

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE
FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 2010
MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CALL TO ORDER: 6:10 p.m

I. **INVOCATION** – Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn)

II. **ROLL CALL**

III. **REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: CATHERINE LUHR

- Thanked Jennifer Jerome and the Omaha League for hosting and all of their hard work.
- Policy Topic Papers – Lynda Luce (Green Bay) and Catherine Luhr (Buffalo) attended the NFHS policy topic selection meeting in Chicago. NFHS would like to see more participation from NCFL members through the paper authorship process. Currently two coaches from the Arlington diocese are planning to write a topic paper for the upcoming year.
- Encouraged Directors to vote on proposed Policy topics for 2011-2012.
- Scott Waldrop (Biloxi) attended the Speech meeting in Indianapolis. Discussion at that meeting included criteria for being ‘published’, crisis planning, and students with disabilities.

Post-meeting update: On October 29, 2010, NFHS announce the two finalist policy topics for 2011-2012:

- **SPACE**
Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its exploration and/or development of space beyond the Earth’s mesosphere.
- **CHINA**
Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic engagement with the People’s Republic of China on one or more of the following issues: trade, economy, environment.

The final topic will be announced in January 2011.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: GREG CUNNINGHAM

- Twitter during tournaments was a great success. When the tournament web site crashed due to extreme volume spikes, Twitter was used to redirect students/coaches to an alternate site – that site received 1000 hits in an hour demonstrating the effectiveness of the twitter feed.
- NCFL_Tabroom is the Twitter address used during the NCFL Grand National Tournament weekend

- NCFL_updates is the Twitter address used prior to the national tournament for reminders, etc.
- Contact Greg if you need to learn more about Twitter and text messages to your phone.
- Facebook is popular with the students. NCFL will create a NCFL 2011 Facebook group as another method of communication.
- Looking for PF/LD topics and topic areas. Please encourage your coaches to submit their ideas.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: CHARLIE SLOAT

- Looking for Extemporaneous Speaking topics and topic areas. Last year, the topics were broken down by cabinet areas.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER: MIKE COLLETTI

- Directors have experienced issues with mailing league registration materials to Mike due to post office issues in Mike's area. As a result, Mike has established a post office box that should be used for any materials being directed to him. The new address is:

Michael Colletti
National Catholic Forensic League
PO Box 31785
Chicago, IL 60631

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR/RECORDING SECRETARY: ROBERTA HYLAND

- Reminder that photos for the NCFL scrapbook should be directed to Roberta.
- The NCFL Grand National Tournament now has a permanent web site address – www.ncflnationals.org
- Reminder that NCFL is looking for copies of old tournament results and program books.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: ROLAND BURDETT

- In Extemporaneous Speaking, a tiebreaking error occurred, resulting in Speaker #6207, Mirza Germovic, from Des Moines Roosevelt High School, Des Moines, Iowa, being awarded 4th place rather than 3rd place. Letters of apology were sent to the student and to the school. The official tournament results have been updated to reflect the correct Final Round Placement. NCFL expresses its sincere apology for the error.
- Expressed thanks to Omaha for hosting.
- Expressed thanks to everyone who helped him throughout the tournament and with tournament preparation as he dealt with a broken arm.
- Received feedback related to the tournament and various bylaws proposals are before the membership to address some of the feedback while others are being integrated into future NCFL Grand National Tournament planning as appropriate.

IV. TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

JENNIFER JEROME, OMAHA, 2010

- Expressed thanks to everyone for their attendance at the tournament. The various tournament sites, including Creighton University and the Millard School District, enjoyed hosting.
- Shared comments related to tournament hosting, including provision of data to bus companies for planning purposes, web site bandwidth, updating the bid packet and creation of a manual for new hosts, and ensuring that communication is coordinated between the host, tournament director and event planner.
- The Directors discussed the challenges related to tournament transportation planning when a national tournament is ‘flat’ – multiple hotel and competition sites spread over a distance – and how Directors often do not have knowledge of where their member schools are staying.

ROBERTA HYLAND/ANN MARIE PHILLIPS, ARLINGTON/WASHINGTON, 2011

- Initial information has been added to www.ncfnationals.org
- See Appendix A

CHARLES DONOVAN, BALTIMORE, 2012

- League Director was unable to attend the meeting but advised the Board that tournament planning remains on track.

