

# NATIONAL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

## FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

October 17, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the NFA Executive Council, I would like to extend our greetings to you and our hopes that you will find the year ahead a rewarding one. We also want to thank our host of last year's NFA National, Mark Rittenour, for a wonderful tournament. Our host for the 2006 NFA Tournament, Karen Morris, along with her staff and team, are hard at work planning for our visit to Eau Claire in April. This newsletter contains information related to the tournament that you will find useful. A number of very important items are contained in the newsletter so we urge you to read it carefully. If you have any questions related to any of the items, please feel free to contact me.

As in past years, there will be a Forensics Reception on Wednesday evening, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, in Salons A and B. This reception is for members of all forensic organizations. If you arrive in Boston on Wednesday, please drop by the reception to greet your friends and share an evening of visiting with others interested in forensics.

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**National Forensic Association Business Meeting: Saturday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Beacon D.**

## **NFA 2006 TOURNAMENT:**

The 2006 Tournament will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. This year's tournament will be using a **revised schedule** and will be held with Registration on Thursday evening, April 13, 2006 at the Tournament Hotel, Holiday Inn. The tournament will be held on Friday – Monday, April 14-17, 2006. Please be aware of this revised schedule. The tournament will utilize only 4 buildings on the UW Eau Claire campus as follows:

- \*Davies Student Center: Tournament Headquarters
- \*Schneider Social Sciences – Diagonal to Davies
- \*Phillips Science Hall – Adjacent to Davies
- \*Hibbard Humanities Hall – 3 minute walk from Davies

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2006:**

### **Thursday – April 13, 2006**

- 6-8 pm – Registration – Holiday Inn**
- 8-9 pm – National Assembly (Students)**
- 8-9 pm – National Assembly (Coaches)**

### **Friday – April 14, 2006**

- 7:45 am – Opening Assembly**
- 8:30 am – Extemp Draw**
- 9:00 am – Round 1 A**
- 10:30 am – Round 1 B**
- 12:00 pm – LD Round 1**
- 12:45 pm – Extemp Draw**
- 1:15 pm – Round 2A**
- 2:45 pm – Round 1C**
- 4:15 pm – Round 1D**
- 5:45 pm – Round 2B**
- 7:15 pm – LD Round 2**

### **Sunday – April 16, 2006**

- 8:00 am – Non-Denominational Easter Service**
- 9:00 am – LD Round 6**
- 10:00 am Round 3C**
- 11:30 am Round 3D**
- 1:00 pm – LD Double Octofinals**
- 2:00 pm – Round 4C**
- 3:30 pm – Round 4D**
- 5:15 pm – Extemp Draw**
- 5:30 pm – Quarterfinals A & B**
- 7:00 pm – LD Octofinals**

### **Saturday – April 15, 2006**

- 8:00 am – LD Round 3**
- 9:00 am – Extemp Draw**
- 9:30 am – Round 3A**
- 11:00 am – Round 3 B**
- 12:30 pm – LD Round 4**
- 1:15 pm – Extemp Draw**
- 1:45 pm – Round 4A**
- 3:15 pm – Round 4B**
- 4:45 pm – Round 2C**
- 6:15 pm – Round 2D**
- 7:30 pm – LD Round 5**

### **Monday – April 17, 2006**

- 8:30 a.m. – Quarterfinals C & D & LD**
- 10:15 am – Extemp Draw**
- 10:30 am – Semi Finals A & B**
- 12:15 pm – Semi Finals C & D & LD**
- 2:15 pm – Extemp Draw**
- 2:30 pm – Finals A & B**
- 4:30 pm – Finals C & D & LD**
- 7:15 pm – Awards in Zorn**

## **HOTEL INFORMATION:**

Please note:

- \*\* The following hotels have rooms set aside for April 12-17, 2006.
- \*\* The RELEASE DATE for these rooms is MARCH 22, 2006.
- \*\* All blocks reserved under NATIONAL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION.
- \*\* All of these hotels will honor tax exemption (state and city) for every school that provides the proper identification.

