



NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE
Speech and Debate Honor Society



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2009**



www.nflonline.org



From Our Executive Director

The National Forensic League has led the nation in its support of secondary speech communication education for more than 85 years, and we continue to do so. We believe America's youth can and must become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and leaders. We work diligently to fulfill our mission through a vision of providing speech and debate educational opportunities to every secondary school student in the United States.

This past year, membership numbers rose and our services grew correspondingly. We created NFLtv.org, the Internet's largest video portal for speech and debate education, fueled with videos from final rounds, coaching experts, and more. We worked to enhance professional development opportunities for coach educators, continuing to accredit deserving recipients. We provided grant opportunities to NFL districts to foster and grow programs, and we provided essential financial support to both rural and urban schools to ensure student access. We reached out to partner organizations for the betterment of our shared community. In addition, our Board of Directors and national office staff met with regional leaders from across the United States at a summer conference to discuss the strategic direction of the league and the most important issues concerning our activity.

Much good has been accomplished, but much more remains to be done. In the coming months, our activity will continue to be tested on its merits and benefits, as budgets are reviewed and programs are questioned. We plan to remain a leader in the effort to promote, support, and justify the existence of speech and debate programs in every secondary school. In 2010, the NFL will launch an online portal to connect investors, including our 1.3 million alumni, with specific need requests posted by member schools. This new approach to development will allow our members to communicate their support needs directly to those individuals who are most likely to understand the benefits of speech and debate education. Additionally, 2010 will welcome a proactive approach to program building and assistance to our schools. We believe that connecting members with trainers, mentors, and like-minded colleagues through innovative virtual classrooms and direct program support is the next step in the evolution of the activity.

In the coming months, we will continue to enhance direct support of our member schools that have the greatest needs both financially and geographically, making the activity and its tools for learning accessible to all. We will develop our support of urban and rural school programs through a more targeted volunteerism structure, increased financial assistance for innovative program development, and even more development of educational resources. Even as we work to enhance the NFL experience for current members, we will work to extend membership to more students, and to expand the breadth of debate and speech programs throughout the country.

The NFL's success hinges on the tireless commitment of our supporters. Every day we rely on thousands of volunteer coaches, several hundred regional leaders, and our core staff to create resources and opportunities. All of the work we have done has been a result of a visionary Board of Directors; the support of district leadership; tens of thousands of supportive coaches, parents, and administrators; and individuals and institutions who work with us to invest in our vision. I personally thank each of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and donors for their outstanding contributions to forensic education.

I invite you to review this report to see how your support has impacted NFL initiatives, and the exciting possibilities in the critical years that lie ahead. I also encourage you to examine the included financial information to see how we are managing your resources prudently. Like speech and debate teams across the country, the NFL board and staff are guided by the NFL Code of Honor: integrity, humility, respect, leadership, and service. If you have any questions about this report or the league, please contact me at nfl@nflonline.org.

Thank you for all that you do for the NFL.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Wunn
Executive Director

LIVING THE VISION

Vision

Our vision is that every child in the United States will be empowered to become an effective communicator, ethical individual, critical thinker, and leader in a democratic society.

We strive to achieve our mission and vision by:

- Increasing the number of active NFL and NJFL chapter schools and the number of students who participate
- Supplying coaches and students with valuable educational resources and service learning opportunities
- Providing financial and volunteer resources to help build and sustain speech and debate programs
- Establishing educational standards for curricular and co-curricular speech and debate activities
- Honoring student and coach participation and achievement in speech and debate activities
- Increasing the public's awareness of the value of speech and debate activities
- Creating leadership opportunities within the organization
- Providing programs and volunteer opportunities for alumni
- Sustaining a strong budgetary plan which provides adequate financial resources to fulfill the NFL mission

Who Are We?

The NFL is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit honorary society created to recognize high school students in speech and debate. It is the oldest and largest interscholastic forensic organization. In 2009, more than 112,000 high school and middle school students, representing more than 2,800 high schools and nearly 100 middle schools, built their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members. Since 1925, more than 1.3 million students have found their voice in the NFL.

Mission

The National Forensic League (NFL) honor society promotes high school and middle school speech and debate activities as a means to develop a student's essential life skills and values.





Membership Overview

The NFL offers its membership to any American middle or high school student, regardless of gender, race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Once a student earns membership, he or she is a member for life. The NFL has 1.3 million alumni in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Pacific Islands.



