

Joint meeting of the Senior High Nationals and Junior High Nationals

On June 14, 2020 at 1pm CDT, John Robinson called the meeting to order. He recognized the following as the voting delegates from each member:

Josh Judah (Nova Scotia and Board), Sherry Nolan (New Brunswick), Jonathan Bracewell (Quebec and Board), Nicole Ratti (Ontario), John Robinson (Manitoba and Board), Melissa Ong (Saskatchewan), Jason Hong (Alberta), Jack Bacon (British Columbia), and Shelly Curley (Prince Edward). Other Board members present were Tracey Lee, Frankie Cena, and Chris George. Also present but non-voting were Brian Casey, Jacqueline Belzberg, Jean Francois Tessier, Daria Skibington-Roffel, and Laura Noble.

John noted that the Board members each had one vote (in addition to the 2 votes held by each member).

Moved Frankie/Nicole and carried unanimously that we approve the minutes from the previous meeting

2020 Senior Nationals

John Robinson reported on the Senior Nationals. He noted some advantages of holding it online:

- Broader judging pool
- By building in enough time between rounds, one could start each round promptly
- Opportunity for more pre-recorded information (judges briefing)
- Online can be set up quickly
- Avoids hotel and food bookings

As a result, John concluded that there would be a role for online tournaments, even after the alternative of having in-person events return. In particular, they permit small interprovincial debates. John noted that the personal interaction between debaters remains important, and the debaters miss the ceremony of winning in an online event.

Next year's national tournaments are likely to all be online, although the hosts have the option if switching them to in-person tournaments if, and only if, the pandemic situation allows and the host wishes to have an in-person event.

Frankie commented that in his view, Yaatly and Zoom are better online platforms than the other alternatives.

Two suggestions were made – some will find it easier to use a traditional website (rather than google docs) to access tournament information; it may be helpful for judges who are experiencing problems with the technology to be briefed separately from other judges.

Moved by Josh Judah, seconded by Nicole Ratti and carried unanimously a vote of thanks to John Robinson and his team for hosting senior nationals.

Upcoming National events

The meeting approved the following national calendar. The events for the 20-21 school year will presumably occur online unless otherwise determined by the host:

BP Nationals (Fall)

Manitoba, 2021
Quebec, 2022

Senior High CP Nationals (Spring)

Quebec, 2021
Ontario, 2022

Junior High Nationals (Spring)

Manitoba, 2021
British Columbia, 2022

Seminar (Fall)

Saskatchewan (Online), 2020
Saskatchewan, in person, 2021
PEI, in person, 2022

Frankie and Jacqueline offered to do backup French language support for a French language nationals if the scheduled host is not able to provide it.

The meeting suggested that members volunteer to host for future events, so there will not be any last-minute vacancies.

The meeting recommended that tournament conveners distribute a written explanation of the judges to observe respectful behaviour, and not make comments which demonstrated familiarity with debaters. The online nature of the tournaments require us to remind judges and debaters of the appearance from having the judge or debater in bed or with an inappropriate background.

Board elections

Jon Bracewell is ex officio, chair of next year's Board, as the host of the senior high nationals. The following were nominated as members of the Board:

Frankie Cena, Chris George, Josh Judah, Tracey Lee, Debra Miko, Melissa Ong, Nicole Ratti, and John Robinson. Moved Jon Bracewell, seconded Sherry Nolan, we close nominations. Carried unanimously.

Report on Junior High Nationals

It was noted that the social event at the junior nationals was an excellent event which preserved a number of the benefits of an in person tournament. A vote of thanks was moved and carried unanimously for Josh Judah, Jacqueline Belzberg, Frankie Cena and Matthew Farrell.

Additional students

It was moved by John Robinson, seconded by Nicole Ratti and carried unanimously that the constitution provide:

The host province may send a double sized delegation with the agreement of the convener, and additional teams may be invited from other provinces with the permission of that province's debate organization