

Spring Meeting – 2022

Meeting called to order at 938am 4/10/2022

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON (29): Carol Cecil, Braddock; Dario Camara, Western; Aly Fiebrantz Awsare, University School of NSU; Nathan Johnston, Lake Highland Prep; Paul Gaba, Wellington; Patrick Sammon, St. Thomas Aquinas; Jim Froelich, Pine View School; Alicia Laufer, Spanish River; Sarah Botsch-McGuinn, Cooper City; Danielle Isaacs, West Broward; Bo Lint, American Heritage Palm Beach; Benjamin Gaddis, Trinity Prep; Kate Hamm, Ransom Everglades; Ryan Levesque, American Heritage Broward; Gabriel de Tuya, Christopher Columbus; Jose Denis, Nova; Kelly Schwab, Pembroke Pines; Joele Denis, American Heritage Middle School; Samantha Adams, AD Henderson Middle School; Cathy Brown, Apopka; Jason Alford, Everglades; Patricia Smith, Cardinal Newman; Luis Bravim, Cardinal Gibbons; Quentin Scruggs, John I. Leonard; Traci Lowe, Suncoast; William Gonzalez, MAST @ FIU BBC Campus; Robin Eskin-Fieler, Colonial; Grant Chmielewski, Dr. Phillips; Martha Warwick, Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

Fall Meeting – 2022 – Fall Meeting (Virtual via Zoom) Saturday 8/20/22 - link to be sent to coaches

Regional Quals – 2023 – Saturday – 2/4/23 – locations per Regional Director's Discretion

Varsity State – 2023 – Saturday/Sunday – 3/4 – 3/5/23

Novice State – 2023 – Saturday/Sunday – 4/22 – 4/23/23 (this date is subject to change based on the TOC – if TOC changes it's date we will move to 4/15 – 4/16/23)

Middle School State – 2023 – TBD (depends on discussion during the meeting)

Other Important Dates/Religious Holidays

8/27/22 - SAT	12/3/22 – SAT
9/10/22 - ACT	12/10/22 - ACT
9/25/22 - Rosh Hashanah	2/11/23 – ACT
10/1/22 – SAT	3/11/23 - SAT
10/4/22 – Yom Kippur	4/15/23 – ACT
10/22/22 - ACT	4/5/23 – Passover Begins
11/5/22 - SAT	4/9/23 - Easter

Agenda Items

Old Items That Still Need To Be Dealt With

1. Revamped Congress Manual – Ready For September 2022 – Paul Gaba, Wellington HS
2. Congress Packet For NS/MS – Kate Hamm & Benjamin Gaddis – Ransom Everglades & Trinity Prep

New Agenda Items

1. Agenda Item #1: Creating an FFL Middle School (and possibly Elementary School) Division – Ryan Hubbard – American Heritage Broward (ties in with #3)
 - We would like to create a Middle School division within the FFL. This will increase middle school participation in speech & debate and will inevitably have a positive effect on the high school division & participation
 - This will also require Middle School director positions. Ideally, Middle School coaches would be best to fill these positions.
 - This will increase numbers for the FFL Middle School State Tournament as well.
 - Once the Middle School division is solid, the next step will be to create an Elementary School division
 - Carol Cecil: possible online tourneys through the year to help
 - Joele Denis: backs up online option, viewed some national options already
 - Paul Gaba: FCDI connection
 - Robin Fieler - FCDI will pay FFL membership for new MS members
 - Ben Gaddis - MS committee needs to reach out to programs at start of year re: participation and travel options/rules for schools and districts
 - OPTION 1 + 3 combined by unanimous vote
2. Agenda Item #2: FFL Fall Meeting Coach Workshops - American Heritage Broward
 - Given how many new and/or inexperienced coaches, there is a MAJOR need for coach training.
 - I think we would have stronger attendance at the fall meeting if we offer a few Coach Training Courses. These courses can help new coaches with basic information. There could also be courses aimed at more experienced coaches.
 - Potential Coach Workshop Topics:
 - Trainings on various speech & debate events & best practices
 - Managing a Speech & Debate Team: Best practices