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2009-2010: MIKE COLLETTI

- Submitted Financial Report (See Appendix B)
- Mike noted that expenses were high this year due to some remaining charges from Nationals in Albany, but primarily due to attrition penalties due to leagues and coaches not using the contracted rooms at the block hotels.
 - Attrition penalties would have been more than \$100,000, but were negotiated down to \$32,738.26 through the efforts of the NCFL Tournament Director, NCFL’s Conference Direct representative, and the NCFL event planner.
- Mike noted that overall costs for Albany and Omaha were about the same outside of the bus costs for Albany and the attrition costs for Omaha – indicating that the overall tournament hosting costs have increased due to economic and market conditions.
 - The addition of Public Forum Debate fundamentally changed the structure, mechanics, and economics of the national tournament. Physical space needs create higher facilities costs and fewer competition site options. Tournament costs that totaled \$80,000 before the economic downturn are now \$100,000.
- Discussion emphasized the need for Directors to communicate to coaches how staying at tournament hotels is vital to NCFL’s ability to have a National Tournament and for local leagues to be able to effectively and efficiently host the National Tournament.
 - Only 60% of tournament participants stayed in tournament hotels in Omaha
 - Some leagues/schools blocked groups of rooms - resulting in other schools being blocked out of the space - and then dropped them the week of the tournament – contributing to the attrition penalties.

- Arrangements for Omaha and Washington, DC made prior to the economic downturn. Now working with Conference Direct to manage rates, include contractual language to prevent the tournament hotels to sell rooms at a lower rate (avoid undercutting).
 - Let Sarah Donnelly know if you become aware of tournament hotels undercutting the tournament block rate.
- Directors discussed the current school and student entry fees, including charging for student drops.
- Directors discussed the implementation barriers associated with charging a separate fee for use of tournament transportation or surcharges on schools that do not stay within the tournament hotel block.

VI. **TREASURER'S PROPOSALS:**

1. "The NCFL annual school membership dues shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) per school."
 2. Change Article II, Section B, 2, sentence three to read "The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$50 per student"
- Motion to accept treasurer's proposals offered by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn) with amendment that student fee be \$45, not \$50; Seconded by Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans).
 - Called to question Jennifer Jerome (Omaha); Seconded by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa)

Proposal #1 to increase annual school membership dues to \$25 passed via a voice vote.

Amended Proposal #2 to change the NCFL Grand National Tournament fee to \$45 passed on a weighted vote 131-37.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 a.m. on Saturday, September 25th.

VII. **FUTURE TOURNAMENT BIDS:**

2013 – PHILADELPHIA (Barb Giuliano and Tony Figliola, Philadelphia)

- City tournament with hotels near City Hall and food/attractions within walking distance. No tournament locations in Delaware and schools have air conditioning.
- Hotels include: Sheraton, Marriott, Embassy Suites, Marriott Courtyard – rates between \$142 and \$160 per night.
- Some competition sites still in flux. Tentative plans include the use of Carpenter Hall for Student Congress finals; University of Pennsylvania facilities for Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Prelim rounds; St. Joseph's University for two speech events; Student Congress prelims at Marriott; St. Joseph's Prep for some speech events; Gesu School for some speech events; Temple University; and Friends Central for Policy Debate.

- Sheraton would host the Postings and Party.
- Philadelphia Convention Center would be the site for Awards.
- Barb and Tony expressed their sincere thanks to Sarah Donnelly (NCFL Event Planner) and Matt Dykstra (Conference Direct) for all of their assistance during the proposal creation process and outreach to hotels and potential competition sites.

Motion to accept Philadelphia's bid made by Kristie Taylor (Palm Beach); seconded by David Ralph (Kansas City) – Passed by acclamation.

2014 – CHICAGO (Mike Colletti, Chicago)

- This will be Mike and Bernadette's 6th time hosting the NCFL Grand National Tournament
- Please see Appendix C
- Hilton Chicago will be the tournament hotel, with Policy Debate Prelims planned to occur in the hotel.
- Hotel rate is \$159 single/double; \$169 triple/quad
- Competition sites still in negotiation – Roosevelt University (2 blocks from Hilton); DePaul University; St/ Ignatius College Prep

Motion to accept Chicago's bid made by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn); seconded by Barb Fontenot (New Orleans) – Passed by acclamation.

VIII. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Two proposals to modify the Constitution were presented. Proposal A, presented by Arlington, updates the Constitution to reflect Public Forum Debate and addresses the fact that topics are published to the NCFL web site.

