

Minutes NFC Meeting 2012
Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012
on the campus of
Clark College with host Dave Kosloski

1. Thank you to Dave for hosting. Thanks for feeding us, also.
2. Introductions of all coaches
Beth Hewes, CSI; Mike Ingram, Whitworth; Mike Dugaw, Lower Columbia; Dan Schabot, Lower Columbia; Greg Young, Humboldt State; Mark Porrovecchio, Oregon State; Chris Pierini, U of Washington; Joe Gantt, Lewis & Clark; Derek Buescher, UPS; Melissa Franke, PLU; Gary Gillespie, Northwest University; Jennifer Conner, Pacific University; Dan Broyles, Pacific University; Rico Maloney, University of Oregon; Mindy Maloney; William Anderson, Lane Community College; David Kosloski, Clark College; Jackson Miller, Linfield College; Brent Northup, Carroll College.
3. Introduction of officers
President.....Brent Northup, Carroll (expires May 2013)
NFC At-Large Representative.....Michael Ingram, Whitworth (ends May 2013)
Community College Representative....Michelle Bennett, CWI (ends May 2013)
NIET rep & IPDA Rep.....Mark Porrovecchio, Oregon State (ends May 2013)
CEDA/NDT rep.....I'm not sure.
BP Rep.....Jackson Miller
Parli Rep:Joe Gantt, L&C

Including Web site report from Beth Hewes

3. **Budget Report**
Cash on hand, Sept. 8, 2012: \$4904.68
Cash on hand, Sept 6, 2011: \$4457.19
Cash on Hand, Sept. 6, 2010: \$3734.92
Cash on Hand, Sept. 11, 2009: \$2742.37
Cash on hand, Sept. 3, 2008: \$2507.63
Cash on hand, Sept. 8, 2007: \$3090.68
Cash on hand, Sept. 8, 2006: \$3005.73
Cash on hand, Sept. 9, 2005: \$3417.74
Cash on hand, Sept. 9, 2004: \$1743.44
Cash on hand, August 25, 2003: \$1182.34
Cash on hand, August 31, 2002: \$1221.20
Cash on hand, August 31, 2001: \$1498.55

5. **Calendar updates.**
Calendar corrections. Latest draft of calendar enclosed with survival guide.

6. **Tournament reports:**
Designateds:
Lewis & Clark, Oct. 12-14: Joe. Invite available.
Linfield, Nov. 9-11. Jackson. Invite available.
Western University, January 25-27. Steve.

7. Other regional tournament announcements

CSI will honor Fran Tanner this year; Northwest has invited Yale to their fall BP tournament and workshop (Sept. 28); The Oregon Penitentiary Tournament will be on Oct. 6 with Jackson Miller as the contact; Clark's tournament will be on Dec. 1 & 2 and will honor both Orv Iverson and Krista Bacon-Vickery; The Smelt will offer BP, NPDA and IPDA; NIDL one day Saturday tournament in early January at OSU (tentative); OSU Speakeasy on Feb. 23-24 (days after NIET Qual) featuring IPDA and IEs;

8. Special reports:

IDEA – Jackson. The Open Society Foundations welcomes funding ideas for The Global Debates program which encourages youth to engage in reasoned discussion about issues important to their lives and to call for positive change around the world.

CEDA, NDT. Idaho State & Weber State, back to back, in late March, early April.

BP – Jackson. U.S. Nationals in Los Angeles at LaVerne on April 12, 13, 14.

NFA – Jackson Miller. In West Virginia, April 18-22.

NPDA – Brent Northup. U of Pacific, Stockton, March 22-25

NPDA Journal ... David Williams of Texas Tech doc.williams@ttu.edu. If you are interested in publishing in a special assessment issue, contact Derek at UPS.

NIET qualifier, at Lewis & Clark on Friday, Feb. 22; Nationals in Kansas, April 5-8

PKD – in St. Louis, March 13-16.

Western States Conference & Tournament – Will have BP & NPDA; Contact Bob Becker. [Robert.Becker@northwestcollege.edu]

Interstate Oratory – April 26, 27.

