



Board of Directors Spring Meeting, April 25-26, 2025

Meeting Location: Des Moines, IA

Call to Order/Welcome/Record of Approved Minutes

Mission Moment/Team Building

This moment is designed to set the tone for the meeting and purposefully remind all present of our mission, vision, values, and goals as we deliberate and conduct business on behalf of our current and future membership. Board members will have an opportunity to share their reactions and engage in a team building activity.

Legal/Confidential Matters

Each Board meeting includes time allotted for relevant updates on any pending legal matters or other business that require discussion in executive session.

Review Membership Correspondence

In accordance with our goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted to the Board will be included in our meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns that have been submitted for consideration. This is an opportunity to briefly highlight, clarify, and or frame action items on the docket in light of these submissions.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Minutes and Q&A

Prior to the Board meeting, members are asked to submit questions about the prior standing committee minutes so that they can be addressed by the appropriate committee chair either before or during the meeting. Chairs will also have the opportunity to provide any updates on items that are not explicitly addressed in specific agenda items but may warrant a brief discussion.

Honor Society Points Structure

The Board will discuss and consider a proposal endorsed by the CRLC to increase honor society speech points for students placing 4th through 6th in a speech round from a graduating scale to a set three (3) points per round. The Board will also consider a proposal endorsed by the CRLC to lower the requirement for earning NSDA points for competition to two schools participating.

National Tournament Host City Rotations

The Board of Directors will consider a proposal endorsed by the CRLC to establish a rotation schedule for National Tournament locations.

National Tournament Bid Considerations

The Board will also consider proposals from the cities of Des Moines, IA, Albuquerque, NM, and Richmond, VA to be future hosts of the National Tournament.

Development and Marketing

The staff will introduce our upcoming fundraising campaign plans to the Board and discuss the role of the Board in it. In addition, the Board will be updated on the organization's overall internal and external communication strategies, including marketing, public relations, and crisis communications.

Strategic Growth Plan

The Board will be updated on the progress of the current FY25 Strategic Plan Objectives through the first two quarters of the fiscal year. In addition, Board members will receive an update on the work that has been done to further develop the FY26-FY30 Strategic Growth Plan that the Board affirmed in December and will have the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on various aspects of the staff's plans for execution over the next year.

Finance Business

The Board will be provided with the Q2 financial report and a pre-budget proposal for FY26 which have been reviewed and approved by the Internal Affairs Committee. The pre-budget includes the current FY25 budget actuals and end of year projections, as well as budgetary projections for FY26. The staff will share highlights of questions submitted before the meeting on the Q2 report and/or the end of the year projections. The Executive Director will then open up discussion and field questions on the proposed FY26 pre-budget which will be subject to approval. The Internal Affairs Committee will bring forth their recommendation on the budget proposal.

Belonging and Inclusion

The Board will discuss the organization's work over the past year to further create an environment of belonging and inclusion among members of the speech and debate community. The Board will participate in some exercises to reaffirm and establish the Board's position on the core values of the organization and the priorities of this work moving forward.

Membership Model

The Board will discuss the potential restructuring of the NSDA membership model to one in which all member schools pay a single annual flat rate fee and receive all membership benefits for that fee, including all resources and unlimited student memberships. The Board will consider the feedback from various stakeholder focus groups that has been received over the past 18-24 months, including that of the Competition Rules Leadership Committee and Student Leadership Council. The Board will then determine the best next course of action for the future. This course could include approval of a new structure with a timeline for the change or additional steps the Board would like the staff to take before it brings the matter to vote.

District Leveling

The Board will discuss and consider a permanent change in the District Leveling system, endorsed by the CRLC, to streamline the NSDA District Leveling process to guarantee that all Districts get two qualifiers in all events as long as they meet the minimum threshold of eight member schools and receive an automatic three qualifiers in all events if the district has a minimum of 30 member schools. The proposal is for this system to begin in the 2026-2027 school year. The proposal eliminates the individual event entry standards for a district to receive the established qualifiers and removes the opportunity for a district to receive a fourth qualifier in any event.

Board Member Candidate Vote

The Governance Committee will bring forward its recommendations of individual(s) to be appointed to terms to the NSDA Board of Directors. Individuals appointed to these seats will begin their terms on August 1, 2025, and will replace the seats vacated by outgoing Board members Alan Coverstone and Sara Gibson. The Board will also consider a proposal by the Governance Committee to establish a permanent seat on the Board of Directors dedicated to young alumni representation.

CRLC Representation Proposal

The Board will be considering a proposal by the Governance Committee to change the NSDA Bylaws to allow the Executive Director to appoint members of the Student Leadership Council to the Competition Rules Leadership Committee.

2025 National Tournament

The Executive Director will update the Board on various logistical aspects regarding the upcoming tournament. These updates will review a range of topics, including:

- The current entry count status for the middle school and high school tournaments;
- Update on health and safety protocols and procedures;
- Anticipated challenges that will be uniquely faced this year; and
- Discussion of concerns/questions raised by the Coaches' Network groups and plans to address those concerns.

The Executive Director will field questions from the Board concerning the updates presented.

Centennial Celebration Update

The NSDA has kicked off its 100th anniversary! The Board will be briefed on the ongoing elements of the celebration and what to expect for the rest of 2025.

FY26 Calendar Planning

The Board will review a draft FY26 Board Meeting Calendar prior to the meeting and discuss any necessary changes before establishing the formal calendar.

Closing Remarks—President Byron Arthur

Adjourn