

Greetings fellow Kentucky NSDA Coaches!

Hello

My name is Steve Meadows, and I'm the coach at Danville High School. I am also this year's elected District Chair for the Kentucky District of the National Speech and Debate Association (formerly National Forensic League).

I wanted to take a few minutes to welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year in NSDA. You probably received your *Rostrum* like I did this week, and you probably have kids out there competing already and need to put in some of your points like I do . . . or maybe you're Rachel Page, who always gets hers in the same day! It's scary. ☺ But welcome back into the heart of the year and your team's participation in NSDA!

Website

I've been working on our District's website, and I hope you'll check it out: www.kynsda.org. If you haven't been to it before or in a while, you'll see on there (among many links) some areas dedicated to last year's national and district tournaments, photo collections, and a new museum that lists as many of the "breaks" from Kentucky at the National Tournament as my minion Austin and I could find last year (if you know of others, please let me know). Please check it out when you have time.

2015 Nationals

We had two national finalists last year – Harrison's Jacob Sanders was 4th in Poetry (a supplemental event), and BRIAN ANDERSON FROM LARUE COUNTY WAS THE NATIONAL CHAMPION IN INTERNATIONAL EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING. It. Was. Awesome. I was the Tab Chair for IX, and I can attest that he really pulled it out in Finals (I was watching his results and a-hopin') as he wasn't in first until the final was over! All our awards are listed on the site as well as the school awards won by Rowan (Excellence!) and LaRue (Honor!).

2016 Districts

The District Tournament will be held in Danville on March 18 and 19. The invite will go online (on the Joy of Tournaments website) in mid-February.

2016 Nationals

Salt Lake City is hosting Nationals, and they did a great job of it back in 2004; I'm sure it will be another great event, so make plans now to attend Districts and try to get some kiddos qualified to go to the land of wide streets and friendly folk. The Olympics site is nearby and GREAT fun. Plus Sundance. The Rockies. It's awesome. Remember that Program Oral Interp and Informative Speaking will be added to Districts and Nationals as trial events this year.

SPEAK Locally

The District Committee hosted numerous SPEAK Locally events during the Fall that went really really well. We are going to get together soon to share notes, put together some proposals, etc. Thanks to all of you who participated! Check out this page if you want to see what it was all about: <http://www.kyspeak.org/SPEAKLocally.html> .

Two final notes:

1. If you are a new coach and have not yet reached out to me, please do and just say hello. We have numerous supports for you (and a Coach Mentoring program), and I'm glad to answer questions about everything from how to put in those NFL points to questions about scripts, etc.
2. I only sent this email to the head coaches of each chapter plus my own helpers. If you have assistant coaches, etc. you would like me to also send District emails to, please pass along his/her/their name(s) and email address(es).

I wish you all the happiest of holidays – including the upcoming Star Wars day! ☺

Yours,

Steve