- A. Amend the Constitution, Article V, Section E, 5, b, 4 to insert the phrase "and for Public Forum Debate" after "Lincoln-Douglas Debate"; and to replace the phrase "publish it in the March Newsletter" with "publish them".

Motion to accept Constitution Proposal A made by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn); seconded by Marita Duesler (Beaumont). – Motion Passed.

Proposal B, presented by Sacramento, modifies the NCFL Constitution to explicitly state that due dates for forms and dues are based upon postmarked dates rather than received dates. During discussion the NCFL Treasurer confirmed that current practice has been to use the postmarked dates.

- B. Change Constitution Article 3 Section 8:

Membership forms and annual dues should be postmarked no later than December 10 of each academic year. A ten percent (10%) penalty on dues will be levied against schools and Leagues which submit same after December 10. Failure of a League to submit forms and dues postmarked by January 10 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 10.

Motion to accept Constitution Proposal B made by Barb Fontenot (New Orleans); seconded by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn) – Motion Passed.

IX. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS:

There were several proposals to change the NCFL Bylaws. Proposal A, presented by Arlington, cleans up the Bylaws to consistently utilize the phrase “Grand Tournament Director” rather than “Permanent Tournament Director” or “Tournament Director”.

- A. Amend the Bylaws to replace the phrases "Permanent Tournament Director" and "Tournament Director" with the phrase "Grand Tournament Director". "Permanent" occurs twice, and "Tournament Director" occurs six times.

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal A made by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa); seconded by Eloise Blair (Galveston-Houston). – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposal B, presented by Philadelphia, recommends modifying the section regarding evidence in debate to clarify that judges can not read any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is suspected. The current bylaws section uses the term evidence. At the most recent NCFL Grand National Tournament, a judge requested to review information presented in a speech that would not have been classified as evidence. The league and tournament officials reviewing the situation determined that the intent of the bylaw was to prohibit reading any materials unless falsification was suspected.

- B. Change Article II, Section C, 5., e.: "Judges are prohibited from reading any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is suspected and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opposing team." [the underlined replaces the word "evidence"]

Motion to amend Bylaws Proposal B made by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa); seconded by Eloise Blair (Galveston-Houston) – changes the word “suspected” to the phrase “suspected by the opponent” and changed the phrase “opposing team” to the word “opponent”. – Amendment to Bylaws proposal B passed.

Amended Bylaws Proposal B

Change Article II, Section C, 5., e.: "Judges are prohibited from reading any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is ~~suspected~~ suggested by the opponent and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the ~~opposing team~~ opponent." [the underlined replaces the word "evidence"]

Motion to accept Amended Bylaws Proposal B made by Ann Marie Phillips (Washington, DC); seconded by Scott Waldrop (Biloxi). – Motion Passed.

Bylaws proposal C, presented by Philadelphia, inserts language into the Bylaw section so that power pairing in Round III can be based upon the results of Rounds I and II, rather than only Round I. The Bylaw proposal provides that the power pairing in Round III or Round IV can exclude the prior round if tournament officials, in consultation with the Grand Tournament Director, determine that tournament situations warrant.

- C. Change Article II, Section C, 4., b., which should be changed to read as follows (the underlined is an insertion, no text is changed):

Rounds I and II: random pairing along geographical grounds.

Round III: direct power pairing, "high-high," based on Rounds I and II.

Round IV : high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II and III. Side constraints.

Round V: high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II, III and IV. Flip for sides.

NOTE: in Rounds I-V, debaters from the same Diocesan League cannot meet, nor can any debater or team meet the same debater or team a second time.

Round VI (Double octo-final): pairing will be made in bracket with the top team meeting the bottom team. The bracket is not to be broken from this point onward. It will serve as the basis for pairings for the octo-, quarter-, semi-final, and final rounds. Thus, debaters and teams from the same Diocesan League or school may meet, and debaters and teams which have met previously may also meet.

And inserting Section C, 4., c.: The Tab Chair, in consultation with the Tournament Director, may elect to pair Round III or Round IV without inclusion of the previous round if tournament situations prevent full power pairing within a reasonable time frame.

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal C made by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn); seconded by Michael Burton (Seattle). – Motion Passed on a weighted vote 124-31 with abstentions.

Bylaws Proposal D, presented by Houston-Galveston, proposes changing the Bylaws section to increase preparation time in Lincoln-Douglas Debate to 4 minutes.

