

NCA Business Meeting Agenda, Spring 2000
Doubletree Downtown Omaha, 8 p.m.

Agenda Items:

- A) Officers Reports
- B) Elections Results
- C) Business

Items 1-4 were submitted by Dan West:

Agenda Item 1:

**BYLAW CHANGE TO INCLUDE ALL TEAMS WITH A 5-3 RECORD IN OUT ROUNDS
AT THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

----Article 4, Direction of the National Parliamentary Debate Association National
Tournament/Convention:

Delete the phrase, "up to a maximum of 64 teams."

The new section would now read:

The National Parliamentary Debate Association shall be responsible for holding a National
Parliamentary Debate Tournament/Convention in March or April of each year. These
tournaments should have 8 preliminary rounds and offer elimination rounds for all teams with 5-
3 record or better.

Justification: When the constitution was originally different, I don't think anyone had the idea the
tournament would become so large. Each year, more and more teams are left out of elimination
rounds on points, which can be quite arbitrary. No team with a record should be denied the
chance to compete in an elimination round. While this may extend the tournament by a round or
two, I'm sure that the debaters who have been left out of elims in the past would say that they
would have liked to have had the chance to debate.

Agenda Item 2:

**BYLAW CHANGE TO REQUIRE QUALIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT**

Add to Article IX of the by-laws a subpoint F.

Qualification for the National Tournament. To be eligible to compete in the National
Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament, a student must meet all eligibility
requirements and have advanced to at least one qualifying elimination round (as defined in
Article VII, Section 14 of the NPDA Constitution) in an Open division of Parliamentary Debate

and at NPDA sanctioned tournament during the current academic year. Students qualify individually and debate teams must be comprised of two qualified students.

Justification: While the hosts of the next 2 national tournaments can handle large entries, it is remiss for us not to plan for the future. Many national forensic organizations set qualification procedures to manage the size of the national tournament. In order to manage the size of the national ournament as well as establish a minimum standard for entry, it is wise for us to adopt a qualification procedure.

It is suggested that if approved, this procedure be in effect for 2001 nationals.

Agenda Item 3:

BYLAW CHANGE TO ADD DISTRICT SELECTION TO FINAL ROUND JUDGE PANEL

----Under By-Law Section XII, G, add subpoint 6:

Final Round Judges. Prior to the publication of the NPDA National Tournament Invitation, each NPDA district will select one judge to represent them on the Final Round panel.

- a. Before the Final Round begins, judges from districts represented in the final round shall be removed from the panel.
- b. In the event that the remaining panel is comprised of an even number of judges, the tournament director shall randomly remove one member of the judging panel.
- c. No judge may represent the same district in consecutive years.

Justification: This provision provides for a guarantee of geographic diversity in the final round judging panel as well as the opportunity for adaptation to a judging pool by the debaters. Being selected as a final round judge would also become an honor equally upon all regions of the nation.

Agenda Item 4:

BYLAW CHANGE REGARDING TOPIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND PREP TIME

----Amend By-Laws XII, E to include the following:

Topic Announcement and Preparation Time. At the national tournament, topics for all preliminary rounds will be sealed in envelopes and attached to the judges ballot. Judges will open the topic envelopes and announce the topic at the announced start time for the round in the scheduled competition room and in the presence of the debaters. A 15 minute preparation time will begin after the announcement of the topic.

In elimination rounds, topics may be announced in rooms or in an assembly to be decided by the tournament director. A fifteen minute preparation time will begin after the announcement of the topic.

Justification: Walking and prepping is not the same as prepping right outside the competition room. All teams should be afforded that same opportunity for preparation. It is also appropriate for prep time to remain the same in prelims as in elims. While this will add some work for the tournament staff, I will personally volunteer to stuff topics in envelopes for every national tournament. :)

Item 5 was submitted by Jim Hanson and Bob Trapp

Agenda Item 5:

Change Article IV Officers and Elections
Change Section 2; add a Section 3

Current:

Section 2. Nominations for offices shall be submitted to the Executive Council for presentation at the first of the two Business meetings of the Association, at which time additional nominations for any office may be submitted by any members present.

Change to:

Section 2. Nominations may be submitted via e-mail, fax, regular mail and in writing to the Executive Council at any time prior to and including during the first of the two business meetings.

Section 3. No later than 21 days after the last day of the fall business meeting, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the membership by mail, email, fax, and/or web site a ballot containing the names of all nominees. Ballots may be returned to the Executive Secretary by mail, email or fax. Phone balloting will not be accepted. Balloting shall cease at midnight, east coast time, 21 days after the ballot has been sent. A plurality of ballots returned will elect. In the event of a tie between the two leading contenders for an office, their names shall be resubmitted to the membership within ten days of the posting of election results for a vote whose balloting shall cease at midnight, east coast time, 21 days after the ballot has been sent.

Change Article V Officers and their Duties

Add i. To conduct elections for amendments to the Constitution and changes to the By-laws.

Change Article VI

Current:

Article VI: Annual Business Meetings of the Association

Section 1. The annual Business Meetings of the National Parliamentary Debate Association constitute the governing body of the National Parliamentary Debate Association at the times they are meeting, and are the only bodies that can institute changes in the Constitution or its By-Laws. Between Business Meetings, actions of the Executive Council will have the force of By-Laws. These decisions must be reported to the next Business Meeting and are automatically placed on the agenda as indicated in Article VIII, Section 2.

Section 2. Business Meetings shall be held annually at the National Tournament/Convention or at a time and place agreed to by the Executive Council. At least sixty days notice will be given before the meeting.