NFL Membership (2008-09 School Year)

Member Schools*	2,860
Charter Chapters	1,621
Provisional/Member Chapters	1,239
New Member Schools	162
New Strength of Schools (Members and Degrees)	78,764
Member Students	112,530
New Student Members	29,007
Coach Members	4,914
New Coaches	605



NJFL Membership (2008-09 School Year)

Member Schools	97
Student Members	686



* Across the United States, there are 23,436 public secondary schools.
 Source: US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2009). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2008* (NCES 2009-020), Chapter 2.

Media Outreach

In 2009, NFL coaches and students maintained a strong presence in national and local media. Local outlets covered NFL activities in 38 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Pacific Islands. National papers including *The Washington Post* and *Chicago Tribune* also featured articles on speech and debate.

Several programs gained national attention for their work. In June, four National Tournament debaters appeared on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* news program to question experts on President Obama's health care policy. A few months later, Lennox High School in South Dakota hosted a televised public debate over health care. Three NFL members from Henry W. Grady High School in Atlanta were among students interviewed on CNN January 1, with a fourth Grady student appearing on CNN later that month. Also in January, the debate team from Salina High Central in Kansas provided political commentary to the nationally-known *PBS NewsHour Extra*.

Summer Leadership Conference

The NFL hosted 90 national and district leaders from across the country August 3-6, 2009, for its Summer Leadership Conference. Conference discussions resulted in the organization of several committees charged with evaluating computer use in competition. In addition, a three-tier provisional/member/charter chapter status was adopted over the former two-tier charter/affiliate chapter status. The new three-tier membership framework rewards districts for recruiting new schools while requiring those schools to build student membership enrollment in order to count toward district strength.

Additionally, conference attendees were presented with committee recommendations concerning Public Forum and Congressional Debate. Afterward, they were invited to participate in roundtable discussions and provide feedback to the Board of Directors. The Public Forum committee's proposals included increasing the Final Focus speech to two minutes and revising the ballot, being tested throughout the 2009-10 season. The Congress Committee's proposals included renaming Student Congress as "Congressional Debate" and establishing its own NFL credit point recording category. A uniform Congressional Debate ranking system was created for advancing students from preliminary to elimination and final rounds at districts and nationals. This replaces the previous system of more than 20 disparate methods of qualifying to nationals, as well as a student vote to determine the champion and placement at the National Tournament. Districts will still retain a student-rank option, and the National Tournament will have a separate *Leadership Bowl* award that is student-rank driven. Finally, Congressional Debate tournament procedures and ballots were standardized to ensure parity and equity.



The Summer Leadership Conference was held in Ripon, Wisconsin, in August 2009.



District and National Tournaments

Students from each of the NFL's 106 districts competed for a chance to attend the 2009 "Stars Fell on Alabama" NFL National Tournament during the November-April District Tournament series. A total of 3,097 students from 904 schools earned the opportunity to compete in Birmingham, Alabama. The National Tournament featured superior competition in 11 main, four supplemental, and two consolation events. Winners were named at the National Tournament Awards Assembly June 19, 2009, in front of a packed auditorium of students, coaches, and spectators. Other tournament highlights included a dynamic information fair and expo, lively comedic performances by NFL alumni at the Tuesday night local host party, and a rigorous coach clinic available to both sponsors of qualifiers and non-qualifiers.

2009 National Champions

Policy Debate

Sean Hernandez and Reid Ehrlich-Quinn from Damien High School, California, coached by Chuck Ballingall and Nick Fiori

Student Congress Senate

Robert Colonel from Winter Springs High School, Florida, coached by Kathi Wells

Student Congress House

Harlan Downs-Tepper from Stuyvesant High School, New York, coached by Julie Sheinman

Lincoln Douglas Debate

Shivani Vohra from Hockaday School, Texas, coached by Stacy Thomas

Public Forum Debate

Josh Zoffer and Robert Kindman from Durham Academy, North Carolina, coached by Jeff Welty

United States Extemporaneous Speaking

Evan Larson from Bellarmine College Prep, California, coached by Bill Healy

International Extemporaneous Speaking

Stacey Chen from North Allegheny Sr. High School, Pennsylvania, coached by Sharon Volpe

Original Oratory

John Hofmeister from Apple Valley High School, Minnesota, coached by Joseph Wycoff and Pam Cady Wycoff

Humorous Interpretation

Lindsey White from Eastview High School, Minnesota, coached by James Fedje

Dramatic Interpretation

Jane Bruce from Ogden High School, Utah, coached by Matthew Madsen

Duo Interpretation

Ismael Williams and Drake Pough from James Logan High School, California, coached by Tommie Lindsey, Jr.

