

**Florida Forensic League, Inc.  
Meeting of the Council of Presidents  
Sunday, November 7, 2004**

A meeting of the Council of Presidents, a standing committee of Florida Forensic League, Inc. (FFL), was called to order at 3:15 pm on Sunday, November 07, 2004 on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville by FFL President Jason Wysong. FFL Secretary Dianne Campbell, though not a member of the committee, took notes.

Members Present

Rob Carraway (representing FFL Timacuan Region)  
Sylvia Ellison (representing Gulf Coast CFL)  
Beth Goldman (representing FFL Hurricane Region)  
Wayne London (representing FFL Gulf Coast Region)  
Gina Proctor (representing FFL Panhandle Region)  
Dean Rhoads (arrived late; representing North Florida CFL)  
Mary Schick (representing South Florida NFL District, South Florida CFL & FFL Art Deco Region )  
Terri St. John (representing Gulf Coast NFL District)  
Jim Wakefield (representing Manatee NFL District)  
Jason Wysong (representing FFL Executive Committee & Florida Panther NFL)

Members Absent

Representative from FFL Macaw Region  
Representative from Palm Beach CFL

Others Present

E. Dianne Campbell, FFL Secretary

Old Business

Wysong gave a report on the publication of and initial feedback for the new State of Florida Uniform Judges Manual. Other members of the committee shared compliments from coaches in their areas. As far as the committee is aware, every NFL district, CFL league, and FFL region is using the manual for its tournaments. Wysong noted that the success of the manual marks this group's first major accomplishment and is an important step toward future cooperation among the leagues and coaches in Florida.

New Business:

Goldman related that the Florida Department of Education is again considering removing the honors status from Debate III and IV courses. It was the unanimous opinion of the group that such a move would adversely affect participation in forensics throughout the

state. The suggestion was that Goldman, as a representative of both FFL and the Florida Communications Association (FCA), should investigate the matter further and consult with Celebration High School coach Jackson Mummy, who has contacts within the Department of Education.

Wysong reported that he received word from the coach at Pensacola High School that debate had been discontinued there by administrators in favor of focusing on FCAT. Other schools are also re-examining the value of debate in light of the increasing importance of FCAT.

After extensive discussion, the following plan was unanimously agreed to:

1. A pamphlet outlining the value of debate curriculum in the context of both general student intellectual development and FCAT preparation should be created and marketed to school boards and principals.
2. A program and curriculum development resource guide for new coaches should be created and published in CD-ROM format.
3. Items 1 and 2 above should be distributed to all public and nonpublic secondary schools in the state of Florida via mass mailing, perhaps with funding from FFL. Workshops for interested schools should be made available in each county in conjunction with the mailing.
4. Through contact with FCA, an effort should be made to establish a college-level course on coaching high school speech and debate programs within the various colleges of education at public universities in Florida.

The group agreed that these tasks represent a long-term commitment and that not all elements of the plan could be achieved within the timeframe of a single school year.

The group also agreed that creation of the materials in numbers 1 and 2 above should be the first step. The suggestion was made to attempt to bring information together from several sources, including but not limited to resources that committee members have designed for their own leagues, information from the National Debate Coaches Association, the National Federation of High Schools, the Florida Forensic League, and curriculum resources from individual counties.

It was agreed that the committee would next meet at The Crestian tournament on January 16, 2005 in Ft. Lauderdale. Each committee member is to email materials to Wysong before the tournament or bring printed materials with them to the meeting. The group also agreed to plan a meeting for the weekend of May 13, 14, and 15 to finalize a manual and the pamphlet for administrators. St. John and Ellison volunteered to explore a reasonable venue for the meeting in the Tampa area.

### Next Meeting & Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. The committee will meet again on Sunday, January 16, 2005 in Ft. Lauderdale at The Crestian tournament; the time of the meeting will be set at a future date.