

SPEAK Locally

So what is SPEAK Locally, and what will this year's professional growth activity look like? SPEAK Locally will consist of seven Regional mini-conferences. These will be organized through the seven KHSSL regions and run by the five members of the KYNSDA Committee.

- Each conference will be held on its own schedule -- on a weekend, a weeknight, or a pair of these.
- Each conference will consist of two offerings - a judge training workshop and a coach roundtable or training. The latter could even be just meeting all the coaches in the Region somewhere to go out to dinner and chewing the fat about the issues of the day and what coaches need and wish for.
- For 2015, here is the breakdown of who will be handling each mini-conference. Please note that while the organizers are high school educators, middle school coaches/teachers will also be part of the conferences.
 - Murray Region – Michael Robinson, Murray High School
 - Bowling Green Region – Katy Cecil, LaRue County High School
 - Louisville Region – Jeff Mangum, Kentucky Country Day School
 - Northern Region – Rachel Page, Ryle High School
 - Bluegrass, Appalachian, and Upper Kentucky River Regions – Steve Meadows, Danville High School (with help from a coach in each region)
- Obviously, at the Judge Training workshop, the KNSDA District Committee member will work with the other coaches in the Region to offer an overview and training of how to be a speech/debate judge.
- For the Coach gatherings, here are the suggested topics for discussion:
 - Orient and introduce new coaches to the existing folks
 - Talk through issues of the day like new events, new structures to the tournaments, the upcoming year, etc.
 - Chat about ideas for restructuring/improving and what people want from the state organizations.
 - Outreach - how can we grow the activity?
 - Last year's survey – what it tells us and what we still want to know.
 - The conference - what do people want to see next time?

The timeframe for SPEAK Locally is in the fall. Later this year, the five District Committee members will meet to share the ideas developed at the mini-conferences, to report on them to each other (and then out to the state as a whole), to plan the next year's conference, and to plan outreach for the following year.