

**NATIONAL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 7, 2006**

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this Newsletter finds each of you getting ready to enjoy a nice holiday break and time to relax. This is the first Newsletter of the year and there will be more to come. The purpose of this letter is to give you the information relative to the selection of the Lincoln Douglas topic for our next academic year. As you know the process takes time and only works if those of us that are interested in Lincoln Douglas follow the procedures. They are contained within this Newsletter.

Secondly, the NFA Council is putting out the call for sites for future tournaments. We will be at Berry College in Rome, Georgia for the 2007 Tournament and the invitation and information will be out in January. In the meantime, any school interested in hosting the NFA in future years is encouraged to submit their bid. We are looking for sites for the years of 2008, 2009, and 2010. It would be nice if we could get several bids as that would help us all in our schedule planning for future years. If you desire additional information regarding bids, please feel free to contact me.

Thirdly, I am in the process of forming the following committees for the NFA: Extemp topics committee; Impromptu quotations committee; Ethics committee; and Research Committee. Please feel free to drop me an e-mail if you are interested in being appointed to one of these committees. I hope to have the committees appointed and announced in the next Newsletter in January.

Yours truly,

Larry Schnoor, President, NFA

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CALL FOR TOPICS: Lincoln Douglas Debate 2007-2008

A CALL FOR TOPICS will be included in the NFA Fall mailing requesting each school that has an interest in and an intent to participate in LD Debate in the following academic year to submit a topic area for consideration to the Chair of the NFA Lincoln-Douglas Committee (Prof. Mark Hickman) by January 15th. 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;**
- 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 are submitted will be confirmed by the Chair of the LD Committee. If you submit a brief and do not receive a confirmation, please call Mark Hickman at 610-463-6942.

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 **January 31st**, 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 16th**. The topic area will be selected by using the following method: ballots will be tallied using a weighted preferential voting system in with 1st place receiving 3 points, 2nd place receiving 2 points, and 3rd place receiving 1 point.

Please remember to return the ballots to Mark Hickman, Dept. of Communication Studies, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383.

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, Mark Hickman*. A ballot will be sent out by **March 16th** with five (5) resolutions for consideration. In order for the 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 13th.** 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 **2007-2008**. Prof. Mark Hickman 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:

Mark Hickman, Chair, Executive Council, West Chester University

Vicki Karns, Tournament Director, Suffolk University

Marty Birkholt, Elected Member, Creighton University

John Boyer, Lafayette College

Curt Gilstrap, Drury University

Joelle Perry, Student Member, Western Kentucky University

FUTURE TOURNAMENT SITES:

A call for schools to submit bids to host the NFA during the following years: 2008 – 2009 – 2010.
The dates for the tournament are the third weekend in April as indicated below:

2008 = April 17 – 21

2009 = April 16 - 20

2010 = April 15 – 19

Bid specifications can be found on the NFA web site at

<http://www.nationalforensics.org/tournament-host.html>

Anyone needing additional information is urged to contact the President of NFA.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

Remember, tournament results should be sent to Dr. Vicki Karns, the NFA Tournament Director for this year. Her e-mail address is Vkarns@suffolk.edu Please do so as soon as possible after a tournament.

The next addition of the NFA Newsletter will be sent out in early January. Please look for it.