

State of the State – August 29, 2015

Led by Pauline Carochi and Marti Benham

National Speech/Debate (NFL) – Deano Pape

- Loves meeting new coaches
- Deano is the state liaison for Colorado
- Hosts the National Tournament and the National Honor Society for Speech and Debate
- New scholarship program with Pi Kappa Delta (collegiate society for speech) – kids can opt in to participate in scholarship communications specifically for speech and debate member students
- Lots of materials online!
- Encourages new schools to consider joining or re-joining!
- For returning coaches, you can update info with Deano today (new coaches, emails, etc.)

CHSAA Commissioner: Bud Ozzello

- CHSAAnow.com – everything is there
- What's listed on that website is the 2015-16 Handbook
- Letter about Unity written by Bud – Strength in Unity (Pauline cleaned it up!)
 - Activities throughout the US are losing programs – a person retires/resigns and the school does not pick it back up.
 - We have to stand together to offer opportunities to all kids
- Please become familiar with online Handbook – see page 13 on for rules for Regionals and State
- Regional Qualifying Info on p. 21; Festival Info on page 47; State Tournament on page 34; ballots in back – duplicate as you need. New events ballot this year: Contrasting Monologues for Festival.
- When you have judges at your regular tournaments, we want them for State meets. Judges for State need to have judged at least 1 tournament and passed basic test.
- Dates
 - Festival January 29-30 at Heritage HS
 - State Tournament March 18-19 at Fort Collins HS
 - Speech Activities Committee Meeting – February 3 at CHSAA office in Aurora
 - Festival Director: Theresa O'Dwyer
 - Tournament Director: Marti Benham
- From Speech Activities:
 - State Festival will have LD Debate starting this year in Wave B – can be offered at Festival meets
 - There will be computer scheduling through Speech Wire with paper backup
 - Pilot for Regional Tournaments – see page 37
- How do we make a change to CHSAA and state speech?
 - Needs to be proposed to the Speech Activities Committee – need to write a proposal and send to Bud at least a month in advanced (which would be Jan 3)
 - If approved by Speech Activities, then goes to CHSAA Legislative Council in April to be enacted for the following year.

NFL CHAIRS Input:

- Lowell Sharp – Rocky Mountain South – “we still exist” – welcome new coaching team to Mullen: Mike Trevithick & Heidi Trevithick – we have our Congress on March 11-12 at Jeffco Hall of Justice. Qualifying Tournament will be on April 15-16, probably at GW (or Golden as a backup).
- Renee Motter – Colorado Grande – NFL rules tournament at beginning of December; all are welcome. Will have Informative Speaking and Programmed Oral Interp
- Marti Benham – Colorado

State Tournament – Marti Benham

- Thanks to Fort Collins for hosting
- Remember: the more students who enter, the more who qualify for State

FESTIVAL INFO – Theresa O’Dwyer from Limon

- Have increased a few schools
- While we love Heritage for State Festival, but we’d like to explore other alternatives, especially schools that might have Friday morning/day available.
- We are doing LD for the first time at State Festival. Still be doing One-on-One Debate as well.
- In our 3rd year of Contrasting Monologue.
- Excited to welcome new small Festival schools.

AT THIS POINT, FESTIVAL SCHOOLS WENT TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN BUSINESS MEETING. THE REMAINDER OF THESE NOTES ARE FROM THE TOURNAMENT SCHOOLS MEETING.

Presenters will be receiving a certificate from CHSAA confirming participation plus 15 hours of prep. Participants will get a certificate of participation for recertification. For those of you who would like graduate credit, be sure to sign up for that.

