

BCFL Coach Meeting (Virtual)
June 22, 2023, 7 PM

Attendees: Steven Sprouse, Aimee Sann, Teresa Needer, Allison Fletcher, Peter Susko, Zachary Paradise, Kelli Midgley, Michael Stromberg, Brian Shouse, Jake Taylor, Rachel Campbell, Teresa Dimka, Patrick Seay, Michelle Dacey, Deb Hamilton, Mimi Cukier

Welcome by Diocesan Director

Reports:

Diocesan Director: Steven Sprouse opened with remarks about the NCFLs this year. The BCFL had a solid performance at NCFLs. Antonio from Wilde Lake finished 9th in the nation in Declamation and Hannah from River Hill finished 15th in the nation in Student Congress.

This year was a transition back to in-person tournaments from online ones. We had about 30 more entries this year when compared to last year. However, participation was lower than pre-pandemic seasons and our Metro tournament was only 106 entries compared to 180 entries in the pre-pandemic 2017-18 school year.

Tournament Director: Teresa Needer also noted this year's participation and commented about our BCFL judges. We had many adults come to judge repeatedly and many went to judge at Nationals. At tournaments we were still struggling in particular to fully cover the third round. It is important for each school to bring its judge quota. Teresa expressed appreciation to schools that brought extra judges.

Assistant Director Reports

Student Congress: Rachel Campbell: Sixty-one students from eight schools competed in Student Congress this year. Thirty-eight of them met the three tournament rule to be considered for finals, and 20 students qualified for Metro Finals. Hannah from River Hill broke to semi-finals at NCFLs. Student Congress held virtual competitions except when sessions were at BCFL 3 in November and BCFL 5 in January. Rachel needed to create print ballots as the ones we used in past years were missing.

LD: Kelli Midgley: It was a good year in Lincoln Douglas. The quality of debating was impressive. Metros had competitors from five different schools in LD. At NCFLs, Peter from Centennial, Maneet from Reservoir, and Claire from Reservoir all broke to rounds on Sunday and Claire was among the top 16 debaters in the nation. The biggest challenge of the season was finding judges when more than half of the entries in LD were from a single school.

Policy: Pete Susko: Policy debate had several schools competing. Some debaters (from McDonogh and Gilman) competed throughout the year on the circuit and were very successful but this prevented them competing often enough at BCFLs to represent their schools at Metros or NCFLs. At NCFLs, two policy teams broke to elimination rounds. Peter invited more schools to try Policy as there are many resources out there for evidence for the topic.

PF: Brian Shouse: The number of teams that competed were similar this year as in recent years. However, teams competed at fewer tournaments this year which shrunk the pool for Metros. Should this trend continue, then we could have 16 teams at Metros next year. Three PF teams, all from Dulaney, broke to elimination rounds at NCFLs.

Speech: Michelle Dacey: Speech events were most impacted by virtual competitions and are still in process of rebuilding. We were close to filling all of our slots for NCFLs. We usually do not have 6 Duo teams to go to NCFLs. Speech had one student move to elimination rounds, which was Antonio from Wilde Lake. Michelle asked that we consider taking steps to improve speech participation.

Treasurer report: Aimee Sann: Aimee presented the income and expenses for the 2022-23 season, compared it to her proposed budget, and explained any amounts that were significantly different. We spent more on awards, but this was mostly due to overstocking medals and neckbands due to supply chain holdovers from the pandemic. In fact, we spent significantly less on Metro awards and are well stocked going into next year. The proposed budget was approved by vote, and a full copy is accompanying these minutes.

Proposed 2022-23 Event Calendar

These dates and hosts are tentative and will hopefully be confirmed in August.

BCFL 1: October 7 Mount Saint Joseph High School

BCFL 2: October 28 Calvert Hall College High School

BCFL 3: November 18 Arundel High School

BCFL 4: December 16 Reservoir High School

BCFL 5: January 20 or January 27: host needed

BCFL 6: February 3 Towson High School

Snow Date: Not needed. We will go virtual in the event of inclement weather and follow the policies in our bylaws.

Metros: March 16 at Loyola-Blakefield High School

Elections:

LD Assistant Director: Kelli Midgley

SC Assistant Director: Jake Taylor

PF Assistant Director: Camila Vasquez

Secretary/Treasurer: Aimee Sann

Proposals: No proposals went out to coaches before the meeting. Brian discussed the World Schools Debate (WSD) as a supplemental debate event to consider in the future. Some coaches have had experience with it and praised it as a good learning format for new debaters.

Fall (Preseason) Coach Meeting Date—August 24 (virtual) 7:00 PM. Email any proposals by July 24th to Steve and Aimee (ddbcfl@gmail.com and sanna@notredameprep.com)

This meeting was adjourned at 8:33.

Respectfully submitted by Aimee Sann