

NATIONAL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, December 18, 2009

Dear Members:

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone in good spirits and that every program has a successful fall season. As we go into the new year the following information will be helpful for us all. Our national tournament this year will be at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio on April 15 – 19, 2010. More information about the tournament and details will be forthcoming in another newsletter. Dr. Vicki Karns, assisted by Dr. Brendan Kelly, will be the Co-Directors for this year's tournament.

THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTAIN SEVERAL ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Information related to the selection of the Lincoln Douglas topic for 2010-2011.
2. A call for Program and paper submissions for the NCA 2010 Convention.
3. A call for tournament host for the years of 2012, 2013.
4. A call for Journal Submissions for a Special Edition.

Yours truly,

Larry Schnoor, President, NFA
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Cell: 507-382-3632

LINCOLN DOUGLAS TOPIC SELECTION 2010-2011:

A CALL FOR TOPICS will be included in the NFA Fall mailing requesting each school that has an interest in and intends to participate in LD Debate during the following academic year to submit a topic area for consideration to the Chair of the NFA Lincoln-Douglas Committee (Dr. Vicki Karns) by **January 31st**. Topic area briefs should be sent to the Chair of the LD Committee by e-mail: Vkarns@suffolk.edu

In order to be accepted for consideration, the topic area must be in the form of a 1-2 page brief which includes:

1. A statement of the **significance** of the topic area in current events;
2. A statement of **why** the topic is **interesting, challenging, and/or provocative;**
3. A statement of the perceived **educational** value of the topic area for debaters;
4. A brief bibliography of **selected readings (5-10)** that capture the nature of the controversy surrounding the area; and

5. Contact information should the committee need further clarification.

Remember, in order for a brief to be accepted, it must meet all of the above qualifications.

All briefs that are submitted will be confirmed by the Chair of the LD Committee, Dr. Vicki Karns: (Cell – 508-612-0762) (Office – 617-573-8236)

NARROWING PROCEDURES:

If more than ten briefs are submitted, the LD Committee will narrow the field using a weighted preferential voting system in which each first choice on a ballot receives 10 points and so on down to each tenth choice receiving 1 point. Any ties for tenth place will be broken by the LD Committee Chair.

By **February 9th**, the Committee will distribute the briefs to the LD Community and the membership of the NFA, for discussion and consideration. This mailing will include a ballot on which the school should rank its top three choices and return to the Chair of the LD Committee to be received by **February 28th**. The topic area will be selected by using the following method: ballots will be tallied using a weighted preferential voting system in which 1st place receiving 3 points, 2nd place receiving 2 points, and 3rd place receiving 1 point.

Please remember to return the ballots to Dr. Vicki Karns, Department of Journalism and Communication Studies, Suffolk University, Boston, MA 02108

The LD Committee will formulate resolutions based on the selected topic area; *the community is encouraged to submit their ideas and recommendations to the committee chair, Vicki Karns.* A ballot will be sent out by **March 30th** with five (5) resolutions for consideration. In order for a ballot to be counted, all five resolutions must be rank ordered. **The ballots must be returned to the NFA President to be received by April 30th.** A weighted preferential voting system with 1st = 5 points, 2nd = 4 points, 3rd = 3 points, 4th = 2 points, and 5th = 1 point will be used. Ties will be broken by the President of the NFA, who may at his or her discretion consult with the LD Debate Committee.

RESOLUTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

The winning resolution will be known only to the President of the NFA until it is announced on AUGUST 1st.

The Lincoln Douglas Committee will be waiting to hear from you. If your school is involved with Lincoln Douglas Debate, this is your opportunity to become active in the selection of the topic area for **2010-2011**. Dr. Vicki Karns is waiting to hear from you. The only way the system will work is if you become involved in the process. There are definite deadline dates that have been established. On behalf of the L/D Committee and the NFA tournament staff, please take time to participate in this process during this academic year.

Also remember, your students that are engaged in Lincoln Douglas Debate wish to be considered in this process of topic and resolution selection. Please take time to include them in your consideration of topic areas and resolution selections.

The Lincoln Douglas Committee for this year is as follows:

Dr. Vicki Karns, Chair, NFA National Council Member, Suffolk University

Kelly Larson, Missouri Southern University

Nichelle McNabb, Otterbein College

David Trumble, St. Anselm College

Jessica Ferguerson, Western Kentucky University

CALL FOR NCA PAPERS FOR THE 2010 CONVENTION

The deadline for submission for programs and papers for NCA 2010 is February 17th by 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. All submissions should be entered into the All Academic Program by that time. If anyone has any questions, please get in touch with Dr. Leah White of Minnesota State University, Mankato (Leah.White@MNSU.edu).

CALL FOR NFA TOURNAMENT SITE FOR 2012 – 2013:

The National Council has accepted a bid from Illinois State University for the 2011 tournament. Therefore, we are now looking for bids to host the NFA National Tournament in either 2012 or 2013. Anyone interested in hosting is asked to contact President Larry Schnoor for further details and bid specifications.

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR SPECIAL JOURNAL EDITION: National Forensic Journal
Special Issue on Autoethnography and Forensics**

The NFJ invites paper submissions that raise interesting questions and/or engage controversies surrounding how narrative ways of knowing and self-reflection can be used to critique or promote forensic activity. Topics that engage this endeavor may include but are not limited to: how to use personal knowledge as evidence, reflections of non-traditional participation, reflections of transitions into and out of forensic activity, when and/or how forensics activity makes reflection possible, the value of autoethnography in uncovering knowledge of the self and the community, autoethnography and pedagogy, discussion of personal storytelling as an experimental event.

Send submissions no later than January 15th, 2010 to:

Dr. Kristi Gerding Scholten, Special Editor

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