

Forensic League of Arizona Coaches Convention 2010

☉ Call to Order

- FLA Officers
- Introductions of all attendees
- Calendar Updates
- Hosts of Winter Trophy and State – 4A and 5A?

☉ The State of the State – **Kevin Berlat**

- Competitively, we continue to be in a very strong position.
- Desert Vista – 3 time School of Excellence winner
- Brophy – School of Excellence in Debate
- 8 students on the stage at NFL
- 2 Congress Finalists at NFL, 6th Place at TOC Congress
- Octafinals and Top Speaker, TOC Public Forum
- 3 Finalists, 2 Quarterfinals at NIETOC
- Strong finishes at national level tournaments
- Last Spring, the Arizona Interscholastic Association voted to remove Music and Winter Guard as sanctioned events.
- I sat down with Dean Visser and Denise Dozier to discuss the status of Speech and Debate. The results were very positive.
- Because we are very clear about what AIA is responsible for, and we have no problem turning over our State Tournament paperwork and finances to the AIA, we are in compliance with AIA regulations, and will remain sanctioned.

☉ Other Developments – **Kevin Berlat**

- Many new teams are starting.

- Some schools are restarting teams after a few years of dormancy.
 - Districts are funding programs again.
 - A letter went out to each principal about the benefits of a Speech and Debate program, and asking each school to consider sponsoring a program.
 - What does this mean?
 - After a bad year last year, things may be looking up.
- ☉ We can't let our guard down – **Kevin Berlat**
- We need each other. We need to advocate for the benefits of Speech and Debate. Dr. Kevin Minch's study *The Value of Speech, Debate, and Theater Activities* from the NFHS is a very valuable resource.
- ☉ What can we do? - **Kevin Berlat**
- The AIA requires 6 tournaments to qualify for State. Use this language.
 - Alternative fundraising, such as Simply Functional.
 - AZ Tax Credits – Dollar for Dollar credit directed to your team.
 - Outside advocates, such as the “Friends of Forensics” proposal.
 - Let's use each other to advocate. Often the person from outside the district with a fancy title carries more weight than we do.
 - Remember that all teams are valuable, no matter the size.
 - What can we do to reach out within our districts to get more teachers involved?
 - Conference Buddies – Veteran coaches mentoring and being a touchstone for the new coaches.
- ☉ Resources
- www.nflonline.org
 - Various Debate Evidence sites
 - ☉ Victory Briefs
 - ☉ West Coast Briefs
 - ☉ Debate Central

- 4n6fanatics.com
- National Debate Coaches Association
- ⊙ Southwest Speech and Debate Institute – July 2011
 - Incredibly successful first year
 - This is a non-profit camp in order to keep the costs low
 - The camp will be adding speech events
 - For more information go to: <http://www.southwestdebateinstitute.org/>
- ⊙ Officer Elections
 - Vice President – 2 year term –
 - ⊙ **Elected: Elizabeth Clarke**
 - Secretary – 2 year term –
 - ⊙ **Elected: Erik Dominguez**
 - Interim Treasurer – 1 year term
 - ⊙ **Election delayed until later in the meeting.**
 - Conference Caucus
- ⊙ Election of new representatives-
 - 3 per conference – 2 should have time remaining on their terms – elect 1
- ⊙ Ballots and Trophies for Winter Trophy
 - A volunteer to transport trophies and provide ballots
- ⊙ Hosts for the FLA and AIA tournaments
- ⊙ Other concerns for your conference?
- ⊙ Proposals
 - Student Congress
 - Proposal: replace the term Student Congress with the new name of Congressional Debate
 - ⊙ Rationale: It aligns us with the NFL and TOC.

⊙ A Proposal for Student Congress Tabulation:

- Replace the current procedures for the Selection of Superior Members (p. 48 of 53) with the following:
- Adopt the NFL model of ranking at the end of a session, with a few modifications and simplifications.
- Rationale: This tabulation method will align us with NFL, TOC, and other major national tournaments. In addition, it is an easier method to tabulate in the time we are given. Also, the results are easier to audit.
- In addition, a Supersession has been discussed.