SPEECHWIRE: Forrest Sayers from Kent Denver

- Several Issues (both to resolve and proposals)
 - Propose: use speechwire for all regional qualifying tournaments – the software is already setup to automatically role over students from Quals to State – would already know the qualifiers in the system – would cut down on the work for Regional Chairs – speechwire team would provide CHSAA with a good deal to use at all Regional Quals: total of \$1600 for Regionals + State - doesn’t need to happen this year but would like to consider.
 - How much for the State Tournament? Around \$450-\$500
 - Is Dave Howard upgrading Speechmeets.com to include debate? That’s only \$1 per school. Not sure if Dave is in process or how far he is.
 - What did we use last year? Regional Qualifying held tournaments using own system (Speechmeets.com or on paper). Chairs submitted info/reports to CHSAA. That was then entered into Speechwire for State. Did cards and speechwire for first tab; spreadsheet for 2nd tab
 - Maryrose from GW: Ben has done a lot of work tweaking the program specifically to Colorado.
 - Ohio, Illinois and Missouri have switched over to run all state competitions to Speechwire
 - What is the point of having both computer and paper tab? That’s the next issue.
 - Heidi Trevithick: Would Ben be available for Regional Tournaments to help with scheduling hiccups? Would need to check with him. Probably, Ben would only be at State Tournament.
 - Pauline: There’s an issue we need to discuss first: The Money Issue – our numbers are down, we are losing money at State, but we are asking to add a fairly major expense, especially if requiring it at Regionals. Would you be willing to raise fees to cover expenses?
 - Might not be appropriate for this year as we look at costs.
 - What kind of an increase might we be looking at?
 - For just State, it was \$450-\$500. His payment system is based on net student entries. For all Regionals and State it would run \$1300-\$1500.
 - Perhaps about \$1 entry increase to pay for the program. Region 3 looked into it. Did amount to \$1 per entry. (There is a bit of a discount for the package deal)
 - To Bud: If we added an IT fee for State/Regionals, does that have to go through Legislative Committee? YES. All fee changes must go through CHSAA Board approval so NOT for THIS Year.
 - Straw Vote: How many would like us to continue with electronic schedule (speech wire) at State:
 - Nearly all agreed
 - How many of you don’t even like using computer scheduling at State – 1
 - Nancy Groves – had some difficulties with computer scheduling – we need both people and computers – we get to know each other and network by working tabs together. I don’t want a

few people being in their own room doing everything. I'm a little old fashioned and I like the people aspect.

- Amanda Shoemaker: speechwire vs. speechmeets.
- We will be using Speechwire at State – but do we expand it? That's the next issue
- This year we can't do a thing about expanding to Regions, but do we pursue it for the future?
 - Sally Graham – Castle Rock – an older coach who used to do everything by hand, speechmeets really sped things up and speech wire is even more so.
 - Shannon Vance – Mountain Vista – wouldn't this free folks up to judge
 - What sort of IT support would be available at Regionals? For the past 2 years, the Blazing Sun Tournament (Kent/Overland) had a phone/online support during the tournament.
 - Eli Woody – Lakewood – If finance is the only thing that seems troublesome, we need to be able to figure out how much it would cost?
 - Bud: do we have the money to use at Regionals this year? NO, not this year. Looking at 2017
 - Mike Trevithick – Smoky Hill/Mullen – proposing to use speechwire this year within already allocated budget. Can't raise fees. If there are no additional money required, it is ok to use.
 - Nancy Groves – why do we spend money on something we are capable of doing ourselves. Tab 1 and Tab 2 usually don't hold up a tournament (it's usually grievances)
 - Renee Motter – one nice thing about using computers are the reports available and the records one can see – the full schematics.
- Straw vote – do we want the electronic committee to move forward (knowing we don't know the cost) in exploring the idea of utilizing speechwire for Regionals in 2017?
 - Mike Trevithick – it would be no more than \$1 per entry
 - **How many think Activities Committee should vote to pursue? 29 yes, 0 no**
 - Josh Seematter from up north – Would speechwire also control judges? Would it assign rooms? Yes, it can.
 - Andrea Stevens – Columbine – worked judges table at State last year – very easy to manually override computer decisions/assignments – also can add priorities
- Second Proposal – to further streamline State Tournament, propose to eliminate one of the two backup systems: Tab 1 on Cards and Tab 2 on spreadsheets. Proposed to eliminate one of these.
 - Rationale: based on the observation of how the State Tournament ran, it slowed down by using two redundant systems.
 - We definitely need people to double check and work the tournament. We need people to make sure kids get a fair shake.
 - Tammie Peters – Golden – at Nationals, the LD Tab room uses computers, plus cards, plus second tab (audit) – Pauline: there are typically computer glitches (less and less of a problem) - - there was one this year. So cards are a way to force us to look at the scheduling. Also, it builds camaraderie. We need to do everything we can to prevent a child from being a victim of a mistake.
 - Kevin Brich – Chatfield – The schedule for the State Tournament is built to handle the 3 parts – the biggest time kill has been walking to places.
 - Nick Panopulous – Cherry Creek – has worked tabbed many years at Nationals and there hasn't been a year without a crash or glitch.
 - Response: Joy of Tournaments is used at Nationals, which is run off an on-site computer. Speechwire is internet based.
 - Emily Wallin – Niwot – with smaller programs and budgets, it will be harder to afford increases. Why pay for something we can do ourselves?
 - Sally Graham – Castle View – tie ups are usually at judges
 - Renee Motter – Air Academy – I don't remember us getting behind this year at the State Tournament by using 3 systems. Perhaps in the future, but not right now. In terms of people – need for camaraderie. We need to create an environment where the Tournament is not run by a "select few." Remember, it is

