

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26, 2015

HYATT REGENCY SACRAMENTO HOTEL

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

I. INVOCATION – Given by Catherine Luhr

II. ROLL CALL – Diocesan Leagues present: Chicago, Erie, Arlington, New York, New Orleans, Sacramento, Boston, Wooster, Buffalo, Miami, Salina, Washington, Palm Beach, Raleigh, Green Bay, Lafayette, San Jose, Cincinnati, Allentown, Scranton, Newark, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Orlando, Houston, Lacrosse, Milwaukee, St. Paul Minneapolis, Jackson, Biloxi, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and Richmond.

III. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: CHARLIE SLOAT Thanks to Dario and Ft. Lauderdale crew as well as Stephen and CVB group in Sacramento.

Call for individuals interested in running for an Executive Board position.

Nomination form due to Charlie by Jan 1, 2016.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERTA HYLAND – Coordinated PF and LD topic writing committee; thank you to all who were on it. Send topic ideas into Roberta by January 15. Also looking for volunteers to be on the committee. Email Roberta for either or both. Roberta went to New Orleans for Policy Debate conference on writing for the 2016 topic. Email Roberta your rankings on topics.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: BARBARA FONTENOT – Thank you for those moderators who sent in Extemp questions. Over 600 questions submitted which were edited and used at Nationals. Send Extemp Topic areas by Jan 15th. Once topics announced, Feb 15-April 15 to submit questions.

EXECUTIVE SEC/TREASURER: MIKE COLLETTI – Explained report and budget. Membership Data Forms need to be completed every year. The new form will be up on the website, so use the new form next year. New version is up on the website now, but Mike will still accept old one this year.

PUBLICITY/RECORDING SEC: SUSAN PEEBLES – will get the minutes and any ballot and ByLaws updates out to everyone as soon as possible.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: ROLAND BURDETT – Thank you for your help in Ft. Lauderdale. Thank you for attention to detail in Ft. Lauderdale. Only one error in voting in Student Congress from Semis to Finals. We caught it at the tournament and picked up three more students to take into Finals.

National Association of Secondary School Principals has approved our Nationals event 2016.

IV. TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

FORT LAUDERDALE, 2015 –Thank you to Roland and Sarah for making everything work. Tournament made a profit. Sold out of merchandise.

SACRAMENTO, 2016 – PowerPoint presentation available on Website.

- Sacramento State University – 4 Speech events at this location
- McClatchy HS and California Middle School for the other two events.
- Congress will be at the Hyatt and Convention Center on Saturday and the Hyatt on Sunday

Five airport options: Sacramento, Reno (2-2½ hour drive), Oakland (1½ hour drive) San Francisco (1¾ hour), and San Jose (1½ hour drive).

Hotel blocks: (Prices ranging from \$102-\$179) Blocks open Tuesday after MLK day

Natomas Area – Residence Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Spring Hill Suites, Courtyard Natomas

Point West Area – Hilton Arden West, DoubleTree by Hilton, Red Lion Hotel, Marriott Hotels at Cal Expo

Downtown Area – Hyatt Regency, Sheraton Grand, Residence Inn Capitol Park, Holiday Inn Express, Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza

Supershuttle can be rented for entire team. CVB talking to car rental agencies to let them know of our needs.

Microsite – everything you need to know about Sacramento (food, entertainment, hotels, transportation, etc.). Link will be available once NCFL National site is up.

LOUISVILLE, 2017 – All set for hotels. Still negotiating with a university to get all debate there. Sites for all speech events taken care of.

WASHINGTON, DC, 2018 – Getting additional hotels. No buses involved because everything is in DC. Three airports, Amtrak, buses, and cars.

MILWAUKEE, 2019 – All hotels contracted. Met with Athletic Directors of three of the four high schools, and they're excited we are coming. Marquette University for Speech. Debate at different high schools.

V. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2014-2015: MIKE COLLETTI

- A) No fines due to busing issues

- B) Conference Direct is giving us around \$7,000 kickback which they received from hotels.
- C) Convention and Visitors Bureau donated \$10,000 to us for using their facilities.
- D) Bus charges – tried to renegotiate a lower amount because of problems with the bus routes and wait times, but rather than repercussions on the local schools, we paid the bill.
- E) Event Planner – during our financial duress, Sarah did not get paid. Therefore, we negotiated with her a \$9,000 payment for the next 5 years to make up for that. We will be paying her for what we owe her and for what she currently does.
- F) The IRS has recognized the NCFL as a 503c charitable organization
- G) Our goal is to have 1 1/2x the cost of running a tournament in the bank to be comfortable.
- H) Motion to accept budget and so moved.

VI. POLICY DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE: ROBERTA HYLAND (see information in First Vice President report)

Motion to Recess Greg Cunningham moved and Ann Marie Duffy seconded. Return 8 a.m. for breakfast and 8:30 for meeting start. 2nd floor in the Golden State Room.

Reconvened at 8:32 a.m.

VII. AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

None presented.

