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# **Proposal to Change Executive Committee Structure**

**Jeffrey Miller, Marist School**

As a member of the board for the past six years in three different roles (Treasurer for a year, Secretary for two years, and President for three years), I have seen the advantages and disadvantages to our current structure.  Although its vagueness allows for more flexibility among major issues, I think it also leaves too many holes if someone doesn't step to take responsibility for an aspect of running the Association.  An advantage to serving on the board for three years prior to my term as President allowed me to see the many faces of this organization and everything involved to run it.

So why change now?  I have decided to not run for President again next year, but I have decided to try and make the board more efficient and sustainable. Therefore, I propose that the association amend our constitution to replace our current board structure with three levels of authority - the chair, the directors and the coordinators.

**The following five positions would make up the core voting body of the Executive Board - these are roles that would be elected by the entire membership.**

**Chair of the Board:**  The chair is the most public face of the speech and debate community and serves as its chief spokesperson, promoting it through special events, competitions, face-to-face conversations, and in the media. The chair drives discussion about the vision, purpose, and goals of speech and debate, encourages involvement, and teaches others to take on leadership responsibilities.

**Director of Communications**:  The goal of director of communications is to increase awareness about speech and debate in the local community. The goal of the communications team is to distribute information effectively and in a timely way to relevant audiences using letters, email, press releases, and other collateral to promote the community.

**Director of Programs:**  The goal of the director of programs is to create an approach to assess resources, strengths and weaknesses of our programs.  The director will strategize and coordinate an assessment to determine and fill needs, programs team roles could include tasks like judge training and recruitment, curriculum, and workshops.  This person will oversee many of the coordinators.

**Director of Operations:** The goal of the director of operations would be to run and manage the State Championship tournaments.  The director would create roles in the tournament to include all members of the executive board and to increase volunteer participation from the coaching community.

**Director of Finance**: The goal of the director of finance would be to ensure the financial state of the association.  The director would not only be responsible for collecting dues and ensuring state tournament payments, but also developing long term sponsors for the association.

**The next five roles would be coordinator positions taken by Area Coordinators ensuring each area has a member on the Executive Board.  Elections for these positions can be discussed - maybe we elect our area coordinators and amongst themselves and the Chair of the Board, responsibilities are divided up.**

**Online Presence Coordinator:**  Our target audience is on social media non-stop, we should be too.  The Online Presence Coordinator would assist in managing online material at our website, facebook page, and twitter page.  This individual would help create an online footprint to strengthen our advocacy.

**Coach Development Coordinator:**  Coach development starts at the beginning of every year at the Fall Meeting.  This person would be required to work with the Chair of the Board to develop the Fall Workshops and handle registration for this event.  The Coordinator would ensure that the content would continue to be emphasized throughout the season with potential follow up workshops at tournaments.

**Curriculum Coordinator:**  One of the largest struggles of a speech and debate coach is developing good curriculum.  The Curriculum Coordinator would help develop an online inventory regarding

**Membership Coordinator:**  Speech and debate is something that affects you for a lifetime, not just for four years.  The Membership Coordinator will track student and coach involvement in our association ensuring that students and retired coaches are not left behind when they graduate or move on to something new.   The Coordinator will work with the Awards Coordinator

**Awards Coordinator:** Recognition is the part of every State Tournament that people remember. Ensuring awards and recognition is correct is vital to the Association’s credibility.  The Coordinator will work with the Director of Operations to ensure the correct number of awards is ordered.  The Coordinator will organize any voting for Awards.

Actual language for amendments follow on pages \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Follow up amendments:**

**Term limits – I suggest we make primary board members term limits two years rather than one year. Area Coordinators will continue to serve one year instead of two.**

**By Laws Clean Up – We’d need to vote to replace existing bylaw language with updated language.**

## Amend Article IV Title

“Officers” change to “Leadership”

## Amend Article IV, Section 1.

***Current:***

Section 1. Number. The primary officers of the association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The secondary officers of the association shall be a Member-At-Large from each of areas, as determined by the Executive Committee prior to elections. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

***Proposed***

Section 1. Number. The leadership of the association shall consist of a Chair of the Committee, four directors and five coordinators. The primary officers shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, Director of Operations, Director of Programs, Director of Communications and Director of Finance. The secondary officers of the association shall consist of the Online Presence Coordinator, Coach Development Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator, representing each area. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

## Amend Article IV, Section 5.

***Current:***

Section 5. Executive Committee. The executive committee shall consist of the four primary officers of the association and all secondary members elected At-Large. The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise all powers of the association in the management and direction of its affairs when members of the association are not meeting.