NOT Joy of Tournament -- with speechwire, you can have multiple computers running the program at the same time. When we approved speechwire, we did so making sure that the people element would stay the same.

- Amanda Shoemaker – remember, we need to train new coaches how to do this. If just do a computer program, then new folks won't know how to fix problems, especially if there is a computer problem. Since we've had to do changes to speechwire over the past 2 years, it is too early to get rid of a level of human involvement
- Marti Benham – Cherry Creek – 1st tab cards and 2nd tab do different things. Speechwire helps organize the State Tournament and sending out reports.
- Megan McDowell – Palisade HS – The Western Slope District only has 2 experienced coaches remaining. It would be much simpler for a millennial coach to learn a computer program. Old style tab can be daunting for the new generation. We need both computers and humans.
- Sally Graham – would we look at eliminating Tab 2?
- **All in favor of leaving all 3 systems in place for 2016: 24, opposed: 11**
 - Ian Davis – if we eliminate folks from system so they can judge, would that reduce the cost of the tournament? Yes so we could consider in the future.
- Would there be some advantage to eliminating Tab 2 only at State for 2016: (proposed by Mike Trevithick)
 - Kevin Brich – Chatfield – taking away Tab 2 takes away another set of eyes.
 - Renee – Eliminating Tab 2 would not necessarily eliminate people (Tab 2 move to cards, Tab 1 people move to computers)
 - Amanda Shoemaker – an error in entry can keep a kid from qualifying or going to finals. We have caught those mistakes.
 - **All in favor of eliminating Tab 2: 2 in favor, 22 opposed**
- Final issue: a “simple rules clarification.” When scheduling a debate event, the practice (though not a rule) is that a competitor should not hit the same region more than once. Since this is not a written rule, it created questions of the pairing for first/second round.
 - Pauline: but we use a matrix to keep kids away from meeting the same school more than once.
 - But in the rule book, the matrix is not based on Region numbers, just schools.
 - Marti: We have used this “courtesy” for many, many years. We want to maximize kids hitting a true “state” competition – it is specific in non-debate rules that we will mix up Regions.
 - 2 possible solutions:
 - Change the rule in the handbook to include in the pairings in the setup for Speechwire
 - OR don't use it as a factor at all in pairings.
 - Mike Trevithick: page 39 from CHSAA handbook. Same school, second meeting of same teams, same region not meeting (a Region 1 vs. a Region 1), then
 - Marti: we look at this rule as we always have. Let's clarify intent to maximize the mix of Regions. That's what we've always done.
 - Emily Wallin: is it a courtesy or a rule in Non-Debate? There is a history of problems in the past.
 - **Mike Trevithick: I move we add a clarification to the CHSAA handbook to clarify the practice of maximize the number of different regions a competitor can hit. (Of course, it will depend on numbers. Diversity will be different.) In Favor: 38, opposed: 0. Speech Activities needs to consider wording.**
This is not a rule “Change;” it is a clarification of what is written. We now have an understanding of how we would like things scheduled.

Brent Oberg – One more issue –

- In addition to Regionals to qualify for State, also allow a “coach's choice” to allow entry to State.
- Would benefit smaller programs.
- A one day or one round issue can cause a student to not go to State.
- There would need to be some sort of qualification
- Might want to give it to a deserving senior or someone who had a bad day at Regionals
- A school “could” send one extra entry (a Duo or PF or a Humor) etc.
- **How many would like to lend support to this idea: 42 in favor, 1 opposed**