

**MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
FALL COACHES' MEETING
ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL
LAFAYETTE, LA
AUGUST 23, 2003**

The meeting was started by President Judy Hadley at approximately 9:10 AM.

Secretary, Scott Johnstone, took roll. Schools represented were:

Abbeville High School	LaGrange High School
Academy of the Sacred Heart	Neville High School
Acadiana High School	New Iberia Senior High
Alexandria Senior High	Northside High School
Ben Franklin High School	Northwood High School
Bolton High School	North Vermilion High School
Breaux Bridge High School	Notre Dame High School
Caldwell Parish High School	Pineville High School
Captain Shreve High School	Riverdale High School
Carencro High School	St. Louis Catholic High School
Cecilia High School	St. Martin's Episcopal High School
Comeaux High School	St. Scholastica Academy
Erath High School	St. Thomas More High School
Grace Christian High School	Teurlings Catholic High School
Iowa High School	Vermilion Catholic High School
Kaplan High School	Westgate High School
Lafayette High School	

Judy Hadley began the meeting by welcoming everyone and introduced to Executive Council members for this school year: Caroline Argus, Sandra Broussard, Barbara Fontenot, Scott Johnstone, Brenda Kay, and Melba LaCaze. The Executive Council is dedicated to be available to all coaches this year.

Scott Johnstone reported that we have approximately \$2,400.00 for the Cliff Aucoin Memorial Scholarship Fund. The League account has approximately \$8,200.00.

Cheryl Gilmore, the National Forensic League District Chair for Louisiana, gave a report on NFL activities. All schools are encouraged to join and compete in the district tournament at Acadiana High School in March. Cheryl encouraged all NFL members to record student points at www.nflonline.org. Forms to become a member of NFL can be found on its Website. The 2004 National Tournament will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Moderator Barbara Fontenot gave a report from the New Orleans area Catholic Forensic League. Barbara congratulated the students and coaches for a fine showing at the CFL Grand National Tournament this past summer in Washington, D.C. The 2004 National Tournament will be held in Boston, MA.

Sandra Broussard, moderator for the Lafayette district, congratulated participating schools on the excellent results for the area. All schools that want to join this year were encouraged to contact their moderator. Sandra reminded all members that dues will be \$40 and membership letters should be in the mail soon and will be due back to her during the first week of November.

Melba LaCaze, LHSSL Tournament Secretary, reminded everyone about the league's Website. Information about events, coach's manual and links to other related sites can be found at www.gosparkle.net/lhssl. Also, many schools post tournament invitations on the Website. Melba reminded tournament hosts that results for your tournament can be sent to her via the Website. She asked that tournament hosts be careful about recording complete names (first and last name) correctly in tournament results.

Committee Reports

Binders in Duo

Judy Hadley announced that after a brief discussion in the committee meeting, there would be no change in the rules for Duo Reading. Individual tournaments such as NFL and CFL district tournaments have changed the rules for Duo; however, the rules will remain the same for the Tournament of Champions. Other tournament hosts that would like to eliminate binders for competition at their tournaments must notify schools in their invitations.

Sanctioning Tournaments

Brenda Kay, of LaGrange, addressed the problem some tournaments have had recently concerning the minimum number of students in each event. Brenda described that some tournaments, which have had problems finding 10 students to compete, have resorted to using "ghosts", or students unprepared for the event, to have sanctioned events. The committee felt that this was in opposition to the original intent of valid competition. To prevent the abuse of unprepared students in prepared events, the committee proposed the following change for the Rules of Standardization, Article I, Section 6, Subsection B:

In order to be sanctioned, an event must have 10 students prepared to compete in the event officially entered by the day of the tournament. If drops occur at registration, only one swing entry may be placed in the event to make the 10 entry minimum – any other students added to compensate for drops must be students previously prepared to compete in the event.

A tournament director may allow a school to comprise more than half the entry of an event if at least 5 entries in the event are from other schools.

Nancy Gingras, of Alexandria Senior High, proposed an amendment to this new rule with read, "A swing entry may not advance at a tournament." The amendment to the original motion did not pass. Brenda Kay proposed that a "swing entry" be identified in the motion as "an unprepared competitor." The amendment passed. The main motion also passed.

Eligibility Requirements

Shana Qualls, of Breaux Bridge, and her committee discussed the inconsistency of rules in the League's Constitution and the rules for participation at the Tournament of Champions. In order for these two areas of the coaches' manual to match, Shana proposed that the last line of Article II of the Constitution be replaced with "any competing student must be an undergraduate student in grades 9 – 12 who has not been classified above the 8th grade for more than 8 semesters."

Brenda Kay reminded everyone that this change does NOT state “8 semesters of competition.” Since this is a Constitutional Amendment, a ballot will be mailed to all league members.

Membership Dues

Judy Hadley advised the league that due to increased costs of updating and initiating many electronic conveniences the Executive Council would like to raise membership dues to \$50. This would also help to start awarding cash prizes to some winners at the Tournament of Champions. The league will vote on this issue at this year’s Spring Meeting at TC.

Old Business

Saturday Debate Tournaments

David Kay, of LaGrange, identified the need to stimulate interest in debate in Louisiana. He proposed adopting the following in our Rules for Sanctioned Tournaments, Article 1, Section 6, Subsection D: “If a school hosts a one-day, debate-only tournament, the tournament will qualify winners for Tournament of Champions if 5 or more schools compete at the tournament.” Additionally, we add in Rules for Sanctioned Tournaments, Article 1, Section 6,

A host school may compete in a one-day debate-only tournament held on its own campus if the tournament is run by a committee of coaches from at least 3 schools. Hosting such a tournament will not preclude a school from also hosting a regular speech tournament on another date.

Also, we add to Rules for Sanctioned Tournaments, Article 5, Section 1, Subsection C, “a one-day debate tournament may go straight to finals after four preliminary rounds and qualify both finalists for the Tournament of Champions.” After a brief discussion, the motion passed.

Mail Forms

All forms to the Executive Secretary and the Executive Tournament Secretary should be mailed certified return receipt requested. Do not fax tournament reports, membership reports, TC entries or any other paperwork to the Executive Secretary.

2003 – 2004 Tournament Calendar

The tentative tournament schedule was reviewed. Many changes were made.

New Business

Evaluating Tournaments

The Executive Council believes that in order to improve the quality of all tournaments in the state, each tournament on the calendar will go through an evaluation process this year. All schools attending a tournament will be asked to complete a written evaluation to be returned to the Executive Council at the end of a tournament.

Carin Wilson, of New Iberia Senior High, asked for clarification in duo reading. Our rules allow students to look at each other only during the introduction and transitional lines. It is important that judges know about this exception during competition.

Melba LaCaze reminded all coaches to check the Website throughout the school year to verify the correct spelling of any student qualified for the Tournament of Champions. It is the coach’s responsibility, not the student’s, notify her if any student is listed incorrectly.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15.