Phi Rho Pi – Los Angeles, April 15-20.

NPTE – Location not set. Usually near and just before NPDA (Stockton this year).

Seattle Urban Debate League, Portland Debate League. Mike Dugaw. 2 fall events.

IFA: Antwerp, Brussels. March 9-17

Novice Nationals March 8-10 Berry College, Georgia

PKD – in St. Louis, March 13-16.

IPDA: March 21-24, Univ. Arkansas-Monticello.

Two reports: **Tournament Evaluation Tool & NFC Survey**

Tournament Evaluation Tool

Brent Northup has developed a basic tournament evaluation tool through Survey Monkey. If requested, Brent will send the survey to the schools who attend a tournament – and make the results available to the host and the attending schools. We will use the tool to evaluate the Designated Tournaments as well. A copy of the survey will be in the survival guide – and the survey will be tweaked and improved during the year.

NFC Survey

The first draft of the NFC survey results was discussed at the meeting. A full report will be available after the Lewis & Clark tournament. Here are some highlights (with 3/4 late surveys not yet included).

Selected data from the survey follows. Full report forthcoming by Oct. 16, 2012.

What events are NFC students entering 2012-2013?

333 students will compete in individual events

207 in parli

201 in IPDA

187 in BP

17 in policy

Administrative support

62 have good or strong support

31 percent have “some”

7 percent (2) have poor support

Program safe?

82 percent describe their program as quite safe or “seems safe”

20 percent (6) describe their program as “unsure” “tentative” or “at risk.”

What nationals do we attend?

PiKap 11

NPDA 9

BP Nats 9

NPTE 7

NIET 6

IPDA 4

Phi Rho Pi 2

Job satisfaction over time

39 percent say job satisfaction is more or much more satisfying than before

36 percent say job satisfaction is “about the same”

27 percent say job satisfaction is somewhat less or much less satisfying

Education/Competition

62 percent say the Northwest values competition more than education

24 percent say the Northwest does not value competition more than education

Health at tournaments

Sleep: minor problem, 48 percent; significant problem 42 percent
(some level of concern: 90%)

Eating: minor problem 55 percent; significant problem 31 percent
(some level of concern: 86%)

Alcohol: minor problem 37 percent; 23 percent significant problem
(some level of concern: 60%)

Pot: minor problem 24 percent; significant problem 21 percent
(some level of concern: 45%)

Other drugs: 24 percent as minor problem; 4 percent as significant (28%)
(some level of concern: 28%)

Educational value of events, over time

40 percent perceive a decline in value of IEs over time

10 percent perceive an improvement in IEs over time

77 percent perceive a decline in value of Parliamentary debate over time

13 percent perceive improvement in Parli

4 percent perceive decline in value of BP

34 percent perceive improvement in value of BP

(48 percent "do not know")

14 percent perceive decline in value of IPDA

21 percent perceive improvement in value of IPDA

(43 percent "do not know")

34 percent perceive decline in value of policy

3 percent perceive improvement in value of policy

(59 percent "do not know")

Strengths of the Designateds:

1. Large numbers of schools
2. Higher level of competition
3. Sense of a Northwest community
4. Novice/junior divisions in many events

Weaknesses of the Designateds: Coaches focused on two primary issues.

1. Three long days (overwhelming number one)
2. Not always on time, rushed schedule
3. An assortment of unique complaints, which varied from program to program.

If we were the God of forensics, what would we change.

This question produced some very thoughtful responses ranging from more money for programs to “I’d buy the world a Coke.” Some called for an end to coach-written speeches and coach-run prep for debate. There’s clearly some sentiment in our region for “real world rhetorical practices” but there were also suggestions in this survey that the region caters too much to such “real world” norms. The only way to digest this question is to read through the comments and ponder.

Full NFC survey report forthcoming by the Tuesday, following Lewis & Clark

General roundtable Discussion

A stream of consciousness review of some of the conversations held at this year’s NFC meeting:

Use of Internet during Extemp prep

The NFC passed a bylaw allowing Internet in prep in 2011.