- D. Amend NCFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Ballot to change the LD Debate Prep Time to 4 minutes. "Each debater shall have up to 4 minutes of preparation time..."

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal D made by Steve Sexton (Milwaukee); seconded by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa). – Motion Passed

Bylaws Proposal E, presented by Galveston-Houston, proposes changing the Bylaws section to increase the Final Focus speeches in Public Forum Debate to 2 minutes.

- E.* Amend Article II, Section C, 3, c, 2, j & k: "Second Pro Final Focus: 2 minutes" and "Second Con Final Focus: 2 minutes".

Motion to accept Bylaws proposal E made by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa); seconded by Eloise Blair (Galveston-Houston). – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposal F, presented by the Grand Tournament Director, modifies the Bylaws section to explicitly indicate that the disqualification means that the student can participate in any rounds after the disqualification and that no sweepstakes points will be awarded.

- F.* Amend Article II, Section D, 8: "Disqualified speakers shall receive no ranks in any round(s) in which said violation occurred, or in subsequent round(s). The disqualified speaker may not participate in any further rounds after the disqualification is determined, will receive no award or final placement, and will receive no sweepstakes points."

Motion to accept Bylaws proposal F made by Mike Colletti (Chicago); seconded by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn). – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposal G, presented by the Grand Tournament Director, codifies current practice for elimination/outrounds.

- G.* Amend Article II, Section D, 2, a: ... "All two-way ties should be broken based on Judges' Preference within the round. All three-way (or more) ties should be broken using the method of reciprocal fractions (converting each rank into a decimal, and totalling them, as follows: 1st = 1.00; 2nd = 0.50; 3rd = 0.33; 4th = 0.25; 5th = 0.20; 6th = 0.17)."

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal G made by Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans); seconded by Marita Duesler (Beaumont) – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposal H, presented by Kansas City, KS, modifies the Bylaws section to prevent students from the same school from being in the same semi-final section, regardless of ranking. The proposal also indicates a process for addressing if more than 2 students from the same school are participating in the semi-final round for an event.

H. Amend Article II, Section C, 2: "Speech Events Procedures - f. set up for the Semi-final round"

"The set-up for the Semi-Final round, is as follows, and cannot be changed, even if students from the same diocese are meeting in the section:

Section A	Section B
A1	B1
C1	D1
B2	C2
D2	A2
A3	B3
D3	C3

Semi-final sections may be altered in the event students from the same school are to meet, in which case the next ranked contestant shall be moved, in order to balance sides.

In the event there are more contestants from the same school than sections, contestants are to maintain their rank, unless all fall within the same section; the middle ranked contestant(s) shall be switched with the next ranked contestant in the opposite section, in order to balance sides."

The Directors discussed the impacts of not following the ranking process in semi-finals, including the possibility that it could cause 3 competitors from quarters to meet again in semi-finals, how rankings are handled in octofinals, how other leagues handle the situation, and what is the best way to ensure competitive mix while benefiting students and ensuring fairness of competition. A suggestion was also made that Directors inform schools to review the NCFL Bylaws so that they are aware of the tournament procedures so that coaches are informed and can set student expectations appropriately.

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal H made by Ann Marie Phillips (Washington, DC); seconded by Mary Schick (Miami). – Motion Failed on a weighted vote (33 yeas – 134 nays).

Bylaws Proposal I, presented by Scranton and the Grand Tournament Director, proposes changing the Bylaws section to create a Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate Topic Wording Committee. The current process has the topic areas selected by the Executive Board based upon suggestions, if any, and then referred to an expert, not currently coaching in the event areas to prevent the topic from leaking out. This Bylaws proposal is being made to improve the likelihood that the topics will be of interest to the students.

Motion to amend Bylaws Proposal I to reflect a committee of 6-8 persons rather than three to six persons, to change April 25th to April 15 for Public Forum Debate, and to change April 18th to April 11th for Public Forum Debate made by Maureen (Orlando); seconded by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa). - Motion to Amend Bylaws Proposal I Passed.

Amended Bylaws Proposal I

- I. Delete Article II, Section C, 3 (Debate), b (LD), 7, and Article II, Section C, 3 (Debate), c (PF), 5. Renumber remaining paragraph appropriately. Insert into NCFL ByLaws, Article II, Section C, 4 (Debate Procedures), e. the following:

The NCFL President will appoint a ~~three to six person~~ six to eight person LD and PF Debate Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year. Members of the committee should be members of the NCFL Executive Council, the NCFL Executive Committee, active NCFL Member LD or PF Debate Coaches, or experts as determined by the NCFL President. The Chair of the Committee will be the NCFL First Vice President.

