

Minnesota Debate Teachers Association
Fall CTAM Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 15th, 2012

The following were in attendance: DJ Brynteson (President, Robbinsdale Cooper); Ross Eichele (President-Elect, Blaine); Cort Sylvester (Past-President, Rosemount); Chris McDonald (Treasurer, Eagan); Zach Prax (Secretary, Chanhassen); Pam Wycoff (Apple Valley), John Fogarty (Cannon Falls); Todd Mensink (Champlin Park); Elizabeth Grayden (Chanhassen); Lisa Gohl (Rochester-Lourdes).

Treasurer's Report. Chris mentioned that we are still in a strong financial position, and that the MDTA was once again able to provide over \$10,000 in grant money to schools to help foster debate programs. DJ will follow up with recipients to ensure they understand the conditions of the grant. We will not be paying into the Foundation this year to make sure there is money in the MDTA account in case any issue arises. Chris also noted that are expenses should decrease a bit this year, as the MDTA will no longer fund the Public Forum Challenge Cup Awards since it is now an MSHSL sanctioned event and the MSHSL will pay for the trophies/plaques.

New Items.

1. MSHSL Hall of Fame Nominations. This is now on a two year cycle. The last debate person nominated (and added) to the MSHSL Hall of Fame was Gail Sarff (five years ago). DJ will send an email looking for nominees; all nominees must have coached debate for at least 20 years to be eligible.
2. Congress at the Novice/JV State Tournament. As Congress will have a presence at invitational tournaments this year, a desire was expressed to provide an open chamber of Congressional Debate for all first and second year debaters. It would provide a great capstone for Congress competitors.
3. Uniformity of Congress legislation. It was suggested that coaches pool together resources in order to write/provide students with a pool of Congress bills/resolutions that could be debated by students at Congress invitationals. The legislation could be provided on a tab of the MDTA website, and coaches could determine which legislation would be debated at which invitational tournaments.
4. Pam noted that Minnesota schools should email her regarding entrance at the MinneApple with any difficulties regarding the October 4th registration deadline, and she can work with everyone to secure slots in case paying in advance presents any hardship.
5. Novice Topic. It was suggested that to help novices learn debate, we should have a special novice topic that is used every year for the September/October LD topic and potentially the October PF topic...this would give novices access to prepared research so they could focus on skill development. A proposal will be written and presented at the Spring MDTA meeting for potential implementation in Fall 2013.

Old Items.

1. PF Judge Qualifications – we discussed ways in which we should try to find PF judges. DJ is seeking additions to the judge ballot; anyone wishing to add names should email DJ directly. Discussion was also had on whether we should have requirements (i.e., if PF judges should be recommended to judge a minimum number of rounds before the tournament) and how we should organize the judge hiring – Should there be a shared pool for LD/PF? These items will be discussed at the advisory meeting by the Executive Board with Chris Franson and Mike Tillman.
2. State rules have been changed to recognize PF as an official state event and to clear up language issues within the rulebook.
3. Sections have been updated and are accurate on the MSHSL website; there was significant movement to balance sections in all three forms of debate.
4. A computer is being used in the tab room at the state tournament! TRPC will be used to tabulate. Now, the MDTA is seeking a person with knowledge of TRPC to assist in tournament operations. It was decided that it should not be an active coach as this person will be stationed in the tab room the entire time. Two names

were brainstormed – Mike Vergin and Joe Schmitt. Other names for consideration should be emailed to DJ; DJ will approach these persons to determine availability and forward a name to the League.

5. Novice Policy Packet – This is in varying stages of completion and will hopefully be finished soon. It will be on the MDTA website.

Upcoming MDTA Items

1. Voting for State Judges will be held at the end of September to be wrapped up by the beginning of October. If you plan to judge at state, get registered with the MSHSL!
2. MDTA Awards – Nominees for both Coach of the Year and the Distinguished Service Award will be sought in December.
3. MDTA President - Nominees will be requested and elections held in December; the President-Elect will be named at the MSHSL State Debate Tournament when Ross Eichele becomes President and DJ Brynteson becomes Past-President.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to DJ Brynteson for his leadership for the past two years!

Zach Prax
Chanhassen High School
Secretary – Minnesota Debate Teachers Association