***Proposed***

Section 5. Executive Committee. The executive committee shall consist of the five primary officers of the association. The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise all powers of the association in the management and direction of its affairs when members of the association are not meeting.

**Summary: This just updates what we’re doing now – only primary officers should be involved in major decisions since those are the only ones elected by the entire membership.**

## Amend Article VI, Section 7, a.

***Current***

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the association, shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Committee, and shall have general supervision of the association. S/he shall perform all duties usually incumbent upon the chief executive officers of a corporation and such as may be required of him by the association. S/he shall publicize a monthly newsletter to be sent to all members in good standing with the organization via the Secretary.

***Proposed:***

1. The Chair of the Committee shall be the chief executive officer of the association, shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Committee and shall have general supervision of the association. The chair shall serve the organization’s chief spokesperson, promoting it through special events, competitions, face-to-face conversations, and in the media. The chair shall drive discussion about the vision, purpose, and goals of speech and debate, encourages involvement, and teaches others to take on leadership responsibilities.

## Amend Article VI, Section 7, b.

***Current:***

1. The Vice President shall exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President. The Vice President shall be responsible for dispensing any and all area qualification and state tournament trophies, plaques, medals, and/or certifications awarded on behalf of the association. The Vice President shall be responsible for the At Large Selection Committee and coordinate the selection process, as set forth by the by laws. The Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating the annual Novice Policy Debate Evidence Packet and the voting process for the National Federation of High Schools. The Vice President shall be responsible for the registration booklet for the GFCA Varsity State Championships.

***Proposed***

The Director of Operations shall be responsible for organizing, coordinating, and managing the State Championship tournaments. The Director shall create roles in the tournament to include all members of the Executive Committee and to increase volunteer participating from the Association membership.

The Director of Programs shall be responsible for maintaining, assessing and creating resources to help fill needs for member schools. The director shall strategize and coordinate an assessment to determine and fill needs, programs team roles could include tasks such as but not limited to judge training and recruitment, curriculum, and workshops.  The Director of Programs will oversee the development of the Novice Policy Debate Packet.

## Amend Section IV, Section 7, c

***Current***

1. The Secretary shall perform such duties as are incident to her/his office including recording minutes of all meetings, sending appropriate communications to the membership (including the President’s monthly newsletter. The Secretary shall serve as historian, whose responsibilities shall include keeping records of state championship titles and all association-elected coaching awards. The Secretary should keep records of and validate all qualified participants from each sanctioned tournament in the State. The Secretary is responsible for sending appropriate communications to the membership regarding State Qualifiers from every invitational.

***Proposed***

The Director of Communications shall perform such duties as are incident to her/his office including recording minutes of all meetings, sending appropriate communications to the membership including a monthly newsletter.

## Amend Section IV, Section 7, d

***Current:***

1. The Treasurer shall perform duties as are incident to her/his office (i.e. collect dues and disburse funds). The Treasurer will maintain official financial records. The Treasurer shall be responsible for securing any additional funds from third party organizations. The treasurer is responsible for releasing an annual report every August.

***Proposed:***

The Director of Finance shall perform duties as are incident to her/his office (i.e. collect dues and disburse funds). The Director of Finance will maintain official financial records. The Director of Finance shall be responsible for securing any additional funds from third party organizations. The Director of Finance is responsible for releasing an annual report every August.

## Eliminate Article IV, Section 7, e

1. The Past President shall serve as primary consultant to the President during transition years. The Past President shall serve as the chairperson of the GFCA Elections, GFCA Coach of the Year, GFCA Hall of Fame and GFCA Alumni Hall of Fame selection committees.