Section 3. Each member institution may be represented by one voting representative (who need not be the Director of Forensics but may be a substitute from the same school or a proxy given to the representative of another school) at a Business meeting. No member institution represented at a Business Meeting may vote more than 10 proxies in addition to its own vote. At least 5% of member institutions must be personally represented (proxies do not suffice for this purpose) for the meeting to conduct any business other than hearing reports and discussing them.

Section 4. If sufficiently attended, as defined in the preceding section, the Business Meetings may adopt new By-Laws or change existing ones by majority vote of schools present (personally or by a proxy). It may propose constitutional changes by a two-thirds vote of the schools represented (personally or by proxy).

Section 5. The presiding officer of a Business Meeting will be entitled to vote as the representative of his or her institution.

Section 6. Any vote that results in a tie will be considered to have failed.

Change to:

Section 1. Business Discussion Meetings shall occur at the National Communication Association Convention and the Association's National Tournament.

Section 2. The Executive Secretary will give members ample notice of the times and places of these meetings.

Section 3. These meetings shall provide opportunities for discussing but not voting on changes to the NPDA constitution and Bylaws, projects, and other issues important to the NPDA organization.

Section 4. Members should submit their request for a discussion on such issues to the Executive Secretary 21 days before these meetings occur to ensure that the item will be included in the meeting agenda. However, any issue may be raised during remaining new business time during the meeting.

Change Article VIII

Current:

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution

a. An amendment to the Constitution may be initiated by any member school;

b. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Executive Secretary thirty days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting;

c. A two-thirds vote of the schools represented at the Business Meeting will be necessary for a proposed constitutional amendment to be sent to the membership;

d. Within 10 days following the Business Meeting, the Executive Secretary will distribute by mail a ballot containing all proposed constitutional amendments. Balloting on these will cease at midnight thirty days after the date of the Business Meeting;

e. A two-thirds vote of the schools voting by mail on the proposed amendment will be necessary for its enactment.

Section 2. Amendments to the By-Laws

a. An amendment to the By-Laws may be initiated by any member school;

b. Amendments to the By-Laws must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than 30 days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting;

c. A majority of the schools represented and voting at the Business Meeting will be necessary for enactment of the amendments to the By-Laws.

Section 3. Further Amendment Procedures for the Constitution and By-Laws

a. An amendment may be proposed by two-thirds of the Executive Council or by a petition of 5% of the current National Parliamentary Debate Association membership to the National Parliamentary Debate Association Executive Secretary and the National Parliamentary Debate Association President;

b. The proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership. Members shall have 45 days to send comments on the proposed amendment to the Executive Secretary.

c. Within sixty-five days of the publication of the proposed amendment, the Executive Secretary shall mail a ballot to the membership containing a copy of the proposed amendment, along with a statement of the arguments for and against the amendment. The author of the amendment shall have the opportunity to include a statement of reasons for the amendment. The President may designate an individual to outline potential objections to the amendment. Both of these individuals shall have access to the comments received by the Executive Secretary. Ballots shall be due no later than three weeks after the mailing.

d. A three-fourths vote of all members voting will be required to enact an amendment initiated under this section.

e. A majority of the Executive Council may vote to exclude the time period from June 1 to September 1 from the time period in items b. and c. of this section.

Change to:

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1. Members are encouraged to post their proposals for changes to the constitution and Bylaws to listservs, web pages, and other arenas that the NPDA community accesses before submission to the Executive Secretary so that discussion and improvement of the proposal can occur.

Section 2. Members should submit their proposals to the Executive Secretary. Any suggested amendments or Bylaw changes submitted to the Executive Secretary as of the date of the Business Discussion Meeting shall be placed on the ballot.

Section 3. The Executive Secretary shall provide notice via email and/or web posting within the 7 days prior to the Business Discussion Meeting stating the deadline for acceptance of amendments and changes to the Bylaws.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall distribute the ballot including all amendments and Bylaw changes to NPDA members via email, fax, regular mail, and/or web posting within ten days after the last day of the NCA fall convention and within ten days after the last day of the National NPDA Tournament.

Section 5. Each member institution will have one vote.

Section 6. Any vote modifying the Bylaws will require a majority vote of at least 25% of the paid membership to pass.

Section 7. Any vote amending the constitution will require a 2/3 vote of at least 25% of the paid membership to pass.

Section 8. Paid membership numbers shall be counted as of the last day of the balloting.

Section 9. Any NPDA officer shall be entitled to vote as the representative of his/her institution.

Section 10. Any vote that results in a tie will be considered to have failed and the President will not break ties.

Section 11. All balloting will cease at midnight, east coast time, 21 days after the ballot is distributed.

Section 12. The Executive Secretary shall provide notice of the deadline for acceptance of ballots within the 7 days prior to the deadline.

Section 13. Alternative Amendment Procedures for the Constitution and Bylaws

A. An amendment may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council or by a petition of 5% of the current NPDA membership to the NPDA Executive Secretary and the NPDA President.

B. The proposed amendment shall be sent to the membership within 10 days of its receipt.

C. Any vote using this election method that modifies the Bylaws will require a majority vote of at least 50% of the paid membership to pass.

D. Any vote using this election method that amends the constitution will require a 2/3 vote of at least 50% of the paid membership to pass.

E. Paid membership numbers shall be counted as of the last day of the balloting.

F. Any NPDA executive shall be entitled to vote as the representative of his/her institution.

G. Any vote that results in a tie will be considered to have failed and the President will not break ties.

H. Balloting will cease at midnight, east coast time, 21 days after the ballots were distributed.

I. A majority of the NPDA officers may vote to exclude the time period from the conclusion of the NPDA National Tournament until July 1 to September 1 from the time period in items B and H of this section.

Agenda Item 6: Submitted by Renea Gernant

Appointment of NPDA Webmaster:

Amend Constitution to create an official position for the webmaster of the NPDA website.