Expository

Evan M. Hernandez from Wichita East High School, Kansas, coached by Vickie Fellers

Commentary

Anuv Ratan from Claremont High School, California, coached by David Chamberlain

Prose Reading

Vanessa Garcia from Fullerton Joint Union High School, California, coached by Sal Tinajero

Poetry Reading

Andy LaRocca from Riverdale High School, Louisiana, coached by Daniel Dominguez and Krystle Sims

Impromptu

Jessica Petrie from Belleville West High School, Illinois, coached by Adam Jenkins

Storytelling

Francis Ian Blaise Austin from New Trier Township High School, Illinois, coached by Linda Oddo

2009 DISTRICT ENTRY TOTALS*

Policy	Senate	House	LD	PFD	USX	IX	OO	HI	DI	Duo	Total
2,864	1,749	5,104	2,454	4,446	2,241	1,834	2,086	2,100	2,281	3,450	30,609

2009 NATIONAL ENTRY TOTALS*

Policy	Senate	House	LD	PFD	USX	IX	OO	HI	DI	Duo	Total
398	186	236	230	480	224	218	222	227	232	444	3,097

* Team events (Policy, PFD, and Duo) are listed as individual students.

YEAR IN REVIEW



The 2009 "Stars Fell on Alabama" LFG / NFL Circle of Champions.

Student of the Year

A student is named District Student of the Year based upon his or her fulfillment of the NFL Code of Honor and service to his or her team, school, and community. District winners are eligible for the National Student of the Year Award and scholarship, which is chosen by a selection committee based upon applications and interviews. The National Student of the Year Award is announced at the National Tournament and will be sponsored by Gustavus Adolphus College in 2010.

The 2009 National Student of the Year was Danielle Camous, an alum of St. Mary's High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Danielle earned awards in debate, congress, and United States Extemporaneous Speaking during her four-year career. She achieved a degree of Premier Distinction. She is now a student at the University of Colorado at Boulder and writes a monthly *Rostrum* column.



Danielle Camous

Academic All Americans

The Academic All American Award recognizes students who achieve outstanding academic and competitive success. The criteria for this award includes a degree of Superior Distinction, a GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent), an ACT score of 27+ or SAT score of 2000+, at least five semesters of high school completed, and outstanding character/leadership. During the 2008-09 school year, 407 students were named NFL Academic All Americans.



The Arthur N. Rupe Foundation

In 2009, the NFL received a substantial grant from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation of Santa Barbara, California, to help promote Public Forum Debate locally and nationally. On the newly-launched site, RupeScholars.org, Public Forum students and coaches can obtain exclusive interviews, research, and resources from leading professionals related to current Public Forum topics. In addition, the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation grant helps fund NFLtv.org and will provide larger scholarships to more students at the NFL National Speech and Debate Tournament in Kansas City. The support of the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation in building programs, encouraging students to find creative solutions for societal issues, and developing lifelong leadership skills is an invaluable resource to the thousands of Public Forum debaters and coaches throughout the country.



International Public Policy Forum

The International Public Policy Forum (IPPF), offered in conjunction with the Bickel & Brewer Foundation and New York University, gives high school students from across the globe the opportunity to participate in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. Teams compete for a \$10,000 grand prize, the "Bickel & Brewer Cup," and an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals in New York. The 2009-10 IPPF Topic is, "Resolved: The United Nations should substantially increase humanitarian assistance for persons living in poverty."