**TOURNAMENT HOTEL: \$70.00 1-4 persons**

**Holiday Inn – Campus Area  
2703 Craig Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 835-2211  
Fax: (715)835-1249**

**OVERFLOW HOTELS:**

**Hampton Inn (across the street from the Holiday Inn) \$70.00 1-4 persons**

**2622 Craig Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 833-0003  
Fax: (715) 833-0915**

**Comfort Inn of Eau Claire (across the street from the Holiday Inn)**

**3117 Craig Road \$70.00 1-4 persons  
Eau Claire, WI 547001  
(715) 833-9798  
Fax: (715) 833-9798**

**OVERFLOW HOTELS: continued**

**Days Inn West (several miles from Holiday Inn –same owner as HI)**

**6319 Truax Lane \$60.00 1-4 persons  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
(715) 874-5550  
(800) 950-4850  
Fax: (715) 874-6101**

**General 2006 Tournament Information: Please remind all of your students to remember their student code numbers for their various events. When a student signs in with the wrong code number, the judges have no way of knowing that is it not correct. Also, please work with your judges (even experienced coaches) to make sure that the code number they put on the ballot goes with the name of the student on the ballot and that the comments and rankings are those for the right student(s).**

**MINUTES OF THE NFA APRIL MEETING**

**N.F.A. General Business Meeting: University of Akron, April 15, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bruce Wickelgren, Jodi Nevala, Vicki Karns (SUF); Scott Maltzie (PLY); Chris Grove (WKY); Ben Robin, Jason Warren (TXU); Jennifer Parker, Michael Graupmann (ISU); Margaret Bilos (NWU); Scott Placke (LAF); Scott Boras, Russell Luce (MIA); Melissa Lemke-Elznic (NEC); David Trumble (STA); Melissa Bagwell, Amanda Frioli (EIL); Dan Henning (HIL); Kris Greenwood (MAR); Karen Morris (WEC); Eric Short (NIA); Kelly MdDonald (AZS); James Kozinski (MKO); Donald Page (TNS); Matt Moore (CED); Ed Hinck (CMI); Chris Nieter (OHS); Chuck Jones (ILL); Brendan Kelly (WFL); Ray Quiel (EMU); Curt Gilstrap (DRU); Joyce Webb (SHE); Kimberly Korcsmaros (FMT); Charles Parrott (CLE); Crystal Lane Swift, Mary Moore, Tracy Vittone (BST); Chip Hall, Randy Richardson (BRY); Jaime Howell (INK); Janis Crawford (BUT); Audrey Cunningham (IND), Mark Hickman (WCH), Richard Paine (NOC), Dan Smith (BDL); Larry Schnoor (MKO).

Larry Schnoor called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. He noted that the tournament is running well, and no more room problems are anticipated. In addition, room locales should be much closer to the Union over the weekend.

Larry Presented the Treasurer's Report, noting our solvency. Larry then presented the Election Results:

Vice President for Professional Relations – Leah White  
Council at Large – Karen Morris  
Council at Large – Mark Hickman  
LD Committee – David Trumble  
LD Committte – Marty Birkholt  
LD Committee – Ed Hinck

Larry noted a mistake in the rooms listed for impromptu Rounds 3 and 4. The following announcements were presented:

- the 2006 NFA National Tournament will be hosted at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire over the Easter Weekend. As a result, we will be on a 4 day tournament schedule.
- That schedule will require some adjustments, including later rounds on Friday and Saturday, and student/coach business meetings on Thursday night after Registration.
- 2006 host Karen Morris noted that those flying in to Eau Claire should first consider Minneapolis, then Chicago.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Larry noted that the Council was considering modifications to the procedure used to determine the divisions in team sweepstakes. The present method is based on the assumption that the tournament would usually have at least 100 schools competing, works on a 10-15-20 & remainder scale for the four divisions. These separations are based on number of schools, and the Council feels that we may be better served by basing these separations on **percentages**. He then offered this opinion to the membership for consideration.

Bruce Wickelgren moved, and Audrey Cunningham moved that the constitution be amended to base the sweepstakes divisions on percentage rather than number of schools per category. Discussion clarified that the Open Division would still award the top 10 schools, regardless of number of entries. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Wickelgren noted perceived difficulties in making changes in the organization. He offered ad hoc or standing committees as a suggestion for facilitating change more successfully. Larry offered the use of computers in Extemp Prep as an example of these types of issues. After brief discussion, he asked for nominees to serve on a committee to investigate this issue.

