Kathy’s Notes from the CHSSA meeting, May 15-16, 2015 in Irvine

The biggest thing to come out of the May CHSSA meeting was a renewed debate over the use of computers in PoFo, which are currently prohibited under CHSSA rules.  Debate committee decided to survey the entire state membership over this hotly contested issue.  Please read the attached arguments and then take the survey on the CHSSA website: <www.cahssa.org>.\*  Council did pass a bylaw permitting the use of cellphone timers in all debate rounds. (*\*Emailed 5-25-15*)

There were 2 IE DQ's at States this year: an OPP was found to be nearly 100% plagiarized and DQ'd (a competitor sitting in a round recognized the material and filed a protest), and an OI was found to have been published past the Dec. 31st deadline\*\*.  GGSA lost a qualifier for next year in each of those categories.  DQ's are serious!!  They heavily and negatively impact a league, which is why I am so careful about the legality of all TCFL's entries.

\*\*IE committee (on which I sit) put forward a bylaw revision which passed, restoring the Dec. 31st deadline exclusion to OI.  This means OI will be the only interp event that will NOT be limited to materials published before 12/31 of the competition year.  In other words, you can enter an OI at quals and at States which may have been delivered in January or February or even early March, as long as you meet the league pre-qualifier script submission deadlines.

Apparently there will soon be a "Pre-approved Source List" for interp material added to the CHSSA website.  It will consist of the titles of every DI, HI, OI and Duo that competed at States, after being double-checked by the Area Chairs.  Obviously this list will grow every year.  The theory behind this is to give coaches peace of mind that sources on this list are legal, and that if you choose a source from the pre-approved list, you do not have to worry about submitting a copyright page with your script.  I don't really see how this will save us time when we check scripts, but Nermin thinks it will.

There was discussion about standardizing how presiding officers recognize speakers, and Congress Committee wants to know how the various leagues handle this issue.  Are speakers recognized based on recency?  Attempts?  Consecutive Side Attempts?  If you have information for me to pass along in this regard, please send it to me.

Unfilled slots will now be filled in a different manner.  If a league cannot fill all of its allocated slots in a given category, those slots will be offered to the league within the area that had the greatest number of entries in that category.  TCFL always uses all its slots, so that is not really a problem for us.  But if we want any unused slots from WBFL (could happen) or SCDL (unlikely), we have to make sure we have big entries at our qualifiers!

Another bylaw passed regarding increasing our judging requirements.  I voted against it as did Linda Darling, Area 2 chair, but the rest of the body either voted in favor or abstained.  Basically, it means this:

* We will no longer be able to "check-off" rounds; we MUST provide all our required number of judges (1 per 5 entries) for the first 6 rounds of the tournament, including the first 2 PM round on Friday, and the first 8 AM round on Saturday.  Yes, even if you have no debate entries.  Since Nermin hand-assigns the judges, she says she will take into consideration our individual needs and requests, but you will no longer be able to de-select rounds on the JOY website.  Bummer.
* Schools with more than 2 policy debate entries will need to provide an extra judge.  This year that would have affected Chaminade.
* Schools in the HOST AREA will now have to provide 1 judge for every 3 entries.  I argued that this is too much of a hardship for huge areas with geographically distant schools (as will be the case with Arroyo Grande in 2017 when our Area hosts States at Arcadia HS), but my argument fell on deaf ears.

I will be proposing a bylaw revision in September to allow a search engine page to replace a website homepage in OI speech submissions.  I expect it to pass, but you never know.  If you have an issue you would like the council to address, let me know!