National Association of Urban Debate Leagues

In 2009, the NFL launched a campaign to provide free membership to schools involved in urban debate leagues. Each school may also enroll up to 33 new students per year for free. The NFL's full menu of educational services is available to schools to further support development of programs, and the NFL is proactively working with NAUDL to expand access to Policy Debate by building strong programs in new cities. To incentivize participation, the top two teams (semifinals or better) at the NAUDL Championship that did not already qualify for the NFL National Tournament are invited to attend nationals in Policy Debate.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The People Speak

The People Speak Global Debates, presented in partnership with the United Nations Foundation, encourage students to engage their schools and communities on worldwide issues. One of several outstanding participants, California's Santee Education Complex, held the Santee Mini Environmental Expo of Los Angeles (SMEELA), which allowed attendees to receive trees for their neighborhoods, view an electric Mini Cooper, learn about alternative fuel, and engage experts in discussions of environmental sustainability. Following SMEELA, the Santee team embarked on a second project, "Garden on a Bike and Green Transportation," which promoted green transportation and organic gardening. Also in 2009, Michigan's Brother Rice High School hosted a public debate to evaluate poverty reduction and climate change. Additionally, the team worked to bring the *Wild & Scenic on Tour* film festival to Detroit, where it was attended by more than 100 middle school students who screened several environmental films and spoke with invited guests.



The People Speak[!]

International Debate Education Association (IDEA) Guest Country Program

IDEA facilitates a district qualifying tournament in international locations, enabling top competitors to attend the National Tournament in June. This partnership began in 2004 through a US State Department grant which funded international students from Argentina, China, Haiti, Moldova, Russia, South Africa, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe, paving the way for an international division of Public Forum and Legislative (Congressional) Debate. The relationship has evolved to include a guest country competing every year at the National Tournament.

IDEA also co-sponsors the NJFL National Middle School Tournament, which was held in San Antonio, Texas, in 2009, and will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, in 2010.





Diamond Coaches

Diamond awards recognize coach educators for sustained commitment to and success in forensics. In 2009, the NFL presented a total of 224 diamond awards. A complete listing of diamond coaches, along with photos, can be found in the December 2009 *Rostrum*.

2008-09 Diamond Awards

First Diamond	104
Second Diamond	60
Third Diamond	28
Fourth Diamond	17
Fifth Diamond	6
Sixth Diamond	6
Seventh Diamond	1
Eighth Diamond	1
Ninth Diamond	1
Total	224



Dr. Michael Edmonds from Colorado College presents a historic ninth diamond to Ron Underwood from Edison Computech High School in California.



Eighth diamond coach Roger Brannan from Manhattan High School in Kansas.



Seventh diamond coach Bro. George Zehnle, S.M., from Chaminade High School in New York.

HONORING OUR PROFESSION

Coach Service Citations

A distinguished group of coaches earned milestone honors for their service this year, including sponsoring a new chapter, service to the district committee and/or National Tournament, hosting/running a tournament, and/or an article in *Rostrum* magazine. Service plaque honorees included Chuck Nicholas (South Carolina), fifth plaque; Gail Nicholas (South Carolina), fourth plaque; Marc Rischitelli (Massachusetts), second plaque; Matt Davis (Nebraska), first plaque; Adam Jacobi (Wisconsin), first plaque; and Cathy Wood (Kansas), first plaque. Service key honorees included Holly Hathaway (Indiana), Kelli Morrill (Missouri), and Steven Schappagh (Florida). Don Crabtree (Missouri) has earned a record 12 coach service citations.

Hall of Fame

The NFL Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding educators who have devoted their lives to forensic education. Coaches with 25 years of experience, or who are retired, are eligible for this prestigious distinction. Four distinguished educators were inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame Thursday, June 18, 2009, at the Concert Hall of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center. These outstanding individuals were the late Michele Coody (Alabama), J. E. Masters (Texas), Jan Heiteen (Illinois), and Eric DiMichele (New York).

NFL CODE OF
honor

Integrity
Humility
Respect
Leadership
Service



The late Michele Coody (Alabama).



J. E. Masters (Texas), Jan Heiteen (Illinois), and Eric DiMichele (New York).



Brother Gregory (René) Sterner, F.S.C.



Donus D. Roberts



Matt Entenza



H. Thomas (Tommy) Wells

Honoring Our Alumni

The 2009 “Stars Fell on Alabama” National Tournament marked the first presentation of the Brother Gregory (René) Sterner Lifetime Service Award. This award honors the late Brother René Sterner, F.S.C., who passed away in May 2009, after a battle with cancer. Sterner’s incredible career spanned 48 years and produced a number of national champions and finalists. A member of the Board of Directors for over 30 years and a member of the NFL Hall of Fame, Sterner’s service to the league was legendary.