The First Vice President will solicit suggestions for topics and/or topic areas from the general membership of the NCFL for the NCFL L-D and/or PF Debate Topic. The Executive Council will choose four topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate at the Winter Meeting and submit these to the Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year.

The Wording Committee will prepare between four and six topics each for L-D and PF Debate based on the given topic areas. At least three of the topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate should be reflected in the prepared topics. The Committee will submit their recommended L-D Debate Topics not later than March 7, and their recommended PF Debate Topics not later than March 28, to the Tournament Director.

Not later than March 14, the Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended L-D 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 L-D Debate topics not later than March 28. The topic receiving the most number of votes will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National L-D Debate Tournament. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than March 31.

Not later than April 4, 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 18 11. The topic receiving the most number of votes will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National PF Debate Tournament. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than April ~~25~~ 15.

Without authorization from the President, First Vice President, or Tournament Director, the members of the Executive Council and Wording Committee may not release, publish, or discuss the list of Topic Areas or any of the proposed, rejected, or working versions of resolutions to persons not on the Executive Council or current year's Wording Committee until the ballots for topic voting are released. If a member of these groups does release this information then their school may not enter

that year's NCFL LD or PF Debate National Tournaments, and the person who released the information may not serve on the Wording Committee again.

Motion to accept Amended Bylaws Proposal I made by David Long (Allentown); seconded by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn). – Motion Passed.

League Directors are encouraged to vote when requested during this process, to verify the email contact information on file with the league via the NCFL web site, and to encourage coaches to submit topic ideas by early January. Rationales related to the topic ideas can also be submitted. Thank you to Michael Nailor (Scranton) for his work on creating the Bylaws Proposal language.

Bylaws Proposals J, K, L, and N, presented by Green Bay, and Bylaws Proposals O and P, presented by Palm Beach, propose modifying the NCFL Bylaws in several speech events.

- J.* Oral Interpretation of Literature: By Laws Article II Section C part d, 1: After “... cutting is permitted” insert “If the presentation is a series of cuttings or several pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several poems or prose pieces.”
- K.* Duo Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C part f, 1: After “...a series of poems permitted.” Insert “If the presentation is a series of cuttings or several pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several poems or prose pieces.
- L.* Dramatic Performance: By Law Article II Section C part b, 2. After “ Fictional work”” Insert “If the presentation is a series of several prose pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several prose pieces.
- N.* Include the By Laws on the back of the Ballots, I know it is more to be read and some won’t read it, but there is information there that clarifies and might be helpful, especially to new judges.
- O.* Under Section C.1.b.2) Dramatic Performance – Change “The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single published fictional or non-fictional work.” TO NOW READ – “The presentation must be from published plays, published scripts, or published fictional or non-fictional works.”
- P.* Under Section C.1.f.1) Duo Interpretation of Literature – Change “The selection, . . . , must be from a single play, fictional or non-fictional work.” TO NOW READ – “The selection, . . . , may be from any number of works: plays, fictional or non-fictional works.”

Under Section C.1.f.2) Change . . . “depending on the work selected” TO “depending on the work(s) selected.”

Under Section C.1.f.5) Change “The introduction should name the work” TO “The introduction should name the work(s).”

The authors of the Bylaws Proposals requested that a Committee be formed to review these proposals and related concepts. The Committee would also review the wording on the ballots in relation to any proposed changes. The Committee would then make recommendations to the membership based upon their work and analysis.

Motion to create a Committee chaired by Lynda Luce to review the above Bylaws Proposals and related concepts including language on speech ballots made by Scott Waldrop (Biloxi); seconded by Sister Mary Patricia Plumb (St. Petersburg-Tampa). – Motion Passed.

Several Directors volunteered to be on the Committee. Additional volunteers should contact Catherine Luhr.

Bylaws Proposal M, presented by Green Bay, proposed that the Bylaw sections be modified to recognize the use of eBooks as a source.

M. Dramatic Performance: Bylaw Article II Section C b, 2
Oral Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C d, 1
Duo Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C f, 1

After IFFN insert: "eBook Number and Library Name."