There was discussion over whether this allowing live Internet during prep improves extemp or lowers the quality of extemp. Students who are denied Internet and who therefore must prepare beforehand are better educated on the topics, say some. But others claim that allowing students to use Internet during prep equalizes the playing field so that all competitors have an opportunity to become informed, even if they do not have the team resources for a full file of pre-prepared materials.

In the age of digital knowledge, perhaps trying to outlaw online access is swimming upstream against the tide of the digital age? Or perhaps we should resist this trend for the educational benefit of students?

Should judge pools be mixed?

Jackson Miller (Linfield) suggested he may experiment with mixing the judge pools so that, for example, BP judges hear parli rounds and NPDA judges hear BP rounds. He may have a debate tab that tabulates multiple debate formats – and has judges from all types of debate available for use in different modes of debate. This produced a lively discussion of the merits of “cross pollination” of judge pools. Some felt that judges who crossed over to another form might learn to appreciate that format, leading to more tolerance among coaches towards other forms of debate, for example. Others felt that using NPDA judges in BP, for example, would be unfair to BP debaters who might be subject to judge paradigms that contradict their training and, perhaps, the intent of BP. Similarly, a BP judge in parli might also render decisions that reward strategies widely used in NPDA.

But perhaps such crossovers would build bridges between various forms of debate? As the discussion proceeded the group seemed to develop a near consensus that such experiments should be voluntary – allowing judges to opt out of such an opportunity to cross over to judge another form of debate. Jackson said he would reflect on the conversation and that he saw the wisdom of not forcing such a change, without the permission of the judge involved. Coaches also suggested that the programs from one form of debate should be consulted before judges from another form are brought in to judge their students. Thus, perhaps, consent should come from both sides: the judge who might cross over and the debaters who might be judged by such “cross over” judges.

Ducks in transition

Rico Maloney is the new DOF at the University of Oregon. He spoke to the group, saying he was excited by the opportunity and also daunted by the challenges he faces in his first year at Oregon. He welcomes feedback from the community on perceptions of the UO program. He said he'd like to know the UO program's weaknesses, so he can address them. And he'd like to hear of the programs strengths, so he can build upon them.

He also welcomes advice from all coaches on all matters. He said such suggestions could be sent to him or to David Frank, who oversees the program. He's looking forward to the year ahead, but knows there will be a learning curve, so he welcomes support.

Duck Addendum: On Oct. 4, Rico sent a note to me, to pass along to the NFC, that he had "resigned the Oregon position." As of Oct. 8 the coach contacts for Oregon are Ben Dodds and Thomas Schally, with David Frank of the Honors College directing the program.

The culture of forensics – drugs and alcohol

There was a brief discussion about whether drugs and alcohol is a problem in the forensics community. Coaches discussed "zero tolerance" campuses which prohibit smoking (cigarettes and/or pot) on campus. Coaches also discussed their school policies prohibiting drugs and alcohol by students – on campus and on trips. Some coaches suggested the use of alcohol and drugs has increased in forensics. Others said it has not changed, but that the use of drugs and alcohol has "gone above ground" rather than "hiding underground." Basically, it was a conscious-raising discussion without searching for remedies. The NFC survey indicates many programs are concerned, at various levels, about drug and alcohol use at tournaments or at tournament hotels.

How are programs different?

Coaches asked for statistical information on what events different programs are entering. Brent Northup said he could get some of that data from the survey. Coaches wondered how many programs were "only IE," for example. How many are "only NPDA," and so forth. Northup said he'll chart that data and send it out with the report.

Mood of the meeting

I would categorize the discussions at this year's meeting amicable and honest. There seemed to be acceptance and tolerance for differences, while honestly addressing issues that divide us.

Whitworth in 2013

The Fall gathering moves East next September (we rotate Seattle, Oregon, East side) on the campus of Whitworth College.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes by Brent Northup