

Good afternoon! I hope you all are having a fantastic end to the semester! The holidays are just around the corner and will give us a wonderful chance to recharge and have some much needed time with family and friends. Here are some KYNSDA updates as we get ready for the break...

NSDA State Educator of the Year

A big shout out to Danville High School's Steve Meadows for being named the 2017-18 NSDA Kentucky Educator of the Year!!! Steve has built a tremendous program at Danville High School and has spent the last twenty years leading our district and coordinating the national qualifying tournaments. We are so proud of Steve and salute him for everything he does for the Forensics community in Kentucky and beyond!!! Steve is now a finalist for the 2018 NSDA National Educator of the Year award!!! The force is STRONG with this one!!! Stay tuned!!!

2018 Speech and Debate Education Conference Update from Steve Meadows

I can't encourage you enough to sign up for this summer's Speech and Debate Education conference (sponsored by NSDA) held in Phoenix July 28-31. I'm on the Conference Committee and have spent this week evaluating the proposed sessions for speech and debate teachers and coaches. The sessions look GREAT – everything from different assignments teachers can use in class (lots of those) to team management strategies (many of those) to issues in debate to specific event training in PFD and Oratory and other events to how to recruit and retain all kids onto teams and classes to . . . well, too many to name. Last year, Daniel Hamm (Assumption), Janet Martin (Bowling Green), Amy Zuccaro (Trinity), and I all attended the first conference, and it was super. Honestly, the offerings at this year's look much stronger, and they were good last year. The conference is being held inside a beautiful resort at pretty cheap prices for what it is (many pools and waterfalls, etc.) that we can get because it's kinda hot in Phoenix in late July – but not if you're in the pool or in an air conditioned room learning amazing stuff! So it might even be a good vacation spot! I've applied to present and hope to get to. I hope lots of you guys will be there too! --- Steve Meadows

2018 Nationals Venue and Hotel Update

You can begin reserving your hotel rooms for next summer's national tournament beginning January 8th. Please pay careful attention to this email that was sent out yesterday (and is at the bottom of this message for your convenience). You will want to reserve your rooms as soon as possible and there will be no early payment required as in previous years. As far as I can see, tournament hotels will not be announced until January 8th. The district works to stay together as Team Kentucky at the same hotel when possible. As more information becomes available, I'll share my thoughts on what may look like a good hotel to suggest for everyone. More information coming soon!!!

Upcoming Tournaments

These are some of the upcoming Kentucky tournaments to put on your calendar:

January 6	Daviness County HS Rowan County HS
January 13	Paducah Tilghman Beechwood HS
January 20	Assumption HS
January 27	Trinity/North Oldham

District Membership

Please remember, if you have not yet renewed your NSDA membership, you need to do so soon. In order to compete at the District Tournament, your school must be a member of NSDA. Your school's membership includes some tremendous resources for you AND your students! Also, membership with NSDA gives your students the opportunity to earn membership and degrees in the National Forensic League – the NSDA Honor Society.

Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you in competition in 2018!!! 😊

Michael Robinson

District Chair, Kentucky Chapter of the National Speech and Debate Association