TIME ALLOTTED: N/A

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

[Presenter]

DISCUSSION	The proposal would change the name from Student Congress to Congressional Debate and would change a few of the procedures.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a good move because it will align us with what the National Forensic League is doing • There will be a greater need for more congress officials. • In a large Congress tournament, it should be fine, but smaller tournaments may struggle. • A Congress Supersession were also considered and discussed. • A strong parlimintarina is needed for these rules. 	
CONCLUSIONS	1-3A, 4A, and 5A all Approve	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

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⊙ Independent Judge Pool

- FLA will take over the job of recruiting independent judges through newspaper ads and other means.
- Teams that are short judges (or who can't judge due to numbers) will pay the tournament director a judge fee. The tournament director will pay the FLA. The FLA will pay the independent judges.

DISCUSSION	<p>There is a need for greater number of judges, specifically at the 5A Winter Trophy and State tournaments. The proposal is to gather an independent judge pool in order to help facilitate those tournaments as well as others.</p>	
<p>Concerns ranged from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to recruit, train judges. • Ability to adequately pay judges – there would need to be a strong treasurer in order to work with the paperwork and invoices. • Ability to screen judges - how do we know who is going to be judging our students. • We have been spoiled in Arizona – usually it is the tournament host responsibility to provide judges, not the responsibility of the individual teams. • It is important to not get down on teams because their judges can't be used. They are fulfilling the responsibilities in bringing judges. 		
<p>Possible Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Shared” judging pool – judges from 4A judge @ 5A and vice versa • Promotion in community resources such as Kiwanas, Roatary, Toastmasters • Possible website for judges to be able to register themselves as available and independent so that teams can “hire out” their commitments. • Schools with bigger entries are encouraged to bring more community judges. 		
CONCLUSIONS	<p>FLA will be responsible for the promotion of judge recruitment from the community. FLA will advertise for community service involvement and then work out a system where teams can use those independent judges for tournaments.</p>	
<p>1-3A: Recommends the passing, but wants to work out the mechanics</p>		
<p>4A: Recommends the passing, but wants to work out the mechanics</p>		
<p>5A: Recommends that FLA/AIA promote judge recruitment and put one individual person in charge of organizing the independent judge pool.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
FLA will begin to promote community involvement.		
FLA will develop a system of independent judge use.		

⦿ Policy Debate procedures (the PCDS rules)

- 1) Upon arrival of one member of each team in the assigned room, the affirmative **will** give the negative their plan text. At the same time, a timer will be started. If the neg is not ready to start the round after 8 minutes, their prep time shall start running. Disclosure over and above plan text is optional, however it is suggested that at least the nature of advantages (policy or kritikal) be disclosed.
2. When the judge is present in the room s/he will start a timer. After 10 minutes, any team that is not present (both members) will have their prep time run.

TIME ALLOTTED: N/A

ADOPTING "PCDS" RULES TO POLICY
TOURNAMENTS

[Presenter]

DISCUSSION	The proposal is to adopt "PCDS" rules for policy. This would help tournaments run on time.	
Concerns ranged from the following:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is idea if round one starts on time. However, there are too many allowances for add/drops in a tournament. • Power matching greatly influences this rule. "Lag power" matching was said to not be effective in terms of pairings, but does speed up the tournament. • It is difficult NOT to allow for allowances in late teams because in a 3 round tournament, a lot of teams could get byes. • Disclosure of plan text should not be mandated; this is a specific debate strategy when bringing out a new affirmative plan. • One option is to have students run the ballots during oral critiques in order to help facilitate the process and pairing. 		
CONCLUSIONS		
1-3: Passed 4A: Passed, but had concerns about disclosing the plan text.		
5A: Accepted friendly amendment added in order make modifications and take proposals throughout the year.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Tournament Hosts Attempt PCDS rules and report to committee	Tournament Hosts	Post-Tournament
FLA/AIA Gathers Data to make a final decision		

⊙ Small Entry In an Event Sweepstakes

TIME ALLOTTED: N/A STATE SWEEPSTAKES POINTS FOR LIMITED ENTRY

DISCUSSION	<p>The proposal recommends that if there is only one school represented in an event, the event will be canceled and no sweepstakes points will be awarded.</p> <p>IF there are two schools – it will be a 2 out of 3 match</p> <p>3-5 schools will be a round robin.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students work very hard all year long in a particular event (policy debate) To not be rewarded points because they the only team is beyond their control. • Policy debate needs to be encouraged in our community and this hurts. • A possible solution is to have a showcase of the event instead of actual rounds. • Other teams should not be penalized for not bringing teams in an event – in other words – policy debate sweepstakes is a lot of sweepstakes and if a champion is named just because the team showed up, that significantly impacts the overall school sweepstakes award. 	
CONCLUSIONS		
	1-3A: Recommends	4A: Recommends
	5A: Does not recommend.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	

