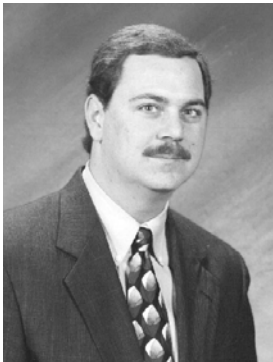


**National Christian Forensics & Communications Association**  
**President's Letter ♦ November 2005**



Dear NCFCA Affiliate Families,

Psalm 100:4 instructs us to “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and enter into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” We are reminded in this verse that the object of our thanksgiving should be our Lord, and that giving thanks to God should cause His praise to be on our lips. We should be continually thankful to God for His good work in our lives and daily blessings. The many activities and distractions in our busy lives can make it difficult to practice thankfulness. Let us resolve to daily give thanks to God, not only during Thanksgiving, but also in the busy and stressful times throughout the year.

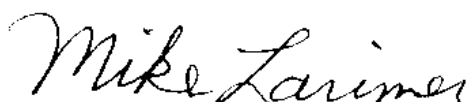
For many families participating in NCFCA events, the various types of speech and debate tournaments can be pretty confusing. A brief survey of these tournaments can be helpful in navigating the competitive season. The season roughly breaks down into fall activities and spring activities with many speech and debate clubs even getting started in the summer. Throughout the fall, many clubs will provide Round Robins for both novice and experienced debaters, and opportunities to practice individual speeches. Area clubs also host simple one-day debate Round Robins which are typically four-round events without outrounds, awards, or expensive facilities.

After the first of the year, the tournament season begins in earnest with Practice Tournaments, Qualifying Tournaments, and National Open Tournaments. Late spring brings Regional Invitationals and the annual National Championship. Practice Tournaments are generally hosted by a local club so that participants can continue to practice skills early in the competitive season. Although this level of tournament is not regulated by NCFCA, most tournament organizers generally follow NCFCA rules and guidelines. The National Open Tournaments are large, prestigious tournaments which send participants directly to the National Championship. NCFCA intends to hold several National Opens each year to encourage participation across regional boundaries at a high level of competition. These tournaments offer all league events and draw participants from throughout the country.

At Qualifying Tournaments, the top ranking competitors qualify for the next level of competition. Qualifiers are run according to NCFCA rules and guidelines by local tournament hosts. These tournaments have sent students directly to the National Championship in the past, but now regions are transitioning to a Regional Tournament model in which the top competitors advance from the Qualifier to a Regional Invitational Tournament. The highest ranking students at the Regional Invitational then advance to the league's annual premier event, the National Championship.

Additional information about the NCFCA tournament structure will be posted on the website. We'll have more league news and information next month.

Grace & Peace,



Mike Larimer, NCFCA President

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