Hall of Fame member Donus D. Roberts of Watertown, South Dakota, was honored with the inaugural award. Acknowledging forensics as his “calling,” Roberts has spent a lifetime in service to the speech and debate community. He was the first nine-diamond coach in the history of the NFL and remains one of only two to hold this signal honor. He served on the Board of Directors, including terms as both Vice President and President. Roberts’ genuine passion for forensics shone in a recent *Rostrum* interview in which he said, “There are no losers in forensics. All a student needs to succeed is a good attitude and a willingness to try. It’s as simple as that!”

Also at the 2009 National Tournament, Matt Entenza was honored with the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. Entenza found his calling in forensics as a student at Worthington High School in Minnesota, earning a national championship in Congressional Debate in 1979. After graduating from the University of Minnesota’s School of Law, he championed the rights of victims as a prosecutor at the county and state level. He was elected as a Minnesota State Representative in 1995 and served as the House Democratic Leader until 2006. Rather than seek re-election, he founded a non-partisan think tank designed to foster discussion and debate on areas vital to Minnesota’s future.

H. Thomas (Tommy) Wells was recognized as the 2009 Communicator of the Year. Wells, an alum from Gadsden High School in Alabama, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to diversity and professional achievement in the legal field. A partner and founding member at Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. in Birmingham, Alabama, he has served on numerous committees and in leadership roles in the Alabama State Bar, the Birmingham Bar Association, and the American Bar Association (ABA). Wells most recently served as President of the ABA.

HONORING OUR ALUMNI

The NFL, in partnership with the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, sponsor of National Congressional Debate, annually recognizes an individual who successfully applies lessons learned through Congressional Debate to become an effective leader in public service. The award is named for Harold Keller, who retired in 2003 after a quarter-century as NFL Clerk of Congress, in addition to serving nearly a quarter-century as a member of the Board of Directors.

The 2009 recipient was Alabama's own Joshua Segall, a 1997 graduate of The Montgomery Academy. Segall was state champion in congress, and qualified to the NFL National Tournament in congress, as well as the Tournament of Champions in Lincoln Douglas Debate. Segall graduated from Brown University, where he was President of the College Democrats from 1999-2001. He has worked on a variety of campaigns in Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, and in 2003, began his legal studies at the University of Alabama. The following year, he created a program called "Homegrown Alabama," which lobbied for the University of Alabama to purchase its food from Alabama farmers. The program continues today.



Joshua Segall

Rhodes to Success

Two NFL alumni were named 2010 Rhodes Scholars. Stephanie Bell, an alum from West Des Moines Valley High School in Iowa, is a two-time Iowa state champion in Lincoln Douglas Debate. A noted college debater, she won several prestigious championships at Harvard, Princeton, and Stanford, capping her career with back-to-back third place finishes at the national college championships. In addition to her most recent achievement, Bell is a 2007 Truman Scholar.

Eva Lam is the 2005 Congress House Champion and Presiding Officer, the 2006 Congress Senate Champion, and ranked 14th in the NFL's Century Society of all-time top point leaders. She is also the 2006 Harvard University National Congress Champion. A senior at Harvard College, where she majors in social studies, Eva is committed to education reform. She has written a thesis on cultural competency training in Teach for America.

As part of the award, Bell and Lam will pursue postgraduate degrees at Britain's Oxford University beginning in October 2010.



Stephanie Bell



Eva Lam



Publications

The NFL is committed to producing professional, informative, and engaging publications for all its members. Archives for each publication are available in perpetuity at www.nflonline.org.

Rostrum

Rostrum is a monthly magazine that includes community features, research pertaining to forensics, relevant business items, and regular monthly features. While much of *Rostrum's* content is generated by staff, coaches and students are enthusiastically invited to submit essays or research for publication.

NFL Alumni

NFL Alumni is distributed annually to registered members of NFL's Alumni Network. *NFL Alumni* typically profiles notable alums in education, business, and entertainment; interviews contributors to the league; offers updates on the league's activities; and shares stories from members past and present.

NJFL Newsletter

The NFL produces the *NJFL Newsletter* periodically to keep its junior members informed and inspired. Content is produced through synthesis between members, contributors, and staff.

Professional Organization Membership The NFL proudly supports and recognizes its hardworking coaches. All active coaches receive membership cards certifying their professional involvement in speech and debate education. First-time coaches receive specialized certificates recognizing their membership. Member coaches are also eligible for professional accreditation and professional development education.