**Amend Article IV, Section 7, f**

1. The At Large Selection Committee shall work with the Vice-President in coordinating the At Large Selection Process, as set forth by the by laws, including validation of qualified participants, and dispensing qualification to the State Tournament. Members of The At Large Selection Committee shall perform any and all duties as may be delegated to them by the Executive Committee.

**Proposed:**

1. The secondary officers shall be Area Coordinators, only areas can vote for representatives. The Area Coordinators will be assigned a title once they have been selected by the Chair of the Executive Committee.
2. The Online Presence Coordinator shall assist the Director of Communications with the online image of the Association including its social media accounts, website management, and any other online material.
3. The Coach Development Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the planning for the annual Fall Workshops. The Coordinator shall ensure that the content would continue to be emphasized throughout the season with potential follow up workshops at tournaments.
4. The Curriculum Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the development of resources. The Curriculum Coordinator shall develop an online inventory of resources for all events.
5. The Membership Coordinator shall assist the Director of Finance and Director of Communications with the tracking of student and coach involvement in association events.
6. The Awards Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations with the ordering of awards for all State championships. The Awards Coordinator shall oversee any voting process for any Association awards including but not limited to Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Principal of the Year.

# **Proposal to create GFCA Fellows Membership**

**Bill Swafford, Bruce Rogers, Richard Bracknell, Jeffrey Miller**

As a part of our Hall of Fame Induction process, we have started involving retired coaches more into the functioning of our Association. Several retired coaches have approached me to add a level of membership to our Association for retired coaches.

## Amend Article II, Section 1.

***Current***

Section 1. Qualifications. Any person officially in a sponsoring or coaching capacity with high school debate or forensic activities in the State of Georgia shall be eligible to become a member of the association. Any such individual shall become a member with their school upon satisfying the dues requirements of the association.

***Proposed***

Section 1. Qualifications. Any person officially in a sponsoring or coaching capacity with high school debate or forensic activities in the State of Georgia shall be eligible to become a member of the association. Any such individual shall become a member with their school upon satisfying the dues requirements of the association. Any person supporting high school debate or forensic activities shall be eligible to become a fellow of the Association. Any such individual shall become a fellow upon satisfying the lifetime dues requirement of the association.

## Amend Bylaw 2.11

***Current***

2.11 The amount of the dues for membership is set annually by the Executive Committee of the GFCA. Dues must be paid in accordance with the Georgia Forensics Coaches’ Constitution.

***Proposed***

2.11 The amount of the dues for school membership and fellow membership are set annually by the Executive Committee of the GFCA. Dues must be paid in accordance with the Georgia Forensics Coaches’ Constitution.

# Defining “School”

At the 2015 State Championships, we witnessed a couple of schools misunderstand the GFCA’s interpretation of the word “school.”

## Amend 1.21, a

***Current***

1.21 To be eligible to participate and/or try-out for a forensics activity, a student must be enrolled full time in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

(a) Enrollment is defined as follows:

(1) Fall Semester: when the student participates in practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.

(2) Spring Semester: when the student attends classes

(3) A student may be enrolled in only one (1) high school at a time.

(b) The student must meet attendance requirements as designated by the student’s school and/or District.

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(a) Enrollment is defined as follows:

(1) Fall Semester: when the student participates in practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.

(2) Spring Semester: when the student attends classes

(3) A student may be enrolled in only one (1) high school at a time.

(4) A school shall be defined as…

(b) The student must meet attendance requirements as designated by the student’s school and/or District.

# State Tournament Qualification Formula

## Amend 4.20, a

***Current:***

4.20 Varsity State Tournament Qualification can be achieved through one or more of the following:

(a) Regular Season Qualifier: A bid to the Varsity State Tournament awarded to the finalists in a single event as follows:

(1) Twelve (12) or more debate entries, the top four (4) competitors.

(2) Twelve (12) or more speech entries, the top six (6) competitors.

(3) Eight (8) to eleven (11) debate entries, the top two (2) competitors.

