

## New York State Forensic League Regional Directors Meeting

Tuesday, November 22, 2011 8:30 pm

Conference Call: On the call: Bro. John McGrory, Lydia Esslinger, Charles Frodella, Eric DiMichele, Charles Sloat, Kim Reilly, Catherine Luhr, and Kieran Larkin

1) The question of allowing double entry in speech was discussed. This year's tournament will provisionally allow for double entries. We will examine this year's tournament.

The following rules will apply:

- A) Student must prequalify for both events. The second qualification may not be earned at the Regional Qualification Tournament.
  - B) Students may not compete in both extemps, both Oral Interpretations, or both Drama and Humorous Interpretation.
  - C) Students may not use the same piece in more than one event.
- 2) The idea of allowing students who did well in a previous year to prequalify for the next year's tournament was discussed. Regional Directors were unenthusiastic, as it would limit students competing during the year.
- 3) Logistics for the State Tournament were discussed. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, Bro. John, Kieran Larkin, Charles Frodella, Charles Sloat, and Catherine Luhr will visit Shaker High School to work out logistics.
- 4) Tab Room assignments will be discussed as we approach the tournament.
- 5) Student Congress was brought up. There were two concerns about student Congress:
- A) The suggestion was made that once students advance to elimination rounds, their preliminary scores should not be considered. Unlike speech events, contestants in Congress remain in the same room throughout the preliminary rounds. Thus, students in a weaker room have an advantage in scoring. Starting all semifinalists with a clean slate helps to minimize advantages and disadvantages from preliminary rounds. Regional Directors have determined:
    - i) Scores from preliminary rounds will not be considered beyond determining which students advance to the semifinal round.
    - ii) If the tournament can supply 5 judges for the Final Round, scores from the semifinal round will not be considered for final placement. If only 3

judges are available, both semifinals and finals will count in the final placement.

iii) Preliminary scores will be used to determine sweepstakes trophies as they have in the past.

iv) This procedure will be evaluated after this year's tournament.

B) There was a concern about the scoring system used on Congress. Currently, each judge is assigned 2/3 of the room to judge and is asked to rank 8 out of that pool. With 3 judges in each room, each contestant is judged by 2 of the 3 judges. However, there have been many obvious mistakes in the past. Judges have ranked students who were not on their list of contestants to be judged. It is difficult to find a judge and ask that judge to rectify that error after a period of time has elapsed. More problematic is the judge who neglects to consider someone who is on that judge's list. Such an error does not show up as an obvious mistake; it merely appears as a contestant receiving a poor score that is out of sync with his other scores. Such a problem is not easily rectified. In the past, when this problem has been brought up, it has been suggested that judges be provided with a clearer list of students to be judged, yet the errors still occur. Regional Directors have determined:

i) Judges will be asked to rank ALL contestants in a round INCLUDING THOSE FROM THEIR OWN SCHOOL.

ii) Before the tournament begins, the Tab Room will determine which 2 judges are judging each student. Judges will not know which of the students they are responsible for judging.

iii) After the ballots are turned in, the Tab Room will determine the top 8 contestant whom that judge was responsible for judging. They will be ranked 1 through 8. The rest of the contestants whom that judge was judging will receive a 9.

iv) We will make up new ballots with enough room for 25 ranks.

v) We will reevaluate this procedure for next year's tournament.

The meeting concluded at 9:10