

NATIONAL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER: January 29, 2009

Dear Members:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our 2009 NFA Tournament will be at Drury University and Missouri State University from April 16 through the April 20. Dr. Curt Gilstrap at Drury will be serving as our host. The preliminary rounds will be held on the campus of Missouri State University, and the semi and final rounds on Monday will be held on the campus of Drury University. Information related to the National Tournament is included in this Newsletter and the Invitation will be in the next newsletter. We will once again be using e-mail for sending and receiving materials.

As indicated in the invitation you will submit your entry via e-mail to Dr. Vicki Karns ([vkarns@suffolk.edu](mailto:vkarns@suffolk.edu)) at Suffolk University. It will be a great tournament and I hope you will make plans to attend.

THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTAIN SEVERAL ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Information related to the selection of the Lincoln Douglas topic for 2009-2010.
2. A call for tournament host for the years 2010, 2011, 2012.
3. Information related to the 2009 Tournament at Drury and Missouri State Universities.
4. Information related to the reporting of tournament results.

The NFA TOURNAMENT INVITATION AND ENTRY FORM WILL BE IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER.

Anyone wishing to reach me between now and March 4th, please contact me via e-mail or my cell phone (507-383-3632). I shall be at my regular phone number beginning March 4th.

Yours truly,

Larry Schnoor, NFA President, NFA

Office Phone: 507-387-3010 (see above note)

## LINCOLN DOUGLAS TOPIC SELECTION 2009-2010

A CALL FOR TOPICS was sent out in the Fall of 2008 requesting each school that had an interest in and intends to participate in LD Debate during the following academic year to submit a topic area for consideration to the Chair of the NFA Lincoln-Douglas Committee (Dr. Marty Birkholt) by January 31st. Topic area briefs should be sent to the Chair of the LD Committee by e-mail: [MARTYBIRKHOLT@CREIGHTON.EDU](mailto:MARTYBIRKHOLT@CREIGHTON.EDU)

In order to be accepted for consideration, the topic area must be in the form of a 1-2 page brief which includes:

1. A statement of the significance of the topic area in current events;
2. A statement of why the topic is interesting, challenging, and/or provocative;
3. A statement of the perceived educational value of the topic area for debaters;
4. A brief bibliography of selected readings (5-10) that capture the nature of the controversy surrounding the area; and
5. Contact information should the committee need further clarification.

Remember, in order for a brief to be accepted, it must meet all of the above qualifications.

All briefs that were submitted should have been confirmed by the Chair of the LD Committee. If you submit a brief and do not receive a confirmation, please call Dr. Marty Birkholt at 402-280-2524.

### NARROWING PROCEDURES:

If more than ten briefs are submitted, the LD Committee will narrow the field using a weighted preferential voting system in which each first choice on a ballot receives 10 points and so on down to each tenth choice receiving 1 point. Any ties for tenth place will be broken by the LD Committee Chair.

By February 9th, the Committee will distribute the briefs to the LD Community and the membership of the NFA, for discussion and consideration. This mailing will include a ballot on which the school should rank its top three choices and return to the Chair of the LD Committee to be received by February 23rd. The topic area will be selected by using the following method: ballots will be tallied using a weighted preferential voting system in which 1st place receiving 3 points, 2nd place receiving 2 points, and 3rd place receiving 1 point.

Please remember to return the ballots to Dr. Marty Birkholt, Director of Forensics, Department of Communication Studies, 2500 California Plaza, Creighton University, Omaha, NE 68178-0305

The LD Committee will formulate resolutions based on the selected topic area; the community is encouraged to submit their ideas and recommendations to the committee chair, Marty Birkholt. A ballot will be sent out by March 30th with five (5) resolutions for consideration. In order for a ballot to be counted, all five resolutions must be rank ordered. The ballots must be returned to the NFA President to be received by April 30th. A weighted preferential voting system with 1st= = 5 points, 2nd= 4 points, 3rd = 3 points, 4th = 2 points, and 5th = 1 point will be used. Ties will be broken by the President of the NFA, who may at his or her discretion consult with the LD Debate Committee.

#### RESOLUTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

The winning resolution will be known only to the President of the NFA until it is announced on AUGUST 1st.

The Lincoln Douglas Committee will be waiting to hear from you. If your school is involved with Lincoln Douglas Debate, this is your opportunity to become active in the selection of the topic area for 2009-2010. Dr. Marty Birkholt is waiting to hear from you. The only way the system will work is if you become involved in the process. There are definite deadline dates that have been established. On behalf of the L/D Committee and the NFA tournament staff, please take time to participate in this process during this academic year.

