

2018

## NEW CHAPTERS

After serving 30 years, Don Crabtree ended his tenure and presidency on the NSDA Board. The Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Awards were named in his honor. Pam Cady Wycoff succeeded him, becoming the second woman to serve as Board President, and Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., was elected Vice President—the first African American in a Board leadership role.

The Asian American coaches' caucus was added to the program at the 2018 National Tournament.

(top to bottom)  
Don Crabtree | Pam Cady Wycoff | Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr. ▶

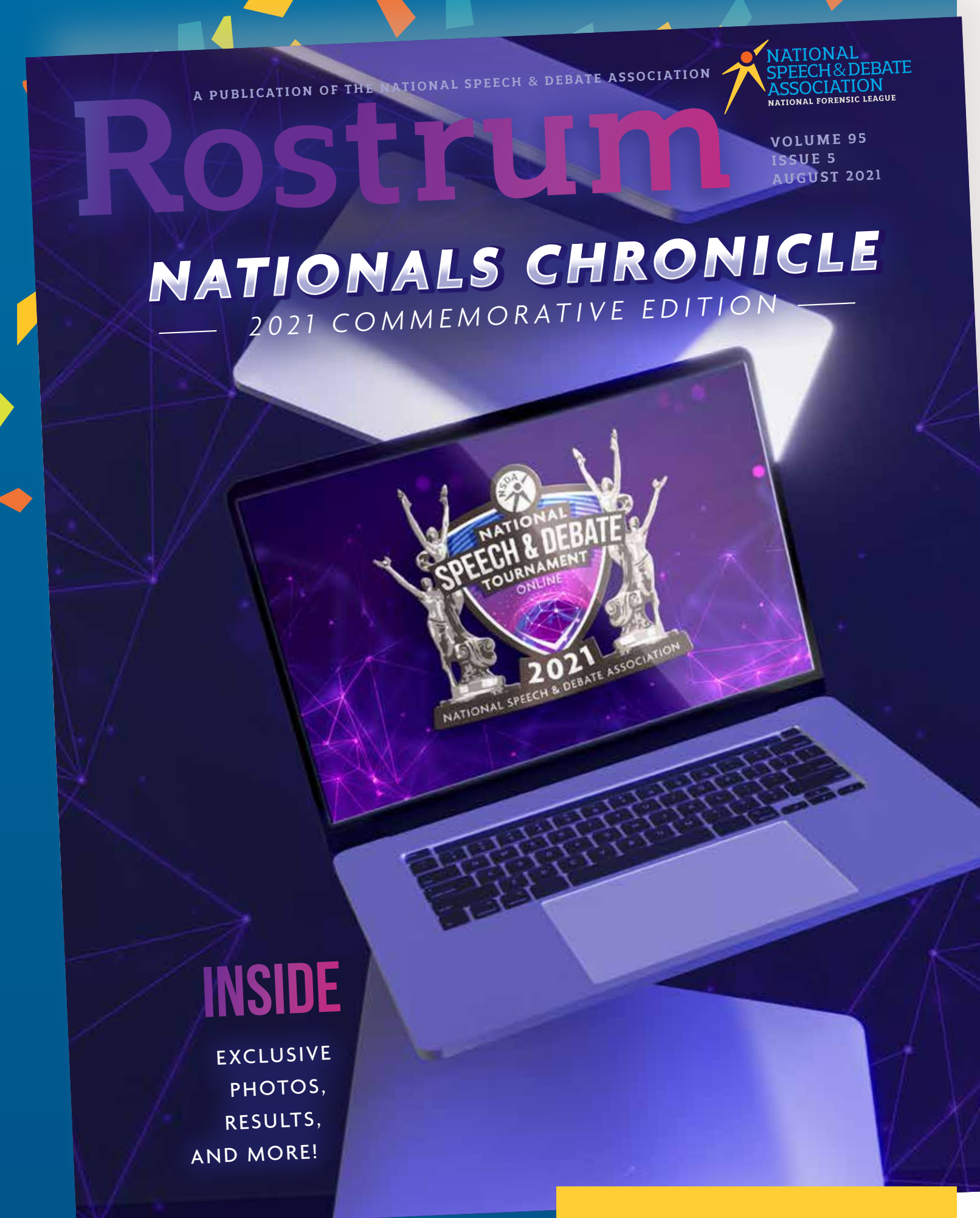


2021

## CONNECTED ONLINE

For the second year in a row, the 2021 National Tournament was held online due to the ongoing pandemic, breaking the previous year's attendance record with over 8,000 global participants. The NSDA also introduced a new member benefit, allowing all high schools two student entries in supplementals at Nationals. The Indigenous Persons coaches' caucus was added to the National Tournament program.

A free, online NSDA National Conference promoting more equitable and inclusive speech and debate communities was held in August with over 700 registrants.



Rostrum,  
Nationals  
Chronicle 2021



Photos from Nats22

2022-2023

## IN-PERSON COMPETITION RESTORED

After a two-year hiatus, the 2022 National Tournament returned to in-person competition in Louisville, Kentucky. The Middle School Nationals and Online Supplemental Events division remained virtual until returning in 2023.

A new opportunity, the NSDA Last-Chance Qualifier, was offered for high school students who did not qualify through their district tournament to have a chance to attend Nationals in their main event through a secondary online competition.

2018

## STUDENT VOICES

In the aftermath of a mass shooting tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County Public Schools, host of the 2018 National Tournament, a "Powerful Voices, Meaningful Changes" program was held prior to Nationals to recognize the power of youth voices to elicit change. The 2018 National Tournament awards assembly began with a moving tribute to the victims of the tragedy. Student members of Broward County debate programs who led the "March for our Lives" movement that followed were honored as the 2018 Communicators of the Year.



