

# CONNECTICUT MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE LEAGUE



## Minutes CTMSDL Coaches Meeting Thursday, June 9, 2022, 6 pm via Zoom

1. Jen Posner and Ann Walsh Henderson contributed to these minutes.

### In Attendance:

Angelo Calebrese, Board Member; Torrington Middle School  
Harvey Catlin, Board Member; Seymour Middle School  
Ann Walsh Henderson, Board Member; Westfield Academy, West Hartford  
Jennifer Hunt, Board Member; The Hive, Redding  
Bruce Johnson, VP; Eastern Middle School, Greenwich  
Rachel Mikush, Memorial Middle School, Middlebury  
Michael Panoli, Board Member; Middlebrook Middle School, Wilton  
Jen Posner, President; Westfield Academy, West Hartford  
John Rook, Board Member; Smith Middle School, Glastonbury  
Everett Rutan, Executive Director, CDA  
Josephine Shea, Irving A. Robbins Middle School, Farmington  
Julia Vela, Memorial Middle School, Middlebury

2. Members approved the June 2021 minutes
3. 2021-22 Membership & Participation
  - 21 schools attended at least one event
  - 16 paid dues. Jen expects to collect dues from 4 more schools
  - Probable dropouts =Ethel Walker, JFK, and Poulson
  - Saxe in New Canaan has a dad who is trying to start a team
  - John Rook offered to help a teacher at JFK in Enfield take over from Janice Cerrino who is retiring

#### 4. 2022-23 Events

##### **In person, virtual or both?**

- If the covid situation in October is the same as it is now, we'll have in person events.
- Jen will send coaches a survey a month before our October tournament asking coaches if their school will attend in person, virtually, or both.
- If there's enough demand, we'll offer virtual tournaments on the same days as our in-person tournaments. This means CTMSDL needs to staff 2 tournaments on the same day. CDA has been doing this for a long time. We want to keep debate accessible to as many kids as possible.
- If online tournaments are large enough, they won't skew who qualifies for the Championship. This could be a problem if online tournaments are tiny.
- Some coaches felt the quality of speeches went down online with more kids reading than when we were in person.  
Some coaches feel online and in person debating are totally different skills.  
Some coaches want students to get comfortable debating online because being comfortable in online meetings is a good skill.
- We discussed possibility of combining in-person and remote debating IF schools have the technology to bring virtual debaters into classrooms. Coaches whose schools can host should find out if their school is capable of that.

##### **Online balloting**

- We'd like to continue to use online ballots at in-person tournaments.
- Some coaches know their schools' Guest wifi won't allow a lot of guests. Others thought their schools' wifi could handle it.
- Schools that can host tournaments should check with their IT staff. We'll need up to 60 people able to use Guest wifi.

##### **Recruiting and training judges for in person tournaments.**

- We'll probably need to use parents as judges when in person
- We'll offer online judge training workshops a couple of weeks before tournaments. Jennifer Hunt & Josephine Shea will host.

## 5. Schedule for 2022-23

### **Dates**

- April and May tournaments are difficult because debaters and judges have too many conflicts.
- The October 2022 event will be a regular tournament for Open Level debaters. Novice debaters will watch a demo debate during R1, analyze it during R2, scrimmage R3.

Open Level Tournament 1 + Novice Level Training/ Scrimmage :  
Saturday, October 22, 2022

Tournament 2: Saturday, December 17, 2022

Tournament 3: Saturday, February 11, 2023

Championship Tournament: Saturday, April 1, 2023

### **Hosts**

- All schools should ask their administration if they can host a tournament on the dates above and let Jen know.
- October and the Championship are always smaller so we'd like to use smaller schools then.
- Admin at Smith in Glastonbury and Timothy Edwards in South Windsor have already said they can host.
- Eastern in Greenwich, Bethel, and Torrington are checking.
- Seymour will probably be able to host.

6. Coaches passed the proposed budget.

7. All current Board members were reelected

Jen Posner, Pres, Bruce Johnson, VP,  
Cathy Emerick, Treasurer, Jennifer Hunt, Ann Walsh  
Henderson, John Rook, Angelo Calabrese, Michael Panoli,  
Harvey Catlin

8. Topics

- Coaches felt topics this year were heavy and definition-focused.
- We'll make an effort to make topics easier and more black and white next season, especially in October.

9. Championship Tournament

Qualification criteria will remain the same – placing in top 10 as team or speaker

10. Equity

Coaches liked the Equity presentations and procedures with 2 exceptions – emails need to explain issues more explicitly so coaches know exactly what happened/ what was said, and issues need to be discussed on tournament day or very soon after as it's much more difficult to deal with 2 days later.