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal M made by Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans); seconded by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn). – Motion Passed.

Proposal Q, presented by Palm Beach, pertains to the Student Congress Manual and codifies practice that a speaker be gavelled down at the 3 minute mark rather than the 3 ½ minute mark.

Motion to Amend Proposal Q to read:

“When 2 minutes have elapsed, gavel once. When 2 ½ minutes have elapsed, gavel twice. At 3 minutes, gavel down the speaker, allowing the speaker to complete his or her sentence, and ask the speaker to relinquish the floor.”

made by Marita Duesler (Beaumont); seconded by Kristi Taylor (Palm Beach). – Motion Passed.

Amended Proposal Q

Q. IN THE STUDENT CONGRESS MANUAL (THE 1996 VERSION IS THE ONE ON THE WEBSITE): On page 7, item 4. – Change “When 2 ½ minutes have elapsed, gavel once. When 3 minutes have elapsed, gavel twice. At 3 ½ minutes, gavel down the speaker

and ask the speaker to relinquish the floor.” TO NOW READ “When 2 minutes have elapsed, gavel once. When 2 ½ minutes have elapsed, gavel twice. At 3 minutes, gavel down the speaker, allowing the speaker to complete his or her sentence, and ask the speaker to relinquish the floor.”

Motion to accept Amended Proposal Q made by Marita Beaumont (Beaumont); seconded by Kristi Taylor (Palm Beach). – Motion Passed.

Proposal R, presented by Palm Beach, recommends a change to the first cross-fire speaker.

R. On the public forum ballot, the first cross-fire speaker is listed as the con. The con just spoke so shouldn't the pro get to ask the first question?

Discussion of the Proposal indicated that the proposed change would cause the Pro to ask the 1st question all three times because speaker order according to NCFL rules is not determined by a coin flip.

Motion to Accept Proposal R made by Sandra Broussard (Lafayette); seconded by David Long (Allentown) – Motion Failed.

Bylaws Proposal S, proposed by Sacramento, changes the NCFL Bylaws to reflect the change made earlier in the meeting to the NCFL Constitution as a result of Constitution Proposal B.

S. Change By-Laws Section B, 3

Forms: No later than 45 days prior to the date of the Tournament, the Host Director, with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE, shall provide each member League and independent School member with the appropriate information and necessary forms for official Tournament registration. These shall include, but not be limited to the following: Contestant and judge master registration forms, individual events tabulation cards, tentative schedule, and lodging information. 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 dollars (\$50.00) per day up for up to 7 days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the 7th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year. The postmark on the envelope containing registration materials will be used to determine the number of days. The tardy Diocesan League may not compete in future Grand National Tournaments until the fine is paid. No change in registration of students except a cancellation or the substitution of one student for another in the same event is permitted. After May 1, each change to a Diocesan League's judge assignments shall be assessed a fine of \$10.

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal S made by Barb Fontenot (New Orleans); seconded by Kieran Larkin (Brooklyn) – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposals T, U, and V, presented by Sacramento, propose various changes to the deadlines and fines associated with the Grand National Tournament.

The author accepted a friendly amendment to Bylaws Proposal T so that it would read “two weeks before” instead of “May 15th” as the dates for the tournament move in accordance with the Memorial Day Holiday.

Amended Bylaws Proposal T

T. Change By Laws Section B, 1, c, 1:

One person per Diocesan League. Any Diocesan League which does not have a person as a representative on the Tournament Staff will pay a fine of six hundred dollars (\$600.00). The League will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments unless it is paid by January in the year in which they choose to participate. The fine will not be imposed if all entries from the Diocesan League are dropped by 2 weeks before the Grand National Tournament.

Motion to accept Amended Bylaws Proposal T made by Stephen Goldberg (Sacramento); seconded by Barbara Fontenot (New Orleans). – Motion Passed.

Bylaws Proposal U, provided below, was withdrawn by the author.

U. By Laws Section B, 1, c, 2:

The total complement of judges from a Diocesan League shall include at least one judge from each member school represented in its student registration for the Tournament and every judge must have a designated affiliation with a participating member school(s). No Diocesan League will be permitted to drop registered judges without substitution later May 15, nor to provide judges without the required previous judging experience. The penalty for a violation of this rule will be a fine of four hundred dollars (\$400.00). In addition, there will be a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine for each round of the assignment that cannot be covered by a judge from that League. This fine will be levied against the school in question and such school will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments if the fine is not paid by January in the year in which they choose to participate. No hired judges will be made available for the Tournament except in case of emergency.