Also remember, your students that are engaged in Lincoln Douglas Debate wish to be considered in this process of topic and resolution selection. Please take time to include them in your consideration of topic areas and resolution selections.

The Lincoln Douglas Committee for this year is as follows:

Dr. Marty Birkholt, Chair, NFA Council Member, Creighton University

Vicki Karns, Tournament Director, Suffolk University

Kelly Larson, Missouri Southern University

Nichelle McNabb, Otterbein College

David Trumble, St. Anselm College

Jessica Ferguson, Western Kentucky University

## CALL FOR NCA PAPERS AND PANELS

The deadline for submission of papers and panels is February 11th. If you have not already submitted your papers etc., do so now. If you have questions, please get in touch with Dr. Leah White at Minnesota State University immediately.

## RESEARCH PROPOSALS GUIDELINES FOR NFA

If you are planning on conducting a research project at the NFA tournament, please be advised of the following regulations.

1. Research proposals must be submitted to the Research Committee by March 10, 2009. Specific event research must be available to the tournament staff prior to registration.
2. People conducting research must be at registration to handle the distribution of any materials.
3. If materials are to be distributed to judges, the tournament staff will distribute to event judges at the convenience of the tournament.
4. Research projects should be designed in a manner that will not cause any disruption or distraction for students competing in the tournament.
5. Plans for any research project should contain an explanation of how distribution will be handled and collected. Research committee will make final determination.
6. FINDINGS OF THE PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO NFA by September 30, following the tournament at which research was conducted.

## TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

### Qualification Procedures

1. A student qualifies for any of the events by being in a "final" round, or in the top 10% of that event, at a tournament that had at least 7 schools participating. The tournament must have had at least two preliminary rounds. In order to qualify, students must complete in all preliminary round and elimination rounds conducted at a given tournament. If an event has fewer than 12 contestants, 50% of the contestants qualify if they competed in a final round.
2. In the case of State Championships and similar events that arbitrarily limit entries, the "Rule of 7" may be waived by the NFA Executive Council. Applications for waivers must be made in writing to Prof. Larry Schnoor, President, National Forensic Association, 107 Agency Road, Mankato, MN 56001. This application must arrive by February 28, 2009.
3. Contestants may not have received a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, except that students who graduate during the 2008-2009 academic year may compete in those events in which they qualified between September, 2008 and their date of graduation. Contestants must have been

enrolled at the institution they represent in more than a course in forensics during the academic year.

4. Tournaments held after MARCH 16, 2009 will not be recognized as qualifying contests. Results of tournament the weekend of MARCH 16 must be sent overnight or by e-mail to tournaments.
5. Contestants may use programs or speeches that are different from those they qualified with at the National Tournament. CONTESTANTS MAY NOT SWITCH programs or speeches during the national Tournament.
6. A student may enter up to two slots of Dramatic Duo if she/he has qualified with different partners. In no case may duo partners be substituted, nor may 2 students who have qualified with other partners combine to form a new partnership.
7. A student may enter as many events as they qualified. The student's best five events will count toward pentathlon points. This rule in no way affects the application of sweepstakes points towards a school's total if the student is in one of the top three in any event from that school.
8. Lincoln Douglas debaters may enter all I.E. events for which they are qualified. LD debaters must have qualified at a tournament using the NFA-LD Topic.
9. Novice events qualify IF THEY ARE CONDUCTED AS SEPARATE EVENTS with separate preliminary and final rounds - from open and/or varsity events. Verification of novice events is contingent upon ability to prove the students competed in separately scheduled preliminary rounds.
10. For the 2008-2009 National Individual Events Tournament, only those events offered at the National Tournament will be considered qualifying events. The lone exception to this rule is that Communication Analysis will qualify for Rhetorical Criticism. If you are unsure of the legitimacy of a specific event from a specific tournament or have other questions concerning the qualifications, please contact the National Tournament Director.
11. All students, judges and coaches participating in the tournament are subject to the NFA rules and Code of Ethics.
12. Please return results for all tournaments and verification of qualifications to Dr. Vicki Karns. You may call Dr. Karns for verification updates. All verifications and entries should be sent to Dr. Vicki Karns. Be sure to check the official NFA Entry Form for directions for submitting your entry.

#### LINCOLN DOUGLAS INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

1. The resolution used at the National Tournament will be the topic that was selected for LD debate for the 2008-2009 academic year.
2. The format for NFA Lincoln Douglas debate is as follows:

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes	Cross Examination:	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes	Cross Examination:	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	6 minutes	Negative Rebuttal:	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes	Prep Time Per Debater:	4 minutes

3. LD DECISIONS: Action taken by the General Assembly has decided that decisions in rounds of Lincoln-Douglas WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED. It is an ethical violation for anyone to release any decisions of the L-D preliminary rounds. The L-D Committee will determine how decisions will be announced in any elimination rounds.

## IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

If you are planning to attend the National Tournament, please be aware of the following:

1. The National Forensic Association will videotape the final rounds of all public address events, limited preparation events, and Lincoln-Douglas debate at the National Tournament. Your entry into these events constitutes your consent to have your students videotaped. The final round videotaping will be supervised by the NFA Research Committee. The Research Committee will ensure that the taping will not interfere with the competition. All tapes will be made available to the forensic community on a cost basis. Students participating in videotaped final rounds will have a free copy of the tape shipped to their school when the tapes are copied and available for distribution.
2. ALL CONTESTANTS, JUDGES AND COACHES ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE NFA CODE OF ETHICS. The Director of each program is responsible for sharing the Code of Ethics with their students and ensuring that they understand the Code prior to the National Tournament.
3. The PRESIDENT'S SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS will be presented. In Individual Events there are three Divisions as well as the open Sweepstakes Award, to the top ten schools in each of the Individual Event Divisions. Sweepstakes awards will also be presented to the top schools in Lincoln Douglas Debate. School eligibility for sweepstakes will be determined on the Sunday before the tournament begins. Category breakdown will not be announced until the Awards Assembly on Monday.
4. NFA STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is defined as a competitor representing material from another source as his/her own without giving proper credit to that source. This may occur when the student copies material from a source(s) and represents this material as their own or when they do not attribute information to the proper primary or secondary source. It is suggested that direct quotations not exceed 20% of the total speech content. All students entered in prepared events must have manuscripts of the speech(es) available at the National Tournament. The NFA Executive Council may request manuscripts (and/or video tapes) for review should questions of irregularity be brought before the Council. Additionally, in all interpretation events, the literature should represent the intent and language of the author.

## JUDGES FOR NATIONALS

Please remember – a full time judge means they are available for the duration of the tournament. It also means they must be available on Thursday and Friday of the tournament. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact the Tournament Director.

ALSO REMEMBER, ANY JUDGE DROPPED (IE and/or LD) AFTER THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT, THE SCHOOL WILL BE ASSESSED A PENALTY FEE OF \$300 EACH. DROPPED JUDGES AFTER APRIL 6, WILL ALSO BE PENALIZED \$10.00 PER ASSIGNED ROUND AND SCHOOL FEES ADJUSTED TO REFLECT ONE LESS JUDGE and entry fees will be adjusted for hired judge fees in addition. Appeals should be addressed to the Tournament Director and Executive Council.

## HOTEL AND MOTEL INFORMATION

Several hotels/motels have room blocks for those attending the NFA Tournament. Should you have problems finding reservations, contact the President, Larry Schnoor or Dr. Curt Gilstrap for additional listings of hotels/motels in the area. The following three are being designated as official hotels/motels for the Tournament.

1. Clarion Hotel (close to many eateries/shops)

S. Glenstone Ave. – 417-883-6550

Rate: \$74 plus tax

No cut off

40 rooms blocked (will reserve more than 50 until property is full)

Manager: Cindy Ebbert

Reserved under : NFA

2. Hampton Inn East

Chestnut Express & Hwy 65 – 417-863-1440

Rate: \$84 plus tax

No cut off

30 rooms blocked (will reserve more than 30 for early calls)

Manager: Lee Fetter

Reserved under : NFA

3. Hampton Inn South (close to many eateries/shops)

S. Glenstone Ave. – 417-833-6550

Rate: \$74 plus tax

No cut off

35 rooms blocked (will reserve more than 55 until property is full)

Manager: Daniel Silas

Reserved under: NFA

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. NOMINATIONS FOR THE HALL OF FAME AND FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS SHOULD BE SENT TO PROF. KAREN MORRIS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, EAU CLAIRE. BY MARCH 10.
2. THE NFA ENTRY WILL BE ON LINE AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AS INDICATED.
3. REMEMBER, TOURNAMENT RESULTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AS OF THIS DATE, GET THOSE RESULTS TO DR. KARNS.
4. ANY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NFA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY MARCH 5.
5. NFA IS LOOKING FOR HOSTS FOR THE YEARS 2010 – 2011 – 2012. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING, PLEASE CONTACT PRES. LARRY SCHNOO FOR THE DETAILS AND INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING A BID FOR 2010 SO THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN ON THE BID AT THE MEETING THIS APRIL.
6. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER OF THE NFA WILL BE ARRIVING SOON. IT WILL CONTAIN MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SELECTION OF THE LD TOPIC FOR 2009-2010 AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.