**Policies & Procedures & Pledge**

- Jen, Jennifer Hunt & Josephine Shea will develop written policies and procedures and pledge over the summer.
- Jen apologized for dropping the ball on the Pledge & written Equity Policies and Procedures.
- Several coaches believe we had more smirking, laughing and eye rolling when we debated online. A CDA debater said this has been true at the High School level too. Coaches and Equity need to remind debaters of general equity principles.

11. Video resources on website

How to videos are up! Check em out!

12. Party at Jen's house in Westport in August.  
Keep an eye out for invitation.



21 CTMSDL Members 2020-2021 (16 paid dues so far)

AITE MS, Stamford O D F A  
Amity MS, Bethany & Orange O D F A M  
Bethel MS, Bethel D F A  
Eastern MS, Greenwich O F A M  
Ethel Walker, Simsbury O  
Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden O D F A  
The Hive, Redding O D F A  
Irving A Robbins MS, Farmington O D F A M  
Memorial MS, Middlebury D F  
Middlebrook MS, Wilton O D F A M  
Polson MS, Madison A  
Rogers International, Stamford D A  
Scott's Ridge + East Ridge, Ridgefield D F A  
Seymour MS, Seymour O D F A  
St. Luke's School, New Canaan O D F A M  
Strong Middle School, Durham D F A  
Smith MS, Glastonbury O D F A M  
Timothy Edwards, South Windsor O D F A M  
Torrington MS, Torrington O D F A  
Western MS, Greenwich D F A  
Westfield-Watkinson, West Hartford O D F A M

drops from last year

Ethel Walker

JFK

HMTCA

Likely drops this year

Polson, Madison

Possible additions

Saxe, New Canaan

Cromwell



Participation in CTMSDL Events 2021-22

	Oct	Dec	Feb	Apr	Champ
Schools	12	19	17	20	7
Teams	56	96	79	98	21
Novice	48	57	34	25	
Open	8	39	45	59	
% Novice	86%	59%	43%	30%	
Debaters	163	277	227	233	64

Participation 2015 — 2022

SCHOOLS	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Oct	13	13	14	18	15	15	12
Dec	15	17	20	22	22	19	19
Jan/Feb	15	17	16	23	22	20	17
Apr	18	20	23	21	11	23	20
Champ						14	7

TEAMS	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Oct	35	45	59	57	65	65	56
Dec	53	68	78	96	91	106	96
Jan/Feb	51	61	59	92	87	100	79
Apr	56	76	81	84	36	94	84
Champ						24	21



CTMSDL Proposed Calendar 2022-23

Event	Date	Location
Scrimmage	Oct 15 or 22	22 R1 = exhibition for Novice
Fall Tournament	Dec 3 or 17	17
Winter Tournament	Feb 11	yes
Spring Tournament	April 1	Championship
Championship Tournament	April 29 or May 6	

Events to work around:

Event	Date
CDA Tournament	Oct 8
Columbus Day	Mon, Oct 10
Thanksgiving	Thurs, Nov 24
CDA Tournament	Dec 10
CDA Tournament	Jan 7
MLK Jr. Day	Mon, Jan 16
CDA Tournament	Feb 4
February Breaks	Feb 13-24
President's Day	Mon, Feb 20
Independent Schools' Break	Mar 11-25
April Breaks	Apr 1-9 (Stmfrd) & Apr 7-14
CDA Tournament	Mar 4
CDA Championship	Mar 25
Easter	April 9
April Breaks	April 9-17 & 15-24



CTMSDL Actual Budget 2021-22

2021-22 Expenses

Awards	\$ 1318.32
NSDA	\$ 960.00
May judges (\$25x15)	\$ 375.00
Mailings	\$ 132.45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2278.32</b>

2021-22 Income

Dues collected (16x\$50)	\$ 800
Expect to collect (4x\$50)	\$ 200
ESU	\$1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2000</b>

Expected Deficit \$ 278.32



CTMSDL Proposed Budget 2021-22

Expenses

Awards	\$ 1200.00
Zoom (5 tournaments x \$53.22)	\$ 266.10
NSDA (195 rooms for Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr x\$6)	\$ 1170.00
May judges (\$25x15)	\$ 375.00
Mailing (5 tournaments x \$100)	\$
<u>500.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3511.10</b>

Income

Dues (24 x \$50)	\$ 1200
ESU	\$ 1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2200</b>

Proposed Deficit \$ 1311.10





CTMSDL Proposed Budget 2022-23

2022-23 Proposed Expenses

Awards	\$ 1300
May judges (\$25x15)	\$ 375
TOTAL	\$1675

2022-23 Proposed Income

Dues	\$1000
ESU	\$1000
TOTAL	\$2000

Expected Profit	\$325
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Cash

In Cash Box	\$ 962.71
CAS	\$3083.60
TOTAL	\$4046.31