



**Board of Directors Fall Meeting, September 20-22, 2019**  
**Meeting Location: 401 Railroad Place, West Des Moines, IA**

**Call to Order/Record of Approved Minutes**

**Reports/New Business**

**Equity and Inclusion**

*The Board will reflect on the work that was done in 2018-2019 on Inclusion and Equity. This will include discussions on the 2018-2019 Inclusion and Equity commitments met by the organization, feedback from this summer's 2019 Inclusion and Equity Workshop, a debrief from the staff and Board members who attended the Inclusion and Equity Working Session held one day prior to the Fall Board meeting, and reports submitted by the 2019 Coaches' Caucuses. The Board will share its thoughts on the development of an NSDA Inclusion and Equity Statement as well as a road map for the organization's work on this core value in 2019-2020.*

**Strategic Planning and Execution**

**FY '19 Strategic Plan Report and FY '20 Operating Plan Proposal**

*Assistant Executive Director Amy Seidelman, Executive Director Scott Wunn, and staff leadership will answer questions related to 2018-2019 Strategic Plan results and the upcoming Operational Plan for next year. Some highlighted areas of discussion will include membership growth and retention, membership assessment results, resource development, inclusion and equity, research and advocacy, finance, and fundraising.*

**Research and Advocacy**

*The staff will present initial results from its Spring study on the correlation between achievement in the NSDA and competitive college admissions. The Board will discuss the next potential steps in this area of study and analysis. In addition, the staff will update the Board on its work with Broward County Schools to utilize its comprehensive speech and debate programming to study the positive effects of co-curricular participation, classroom study, and membership in the NSDA on student outcomes. The Director of Development will present an overview of our most recent research funding requests. This particular research would overlap with the prior foci for research, but would also include a very specific vision for seeking out the impact that debate activities have on civic engagement.*

**Finance Business**

**a. Q&A on the Finance Committee Report and 2019-2020 Review of Targeted Goals**

*The Finance Committee will address questions and feedback regarding the August committee meeting minutes and selection of yearly goals.*

**b. FY '19 Budget Report**

*The Director of Finance, Executive Director, and related staff leadership will answer questions related to the FY '19 Budget results.*

**c. FY '20 Final Budget Proposal**

*The Director of Finance, Executive Director, and related staff leadership will answer questions related to the proposed FY '20 Budget. The Finance Committee will seek acceptance of the FY '19 Budget report and approval on the proposed FY '20 Budget.*

**Development Business**

**a. Q&A on the Development Committee Report and 2019-2020 Review of Targeted Goals**

*The Development Committee will address questions and feedback regarding the September committee meeting minutes and selection of yearly goals.*

**b. Development Department Vision**

*Director of Development Nicole Wanzer-Serrano will present a long-term vision for fundraising and the continued diversification of funding streams. This will include a three to five year vision of the Development Department's plans to build upon its high level of effectiveness in revenue generation for the organization.*

**Executive Director Annual Review**

*The Board will finalize the annual performance review of Executive Director J. Scott Wunn. Adjustments to the Executive Director Evaluation Timeline will also be offered for review and approval.*

**Governance Business**

**a. Q&A on Governance Committee Report and 2019-2020 Review of Targeted Goals**

*The Governance Committee will address questions and feedback regarding the September committee meeting minutes and selection of yearly goals.*

**b. Goal Setting Based on Annual Board Assessment Results**

*The Board will review the 2018-2019 annual self-evaluation and offer feedback on potential adjustments needed for the final year of their two-year goals and priorities. The current priorities include Public Relations and Advocacy, Strategy, Financial Oversight, and Program Oversight.*

**c. Best Practices Proposals and Ad Hoc/Working Committees**

*The Board will discuss the appropriate size and scope of each of the Board standing committees (Governance, Development, Finance, and Rules Revision and Evaluation). The Board will also discuss the creation of an Executive Director led working group to audit the governing documents (Constitution and Bylaws) of the organization to ensure their continuity and compliance with current standards of a non-profit membership organization. The Board will also continue its discussion on the role of spokesperson for the organization and discuss how that role pertains to certain channels including social media, the press, etc. Additionally, the Board will discuss the possibility of changing the mandatory hiatus between the second and third term of an elected Board member from four years to two years.*

### **Information Technology Update and Vision**

*Director of Technology Aaron Hardy will present an overview of our advancement in technology over the past year and provide a comprehensive vision for tech development over the next three to five years. This will include a fairly significant “deep dive” into his team’s vision for the planning and execution of Tabroom.com 2.0 development, including the related opportunities and costs associated with that development and its impact on the economic sustainability of Tabroom.com. Aaron will explain additional aspects of technology that should be top priorities for the and his vision for that phase of development.*

### **Review Membership Correspondence**

*In accordance with our goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted to the Board will be included in our meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns that have been submitted for consideration.*

### **Competition Rules**

**a. Q & A on Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee Report and Review of 2019-2020 Targeted Goals**

*The Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee will address questions and feedback regarding August committee meeting minutes and selection of yearly goals.*

**b. Ad Hoc and Working Committee Planning**

- *Pedagogy of Events*
- *Interpretation Events Committee*
- *Simplification of District Manuals Working Committee (High School and Middle School)*
- *LD Topic Voting Process Committee and Focus Group for Examining Affirmative Speaking Time*

### **District and National Tournament Series**

**a. Review of District Level Appeals Process Procedures**

*The Executive Director will present a brief background on the current district tournament appeals process. The Board will discuss ways in which this process might be improved to create a better understanding of the process and best utilize the roles of the District Committee and the national office referees.*

**b. Homeschool and Online Schools-Participation and Access to Districts**

*The Board will discuss the current challenges facing homeschool students and those receiving an online education and how the organization might increase access to eligibility and participation at the district level.*

**c. National Tournament Structure and Access**

*The Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and Manager of Competitions will present their thoughts on classification, qualification, and overall ways in which the tournament structure might have a more positive and effective impact on the membership*

*experience. This discussion will include various pilot ideas for qualification and National Tournament experience.*

**d. Report on 2019 Nationals**

*The Executive Director and staff will lead a discussion with the Board on the general themes received from 2019 tournament feedback. The Board will also review the newly piloted National Tournament rules infraction penalty ranges and discuss their potential continued use and whether or not they are applicable to the district tournament series. In addition, the Board will review the use of the new adjudication panel pilot protocols and equity officer panels that were used at the 2019 National Tournament and discuss their future use.*

**e. Future National Tournaments Update**

*The Executive Director will update the Board on the 2020-2023 National Tournaments. The Board will also discuss the results of the 2019 membership survey and how they might affect future planning for the design and locations for the National Tournament.*

**Public Image and Advocacy Planning**

*Last fall, the Board participated in an exercise to create a list of frequently asked questions and areas of concern often posed by the membership. The Executive Director will provide a document with the key talking points and potential responses for review. The Board will react to this document. Other strategies will also be explored to communicate messages on these topics to the membership and community.*

**Election Procedures and Best Practices**

*The Board will discuss the current procedures used during the national Board election process, including information provided to candidates seeking office to give them a better understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of an elected Board member. In addition, the Board will discuss guiding principles for candidacy election protocols and procedures.*

**Future Conferences Discussion**

*At its Spring meeting, the Board decided to use the 2019-2020 school year to consider the best course of action for future educational and/or leadership conferences. The Board will begin a discussion of the best course of action moving forward. During the 2019-2020 school year, the Board will decide when and if future conferences will be held and the mission-based purpose they will serve.*

**Adjourn**