

MFL Board Meeting – April 5, 2008
At Westford Academy
During State Finals for Speech/Congress

The meeting was called to order by the President, Chris Palmer, at 4:15 pm.

Board Members Present: Chris Palmer, Wendy O’Neil, Susan Marianelli, Joyce Albert, Lisa Honeyman, Nancy Gahagan, Rob Croteau
Also in attendance: Marc Rischitelli

Next League Meeting Saturday, June 7 at 1:00 at Milton Academy.

Two items on agenda for today:

1. Lynne Coyne has not attended any meetings all year. We need to decide what to do about a chair of debate for next year.
2. Maggie Berthume is moving to Atlanta and her board position will be open next year. So we need to fill an at-large slot as well.

Chris began by asking us to reflect upon how things went with the MFL this year.

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- “I think we had a good year. “
 - “At the ballot table the judges have commented at the high quality today.”
 - “We’re in good financial shape.”
 - “Overall numbers were down at States this year so it was very hard to panel. There were no rounds off for judges.”
 - “Our tournaments have been ending on time – mostly ending by 5:30-6:00.”
 - “Joyce has been a great tournament “pest” keeping things going during the day.”
 - “Having someone outside at the table with a computer has been a great way to keep things moving during the day.”
 - “We need to do a better job finding more tournament hosts. Too much is falling on a few schools, and many schools are too small to host.”
 - “Reminders for coaches at tournaments would be helpful. Not everyone uses e-mail as regularly as we would like. We’re all together, so let’s use the time to improve communications.”
 - “U-Mass Amherst would like to host something. Maybe a NY/MA tournament?”
 - “Tournaments have been running really smoothly. Every tournament has run well this year.”

Things that were brought up as possible topics for next meeting

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- We need to remember to re-vote the novice qualification rules for next year.
 - Examine a more simplified system for quals to States
 - Look at Wendy’s proposal from earlier this year.
 - Before the meeting, we need to put out a request for tournament sanctioning so we can set the calendar.

- New school outreach – how do we get more involved? We need to discuss this.
- Update coach manual for next year.
- Chris has started typing up rules clarifications for rules violations, Joyce started the process. He'll send it along to the board before the next meeting – codifying existing practice first and then discussing areas in need of clarification.
- Dan Sapir has drafted rules for impromptu and we'll have those to consider before the next board meeting.
- Group committee will present at the next meeting as well.

Motion to adjourn - O'Neil, seconded by Gahagan
Adjourned at 4:36.

PLEASE NOTE:

Agenda items for the Annual League Meeting (to take place on June 1) are due to Chris Palmer by Saturday, May 10.