

2016 Spring Meeting

In Attendance:

DJ Brynteson – President (Robbinsdale Cooper)
Ross Eichele – Past-President (Eagan)
Chris McDonald – President-Elect (Eagan)
Zach Prax – Secretary (Eastview)
Shane Stafford (Blake)
Sandy Berkowitz (Blake)
Tom Fones (SPA)
Fred Sternhagen (Concordia College)
Nick Smith (STA/Visitation)
Robyn Madsen (Forest Lake)
Jake Swede (UDL)
Desiree Niemann (Lakeville)
Travis Ormsby (UDL)
Latrone Smith (East Ridge)
Cody Dorumsgaard (Maple Grove)
Cody Goodchild (Maple Grove)
Gregg Martinson (Roseville)
Amy VanderHeiden (St. Michael Albertville)
Heather Fairbanks (SPA)
Mark Ahlstrom (STA/Visitation)
Rachel Baumann (Rosemount)
Nathan Wodarz (Rosemount)
Steven Appelget (Bloomington)
Bob Groven (UDL)

- I. Finance Report. Current balance is \$11,419.84. Expected Expenses: Jamboree (\$750 – for school and trophies); JV/Novice State (\$250); State Expenses \$500; Tamar Kaplan (\$500), All-State Awards (\$250); Policy Topic; Program Grants (\$7500). So, we'll be at approximately \$1500 at the end of the year – which is a good amount to stay budget-wise. Foundation is also doing well – we have about \$200,000 in the Foundation and receive an interest check each year; we're expected to get another good payment this year.
- II. Old Business.
 - a. Congress State Festival. Seemed to go well with limiting to two entries – we had two full varsity chambers with a final round, as well as three chambers of JV/Novice. Congress has grown the fastest of the different types of debate this year. We are seeing lots of growth from outstate programs in Congress specifically. Question was asked if it should be moved from Novice/JV State to the section tournament date. We will continue to keep it on that weekend as it continues to grow, but may look to alternate dates in the future.
 - b. Novice Policy Packet Meeting. Jake and Travis from the UDL would like to coordinate the packet this year. The policy community has already established potential affirmative and negative positions; the packet should be out by June 1, so the group is ahead of schedule from previous years. The reading level will be more user-friendly (more at a 9th grade level), and it will have one card per page to make it more usable. DJ will make sure it gets out to the full membership via email as well as posted on the MN Debate Facebook Page.
 - c. MDTA Grants. Grant application will be sent out soon. There are specific schools that the executive board will target to complete the application, as they last year communicated interest in starting a program – this could be a good way to establish the first year of new programs. The MDTA has spent approximately \$50,000 on program grants to date, and overall, results have been positive...80% of schools that received grants still maintain active programs today. In addition, we will be reaching out to schools with speech programs that do not have debate programs to see if we can get debate started in those teams. Again, we are looking at approximately \$7,500 in grant money.
- III. New Business

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- a. Registration Software. The MDTA has been spending \$2,000 per year to establish Joy of Tournaments for tournaments to use on software. The Executive Board has recommended using tabroom.com for registration and tournament management purposes. DJ Brynteson and Zach Prax are in the process of creating manuals on how to use tabroom.com for tournament management and they should be ready at some point in the summer. Tabroom will be used for the MSHSL State Debate Tournament as well. Schools can certainly continue to use Joy of Tournaments, but the MDTA will no longer be providing the funds to pay for it.
- b. Tournament Calendar. First tournament of the year – September 24th – MDTA Jamboree at Wayzata High School. Congress, LD, PF, and Policy. They have 135 rooms to use, so it will not be flighted. Duluth Denfeld will be hosting October 15th so should alleviate pressure we've previously had on that weekend. The schedule has already been posted to the MDTA. East Ridge is again going to be the site for the MSHSL Section Contests on January 6-7, 2017. Central MN NSDA Congress will continue to be in November, Southern will likely be moving to November as well. Date and location TBA.
- c. Section Tournament Proposal. It's becoming impossible to balance sectioning based on entry numbers in each section in each event. We still want a qualification process, that still maintains a state tournament (rather than a festival) title – but it would be good to have an alternative to our current qualification process that removes the power that lack of entries have on the state tournament itself (for instance, there was a hole in the policy schedule at state this year, and a hole in the LD schedule at state last year). Continuing to have holes in the program is a cause for concern, as it raises the potential of the contest being reduced to a festival rather than a state tournament. The proposal, which has already been disseminated, was discussed. No decision was made at this time. Rather, the executive board will explore other potential alternatives (and determine if they will even be permissible by the MSHSL), such as a proportional entry system. This will be discussed more at the CTAM Fall Meeting.