Bylaws Proposal V, presented by Sacramento, proposes changes to the deadlines associated with change fees.

V. Change ByLaws Section B3

Forms: No later than 45 days prior to the date of the Tournament, the Host Director, with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE, shall provide each

member League and independent School member with the appropriate information and necessary forms for official Tournament registration. These shall include, but not be limited to the following: Contestant and judge master registration forms, individual events tabulation cards, tentative schedule, and lodging information. Failure to register a Diocesan League for the Grand National Tournament by the date set and communicated by the Secretary/Treasurer will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day up for up to 7 days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the 7th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year. The postmark on the certified mail card will be used to determine the number of days. The tardy Diocesan League may not compete in future Grand National Tournaments until the fine is paid. No change in registration of students after May 15 except a cancellation or the substitution of one student for another in the same event is permitted. After May 15, each change to a Diocesan League's judge assignments shall be assessed a fine of \$10. No fine for any missed judge assignment will be imposed for any the judging commitment for any drops that occur prior to May 15.

Discussion regarding Bylaws Proposal V included acknowledgement of the rationale for the proposal, the rationale for the existing deadlines for tournament administration purposes, the number of changes that are being made after the current May 1st deadline, the possible impact on the printing of the tournament program, and the impact on the tournament host.

Motion on Bylaws Proposal V made by Mike Colletti (Chicago); seconded by Ann Marie Phillips (Washington, DC). – Motion Failed.

Bylaws Proposal W, presented by Sacramento, proposes that the Bylaws be modified to include a requirement that the Grand National Tournament host league be required to create a list of possible, qualified judges for hire.

W. Change By-Laws Section B, 1, c

3. The host league will create a list of qualified persons that may be hired by schools who travel more than 1,000 miles to attend NCFL Nationals. This list shall be posted on the NCFL Nationals tournament website no later than May 1. There shall be no guarantee that any particular judge will be available for hire or the amount that any person on the list may charge or be paid to be hired to judge. All contact with judges on the list potentially available for hire shall be between the hiring school and the judge. There shall be no minimum or maximum number of people on the list. The host league shall make a good faith effort to have names of qualified persons on the list. The hiring of a judge from the list shall not excuse a school's judging requirement. The school will be fined in accordance with paragraph 2 above if a person hired from the list does not judge and that assignment is not otherwise covered.

4. At its option and sole discretion, the host league may coordinate hiring of judges by schools that travel more than 1,000 miles to attend NCFL Nationals. The host

league may charge a fee of up to \$50 per judge for this service to be retained by the host league. In accordance with paragraph 2 above, nothing in this rule shall be construed as the NCFL hiring judges or creating any employment or independent contractor relationship between any judge and the NCFL, regardless of how that judge is paid.

Discussion regarding Bylaws Proposal W included noting that the proposal does not reflect a penalty if the requirement is not meant, a concern that this would be another requirement on the host league when NCFL is trying to encourage more leagues to host, and how various hosts are voluntarily making arrangements but would not want to be locked into the approach indicated in the proposal.

Motion to accept Bylaws Proposal W made by Mike Colletti (Chicago); seconded by Ann Marie Phillips (Washington, DC). – Motion Failed.

OTHER ITEMS

Motion to create a Committee to examine ways to address judging costs and judge fine policies made by Stephen Goldberg (Sacramento); seconded by Eric Field (Springfield-Cape Girardeau) – Motion Passed.

If interested in serving in the Judging Committee, Speech Intertexting Committee, and/or Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Public Forum Debate Committee, please contact Catherine Luhr. Topic suggestions for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Extemporaneous Speaking should be submitted by January 10, 2011.

Directors are reminded that if coaches are hiring ‘local’ judges through the host league, the diocesan registration needs to include a notation that the judge is a ‘local hire’.

Directors are also reminded to update the experience level of a judge as appropriate when making changes to judges in the diocesan registration.

A concern regarding the size of the competition room for Duo finals was expressed. The Duo finals competition room in Omaha was estimated to seat 500 people. 2011 Nationals in Washington, DC is trying to have a room that will seat 600. It has also been suggested that the elimination room sites not be prepublished in order to prevent people from reserving seats in advance of the postings.

There being no additional business before the membership, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Hyland
Recording Secretary