⊙ FLA Hall of Fame – Amend the FLA Constitution

⊙ *“Each year at the FLA Coaches Convention, each conference caucus shall discuss and, when appropriate, nominate potential members to the Speech & Debate Hall of Fame. Qualifications for nomination may include, but are not limited to:*

- *Years of service in coaching Arizona Speech & Debate*
- *Leadership in a consistently successful program*
- *Leadership within the Speech & Debate community*
- *Successful growth in size and/or competition of a program over time*

- *Promotion of the value of Arizona Speech & Debate in the community at large.*

Ⓢ *Nominations are to be presented to the body at large at the Convention for a vote to recommend inclusion of those coaches in the FLA/AIA Coaches Hall of Fame. Recommendations of the convention are to be reviewed at the next meeting of the AIA Speech & Debate Advisory Committee. Announcement and award shall be presented at the following Winter Trophy tournament at the appropriate Conference level/at all conference levels.”*

TIME ALLOTTED: N/A

AIA HALL OF FAME

[Presenter]

DISCUSSION	No discussion Items	
CONCLUSIONS	1-3A, 4A, and 5A all approved.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

Ⓢ 2010 Hall of Fame Nominees

- Meg Howell – Mt. View High School
- Barbara Williams – Buena High School
- Sue Norris – Flagstaff High School
- Lynn Stewart – Cactus Shadows and Sandra Day O’Connor High Schools
- Sarah Smithson – Winslow High School
- Ann Stehr – Westwood High School

Forensic League of Arizona Business

- ⊙ Treasurer's report – there is currently no treasurers report as we don't currently have a treasurer.
 - Treasurer Election
 - Ronda McWhorter from Barry Goldwater High School is elected Treasurer for 1 year interim term.
- ⊙ FLA Business
- ⊙ Markert Scholarship –
 - Named for Ed Markert of Tucson High School. After his passing, the FLA endowed a scholarship for the AIA State Champions
 - We must reauthorize the scholarship each year.
 - Last year, we authorized it for \$100
- ⊙ Joy of Tournaments
 - JOT provides the software to run the tournaments and the website to register for the tournaments.
 - We must authorize payment to Brent Hinkle for the Winter Trophy tournaments and the Convention registration.
 - The cost for the FLA is currently \$~~600~~750 for the convention and Winter Trophy
- ⊙ Coaches Hall of Fame – Beth Clarke and Susan Seep
 - The proposal is a Constitutional Amendment.
 - Current elected members:
 - ⊙ Jim Fountain
 - ⊙ Mel Olson
 - ⊙ Terri Fields
 - ⊙ Diana Krauss
- ⊙ FLA Welcome Tournament

- Horizon High School
 - This is a great way to get new students, coaches, and judges involved in the activity. The schedule and guidelines are posted www.joyoftournaments.com/az
- ⊙ By a vote of the FLA/AIA Executive Board, Winter Trophy 2010 will feature Radio Broadcasting instead of Storytelling. Each year, the board will choose an event as our experimental event. Storytelling may return in the rotation.
- ⊙ Invitationals may still hold Storytelling if they wish, but we encourage them to sponsor Radio Broadcasting.
- ⊙ Conference Reports
 - Election Reports
 - Volunteers for Ballots and Trophies
 - Conference Concerns
 - Voting on proposals before the FLA Convention
 - FLA Winter Trophy
 - 1-3A – Winslow High School
 - 4A – Copper Canyon High School
 - 5A – Mesquite High School
- ⊙ AIA State Speech and Debate
 - State Tournament Sites
 - 1-3A – River Valley High School
 - 4A – Thunderbird
 - 5A – TBA
- ⊙ National Federation of High Schools
 - \$20 membership – liability insurance and access to materials and resources – nfhs.org
 - Starting this year, all booklets, ballots, and other materials will be available online with your membership.

- ◎ NFHS Directors' and Committee meeting – Sept. 21-23, Indianapolis, IN
 - Presentations on Speech, Debate, and Theater
 - Congressional Debate
 - Technology in Forensic Events, Emergency Plans, Dealing with Funding Crises, and other topics will be discussed.

- ◎ Speech, Debate, and Theater Educator of the Year
 - Awarded to one coach from each state.
 - Criteria are success, leadership, and overall effectiveness with students
 - Erik Dominguez – 2009 Section Winner – He has been nominated for the Citation Award.
 - 2005 NFHS Citation Award – James D. Fountain
 - We are open for Nominations...