Coach Support New chapter advisers receive materials and tools to help them get started, including the *Coaching Guide*, which gives an overview of forensics, discusses management of an NFL chapter, and provides a glossary of speech and debate terms. Interested new coaches are paired with a mentor coach in their area, and NFL national office staff provides customer service support.

Professional Accreditation The NFL's Professional Accreditation program ensures coaches who are committed to growth and excellence receive credit for their efforts. Four levels of accreditation are offered: Professional Forensic Educator, Advanced Professional Forensic Educator, Professional Forensic Coach, and Advanced Professional Forensic Coach. Coaches and educators must be active NFL members to receive the accreditation. Coaches who apply and earn accreditation receive a certificate, a letter to their principal/superintendent, and recognition on NFL's Web site and in *Rostrum* magazine.

Online Professional Development Courses Offered in partnership with Minnesota State University, Mankato, these inexpensive course tutorials in forensic education earn one continuing education unit (CEU) per module; combinations of four modules are worth three graduate credits. Modules are designed to require about ten hours of time to earn credit.

Summer Coach Workshop Scholarships Top partner institutes provide a varying number of scholarships subsidizing tuition-only, or tuition plus lodging and meals, for member coaches who would like to extend their skills. Scholarships are awarded based on each applicant's educational interests, requests for a certain program, and level of need. About 25 tuition plus room and board scholarships and at least 30 tuition-only scholarships are awarded.

National Tournament Coach Clinics Attending the National Tournament is an opportunity for newer coaches to see the best of the best in competition and learn through both observation and networking with other coaches. For veteran coaches, it represents an opportunity to observe trends of performance styles and to share thoughts on best practices. To make the entire experience even more worthwhile, the NFL has partnered with Minnesota State University, Mankato, to grant continuing education units (CEUs) or graduate credit for coach clinics at the National Tournament. Whether or not a coach's students qualify to nationals, he or she can take advantage of this opportunity.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

District Growth Initiatives Nine NFL districts participated in the *Give Them a Voice* grant program, with specific plans to encourage growth in their districts. During this program's inaugural year, most districts utilized a retired coach ambassador to reach out to schools without speech and debate programs, and to encourage new and struggling programs to be more successful. The East Iowa district invited potential coaches to clinics and to serve as guest Public Forum judges. Experienced coaches met with their new "recruits" and offered guidance about starting programs. The North Dakota Roughrider district asked Dr. Robert Littlefield—coach at the high school, collegiate, and middle school levels—to mentor new coaches, reach out to inactive schools, and to assist in a self-study of the district to identify growth strategies.

Faculty Seminars Offered in partnership with established professional staff development and forensic educators, these seminars provide communication education across all curricular disciplines. The goal is to expose educators to the importance and benefits of infused communication studies in the classroom, covering such topics as information literacy, technology in the classroom, social networking, and the values and pitfalls of blogs and wikis.

NFLtv.org 2009 marked the launch of NFLtv.org, the largest portal for speech and debate videos on the Internet. The goal of NFLtv.org is to provide the highest quality educational training resources, available at any time online, to students, coaches, teachers, parents, and community members. More than 200 videos are already online, and the library of videos continues to grow. NFLtv.org is made possible through several sponsors, including a generous grant from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation.

NFL Library The NFL Library contains a series of instructional videotapes provided through a grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Members may access these resources for free by contacting the national office, or by submitting the paperwork enclosed with their annual membership materials.

Points Site The NFL's credit points help motivate students by rewarding sustained participation and growth. Points are recorded through the NFL's online points application, which was expanded to allow coaches to input additional information for each student. The enhanced capacity of the online points application streamlined coaches' record-keeping ability, making tasks such as building contact lists or communicating with alumni incredibly easy.

Alumni Services When students join the NFL, they receive lifetime membership in our honor society. Continued services to alumni include periodic electronic updates concerning relevant news items, engagement opportunities, alumni publications such as *NFL Alumni* magazine, alumni events and local receptions, and complimentary location of alumni NFL point records.

Resources

The NFL maintains a cache of free, instantly-available resources on its Web site. Visitors may download a Lincoln Douglas Debate text, Congressional Debate legislation templates, the *Public Forum Guide*, sample lesson plans, and curriculum suggestions. Other resources are available for a nominal charge, including honor society insignia, related publications, awards plaques, and banners.

