the Local Diocesan League dues,*** at least ~~$5 (five dollars) of the Dues going~~ ***7% shall go*** into an NCFL Savings Account. A ten percent (10%) penalty on dues will be levied against ~~schools and~~ Leagues which submit same after December 20 but before January 15. A twenty percent (20%) penalty on dues will be levied against ~~schools and~~ Leagues which submit same after January 15. Failure of a League to submit ~~forms and~~ dues postmarked by January 31 will result in the League's not being permitted to enter the Grand National Tournament for that academic year. ~~Contestant quotas for the Tournament will be based upon forms and dues received by January 31.~~

~~9.~~ ***6.*** The Executive Council shall have the authority to extend the dates for submission of~~forms and~~ dues for good and valid reasons. Such an extension shall not be later than January 31.

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 5 of 9

Constitution, Article IV.

PASSES !!!

Each ~~member school~~ Local Diocesan League of the LEAGUE shall be required to pay an annual dues. The amount of the annual dues shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the LEAGUE within the By-Laws of the LEAGUE.

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 6 of 9

Constitution, Article V. B.

PASSES !!!

1. Constitutional Amendments/Election of Officers: each Diocesan League shall have one vote.

2. By-Laws Amendments/Procedural Matters/General Business: each Diocesan League shall vote as a unit in proportion to its ~~individual school~~ ***active chosen*** membership ~~total~~ ***level at the time***. The proportional vote shall be as follows:

~~2-5 schools: 1 vote~~

~~6-10 schools: 2 votes~~

~~11-15 schools: 3 votes~~

~~16-20 schools: 4 votes~~

~~21-25 schools: 5 votes~~

~~26 and over schools: 6 votes~~

Level 1 or 2: 2 votes

Level 3 or 4: 4 votes

Level 5, 6 or 7: 6 votes

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 7 of 9

Constitution, Article V. E.

PASSES !!!

2. Nomination:

a. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting preceding the biennial election. The committee will consist of 5 members from a wide geographical distribution with no more than 1 current NCFL officer on the committee. At least 1 of the members will represent a League with ~~26 or more member schools~~ ***a level of six***. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be permitted to be on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee to the Executive Committee at the Spring Meeting.

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 8 of 9

By-Laws, Article II, A.

PASSES !!!

4. Home schools are eligible to join a Diocesan League and the LEAGUE according to all established rules of the Diocesan League and the LEAGUE. ~~Regardless of the number of home schools as members of a Diocesan League, only one Home school will be counted for determining entry quotas into the Grand National Tournament.~~

By-Laws #2: Change to League Quotas, 9 of 9

By-Laws, Article II, B. 1. Quotas

PASSES !!!

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

~~2-5 Schools~~ ***Level 1:*** ~~20~~ ***10*** entries with no more than ~~2~~ ***1*** in any event
~~6-10 Schools~~ ***Level 2:*** 20 entries with no more than 2 in any event
~~11-15 Schools~~ ***Level 3:*** 30 entries with no more than 3 in any event
~~16-20 Schools~~ ***Level 4:*** 40 entries with no more than 4 in any event
~~21-25 Schools~~ ***Level 5:*** 50 entries with no more than 5 in any event
~~26+ Schools~~ ***Level 6:*** 60 entries with no more than 6 in any event
Level 7: 70 entries with no more than 7 in any event

By-Laws #3: No Walking in Oral Interp

Proposal #3. *By-Laws Amendment: Change Penalty in Memorized Events*

From Traci Lowe, Palm Beach

FAILS !!!
62 - 126

Article II, Section C, 1. d. Oral Interpretation of Literature

5) Speakers should keep gesture and bodily movement to a minimum. The selection should be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Speakers ~~***should***~~ ***may*** not walk during performances. ~~Walking or platform movement should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges ranks may reflect if walking or platform movement has dominated the performance.~~ …

By-Laws #4: Automatic Qualification

Proposal #4. *By-Laws Amendment:*
From Traci Lowe, Palm Beach

PASSES !!!

