



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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2025 SPEECH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2025 -- Lincoln, Nebraska

The 2025 Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) Speech Committee met on June 3, 2025, at the NSAA offices in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Attendees: District I and NSCTA Theatre Chair-Becky Stahr, York, District I and NSCTA Speech Chair-Jarod Ockander, David City, District I and Committee Historian-Matt Heimes, Lincoln Southwest, District II-Stephenie Bippes, Falls City Sacred Heart, District III-Michelle Mosel, Plainview, District IV-Kaitlyn Clark, Gothenburg, District V-Jeffrey Horner, Minden, District VI and NSCTA President-Tyler Thompson, Gering

The purpose of the 2025 NSAA Speech Committee meeting was to evaluate the 2025 speech season, review the District Speech Contests held March 15, 17-21, 2025, and begin planning and setting goals for the 2026 season.

NSAA Assistant Director Taryn Retzlaff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following items were discussed:

1. Appreciation was expressed to district hosts, administrators, and staff for their dedication and efforts in organizing and hosting the 2025 district speech contests.
2. Provide training for hosts and judges on the electronic balloting system.
3. Establish a uniform process for releasing ballots.
4. Review the impact of electronic balloting on tournament scheduling.
5. Standardize and align evaluation criteria across event ballots for greater consistency.
6. Develop specific and consistent language for disqualifications.
7. Create a clear flowchart outlining the disqualification review and decision-making process.
8. Clarify and refine the definition of the POI (Program Oral Interpretation) event.
9. Emphasize a more persuasive tone in POI performances.
10. Review the number of schools assigned to each district and evaluate start times.
11. Assess the availability and suitability of rooms for state tournament finals.
12. Evaluate the ballot table location for efficiency and accessibility.
13. Review the utilization and assignment process for judges.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Taryn Retzlaff, Assistant Director, Speech