August 26, 2017

Dear Colleague,

You are cordially invited to participate in the twenty-eighth annual Liberty University Debate Tournament, November 3 through November 5, 2017. Our goal is to host a well-run tournament with exceptional hospitality while offering strong competition in all three divisions of debate.

As is our custom, we will provide six preliminary rounds and an appropriate number of elimination rounds of debate in three divisions. You can manage your tournament entries through tabroom.com until **October 31 @ 5:00pm**. Drops after that date are subject to the participant fee.

We will remain on our main campus, and should be able to host all of the debates in DeMoss Hall. However, due to other area events, hotel space is limited**. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.**

Fees are $55.00 per person (debater, coach, judge, or observer). The tournament will provide every meal from Friday night through Sunday lunch, including breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We hope that this will provide a friendlier tournament schedule and enable you to bring more teams or attend our tournament for the first time. Additionally, schools that can’t afford entry fees or hotel rooms are welcomed. We will gladly waive your entry fees and do everything we can to help you find housing.

We are pleased to be offering a tournament that is sanctioned by the ADA and CEDA. Early November is a beautiful time in central Virginia and we look forward to seeing you at this year’s tournament. If you have any questions, please call Jeannine Scorup at (434) 582-2080.

We hope to see you at Liberty University.

Sincerely,

Michael Hall with Vida Chiri, Meagan Edwards, Ben Hagwood, Heather Hall, John Nagy, and Nick Ryan

**Liberty University Debate Tournament**

**November 3 – November 5, 2017**

**Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia**

**Format:**

**Topic:** Resolved: The United States Federal Government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

**Sanctioning:** The tournament will be sanctioned by the ADA and CEDA and will be run in accordance with their rules. The most recent copy of the ADA rules can be found at <https://americandebateassociation.com/standing-rules/>.

**Preliminary rounds:** There will be six preliminary rounds. Rounds one and two will be pre-set. Rounds three through six will be power matched. Three divisions of debate will be offered: novice, junior varsity, and open.

**Elimination rounds:** An appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered in accordance with the ADA rules and based on the size of the tournament. We anticipate breaking ½ of each division with the possibility of double-octos if justified by entries.

**Entries:**

 **Eligibility:** Eligibility for participation in each division is governed by ADA and CEDA rules. Novice teams are not restricted to the use of evidence in the ADA limited evidence set.

**Hybrids:** Hybrid teams may participate in preliminary rounds and are eligible to clear.

**Mavericks:** Maverick debaters are ineligible to enter prior to the tournament. If one of the debaters of a team cannot debate in any given round, that round will be forfeited. Teams that forfeit rounds will be given average speaker points, but are ineligible to clear to elimination rounds if speaker points are the determining factor for their clearing. Debaters who forfeit rounds are ineligible for speaker awards.

**Deadline:** Please enter the tournament by October 31, 2017 using tabroom.com.After that date e-mail entry changes directly toNick Ryan (nryan2wc at gmail).

 **Drops:** Teams dropped after the October 31 deadline will be responsible for all participant fees.

**Tournament Registration:** Please email nryan2wc at gmail when you start your travel to Lynchburg to confirm that there are no changes to your tabroom entry. If you are paying by credit card, please call Jeannine Scorup at (434) 582-2080 before 5pm on Friday, November 3 to pay your entry fees. If you are paying with cash or check, you can stop by the tabroom during the tournament.

**Judging:**

**Commitment:** Each school must provide 3 rounds of qualified judging for each team entered in the tournament. All judges will be required to judge through the quarter-final elimination round or one round after your last team is eliminated whichever occurs later.

**Hired Judging:** Please use tabroom to coordinate your hired judging. The tournament will have a limited number of rounds per available for hire at $40per round. If you need to hire judges, please enter early.

 **Judge Placement:** Judges will be placed using mutual preference in all divisions in a manner consistent with ADA and CEDA rules.

 **Speaker Points:** We will use a 30 point scale with .1 increments. No ties are allowed.

**Decision Time:** Judges are expected to render a decision within 2:30 of the announced start time. If the judge is unable to make a decision within that time, the tab room will randomly decide a winner by coin flip.

**Fees and Awards:**

**Awards:** Awards will be provided to the top sixteen teams and the top ten speakers in each division.

**Fees:** Entry fees are $55 per participant (debater, coach, judge, or observer). Make checks payable to *Liberty University Debate.* We accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover for those wishing to pay by credit card. If you are paying by credit card, please call Jeannine Scorup at (434) 582-2080 before 5pm on Friday, November 3 to pay your entry fees. Fees include all meals starting with dinner on Friday, a well-stocked hospitality room, and the awards reception on Saturday. Additional reception tickets may be purchased for $15 per person (for persons only attending the reception).

**Hotel Accommodations:**

We have blocks reserved at the following hotels. There are several other events in the area so please make your hotel reservations early.

**Holiday Inn Lynchburg (Downtown)**

Rate: $105 + state and local taxes

Tel: (434) 528-2500

Name of Group: Liberty University Debate: **Reservations must be made by Tuesday, October 3**, 2017 in order to receive this rate.

**Baymont Inn and Suites of Lynchburg  (corner of Candlers’ Mountain Rd and Wards Rd)**

Rate:  $79.99 + state and local taxes

Tel:  (434) 237-2986

Name of Group:  Debate Teams 2017.   **Reservations must be made by Tuesday, October 3**, 2017 in order to make reservations and receive this rate.

**Transportation Assistance:** If you are flying to the tournament, American Airlines provides flights to the Lynchburg Regional Airport. Rates to Lynchburg are usually competitive with rates to Roanoke (50 minutes away), Charlottesville (80 minutes away), and Greensboro (2 hours away). Rental cars and vans are available.

**Directions:**

To Liberty University: Liberty University is located on Candler’s Mountain Road in the Southeast corner of Lynchburg, Virginia. Major roads through Lynchburg going North and South include Interstate 29 and State Highway 501. Divided Highway 460 serves Lynchburg from the East and West. Signs mark campus exits on both Interstate 29 and 460.

**Public Transportation:** Transportation options to Lynchburg area include American Airlines, Amtrak, and the Greyhound bus line.

**Special Announcements:** Alcoholic beverage consumption is not allowed on the Liberty University campus.

Liberty is a smoke free campus. Smoking is prohibited anywhere on campus. Your cooperation will help to guarantee our ability to host future tournaments.

***28thLiberty University Debate Tournament***

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, November 3

 3:50 p.m. Pairings Released for rounds 1 and 2

 4:20 p.m. Stop coaching and judges report

 4:30 p.m. Round 1

 6:30 p.m. Pizza Available outside of the hospitality room

 7:05 p.m. Stop coaching and judges report

 7:15 p.m. Round 2

Saturday, November 4

 7:30 a.m. Breakfast (outside hospitality room)

 7:30 a.m. Pairings released for rounds 3 and 4

 8:20 a.m. Stop coaching/judges report

 8:30 a.m. Round 3

 11:05 a.m. Stop coaching/judges report

 11:15 a.m. Round 4

 1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)

 1:50 p.m. Parings released for round 5

 2:20 p.m. Stop coaching/judges report

 2:30 p.m. Round 5

 5:00 p.m. Pairings released for round 6

 5:30 p.m. Stop coaching/judges report

 5:40 p.m. Round 6

 7:45 p.m. Tournament Reception Begins

Sunday, November 5 **(Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night)**

 7:00 a.m. Breakfast and Pairings Released (DeMoss Hall – 1st Floor)

 8:00 a.m. Elimination Rounds begin (DeMoss Hall)

Bagels, Breakfast Bars, Coffee and Juice will be available in the hospitality room