Article II, Section B, n***ew b. Automatic Qualification*** (renumber all subsequent sections appropriately)

1. ***All students who place in the Finals of Speech; Quarter-Finals of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum Debate; or Top 8 of Student Congress at the NCFL Grand National Tournament who are eligible to compete in the same event the following year shall automatically qualify for the following year's NCFL Grand National Tournament in that same event.***
2. ***Eligible students include all students in Grade 9, 10, and 11, in all events except Declamation, where only students in Grade 9 when they place are eligible.***
3. ***These qualifications shall be over and above the Local Diocesan League's Quota for the following year.***
4. ***These automatically qualifying entries are subject to the same entry fees and judge quotas as the other entries of a Local Diocesan League.***
5. ***The Local Diocesan League Director must register these Automatic Qualifications via email to the Tournament Director by the same deadline as their other entries are due.***
6. ***If the software will allow it, the NCFL Sweepstakes will be based on the Diocesan League's top entries consistent with their selected quota. If the software will not allow it, to ensure that only a Local Diocesan League's total number of entries allowed is eligible for Sweepstakes Points, when registering the Automatic Qualifications with the Tournament Director, the Local Diocesan League Director must designate a number of entries in the event(s) they are registering Automatic Qualifications equal to the number of Automatic Qualifications in that event, that will not be eligible for Sweepstakes Points.***

By-Laws #5: Add Impromptu & Informative

Proposal #5. *Add Impromptu Speaking and Informative Speaking*
From Mark Deaton, Arlington

Refer to Committee

Article II, Section C, 1, Speech Events Definitions

g. Impromptu Speaking

h. Informative Speaking

Competition in these events would begin at NCFL 2028.

The NCFL Executive Council is authorized to prepare draft rules, ballots, and critique sheets for these events. These shall be presented at the NCFL Fall Local League Director's Meeting in September 2027 for final approval.

Discussions

#1. Middle School Tournament Dates
#2. Phone Use at Awards
#3. Transportation to/from Lafayette
#4. Congress Issues Update

Discussion Item #1: Middle School Tournament

The NCFL National Middle School Championship Tournament will be held (online) on ….

April 2-3, 2027

-or-

April 16-17, 2027

Some preference for earlier just so that our team can focus better on it, then turn around to paying attention to Nationals.

If you have a strong preference, please send Roland an email RBurdett@NCFL.org

Discussion Item #2: Phone Use at Awards

Discussion Item #3: Transportation for NCFL 2028

Discussion requested of Transportation options to/from Lafayette, LA; and during the weekend.

Discussion Item #4: Congress Tab Issues Update

Tab Concern #1: For 2027, Leagues will need to register a different judge for Sunday than they do for Saturday. We need more clean judges on Sunday to draw from.

Tab Concern #2: Recency requirements in a chamber with a number of students not evenly divisible by 3. Tab Staff is resolving the problem as equitably as possible, just a "heads up" that this isn't working as intended. We'll need to revisit in the By-Laws.

Tab Concern #3: Clearly set recency of PO's in Semis & Finals. Again, the Tab Staff is addressing this as equitably as possible. We'll need to revisit in the By-Laws.

Tab Concern #4: Randomize Agenda on Saturday. Release each session's docket with only one hour's notice to help prevent agenda control by any particular school or league. We've seen this happening the last few years and it's becoming a problem for small schools/leagues.

New Business

- TBD

Quota Due Date & Fees Reminders

- League Decision on what Quota Level they would like is due to Susan & Greg by 12/20/2026
  - With 10% penalty, by 1/15/2027
  - With 20% penalty, by 1/31/2027

- Tournament Entry Fees are $100 per person per entry, with a $75 surcharge, due by 4/15/2027
  -- Students staying outside the hotel block pay double the fee

- Tournament Registration, due by 4/15/2027
  - Late entries accepted through 4/30/2027 at $25 per day

- Mailing Address: NCFL, PO Box 133, Hingham, MA 02043
- EMail Address: Treasurer@NCFL.org, Secretary@NCFL.org

Topic Due Date Reminders

- If you want to serve on the Finance Committee
  - Please see Ann Marie Duffy: ADuffy@NCFL.org
- If you want to serve on the Speech Events Evaluation Committee
  - Please see Roland or Crawford

- If you want to serve on the LD/PF Topic Writing Committee, please see Carolyn
- Policy Topic Voting for 2027-2028 due to Carolyn by October 2!
- LD & PF Debate Topic Areas to Carolyn by 1/10/2027
  - EMail Address: CarolynCook@smsd.org

- Extemp Topic Areas to Marc or Katy by 1/10/2027
  - Extemp questions to Marc between 2/15/2027 and 4/15/2027
  - EMail Address: Extemp@NCFL.org

- Suggestion for Name Change to Katy
- Nominations for Richard Gaudette Service Award
  - To Katy by 1/10/2027
  - EMail Address: katy.cecil@larue.kyschools.us

Next Meetings

Winter Update Meeting re NCFL Organizing Documents

TBD, in February
Via ZOOM, open to all Diocesan League Directors

Next Spring Meeting:

Saturday, May 22, 2027
Via ZOOM

NCFL Nationals 2027:

Saturday - Sunday, May 29 - 30, 2027
Minneapolis, MN

Next Fall Meeting:

September 24 - 25, 2027
Lafayette, LA