

Greetings KYNSDA:

SPEAK 2016 (SPEAK STRIKES BACK):

Just a quick note to let you know that SPEAK 2016 has been set by the KY NSDA District committee. We are changing venues this year and holding the professional development conference at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. We will hold seminars for new or newish teachers/coaches on Friday evening, September 9, 2016. On Saturday, September 10, we will hold a full day of professional development for new and experienced teachers/coaches alike at ECC. During our SPEAK Locally meetings this fall, we collected ideas for seminars to offer. If you wish to super-request one, just contact me by the end of the school year with your suggestions. Over the summer, the District Committee is going to meet to work on a couple of projects for the state including putting together the conference, and I'll add your suggestions to the list.

KYNSDA (in conjunction with our partner organizations in the SPEAK alliance) will make official announcements about the conference, how to register, the keynote speaker, what seminars will be offered, etc. in the late summer. I wanted to alert you now about the conference so you can plan as many of you (like my school is) may currently be making professional development plans for next year. New(er) coaches can obtain 3 hours of PD in our Friday evening sessions; we will also offer six hours of PD credit on the Saturday, so plan to come now! Registration costs will be set in the summer but will be in the neighborhood of \$45 for one day or \$60 for both, so it's a cheap PD! Watch your email and the alliance's website, www.kyspeak.org, for information updates over the summer.

ELECTIONS:

On Monday (April 4), several portals will open for you on the Points Application at the NSDA website. Head coaches (and only one coach per school) will have the opportunity to vote for the District Committee members for next year, for the national Board of Directors, and for the Constitutional Amendments that are up for consideration. I will post information below about each so that you may learn/refresh your memories about each. Coaches with three diamonds or more may also vote for the Hall of Fame, whose nominees will be announced to them via mail if past procedures hold true.

District Elections:

The Kentucky District committee has evolved quite a bit over the last several years from being simply a group that helped the Chair at tournament time as needed to a group that does that (much more intensely than in the past) to also being active leaders in SPEAK activities. It's work. But it's excellent work. If you would like to alert the rest of the District that you would be willing to serve on this Board, please Reply to All to this message and let folks know by Monday. I do hope you will elect me as Chair one last time for next year. It will be my 20th term as Chair if so, and that's a good round number. I've been announcing my wish to end my time as Chair next year so everyone may begin thinking about who to elect next. I would encourage you to elect those you think might be good Chair candidates to the District Committee so they may be part of leadership next year, and I would encourage you to keep me on the committee another year or two to help the new Chair if everything works out as I have suggested here.

Board of Directors Elections (for the national board for NSDA):

You can find out information about the voting process as well as the seven candidates who are running for the four spots by looking at your Winter *Rostrum* or by accessing it

here: https://issuu.com/speechanddebate/docs/2016_winter_rostrum_web?e=11541328/33546722 (go to the magazine pages 8-12 for Board of Directors stuff). I know six of the seven candidates personally and will be glad to tell you who I'm going to vote for and why if you want to know. All seven are excellent choices and real leaders in the organization. Please do vote!

Constitutional Amendments:

We have received emails about these and are invited to attend an online forum about them Thursday night. Go here to read the ballot and proposed amendments, to sign up for the forum, etc. <http://www.speechanddebate.org/asp/asp/nav.aspx?navid=792&pnavid=704> . I know I plan to vote in favor of all four.

Many of you are on Spring Break like me this week or will be next week. May it be awesome or continue as such!

Yours –

Steve Meadows, Danville HS, Kentucky District Chair of the National Speech and Debate Association