Richard Paine offered the concept of an "Issues Committee" or "Task Force" which would deal with a variety of things, with this extemp issue as its first charge. Chris Nieter wondered about the potential effectiveness of such a committee, suggesting that focused committees might be more effective than a standing committee. Karen Morris noted that a standing committee could still have a variety of members from year to year. Mary Moore noted the value of diversity on such a committee.

Chris Neiter moved that an ad hoc "Issues Committee" be created to examine the use of laptops in extemp. This committee would be appointed by the Council and/or President. Such a committee would serve as a test case for a potentially permanent "Issue Committee." Crystal Lane Swift seconded. Kelly McDonald asked about the possibility of tournament assessment, based on the model of CEDA and NDT. Mark Hickman noted that the Vice President for Administration is ideally suited for dealing with these issues, and could appoint an ad hoc committee. Chris Nieter then moved to table his motion, Bruce Wickelgren seconded, and the motion passed with a majority.

Larry noted that he will appoint an ad hoc committee for the extemp issue, with Randy Richardson as chair. The committee is charged with making a report in November.

Mark Hickman moved that the Vice President for Administration form an "Issues Committee" to deal with concepts and concerns of the membership. Audrey Cunningham seconded. Dan Smith argued that this does not serve increase communication between the membership and the Council. Jason Warren suggested that this committee also be charged with tournament assessment. Chris Grove sought clarification as to whether the committee is charged with dealing with issues, or generating issues. His preference would be that the committee bring issues to the membership each and every year. Randy Richardson offered a friendly amendment that this committee be charged with addressing the decreasing size of the tournament as its first issue. Mark Hickman rejected the friendly amendment. Richard Paine offered a friendly amendment that part of the committee's charge be to systematically solicit and collect data at the National Tournament in order to identify and assess community concerns. Kelly McDonald seconded, and Mark Hickman accepted the amendment. Motion passed with a majority of the membership.

Ray Quiel requested that the minutes reflect his gratitude and respect to the organization for his receipt of the Eddie Myers Distinguished Service Award.

Vicki Karns presented a report from the students. They presented the following:

1. A "face book" for the NFA Student Community.
2. The flighting of Extemp and LD in outrounds.
3. A "warm room" for LD judges to disclose decisions.

Student Representative Elections were not yet complete, and will be added post facto to the minutes >  
(Junior representative elected – Annie Kincaide  
(LD representative elected – Joelle Perry

Mark Hickman moved, the body passed unanimously a motion to adjourn at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Smith, Secretary.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL RETREAT REPORT

On the weekend of August 31-September 3, the officers of NFA and the National Council Members held a retreat at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. This allowed the Council to make a site visit to the host of the 2006 Tournament and review the arrangements for the tournament. In addition the Council had 2 days of work sessions and brain storming related to a variety of items that were discussed at the business meeting of the association in April. The following action steps were taken by the Council:

### **Extemp Prep Committee:**

Based on the motion approved at the business meeting in April, a committee was appointed with Dr. Randy Richardson as charge of the committee. This committee will examine and address the question of whether or not lap top computers should be allowed in the extemp tab room. A preliminary report was requested to be available for the NCA Business meeting of the Association in Boston. The following NFA members were appointed to the committee:

Dr. Randy Richardson, Berry College, Chair  
Professor Jim Schnoebelen, Washburn University  
Professor Paul Porter, Indiana University-Purdue University  
Professor Jason Warren, University of Texas at Austin  
Professor John DuBois, Eastern Michigan University  
Professor Chris Neiter, Ohio University  
Dr. Curt Gilstrap, Drury University  
Professor Joe Kennedy, Concordia College  
Allie Lee, Bradley University (student)  
Professor Brendan Kelly, University of West Florida  
Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Former NFA Extemp Champ & Judge  
Larry Schnoor, President, NFA, Ex-officio member of committee

### **Tournament Assessment Committee:**

Based on the passage of the motion calling for the appointment of this committee, the following members were appointed and given the charge of having a preliminary report for the NFA meeting in Chicago.

