

**NFA NEWSLETTER**  
**July 31, 2008**

**Dear Colleagues:**

**I trust you have all had a great summer, and as it draws to a close, it is time to start thinking of the up coming academic year. This Newsletter has several very important items that you should read carefully. The most important item is that of a site location for the 2009 NFA tournament. As of this date, we do not have a site for our tournament. We need to move ahead on the selection of a site and in order to do that, we need to have schools submit a bid/invitation to host the tournament on their campus. The requirements are included in this Newsletter. I urge you to consider hosting and if you have any questions regarding hosting, please contact me. It would be desirable if we could have a site selected by the end of September so that everyone could make travel plans and budget considerations for 2008-2009.**

**Second, this Newsletter also contains the announcement of the Lincoln-Douglas debate resolution for the academic year 2008-2009. You are receiving this announcement a day early as on August 1, I will be involved in the Developmental conference for Individual Events hosted by Bradley University in Peoria. I am pleased to say that there are 97 people at the Conference and the discussion should be very interesting. A future Newsletter will contain information as to the outcome of the conference.**

**Third, several additional announcements are included relative to the NFA for your information.**

**Remember, if you are on a program at the NCA Convention in San Diego in November, the deadline for pre-registration is August 6 and anyone that is on a program and has not pre-registered will be dropped from the program. Send in your registration now if you will be attending.**

**Yours truly,**

**Larry Schnoor, President, NFA**

**SITE INFORMATION:**

**The dates for the NFA Tournament for 2008-2009 are April 16-20.**

## **BIDS FOR HOSTING NFA**

1. **Tournament Hotel/Motel:** Host should provide information about possible choices of a hotel/motel to serve as the general tournament headquarters. The Prep Team is usually housed at this facility. If at all possible, attention should be paid to securing a group of comp rooms to help defray the costs of rooms for the Prep Team. Check with the Pres. of NFA as to this requirement.
2. **Competition Rooms:** Approximately 92 rooms will be needed to meet the highest demand depending upon entries, but varies from round to round with fewer rooms needed at certain times in the schedule. The rooms need to be available on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Monday the number of rooms drops to approximately 15 for semi-final and final rounds. The more central the competition rooms can be, the more it helps the tournament to remain on time. If a 4 day schedule needs to be used, adjustments may be necessary in the number of rooms needed.
3. **Tabulation Rooms:** This should be a central location, near the area that will be used for Ballot Pickup and Drop. This can be one large room or several smaller rooms that are located next to each other. Equipment needed includes: Computers, printers, copy machine or copy facility-(esp. on Monday).
4. **Extemp Draw and Prep:** This needs to be located near the rooms that will be used for extemp competition. It needs to be large enough so that a total of 150 plus extemp speakers will have room to prepare. Tables and chairs are the best if that can be arranged.
5. **Ballot Sorting and Stuffing:** An area needs to be available for the ballots to be sorted and after tabulation, stuffed into school packets. This area should also be located near the tabulation rooms. Host needs to provide students to do the task of sorting and stuffing of the ballots.
6. **Food Service:** Given the tight time schedule of the tournament, it is necessary to make sure that the campus food service will be available for individuals at the tournament. If necessary, arrangements may have to be made to bring in outside vendors by the host school.
7. **Host School Costs:** The Host School covers the cost of printing the tournament booklet, the ballots used for the tournament, and the result sheets for the tournament and other miscellaneous copying costs needed during the run of the tournament. This also means providing paper needed during the prep week and the tournament for copying materials etc and tab room supplies. Host also needs to have posting sheets ready for the quarters, semis, and final postings. Host school does receive a break on entry fees and a stipend to help with expenses. NFA covers the cost of the awards and the tournament schematics.
8. **Hired Judges:** Approximately 40-50 full time or equivalent hired judges will be needed for the tournament. The Host School is responsible for finding these judges and making sure the judges understand the rules and procedures to serve as a judge. It is essential that the list of hired judges has been confirmed and that they will show up to judge. Hired Judges are paid by the NFA.

## **DATES FOR FUTURE NFA TOURNAMENTS**

2009 = April 16-20

2011 = April 14-18

2013 = April 18-22

2010 = April 15-19

2012 = April 19-23

2014 = April 17-21 (Easter – April 20)

## NFA LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE RESOLUTION

According to the procedure for the selection of the LD Debate Resolution for 2008-2009, the following Resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its constructive engagement with Cuba.**

### FOUNDER'S TROPHY

The Founder's Trophy was not presented at the 2008 NFA tournament because it was not delivered to the tournament. It should have been presented to the University of Northern Iowa and has now been delivered to them.

## EXPERIMENTAL EVENT FOR 2009: EDITORIAL IMPROMPTU

**Event Rules: Students will be given a shot editorial (ideally 3 to 5 paragraphs) to which they will develop a response. Students will be allowed nine minutes to divide between preparation and speech time. Speakers must speak for at least five minutes. Limited notes, prepared in the round, are permitted.**

**Event Description: Editorial Impromptu represents an attempt to return "impromptu" to impromptu speaking. The speech should involve the development of an argument in response to the thesis developed or opinion shared in a given editorial. The event resembles typical impromptu speaking in many ways, with the following important exceptions:**

- (1) Topicality is more obviously inherent in the editorial format.**
- (2) The development of argumentation is featured over pre-planned exemplification.**
- (3) Social issues often ignored in other formats are fair game. Historical editorials might also add a dimension to the event.**
- (4) The sharing of opinion, as well as a consideration of the opinions of audience members may play a more central role.**
- (5) The event more closely resembles real-life discussion than existing limited preparation formats.**
- (6) Students are rewarded for possessing and articulating a wider breadth of knowledge than existing formats.**
- (7) This format also encourages the development of skills related to evaluating arguments and analyzing rhetoric.**

**Event Rationale: Several of the advantages listed above also serve as a rationale for the event. Students should be allowed to develop more impromptu argumentative skills in an impromptu**

speaking event. Also, NFA has featured experimental events derived primarily from prepared speaking and interpretive genres to the exclusion of limited preparation. These valuable speaking skills already represent the smallest piece of the forensic pie. The argumentative nature of the event, from the perspective of both analysis and development, seem to directly reflect the argumentative perspective defined by the national development conferences on forensics. Beyond this, students and judges who have participated in the event expressed a positive regard toward it.