**Valley Forensic League**

Dear Colleagues:

You are cordially invited to participate in the **1st and 2nd Valley Forensic League Tournaments of 2014-2015**, to be held **November 7th and 8th at Southwest Minnesota State University** in Marshall, MN. Competition is being offered in all 11 AFA individual events and Parliamentary Debate. Please note **SMSU is a smoke-free campus**. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus, even outdoors.

Membership in the VFL is $100.00 for this year, and this fee covers all entry fees (but not uncovered judging fees) for the 2014-2015 season. One judge covers six individual events slots (or portion thereof) or one Parli team. Schools are asked to try to cover all slots to cut down on hired judging costs. All judges are expected to assist in judging final rounds.

**We will use Speechwire for entries.** The entry deadline is TUESDAY, November 4th, 2014 BY 5:00 p.m. A nuisance fee of $10.00 will be assessed to changes made after 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5th which is when fees will be assessed. If you have questions about how to use Speechwire, please let us know so we can help you. Each uncovered individual event slot will incur a $12 fee; each uncovered Parli slot will incur a $20 fee. A $20.00 fee will be charged for each slot changed at registration.

**For a small fee, the VFL will provide on campus meal options.** Dinner on Friday ($3/person) will be Tacos (w/fixin’s) and pop/water and lunch on Saturday ($3/person) will be Pizza and pop/water. Please let our staff know if you have students with dietary restrictions. There will be minimal SMSU food services open on Friday for lunch in the Student Center and several fast food eateries are short drive away from campus. The SMSU Coffeehouse will be open with the following hours: Friday 7:45 am - 5:00 pm and Saturday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

**We will hold a business meeting during lunch of VFL #2.** Agendas will go out no later than Wednesday, November 5th. Member schools may attend and vote at the business meeting.

We promise a weekend of forensic excellence and friendly competition. We hope that you and your team will attend. If you have any question, concerns, or needed accommodations, please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

*LaRoyce Batchelor*, Executive Secretary, University of North Dakota (laroyce.batchelor@business.und.edu)

*Andrea Carlile*, South Dakota State University (andrea.carlile@sdstate.edu)

*Adam Knowlton*, Concordia College (aknowlto@cord.edu)

*Ben Walker*, Southwest Minnesota State University (benjamin.walker@smsu.edu)

**VFL #1 and #2 Information**

**Individual Events**

**Flight A**: Dramatic Duo, After Dinner Speaking, Prose Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Impromptu Speaking

**Flight B**: Program Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Communication Analysis, Poetry Interpretation, Persuasive Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking

Each individual event competitor may enter *up to six* events with *no more than three* events in any flight pattern. Teams who have students who would like to do 4 events in one pattern should contact the executive secretary for permission before entry. There is no limit to the number of entries from a school in any event. However, the tournament reserves the right to limit entries if necessary to balance the tournament. Large entries in any single event will result in students from the same school competing in the same round, and sections may be adjusted to accommodate judging from large entry schools. Students are responsible for getting to all rounds in a timely manner. The VFL will provide awards to the top 6 contestants in each event and to the top novice competitor in each event. Novices are considered to be within their first school year of competition.

**Parliamentary Debate**

We will offer 4 preliminary rounds, breaking to quarterfinals if entries warrant. NPDA Guidelines will be followed with the following exceptions: No warm room will be provided. No coaching or team preparation during preparation time. In the interest of moving the tournament along, disclosure is not allowed.

Debaters who wish to also do IEs may only enter in Pattern A events on Friday and Pattern B events on Saturday. This will help the tournaments run more smoothly. Debaters not advancing to Quarterfinals who wish to compete in Flight A of IEs on Saturday may do so and should contact a VFL committee member at the ballot table before the end of Friday’s tournament. The VFL will provide awards to all quarter, semi, and finalists, as well as to the top five speakers at the tournament. Points earned in Parli will count toward team sweepstakes at VFL #2.

**Team Sweepstakes**

The VFL will provide awards to the top 3 schools at each tournament. The Parliamentary Debate tournament will count toward VFL #2. Novice finals will count for team points for both IE tournaments. Team sweepstakes will be calculated by placing in out-rounds as follows:

Individual Events Parliamentary Debate

1st place- 12 points Quarterfinals- 6 points

2nd place- 10 points Semifinals- 8 points

3rd place- 8 points 2nd place- 10 points

4th place- 6 points 1st place- 12 points

5th place- 4 points

6th place- 2 points

**Hotels**

There are a variety of hotel options in Marshall, but the SMSU Forensics Team has reserved rooms at the Sleep Inn for a block-rate of $100/room. Mention “SMSU Forensics” and you will get the $100 rate. The block rate is reserved until October 24th, so make sure to reserve your rooms in time! The hotel is located only 1.5 miles away from the SMSU campus.

**Parking & Registration**

Park in “B Parking Lot” on the east side of campus. Enter the buildings in the crossway between Bellows and Charter (red arrow on map). Signs will be posted. Registration will be on second floor of Charter Hall outside CH 211. Here is a link to the SMSU map: <http://www.smsu.edu/maps/>

Fees

Membership in the VFL is $100.00 for this year, and this fee covers all entry fees (but not uncovered judging fees) for the 2014-2015 season. One judge covers six individual events slots (or portion thereof) or one Parli team. Schools are asked to try to cover all slots to cut down on hired judging costs. Each uncovered IE slot is $10 and each uncovered Parli team is $20. Fees will be assessed on Wednesday, November 5th and are to be paid at registration.

**Tournament Schedule**

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| Friday, November 7 at Southwest Minnesota State University:  | Saturday, November 8 at Southwest Minnesota State University: |
| 9:30 Parli 110:45 Parl 212:00 Extemp Draw12:30 1B (Ext, POI, Per, CA, DI, Poe), Parli 31:45 1A (Info, Imp, Prose, Duo, ADS)3:00 Extemp Draw3:30 2B, Parli 44:45 2A 6:00 Dinner Break6:45 Extemp Draw7:00 Finals B/Parli Quarters8:15 Finals A | 8:30 Extemp Draw9:00 1B (Ext, POI, Per, CA, DI, Poe)10:15 1A (Info, Imp, Prose, Duo, ADS)/Parli Sems11:30 Lunch/VFL Business Meeting12:15 Extemp Draw12:45 2B 2:00 2A / Parli Finals3:15 Extemp Draw – Finals3:45 B Finals5:00 A Finals (Both finalsat4:00 if possible)ASAP Awards for both days |
| Registration location information and campus maps will be sent with confirmation emails. |