VIII. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS:

- A) By-Laws, Section C,1, Speech Event Definitions, specifically:
 - a) Oratorical Declamation - 1)
 - b) Dramatic Performance - 2)
 - d) Oral interpretation of Literature - 1)
 - f) Duo - 1)

The proposal is that we allow word substitution for offensive language. Specifically, it is suggested that we change the sentences that end “with the exception that cutting is permitted” to “WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT CUTTING AND SUBSTITUTION FOR PROFANE LANGUAGE ARE PERMITTED”.

Proposed by Boston

DISCUSSION: The issue is how do we define “profane”. Additionally, a judge can then write in the critique saying the students had the option to change it and they didn’t, thus I’m offended. It opens up a greater can of worms. Needs to be left to the Protest Committee. Artistic integrity of the piece is being challenged.

Vote: 32 for; 126 against – Motion Fails.

B) By-Laws Article II, Section D, 2: "Students who are currently enrolled in a school which is a member of the LEAGUE shall be prohibited from representing another school which is also a member of the LEAGUE."

Proposed by Allentown

DISCUSSION: Closes a huge loop hole. Hurts the schools and the students. Protects against coaches who are less than ethical, doing what they can to win. However, it provides ability for students to get into an event if their private school doesn't offer their event.

Vote: 147 for; 2 against – Motion passes

C) By-Laws Article II, Section B, 1.b. Student Congress. A League must identify one judge with Student Congress judging experience if entering Congress contestants. A LEAGUE ENTERING MORE THAN 4 CONTESTANTS IN STUDENT CONGRESS COMPETITION MUST PROVIDE A CONGRESS JUDGE EXPERIENCED AS A PARLIAMENTARIAN AND IDENTIFY THAT PERSON AS SUCH IN THEIR REGISTRATION.

Proposed by Tournament Director

DISCUSSION: We have trouble getting enough qualified Parliamentarians. We reduced the number of students in chambers so now we need even more Parliamentarians. If the league qualifies 5 or 6 in Congress, this requires a Parliamentarian. This is not asking for an ADDITIONAL judge. It's asking for just a qualified Parliamentarian as the judge. We will put a checklist of responsibilities up on the website so judges will feel more comfortable. However, afraid of getting individuals who are not qualified in that position. Leagues with 4 or less qualifiers should still bring them if they have them. Special note: if you have a judge used elsewhere who can be a Parliamentarian, put a note in the judge section when registering in case we need to pull them.

Vote: Unanimously passes.

D) Revise the Student Congress ballot to allow multiple speeches to be recorded on one ballot.

Proposed by Congress Committee

DISCUSSION: Ease on the judge (not shuffling papers). All data is in front of judge when deciding on voting.

Vote: Unanimously passed.

E) By-Laws Article II, Section C, 1.c.3) The NCFL will hire someone with extensive knowledge of extemporaneous speaking, who is not actively affiliated with a current NCFL member school, to write the questions for the Grand National Tournament.

Proposed by Raleigh

DISCUSSION: Outsource to college and university programs. Questions need credibility. As Roland stated, we used to do this. It became one sided, too regional, etc. Then we had the board writing them. Now we have topic areas and request submissions. The number increases every year. 626 were submitted last year. Then we put them through an editing process. We've talked to students at the end of the day of Extemp rounds and the answer from the kids is that they like it. Additional discussion, having submissions from in house enables a greater variety. When submitted, they are color coded so not all from one category are from one individual.

VOTE: Unanimously failed.

F) NCFL Student Congress Manual, Section IV, Paragraph 6. Replace the sentence "The NCFL Clerk of the Congress or his/her designee shall serve as the Presiding Officer for the Grand Final Session." with "The Grand Final session shall be divided into two two-hour parts. Each part shall be presided over by a student elected from those advancing to the Grand Final Session. A student may not preside for both parts unless no other student has volunteered to preside."

Proposed by Raleigh

DISCUSSION: We have talked about why we have students as P.O.s all throughout the tournament except in the Final Round. Keep it consistent and have a student in the Final Round. P.O.'s are awarded the equivalent of two speeches for the two hour session. Recency would reset after the first two hours. Awarding of gavels for P.O.'s. Presiding is an important skill, and this would put the focus on that.

VOTE: Unanimously passes.

XI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chicago bid information for 2020

Palmer House Hilton is providing all of their meeting space. Over 70 meeting rooms available. If we can find 70 more rooms in the downtown area, we don't have to bus Debate out to suburbs.

Vote: Chicago unanimously accepted for 2020.

2. Discussion regarding disqualification. Last year we had students who were disqualified that were allowed to compete throughout the rest of the prelim day. In a later round, there was a no-show and two disqualified duo teams. Disqualification is official when coach has been notified. Coaches need to be notified about it and the coach tell the students. This is something the Board will discuss at the Winter Meeting. Request that the language in the by-laws be changed.

3. Dues need to be sent to Mike by December 10th without penalty. December 10-January 10, 10% penalty. National Dues are \$50/school. Old data card format still accepted this year. New format is found on the NCFL website.

4. Election Committee – Those interested in running for an Executive Board position, Charlie needs nomination form on January 1st. Form is found on the NCFL website.

5. Richard Gaudette Service Award selection committee. See NCFL website for more information. Nominations due by January 1st.

XI. OTHER ITEMS

Greg motioned for adjournment and Kristy seconded.
Meeting adjourned.