Dr. Bruce Wickelgren, Suffolk University, Chair  
Dr. Vicki Karns, Vice President for Administration & Tournament Director  
Professor Raymond Quiel, Eastern Michigan University  
Dr. Kelly McDonald, Arizona State University  
Professor Scott Maltzie, Plymouth State University  
Professor Mary Moore, Ball State University  
Professor Margaret Kaszonyni, Northwestern University  
Professor Kimberly Koresmaros, Fairmont State University  
Dr. Jackson Miller, Lindfield College  
Professor Al Atkins, Indiana University-Purdue University

The report from the student assembly was discussed and action was taken on the one issue the Council felt was something they could manage without any difficulty. The flight pattern for Extemp and LD during outrounds was reviewed and the revised schedule adopted for 2006 should allow for a minimum of problems for those in LD and also qualify for outrounds in extemp speaking. No action was taken on the "face book" for the NFA student community. The council also decided to stay with the current LD rule that no LD judge should disclose decisions during the National LD Tournament.

### **Student Representatives:**

The Council discussed the role of the student representatives. In the past, the election of the student representatives has seem to be based on the popularity of the student without realizing what is expected of the student representatives. The Student Representatives are full members of the NFA Council. They are "Student Representatives" not because they represent solely the student interest, but are called student representatives because they are not faculty/judges/coaches. As a council member they have duties that need to be performed:

1. Attend the meeting of the National Council at the NCA Convention as well as other meetings that might be called by the National Council during the academic year.
2. Serve on various committees and sub-committees of the NFA.

It also needs to be remembered that there are just two student representatives for the council. There is a Senior representative and a Junior representative. At the current time, Jon Meinen from Bradley University is the Senior representative, and has one more year on his term. The Junior representative is Annie Kincaide from Illinois State University, who was elected this past April. She will become the Senior representative in April when a new Junior Representative is elected. The Student Assembly also elects a Lincoln Douglas representative that serves on the Lincoln Douglas Committee and that is presently Joelle Perry of Western Kentucky University.

### **Hall of Fame:**

The Council is aware that there has been discussion and some confusion as to how to nominate someone for consideration to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. In an effort to clarify the procedure and the criteria for acceptance into the NFA Hall of Fame the Council approved the following:

#### **PROCESS OF (AND CRITERIA FOR) ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NFA HALL OF FAME**

1. Anyone may submit an application on behalf of any potential nominee.  
(Exception: Self-nominations are not allowed)
2. Nominees in any given year must have completed their competitive careers a minimum of 5 years previously. Thus, students, who (for example) complete their competitive career at the 2002 NFA Nationals would not be eligible for admission to the Hall of Fame until April 2008.
3. Applications may be submitted at any time, but only those received by March 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year will be considered for admission into the Hall of Fame at the subsequent April's NFA tournament. Applications received after the deadline will be held and considered the following year.
4. Applications must be submitted to the "Hall of Fame Committee," which will be composed on one member of the NFA National Council (this person will serve as the Chair of the Committee) and three other members selected from among volunteers and/or people solicited for membership by or on behalf of the NFA President. All members shall be appointed by the NFA President.\*\*
5. The Hall of Fame Committee shall review all applications.

\*\*Any members wishing to be considered for appointment to this committee, should send their names to the President as soon as possible. The appointments will be announced at the NFA business meeting at the NCA Convention in Boston.

#### **CRITERIA AND APPLICATION INFORMATION**

1. FORENSIC COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE:  
Issues which might be addressed here can include such things as awards received at any and all tournaments (with particular attention being given to NFA Nationals). The level of activity (number of tournaments attended and events entered could also be included.
2. FORENSICS COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP:  
Issues which might be addressed here can include service to home program, service to other programs, forensic scholarship, service to the NFA organization, and demonstrated impact on the ongoing practice of the activity.
3. FORENSIC AMBASSADORSHIP:  
Issues which might be considered here would focus on the application of forensic-related communication competencies when interacting with audiences beyond the immediate forensic community in such contexts as volunteer work, professional career and lifelong growth.

It should be noted that all three of the above areas should be covered in any application of nomination for a person to be considered for the NFA Hall of fame.