- ◎ AIA State Tournament Handbook Changes
 - Student Congress – Committees to determine the Agenda of Legislation were added to the State Tournament
 - Student Congress – Points were adjusted to a range of 0-8.
 - Public Forum – Final Focus was lengthened to 2 minutes
 - Interp – Observers are allowed to leave the room without penalty if they are offended by the material being performed.
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - 1—There is no use of power plugs in the Extemp Prep Room allowed at all, at any time. The only power for a computer inside the Prep Room is to be from batteries.
 - 2-- No connectivity from students' computers of any kind is allowed inside the Extemp Prep Room. For example: no internet, no IM'ing, no outside servers, no cell phone tethers, etc.
 - 3-- Students cannot use a computer to prepare speeches. They can use the computers to search and read, but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on the computers.

- 4-- Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches on the computer prepared prior to their draw time.
- 5-- Any student using a computer must be prepared to show prep room or tournament staff what they are accessing at any time. Any student not providing tournament staff with the information they request may be disqualified.
- AIA State Speech and Debate
- 6-- There will be several extra Extemp Prep Room monitors. Students should be aware that they are subject to extensive monitoring of their computer use.
- 7-- Students cannot access audio, video, or other multi-media files during preparation time.
- 8-- Students cannot use their computers from the time they leave the Extemp Prep Room until they have completed their speech. Students may take their computers with them to their competition room, or to lunch, but cannot use the computers outside the Prep Room until after their speech is completed. Any student using the computer in the hallways or classrooms prior to their speech may be disqualified.
- 9-- AIA may put stickers and/or tape on computers to ensure they are not opened or used, or to ensure appropriate owners take their own machines.
- 10-- AIA does not assume any liability for the computers. Students are welcome to use Kensington Locks or other such devices to secure their computers in the Prep Room. Students, Parents, and Coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. The AIA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken computers.

◎ Scholarship Activity Awards

- Given by the AIA to students who earn a certain GPA and compete in AIA sanctioned activities.
- Information is available through your athletic directors.
- We have had minimal participation in this program – could be good publicity for your team.

◎ Based upon your votes, Arizona's choice for the 2011-2012 Debate topic is:

- Cyber Security!
- The final ballot will be delivered at Winter Trophy. Watch out for it, and vote.

◎ AIA Meeting Schedule

- September 29
- January 26
- March 9 – Tournament Director Meeting
- April 13
- Submit proposals to the chair 2 weeks in advance so that they can be included in the agenda

National Forensic League

- 2010-2011 District Committee
 - Meg Howell, Chair
 - Beth Clarke
 - Kevin Berlat
 - Jane Martinez
 - John Wolnisty
- NFL 2010 – Kansas City
 - Desert Vista High School – National School of Excellence in Debate – 3rd year as a School of Excellence
 - Brophy College Preparatory – School of Excellence in Debate
 - National Finalists
 - Jackson Arn and Neel Rao – Chaparral High School – 5th in Public Forum Debate
 - Michael Mazella – Desert Vista High School – 5th in Prose Interpretation
 - National Top 14
 - Steven Ebensberger – 10th Place – International Extemporaneous
 - Megan McHugh – 10th Place - Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - Brittany Stanchik and Greg Hietala – 10th Place – Public Forum Debate
 - Student Congress
 - Andrew Berens – Brophy College Prep – 14th Place – Senate
 - Scott Franz – Brophy College Prep – Final Supersession – House
 - Brendan Porter – Desert Vista High School – Semifinals – House
 - Sarah Coughlon – Veritas Prep – Semifinals – Senate
- National Quarterfinals

- Holly Nordquist and Dillon Olmanson – Desert Vista High School – Duo Interp
- Drew Leatham – Dobson High School - Oratory
- National Octofinalists
 - Konstantine Vrahsilov – Brophy College Prep – United States Extemp
 - Casey Cantor – Desert Vista High School – Dramatic Interpretation
 - Joshua Aiken – Hamilton High School – Humorous Interpretation
- Policy Debate
 - Andy McCoy and Max Maerowitz – Brophy College Prep – Round 11 of Policy Debate
- Coaching Awards
 - LeAnn Richards – North Point Prep – 3rd Diamond
 - Victor Silva – Desert Vista High School – 1st Diamond
 - Michael Neer – Chaparral High School – 1st Diamond
 - Kevin Berlat – Central High School – 1st Diamond