Press Releases

The NFL supplies press releases for a number of honors and awards, including Diamond Coach awards, induction into the NFL Hall of Fame, Leading Chapter Awards, and new affiliation with the NFL. The NFL sends these press releases automatically when one of its awards is earned.

Advocating Forensics

The NFL's expansive collection of white papers and brochures gives coaches powerful tools of advocacy for their programs. These resources provide compelling research and anecdotes in support of forensic education. Coaches and supporters can access the NFL's *Advocating Forensics* library online at www.nflonline.org/AboutNFL/Advocate.



Revenues The NFL's operating revenues in 2008-09 totaled \$1.77 million, an increase of nearly 6% over 2007-08. Nearly 75% of all the revenues generated to support programs and services in 2008-09 were derived from membership dues (\$728,500), special event fees (\$302,000), and product sales and services (\$337,600). Other sources, primarily in the form of public and private sponsorships, grants, and gifts, comprised the remaining amount (\$408,700).

2008-09 Revenues

\$1,776,871



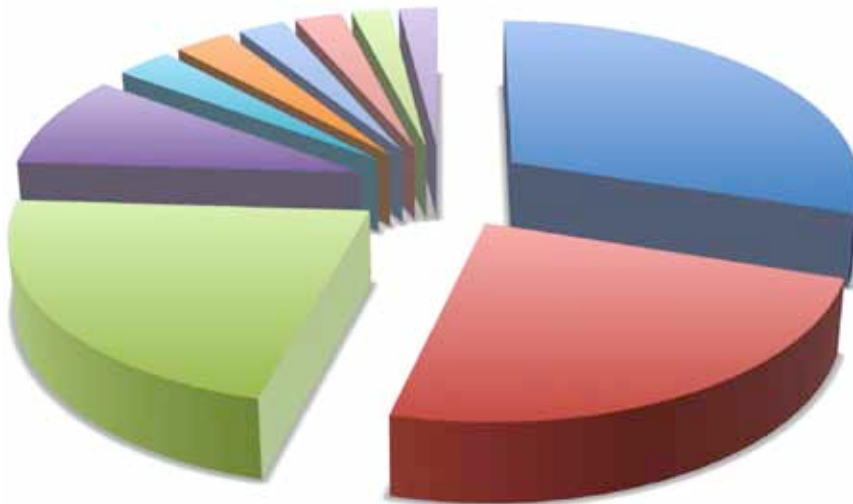
■ Membership Dues and Fees 41%	■ Sponsorships 8%
■ National Tournament Fees 17%	■ Advertising 4%
■ Grants / Gifts 14%	■ Services and Programs 3%
■ Sales 12%	■ Appeals 1%

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Expenses The NFL's operating expenses in 2007-08 totaled \$1.72 million, an increase of nearly 4% over 2006-07. The NFL continued to invest in member services, educational programming, educational materials and resources, and special events to fulfill its mission. Expenditures on these mission-based services and related staffing represented 80% of operating expenditures (\$1.38 million). The NFL also invested 14.5% (\$250,000) in fundraising, alumni member development, governance, public relations, and marketing. An additional 5.5% (\$100,000) was spent on the maintenance of national office facilities, equipment, and supplies.

2008-09 Expenses

\$1,727,393



Salaries and Benefits 30%

National Tournament 24%

Education and Program Services 22%

Educational Materials / Merchandise / Awards 9%

Building and Grounds 3%

Contracted Services (Computer, Legal, Etc.) 3%

Equipment and Office Supplies 2.5%

Board of Directors Governance 2.5%

Public Relations / Marketing 2%

Financial Development 2%



Annual Giving Report

Contributions to the National Forensic League ensure our ability to serve our mission of empowering students to become effective communicators, ethical individuals, critical thinkers, and leaders in a democratic society. This circle of generous donors represents our esteemed alumni and coaches, their families, and the many friends of the league. Their gifts make a positive impact upon the 112,000 current members of the NFL. We sincerely thank our supporters for their commitment to the NFL as we work to empower tomorrow's leaders. Together, we are giving youth a voice.

This report reflects combined contributions made between September 1, 2008, and February 28, 2010. If we inadvertently omitted your donation, please contact our Director of Development, Cherian Koshy, at cherian@nationalforensicleague.org, or call 920-748-6206. We will publish your gift in a future report.