(4) Eight (8) to eleven (11) speech entries, the top three (3) competitors.

(5) Four (4) to seven (7) debate and speech entries, the top one (1) competitor.

(6) If the event has three (3) or fewer entries, no competitors from the event will qualify to the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

(7) There are no exceptions to the entry rules above.

(a) If an entry already has a bid to the Varsity State Tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(b) Qualifiers in two-person events must attend the same school.

(c) Non-Georgia participants may not qualify for the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

***Proposed:***

4.20 Varsity State Tournament Qualification can be achieved through one or more of the following:

(a) Regular Season Qualifier: A bid to the Varsity State Tournament awarded to the finalists in a single event as follows:

(1) Thirty one (31) or more debate entries, the top eight (8) competitors.

(2) Twelve (12) to thirty (30) debate entries, the top four (4) competitors.

(3) Twelve (12) or more speech entries, the top six (6) competitors.

(4) Eight (8) to eleven (11) debate entries, the top two (2) competitors.

(5) Eight (8) to eleven (11) speech entries, the top three (3) competitors.

(6) Four (4) to seven (7) debate and speech entries, the top one (1) competitor.

(7) If the event has three (3) or fewer entries, no competitors from the event will qualify to the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

(8) There are no exceptions to the entry rules above.

(a) If an entry already has a bid to the Varsity State Tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(b) Qualifiers in two-person events must attend the same school.

(c) Non-Georgia participants may not qualify for the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

## Amend 4.20, a, 8

***Current***

(8) There are no exceptions to the entry rules above.

(a) If an entry already has a bid to the Varsity State Tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(b) Qualifiers in two-person events must attend the same school.

(c) Non-Georgia participants may not qualify for the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

***Proposed***

(8) There are no exceptions to the entry rules above.

(a) If an entry already has a bid to the Varsity State Tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(b) Qualifiers in two-person events must attend the same school.

(c) In order to be qualify entries in a speech or debate event to the State Tournament, a minimum of three (3) schools must have entries that participate in the event For divisions to be eligible for qualifiers, three (3) schools must represent the

(d) Non-Georgia participants may not qualify for the GFCA Varsity State Tournament.

# State Tabulation Formula – Debate Events

## Amend 4.37, a, 1

***Current:***

(1) Advancement of teams/debaters shall be determined by seedings after preliminary rounds are complete. Seeding for elimination rounds will be determined based on preliminary records.  In case of ties the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

[a] High-Low Speaker Points

[b] Total Speaker points

[c] Ranks

[d] Double High-Low Speaker Points

[e] Opposition Wins

[f] Judge Variance

[g] Random Number (as determined by Tab Room for the PC)

***Proposed:***

(1) Advancement of teams/debaters shall be determined by seedings after preliminary rounds are complete. Seeding for elimination rounds will be determined based on preliminary records.  In case of ties the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

[a] High-Low Speaker Points

[b] Double High-Low Speaker Points

[c] Total Speaker points

[d] Average Opposition Seed from Prelim Rounds

[e] Random Number (as determined by Tab Room software)

## Amend 4.38, b

***Current:***

(b) Debate events will award the top ten (10) in each division. Speaker awards will be awarded solely on the basis of performance in the preliminary rounds.  Speaker awards will be determined based on High-Low Speaker points.  In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

  (1)      Total Speaker points

(2)      Ranks

(3)      Double High-Low Speaker Points

(4)      Opposition Wins

(5)      Judge Variance

(6)      Random Number (as determined by Tab Room for the PC)

***Proposed:***

(b) Debate events will award the top ten (10) in each division. Speaker awards will be awarded solely on the basis of performance in the preliminary rounds.  Speaker awards will be determined based on High-Low Speaker points.  In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

  (1)      Total Speaker points

(2)      Double High-Low Speaker Points

(3)      Average number of Opposition Wins in Prelims

(4)      Opposition Wins

(5)      Judge Variance

(6)      Random Number (as determined by Tab Room software)

# Congressional Debate Changes

**Kyle Constable, Lee County High School**

**Requiring Congressional Debate Qualification Proposal**

This allows the Senate to remain open to all competitors in the state while turning the House into a by-qualification-only chamber. The wording at the beginning of 4.41 would have to be slightly tweaked to read something like, "Qualification for the Congressional Debate State Championship can be achieved through the following:"

Section A would become the House of Representatives qualification guidelines and Section B would become the Senate qualification guidelines, which would only require a slight wording tweak in Section A to specify that.