- How to Run/Tabulate/Host a Speech & Debate Tournament
 - Teaching Speech & Debate: Classroom & Curricula
- Carol Cecil: will speak with Beth Eskin to see how to make these options happen; this has been done in the past occasionally at FBK and other tourneys to teach online registration options, minimal if any participation. Also, trying to expand FFL tab/tourney assistance, could be a gateway to more participation.
- Kate Hamm: middle of state would be a good option for in-person, central location
- Nathan Johnston: include a Zoom option as well
- Carol Cecil: hard to find open weekend during the year to do this
- Grant Chimelewski: make it happen at regional level
- 3. Middle School Steering Committee – Aly Fiebrantz Awsare - NSU (tied in with #1)
 - Let us know if interested in participating:
- 4. Sweepstakes – Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU
 - Redefine what constitutes a small school
 - Rebalance the categories (due to new events added)
 - Revisit the calculation methods (see “rebalance” above)
- Ben Gaddis: will this be done by committee? Or is this an e-board issue? (doesn't need to be an official committee)
- Joele Denis: add sweeps to MS and NS too? Could incentivize teams to attend.
- 5. Revamp Executive Board Responsibilities - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU
 - Carol Cecil: paying to have website professionally managed; would need revamping in part due to this
 - Aly Awsare: addition of MS adds to need to amend and adjust
- 6. Regional Directors – Regional directors will get to select one of two tiebreakers to be used a regional tournaments. – Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep
 - Nathan Johnston: this primarily ties to debate events; we made some changes a few years ago, but smaller pools and/or disproportionate entries by one school leads to pairing issues (school can't hit itself) - options are use either current or former model (app wins and speaker points adjustments) - districts have flexibility - would need to be announced prior to tourney. Allow discretion by regions on across the board or by-event at tourneys
- 7. Hosting Guidelines – Carol Cecil – Braddock
 - Revamp/Update Hosting Guidelines

- Will accept observations/additions/suggestions from coaches for improvement
 - Meal Options – Vegan/Veg/Gluten/Kosher/Reg - of the 2 meals served 1 meal should be a hot meal
 - Only Event on Campus using classrooms
8. Formula for unused state qualifier spots. - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep
- Nathan Johnston: some districts fill all slots, have alt list; other lists districts don't use all spots. This would (in many cases) fill all state slots for entries via reallocation - start by giving to smaller districts - not only fills out tourney, also increases diversity and grows smaller regions.
 - Joele Denis: should be discussion on how to benefit smaller districts (larger schools vs smaller schools) - method seems beneficial to particular schools
 - Gabriel de Tuya - need to discuss if students drop on how to advance and use spots
9. Decrease prelims & pattern speech - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU
- Aly Awsare: went to 6 prelims to have a round on Sunday; maybe reevaluate with patterning rounds and decrease number of prelims (students could double in both extemp, of example)
 - Joele Denis: could add additional break round with patterns and larger participation (42 v 36)
 - Carol Cecil: keep at five, still drop lowest round, could add another break - will do what's best for the event
10. WSD all schools get 2 entries at quals (9th grade supp – will not apply to WSD – schools will not be able to use 9th grade supp for a 3rd WSD entry) - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland
- Nathan Johnston: should add a second WSD team per school option for supplement schools
11. Remove Regional Constraints for prelims - Aly Fiebrantz Awsare – NSU
- Aly Awsare: Rounds 5+6, pullups are messy; need to review internally with Speechwire and Ben, but if remove R1/R2 constraints will help create nicer breaks later (currently protect regions in debate)
12. Increase Varsity State to 42 qualifiers per event (an increase of 6 from the original 36) - Nathan Johnston – Lake Highland Prep
- Nathan Johnston: need to update due to growth in state. Increases tourney by 20 rooms, gives every district another qualifier (basically), and plenty of

problems in debate events due to pool size, so increase would resolve later pairing issues via diversity.

- Chimelewski: should look at this every few years to reevaluate
- Cecil: room concern (school size), may hinder number increase in the future; logistics and hosting can be an issue with larger numbers

Adjourned at 10:23am