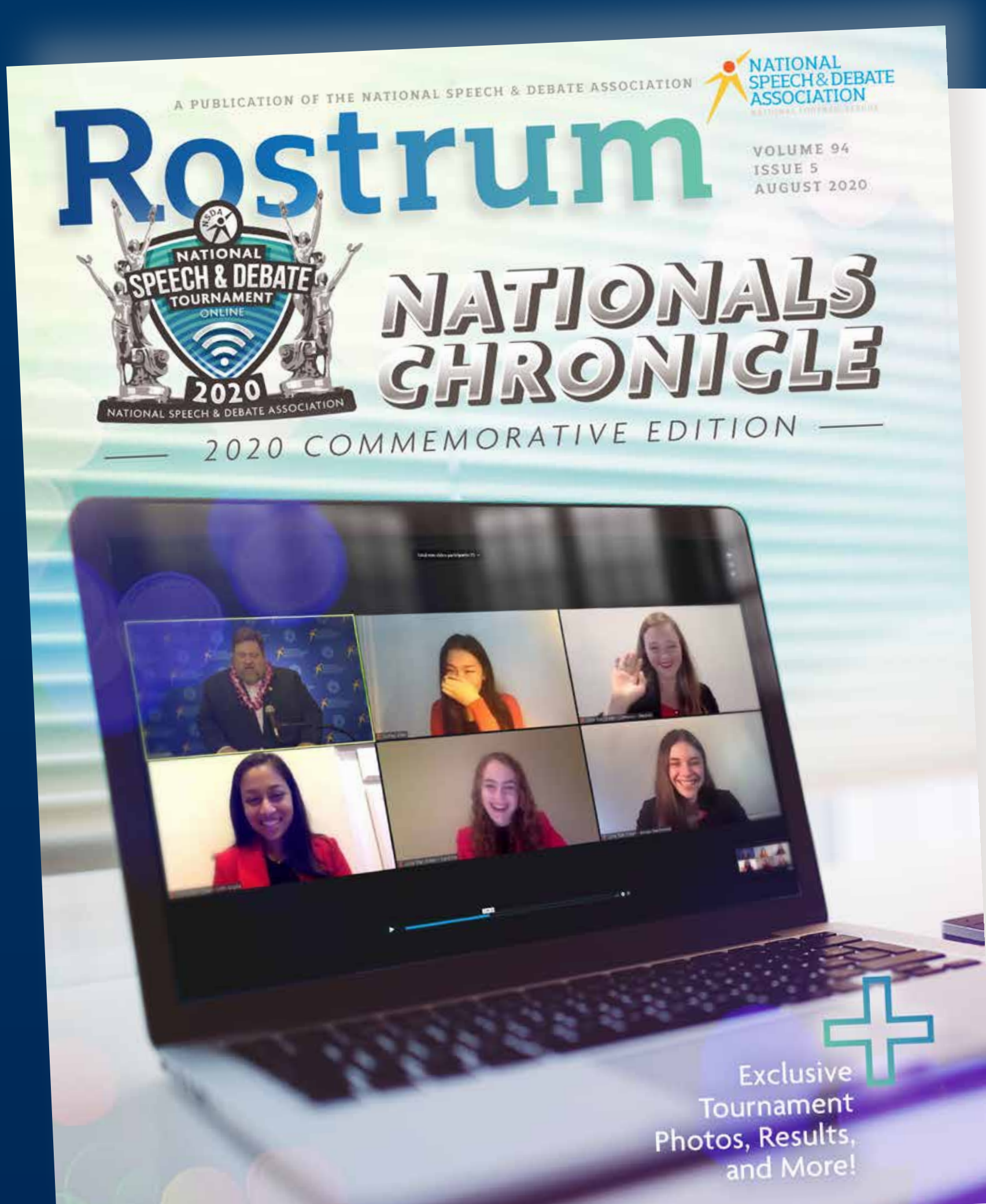
Scan to watch moving moments from the "Powerful Voices, Meaningful Changes" program



2020

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For the first time since World War II, the NSDA was forced to cancel in-person competition at the National Tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a historic show of resilience, the 2020 National Tournament was held entirely online, becoming the largest ever with over 6,000 participants. That year, Storytelling and Impromptu became official supplemental events.



Rostrum,  
Nationals Chronicle 2020

2023

## EXPANDING LEADERSHIP

The NSDA Board of Directors voted to create a Competition and Rules Leadership Committee and moved to an all-appointed Board of Directors to ensure diversity in identity, skill set, and background, as well as promote the organization's sustainability and vision/mission fulfillment.

The NSDA presented the Activating Equity Award to Ann Marie Baines, the founder of the non-profit organization The Practice Space, which supports young people and adults in developing authentic, clear, and engaging voices through speech and debate.

2024

## A LASTING VOICE

Following the passing of former Board member, Hall of Fame coach, and National Tournament awards emcee Tim Sheaff, the NSDA named the Timothy E. Sheaff National Awards Stage in his honor.

CBS journalist and NSDA alum David Begnaud emceed the 2024 National Speech & Debate Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa.

Watch the memorial tribute to "The Voice of the NSDA"



Begnaud

Sheaff

2020

## SPEECH AND DEBATE GOES DIGITAL

To further support students after the online National Tournament, the NSDA rolled out an online platform called NSDA Campus, which allowed more than 1,300 speech and debate tournaments to be held online that year, supporting hundreds of thousands of competitors during the pandemic.

Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation, the NSDA launched the Springboard Series in 2020, which offers free, online scrimmages and weekend tournaments.



2024

## PIONEERING PRESIDENT

Byron Arthur of Louisiana was elected to serve as the first Black President of the NSDA Board.



Byron Arthur

NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION  
**100 YEARS**  
A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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