

Dear KYNSDA Friends:

On September 1, Murray High School's Michael Robinson became the chair of KYNSDA. I am happy and proud to see my friend take over a role I've played for you for 20 of the last 24 years. I hope you'll indulge me one last email to you as I think back on highlights within KYNSDA from that time period. I was first elected to serve you (at the age of 24!) for the 94-95 year, asked not to do it again the next year, and then was re-elected (unbeknownst to me until the results came out) for 97-98 and every year since save for the 03-04 year. After 20 years of service, I asked to step down and am happy to help Michael as he transitions into this role. I know he'll do a great job! I've given him the District's cash (we're very healthy with several thousand dollars in the bank) and have just finished updating [the Kentucky NSDA website](#) – lots of fun District info on there now you should check out! I know he'll be in touch with you soon about District Committee initiatives, SPEAK Locally, and other NSDA news.

As I have been going through the files and newsletters (I used to publish three of those a year – remember those? – before the website came along), I've made a timeline of big events in KYNSDA and NSDA history in my tenure as it has helped me put it all in perspective. I hope you'll find it interesting too.

- 1998 KYNSDA begins its residence at Centre College, which continues to this day.
- 1999 Rowan County earns Kentucky's first School of Excellence Award at Nationals.
- 2000 KYNSDA switches from a three-day tournament to a two-day District tournament (Congress used to happen on the Thursday prior).
- 2001 Lexi Menish of Assumption HS wins national tournament in Impromptu.
- 2002 Kentucky starts using Joy of Tournaments for District Tournament. We were one of the first Districts to tabulate/register electronically. The District will transition to Tabroom this year.
- 2002 Longtime coach and legend Susan Moore dies after a brief illness. A scholarship similar to the already-existing Harlen Hamm Award is created for Congress kids, her tribe.
- 2003 Public Forum Debate (previously called Ted Turner Debate) added to NSDA District and National competitions.
- 2004 Doubling ends at the National Tournament.
- 2005 Mark Etherton becomes Kentucky's first 4-Diamond Coach ever. (There are now three – Virginia Etherton 2010, me 2013.)
- 2006 Kentucky hosts first Regional NFL Office at WKU (continues through 2008).
- 2007 Kentucky District Coach of the Year Award begins.
- 2007 SPEAK is first created in a meeting in 1st round at Districts and later in a meeting in Nicholasville at the public library.
- 2007 United Airlines loses the luggage and extemp files of most of the Kentucky delegation en route to Wichita. All arrive 15 hours after the people do.
- 2007 Danville wins Kentucky's second School of Excellence Award at Nationals.
- 2008 National and District Student of the Year Awards begin.
- 2011 First SPEAK Conference is held with KYNSDA as lead sponsor. NSDA Executive Director Scott Wunn gives first Keynote Address.
- 2014 Danville BCTC begins hosting Congressional Debate for the District Tournament, which continues to this day.
- 2015 LaRue County's Brian Anderson is National Champion in International Extemporaneous Speaking.
- 2016 NSDA adds POI and Informative as experimental, then regular events.
- 2016 I was named the Ralph E. Carey Distinguished Career Service Award winner at Nationals.
- 2017 First NSDA Education Conference is held in Denver. Four Kentuckians among inaugural attendees.

I know Michael will be in touch soon to start off the new KYNSDA year. I hope all of you have a great start to your seasons, and I'll see you on Saturdays soon. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all these years. It's been an honor and a privilege to represent and work for Kentucky speech and debate.

Yours always,

Steve Meadows, Danville High School

PS (I can't help myself): Dates to remember: March 16 and 17, 2018, Kentucky District tournament in Danville.