Additionally, Section A should specify that all schools now receive one automatic entry in the House of Representatives, "Each member school receives one (1) automatic entry for the House of Representatives chamber." Sections 4.41 (a)(1) - 4.41 (a)(7) will all be moved under a new sub-section specifying qualification guidelines, while the wording of 4.41 (a)(8) should be amended to say, "Competitors receiving an automatic bid or qualifying bid through an invitational tournament must attend two in state invitationals in Congressional Debate."

## Strike 4.41, c

***Current:***

4.41 Qualification for the Congressional Debate State Championship can be achieved through one or more of the following:

(a) A bid to the Congressional State tournament awarded to finalists in a Congressional Session as follows:

(1) For a Congressional Session to be counted as a GFCA qualifying tournament, it must meet the following regulations

(a) At least three (3) schools (excluding the host school) must be represented

(b) A session is defined as at least two hours of floor debate.

(c) The session should follow the rules in outlined in by law 4.45

(2) Sixty (60) or more entries, the top eighteen (18) competitors.

(3) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries, the top twelve (12) competitors.

(4) Twenty-one (21) to twenty nine (29) entries, the top six (6) competitors.

(5) Ten (10) to twenty (20) entries, the top three (3) competitor.

(6) Nine (9) or less entries will have no qualifiers.

(7) If an entry already has a bid to the state tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(8) Competitors receiving a qualifying bid through an invitational tournament must attend two in state invitationals in Congressional Debate.

(b) Each member schools receive two (2) automatic entries for the Senate chamber.

(1) Competitors receiving a bid through this method must have attended a minimum of two (2) in state invitationals.

(c) For every two (2) fully qualified students to the Varsity State Championship, each member school may receive one (1) entry to the House of Representatives up to ten (10)

***Proposed:***

4.41 Qualification for the Congressional Debate State Championship can be achieved through the following:

(a) Each member school receives one (1) automatic entry for the House of Representatives chamber.

(1) A bid to the House of Representatives is awarded to finalists in a Congressional Session as follows:

(a) For a Congressional Session to be counted as a GFCA qualifying tournament, it must meet the following regulations

[1] At least three (3) schools (excluding the host school) must be represented

[2] A session is defined as at least two hours of floor debate.

[3] The session should follow the rules in outlined in by law 4.45

(b) Sixty (60) or more entries, the top eighteen (18) competitors.

(c) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries, the top twelve (12) competitors.

(d) Twenty-one (21) to twenty nine (29) entries, the top six (6) competitors.

(e) Ten (10) to twenty (20) entries, the top three (3) competitor.

(f) Nine (9) or less entries will have no qualifiers.

(g) If an entry already has a bid to the state tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(2) Competitors receiving an automatic bid or a qualifying bid through an invitational tournament must attend two (2) in-state invitationals in Congressional Debate.

(b) Each member school receives two (2) automatic entries for the Senate chamber.

(1) Competitors receiving a bid through this method must have attended a minimum of two (2) in-state invitationals.

**Abolishing the entry limits for each school in the House of Representatives Proposal**

Specific proposal: Strike 4.42 (a)

The only wording tweak that might be required would be to add a note on 4.41 (b) that schools can only enter up to two in the Senate, as it only explicitly states that in 4.42 and not in 4.41 (if we even think that's necessary).

## Strike 4.42, a

4.42 Congressional Debate State Tournament Guidelines

(a) Schools can enter up to twelve (12) students in the House of Representatives and Senate chambers as follows:

(1) Schools can choose to enter zero (0), one (1), or two (2) students to participate in the Senate.

(2) Schools can choose to enter up to ten (10) students in the House of Representatives.