

## 2009-2010 CANDIDACY STATEMENTS – NDCA BOARD

You may vote for up to three candidates.

### **Glenda Ferguson, Coppell High School (TX)**

I was a member and on the Board of the National Debate Coaches Association almost from the beginning. (That doesn't mean I'm old – just experienced). I would like to serve again.

I have always believed that the future of our activity is in the hands of the coaches. I'm not altogether sure that given the state of budgets, time commitments, etc., that we will even have enough competent coaches to manage or coach debaters in the future. Consequently, I believe that the NDCA could be in the unique position of reintroducing the Barton Scholar Program which provided scholarships to teachers in the summer to attend debate workshops.

If we had a viable program like the Barton Scholars, we could write for grants and also we would be in a better position to raise money in various ways. The NFL is doing what they can to provide coach education, but they cannot concentrate solely on debate. We can. I would appreciate your vote.

### **Jenny Heidt, Westminster Schools (GA)**

I am running again for an NDCA Board position. I served a term from 2006-2008 and have spent the last year acting as the Financial Officer. I think that the NDCA is an important organization for supporting coaches, judges, and students. I agree with the existing vision of the organization and hope to see it continue to grow and support debate communities on the national, regional and local levels.

My main election pitch is to say that I have volunteered for a number of NDCA projects for the last several years and have followed up on all of them. My major projects included coordinating the Convention for a few years, re-designing the web page in 2006, managing memberships and finances for the last year, helping with the open evidence project and coordinating community input on the ethics statement. For the future, I have been busy designing a novice curriculum for my own squad (to be used by a new teacher here at Westminster) and I would like to make it into a form that could be used by new coaches anywhere.

### **Jeffrey Miller, Fayette County HS (GA)**

Colleagues,

I am running for an open NDCA board slot. For those of you who don't know me, I'm currently in my fourth year as the Assistant Director of Debate at Fayette County High School in Fayetteville, GA. I coach a wide range of events at Fayette County, including Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Legislative Debate and Extemp. I'm also currently finishing up my certification to teach high school mathematics in the state of Georgia - which I will be done with in the Spring of 2010. I'm currently an executive board member for the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association and the founder of the website, Georgia Forensics Daily.

I think the NDCA is a fantastic resource for coaches of all types of forensics. As an executive board member, I would hope to bring more resources and help expose the resources across the nation. I believe that with my experience running the Georgia Forensics Daily site and the resources I have helped develop for our local league, I would be a strong addition to the NDCA. Additionally, as a young coach who's been coaching a 75 person team throughout college, I think I bring an understanding of the difficulties of retaining debate coaches after they graduate high school and college. I am eager about working with my colleagues and helping mitigate the difficulty of coaching this activity and hopefully help mentor and provide resources to a new generation of coaches.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

**Brian Manuel (Scranton), Lakeland District Debate (NY)/Harvard University**

Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure this year of running for a board slot for the National Debate Coaches Association. For those of you who have never heard of me, I am currently a debate coach for the Lakeland District Debate Team in Westchester County, NY. I also am a full-time coach for Harvard University. Prior to my current positions, I spent four years coaching for Cathedral Prep High School in Erie, PA and another four years coaching for my alma mater at Scranton High School in Scranton, PA. My primary mission when I began my debate career was rebuilding the programs I worked for to their past dominant levels. While at Scranton, I coached their team to two Pennsylvania State Championships along with qualifying the first team in the schools 42 year history to the Tournament of Champions. While at Cathedral Prep, I was able to have similar success. I had a team win the coveted Barkley Forum for High Schools Tournament held at Emory University along with, clearing a team at the Tournament of Champions. These were both firsts in the 27 year history of the program.

My focus for the NDCA will be to inject youthful energy into the program. There is a common misconception among my colleagues that the NDCA is exclusive rather than inclusive. I believe that I can make a difference in this area. I have a unique ability to bring together communities and help mix together some of the best in our activity and open up communication between them. Another goal of mine would be to develop a committee within the NDCA whose sole mission is aimed at helping programs provide low cost tournaments for the High School community. This year I have returned to my alma mater to take over as tournament director of the James M. Langan Invitational. To date I've raised over \$6,000 for the event, with even more to come. I am focused on providing a high school alternative to a weekend dominated by tournaments run by college programs. In line with this, I have drastically cut prices and have only been able to do this by aggressively contacting the local community to help me succeed. The result has been an overwhelming amount of support to an event that very few people understand the value of. However, they do understand dedication and effort, both of which I have shown in my directing of this tournament.

The NDCA needs leaders at all different levels of their career. I intend at some point becoming a director of a program, but for the meantime I continue to coach at both the high school and college level as well as spending all my spare time either researching for Planet Debate or directing my tournament.

I've dedicated my life to this activity and I see no better next step than to announce my candidacy for board member of a great organization that believes in guiding debate in the same direction as I do.

I hope you believe in this direction and cast your support for me, Brian Manuel, for NDCA Board Member.

### **Nicole Serrano, Montgomery Bell Academy (TN)**

Hello debate coaches!

I am running for re-election for the NDCA board because I believe NDCA can serve common needs of a diverse range of coaches. My coaching experiences have taught me that we all have different budgets, history, travel schedules, philosophies and more. Yet, we also all face a common task: to sustain the power of debate as an educational institution.

This task requires us all to maintain parent and school support, to balance long-term education with short-term competitive success, and to keep our energy and devotion sustained through demanding schedules.

As a board member, I organize our newsletter and Rostrum Coaches Corner to help pool our collective wisdom from traveling tips to argument advice. While that was helpful to many, I believe the NDCA can do so much more.

I would like to see the NDCA take a more prominent advocacy role within college admissions. My experience as a college counselor has provided me with unique vantage point into the network of admissions officers, and I believe debate needs strong leadership to connect these to networks in order to maximize opportunities for our students and our schools. The NDCA can be a source of invaluable institutional support in the battles many of our programs are facing around the nation. It may take time, but the conversation needs to begin in earnest now; if re-elected, I will use my expertise to facilitate that role for the NDCA.

### **Jim Wade, formerly Milton High School (GA)**

I am a candidate for Board of the National Debate Coaches Association. I strongly believe in the work being done by the NDCA and am excited about the prospect of working more closely with this organization and the forensics community at large. My desire to be on the Board is fueled by my belief in the importance of coach recruitment, development, and support. This has been an important part of my debate career and is at the forefront of my present activities.

I retired after 29 years of high school teaching, with over 20 years of coaching debate and speech events, most at Milton High School in Atlanta. Over the last four years, I have taught Communication classes at Georgia State University. For many years, I have worked with and then directed the Coaches' Workshop at the Emory National Debate Workshop. I have also gotten to work with large groups of grant-funded teachers learning debate in order to become Urban Debate League coaches. I am now doing various project and grant-related work, and hope to help the NDCA coach training and support efforts. I am certified to do courses for continuing education credit in Georgia and hope to work with the Coaches Association in order to develop additional programs that provide valuable information while offering credit toward recertification for coaches.