

President's Report NPDA 2007 Spring Business Meeting

In the time between the NCA business meeting and the present, most of the attention of the Executive Council has been turned toward the preparation of the National Championship Tournament and addressing questions and concerns raised by the membership of the organization. At this time, I have no new initiatives to bring to the membership, but wish to review a few topics of importance.

New Business Meeting Procedures

Beginning in the fall, a new business meeting procedure was implemented. This procedure was designed to ensure that nearly all business of the organization was discussed at two business meetings before implementation (with the exception of certain emergency measures for which special provisions exist). Several items will carry-over from the November business meeting for a final vote in March. Only one item came to a final vote at in November, and it was an item (judge sharing) that had already been discussed in March 2006. As of the deadline for submission of agenda items for this meeting, no new business was submitted. Consequently, any new business for the next year will need to be submitted 30-days in advance of the November 2007 meeting.

National Student Representative

As the membership is likely aware, the competitive status of the National Student Representative came into question in January when she ceased to be a competitor for her home institution. As she had not been in communication with the Executive Council for some time, had not attended the NCA business meeting (and had expressed no interest in doing so), and had not responded to several e-mails and assignments, the Executive Council elected to specifically request an acknowledgement of the National Student Representative's intentions to continue representing the students. Repeated attempts were made to contact the National Student Representative, who did not acknowledge those communications. As a consequence, and in consultation with the rest of the Council, I have determined the position of the National Student Representative to be vacant for the purposes of the NPDA National Championships. As the elections last year were uncontested, there was no second-place candidate to turn to as a possible alternative.

Thus, I have appointed an Interim Representative, Kevin Garner, of William Jewell College, who is currently serving at the District 6 Student Representative, to assume the duties of National Student Representative until the conclusion of the National Championships. In the event a Council vote must be taken, Kevin will exercise the Student Representative's voting power, and he will run the students' meeting at NPDA.

The circumstances that lead to this event are unfortunate. I strongly urge the students of the organization to carefully select a representative who will fulfill their term and actively work to represent the organization. I would further urge them to discuss proposed legislation to address the possibility of future vacancies and the means to fill them. Similarly, I would strongly urge students to attend their respective district meetings, as a significant number of districts lacked student representation coming out of the 2006 NPDA.

District Representation

Time has been set-aside during NPDA to hold district meetings. It is VERY important that members attend these meetings and elect BOTH faculty and student representatives. Multiple districts are being run by appointed representative this year, in the absence of such elections. This is one set of appointments the President should not be making. A major goal of the Council is to increase the involvement of district representatives in the governance of the organization.

Committee Representation

This spring, several positions will become vacant on NPDA's various committees. I would encourage people interested in serving the organization to submit their name and e-mail address to be considered for positions on these committees.

Respectfully submitted
March 17, 2007

Kevin M. Minch
President