September 14, 2017

Dear Colleague:

Clarion University would like to invite you to the first annual Clarion University Northern Tier Debate Tournament on October 21-22, 2017. This tournament is part of the Northern Tier Debate Conference schedule and is open to all schools competing in NFA-LD debate and Individual Events. The tournament will offer novice and varsity divisions in NFA-LD. Debaters in the novice division will be required to use the NTDC sanctioned evidence packet.

The tournament will offer 6 rounds of LD debate and 2 rounds of IE over a two-day schedule. Students will not be able to cross-enter debate and IE as we intend to run

Clarion University is located along I-80 in Clarion, PA and is roughly 1.5-2.0 hours from Pittsburgh and State College, PA. If you would be considering flying in, Pittsburgh, Akron-Canton, and Cleveland are all major airports within a couple hours’ drive. We may also be able to assist with airport to Clarion transport if notified.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

Sincerely,

Jim Lyle
Director of Debate
Phone: 814-393-2476
Fax: 814-393-1623
Email: jlyle at clarion dot edu

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

The entry deadline will be October 17th at 3:00 pm, but we would like to have at least an expected party count October 13th to assist with catering. You may email your entry but I would prefer that you use the online entry system ([www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com/)). There will be early registration Friday evening (details TBA) and registration Saturday morning in Founders Hall (see the schedule).

NFA-LD Entry Restrictions and Novice Rules

There is an entry cap for students entered in NFA-LD. Teams are only guaranteed 4 entries per division of NFA-LD. You may list provisional debaters on your entry. Provisional entries will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. No entry may exceed four entries if the subsequent entry size would be more than 15% of the tournament field in the open division.

Novice will be defined as students in their first or second semester of debate. One year of high school or college debate counts towards your eligibility for this division. The novice division will use a novice evidence set. All competitors entered in novice will be required to use the novice evidence set. The novice evidence set will be released in early-to-mid September for schools to begin practicing with. You may petition the tournament director for exceptions to the novice eligibility rule.

Tournament Rules and Notes

Debate

The tournament will use the 2017-2018 NFA-LD Resolution. The NFA-LD rules and event description will be followed within the debates.

*Tabulation.* Unless size of the field dictates otherwise, the first two rounds will be random, and the rest of the rounds will be paired high-high within brackets (odd numbered rounds) and high-low within brackets (even numbered rounds). Pairing methodology is subject to change, but is not confidential, you may always ask the tournament director which pairing methodology is used for a given round.

*Elimination Rounds.* Students will advance to the appropriate NFA elimination round using the following criteria: (1) wins; (2) adjusted points; (3) opposition wins; (4) double adjusted points; (5) total points. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

Individual Events

*Ethics.* Individual Events will conform to the NFA bylaws and competitors will be expected to have read and understood the NFA Code of Ethics. Students should not enter material that has been used in competition prior to September 1, 2017.

*Flights.*

Flight A – Extemp, Persuasion, Poetry, ADS

Flight B – Prose, Duo, POI

Flight C – Impromptu, Informative, DI, Rhetorical Criticism

Competitors may enter up to 3 events per flight, and may enter up to two DUOs.

HOUSING

There is a block of rooms (under “Clarion Debate”) at two local hotels. Both hotels provide complimentary breakfast and Wi-Fi.

There is a small block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. Standard rooms are available at a rate of $89.00 /night. Suites (standards with a pull-out couch and larger rooms) are available at a rate of $109.00/night. The contact information for the Holiday Inn is: 325 Perkins Rd, Clarion, PA 16214, (814) 223-4010.

There are also rooms available at the Quality Inn (formerly the Comfort Inn) at a rate of $74.00/night. The contact information for the Quality Inn is: 129 Dolby St., Clarion, PA 16214, (814) 226-5230.

Other hotels in the area have reasonable rooms and rates, and probably can offer a “Clarion University rate” if you ask. If you need to use a different hotel, let Jim Lyle know and we may be able to assist with rates.

JUDGES

The expectation is the schools will cover their judging commitments. Each team in debate requires 3 rounds of judging.  All debate judges are expected to have an electronic judging philosophy available. All judges are obligated for the first two elimination rounds and one elimination round past the elimination of the program. One judge covers 8 slots of IE. All individual event judges are obligated for final rounds, regardless of whether or not their students qualified for finals. We will have a limited number of judges available for hire at a rate of $25.00 per round/slot. That said we want our judges to increase pool flexibility not replace it. If you need to hire judging you need to contact Jim Lyle prior to the tournament.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to at least the top 5 speakers in each division of debate and for teams in each division from the quarterfinals on. Awards will be given to at least the top 3 speakers in each division of IE. We reserve the right to give additional awards.

FEES

Entry fees are $30 per person. A person is defined as anyone associated with a program. Fees are due at registration. Given that we will not have competitors cross-entering between debate and IE, and a desire for simplicity, we will be employing a one-size-fits-all entry fee system. This allows us to provide awards, 2 lunches, and hospitality. If you are a small program and have financial constraints, please contact us and we can make arrangements to overcome financial barriers. We reserve the right to charge a fee for dropped persons after the deadline. The late drop fee would be $30/person.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Public Debate. We are working to hold a public debate on Friday evening utilizing the NFA-LD debate topic. More details will be made available as the tournament approaches. If you will be available to attend and/or participate please contact Jim Lyle at your earliest convenience.

For further information, contact me at: Jim Lyle, Director of Debate, Department of Communication, Clarion University, 840 Wood St., Clarion, PA,  16214, or through email (jlyle at clarion dot edu) or via phone (814-393-2476 office; 814-221-8150 cell).  If we have further information to get to you, we will do so as soon as we can via tabroom.com and other relevant medums. If any of your competitors and/or judges require special needs, please inform us so that we may make the necessary arrangements.

Tournament Schedule

Saturday, October 21

7:30 AM Registration

9:00 Round 1 LD and Flight A Rd 1

10:30 Round 2 LD and Flight A Rd 2

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:30 Round 3 LD and Flight B Rd 1

3:00 Round 4 LD and Flight B Rd 2

4:30 Round 5 LD

Sunday, October 22

8:00 Flight C Rd 1

9:30 Round 6 LD and Flight C Rd 2

11:30 First Elimination Round LD and Finals Flight A

(Lunch will be available prior to the start of elims/finals)

1:30 2nd Elimination Round LD and Finals Flight B

3:30 3rd Elimination Round LD and Finals Flight C

6:00 4th Elimination Round LD