Diamond (\$15,000 or more)

Arthur N. Rupe Foundation
Unger, James (bequest)

Ruby (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

Sapphire (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Danzis, Loren
Keller, Harold
Rollins, Thomas

Emerald (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Alliant Energy Foundation
Arton, Michael
Copeland, James
Gordon, Jason
Krueger, Sandy and Bob
Lopez, David and Lilliana
National Endowment for Humanities
Pippin, Tom
Ripon College
Roberts, Donus and Lovila
Tung, Joseph
Webster Family Foundation
Wells, Jr., H. Thomas

Our Thanks



ANNUAL GIVING REPORT

Distinction (\$500 - \$999)

Diedrich Agency
Downs, Marla Tepper and Charles
Harrington Jacobs, Hollye
Lanier, Greg and Rochelle
M&I Bank
Maguire, Kerry
Pippin, Lenny
Schwartz, Jeremy
Singh, David
Stern, Jeff and Susan

Excellence (\$250 - \$499)

Broz, Robert and Elizabeth
Green, Jesse
Koshy, Cherian and Betsy
McDonald, Christopher
Schally, Timothy
Wycoff, Joe and Pam

Honor (\$100 - \$249)

Bauer-Rowe, Erich and Carmen
Brewer, Amy
Callahan, Parnetha
Cope, Barbara
Crabtree, Don
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Corbett, Norisha
Cote, John
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Schultz, Steven
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Singh, Nitu
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Board of Directors

The board is responsible for guaranteeing the strategic direction and fiscal solvency of the league. Its members establish the policies that guide the direction of the organization. Eight board members are elected to four-year terms on a two-year rotating election cycle of four members elected at one time. The ninth member of the board serves as an administrative representative and is chosen by the sitting board every two years.

Executive Director

The executive director is the chief executive officer of the league, hired by the Board of Directors. The executive director is given the responsibility of financial management, maintenance of appropriate staffing, provision of services to members, and the fulfillment of the league mission and strategic plan of the board.

National Office Department Directors and Coordinators

The directors and coordinators work within several key departments of the national office to facilitate the objectives set forth by the executive director. Departments include Membership and Educational Services, Public Relations and Marketing, Special Events Operations, Accounting and Financial Development, Information Technology, and Alumni Services.

Administrative Personnel

The administrative staff of the national office is charged with providing the clerical support necessary for each department to meet the target outcomes established by each director, coordinator, and the executive director.

District Committee Members

The NFL utilizes a volunteer structure for its regional and more localized leadership. Each year, the member schools elect three individuals to serve as committee members, one of which serves as the district chairperson. The committee is charged with the local leadership and oversight of NFL activities and contests. It is the primary vehicle for effective league communication and promotion.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

2009-10 Board of Directors



William Woods Tate, Jr., President
Montgomery Bell Academy
4001 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205
Phone: 615-269-3959
tateb@montgomerybell.com



Don Crabtree, Vice President
Park Hill High School
1909 6th Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64505
Phone: 816-261-2661
crab@ponyexpress.net



Harold C. Keller
2035 Lillie Avenue
Davenport, IA 52804
Phone: 563-323-6693
HKKeller@aol.com



Kandi King
Winston Churchill High School
12049 Blanco Road
San Antonio, TX 78216
Phone: 210-442-0800 Ext. 352
kking@neisd.net



Pam Cady Wycoff
Apple Valley High School
14450 Hayes Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124-6796
Phone: 952-431-8200
Pam.Wycoff@district196.org



Tommie Lindsey, Jr.
James Logan High School
1800 H Street
Union City, CA 94587
Phone: 510-471-2520 Ext. 4408
Tommie_Lindsey@nhusd.k12.ca.us



Pamela K. McComas
Topeka High School
800 W. 10th
Topeka, KS 66612-1687
Phone: 785-295-3226
pmccomas@topeka.k12.ks.us



Timothy E. Sheaff
Dowling Catholic High School
1400 Buffalo Road
West Des Moines, IA 50265
Phone: 515-222-1035
tsheaff@dowling.pvt.k12.ia.us



Bro. Kevin Dalmasse, F.S.C.
Christian Brothers Conference
3025 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Phone: 202-529-0047
kdalmasse@cbconf.org



Christopher McDonald, Alternate
Eagan High School
4185 Braddock Trail
Eagan, MN 55123-1575
Phone: 651-683-6900
chris.mcdonald@district196.org



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