## ETHICAL CONCERNS

Each year the Executive Council has had to deal with various issues of ethical concern. Directors, coaches, and judges need to remember that our ethical standards set the norm and if we engage in practices that are questionable, so will our students. Rumors circulate each year about how many of the speeches that are given by students are not really written by the students but instead are written by coaches, graduate assistants, or someone else. While it is difficult to investigate these rumors, the fact that they are out there does our activity no good. In addition, if we want forensics to be considered as a worthwhile activity and one which people will look up to and respect, we need to be aware of the image that we are presenting to the rest of the academic world and the public in general. It is in that light, that the following is being included in this newsletter. Please remember, we are role models and what we do and the actions that we allow our students to do, will be the hallmark by which this activity is judged. We want it to survive in a positive manner and following ethical standards will enable it to do so.

### DIRECTORS AND COACHES

The phrase often used by Directors and coaches of forensics is that we are an education activity. Perhaps it is time to remind ourselves of what it means to be an educator and how our actions and practices influence the education our students received.

1. Directors and coaches are challenged to encourage voracious reading of a variety of material (short stories, plays, essays, novels, etc.).
2. Directors and coaches are challenged to educate their students on the similarities, differences and nuances of literary genre(s).
3. Directors and coaches are challenged to make sure students develop knowledge and skills in the speech writing process.
  - a. Directors and coaches are challenged to ensure that competitors are the authors of their words. Neither coaches, alumni, or teammates should write speeches for fellow competitors.
  - b. Complete and accurate source citation should be stressed by directors and coaches for its pedagogical value. Any shortcut that misrepresents, under-represents, or over-represents another's words and/or ideas must be avoided.
4. Directors and coaches are challenged to educate any and all of their judges about providing accurate, consistent time signals and to write constructive comments on their ballots.
5. Directors and coaches should ensure that forensics is a means to education, but education should not be merely a means to forensics.
  - a. Directors and coaches are challenged to insist that their team members be students first, and competitors second. All teams and team members should strive for academic rigor and excellence, reflected in high GPA's and steady degree progress.
  - b. Directors and coaches are challenged to put the student first in any transfer situation. All involved parties should engage in honest and open dialogue from beginning to end. Transfers based on competitive need or desire alone should be discouraged in favor of academic fit.

## **NFA CODE OF ETHICS**

In an effort to remind everyone of the NFA Code of Ethics, it is being presented here again. Please bring the Code of Ethics to the attention of your students, coaches, and judges.

1. **Repetition of Materials:** It is unethical for students to reuse materials from year to year.
2. **Literary Definitions for Interpretive Events:** Contestants must use literary selections in the appropriate event category and must perform those selections in English.
3. **Authorship of Materials Used In Competition:** Students should author their own materials in non-interpretative events and should cite sources for any material they employ which are not original.
4. **Time Limits:** The judge(s) in each round must assure accurate timing of all performances and provision of accurate time signals in limited preparation events.
5. **Student Affiliation with an Institution:** Students who attend more than one college may only represent one College at nationals. Students may compete at nationals only in those events they qualified while representing the school they compete for at nationals. Students who officially transfer from one institution to another may compete in any events for which they have qualified.
6. **Student Status:** Students who compete at nationals must be making progress toward an initial undergraduate degree.
7. **Evidence in Debate:** Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced.
8. **Non-Published Evidence in All Events:** Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be verified.
9. **Ethical Judging Behavior:** Judges should act professionally, with a respect for academic freedom, when engaged in the practice of critiquing and rating students.

### **CALL FOR BIDS FOR 2007 NFA SITE**

**AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SITE FOR 2007. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN HOSTING THE NFA TOURNAMENT IN 2007, THEY ARE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR BID TO THE PRESIDENT BY NOVEMBER 14 SO THAT THEY MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING AT THE NCA CONVENTION.**

**IN ADDITION, ANYONE WISHING TO SUBMIT BIDS TO HOST THE NFA FOR THE YEARS OF 2008, 2009 OR 2010 ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR BIDS OR INTENTION TO BE BID.**

**HOSTING INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE PRESIDENT OR VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A HOST FOR THE NFA NATIONALS. IT IS ONLY POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE HOLDING A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IF SCHOOLS ARE WILLING TO SERVE AS A HOST.**

