

August 19, 2022

Dear NFC friends,

Let us gather in person on the campus of College of Western Idaho on **Saturday, September 10th at 9:00 am Mountain time** for our annual meeting. I sincerely hope everyone can join us for some face to face community time. Our host Luke Yeates has planned for us to meet on the Nampa campus on Saturday for our assembly. CWI will provide a breakfast starting at 8:00 am so please come a bit early and enjoy some good food and hospitality. *Please RSVP to me by September 1 for a breakfast headcount.

Luke and I also invite you to an informal social gathering on **Friday night** at 7:00 pm in Boise. This will give us more time to enjoy catching up and sharing stories of the summer.

On Saturday we will plan to meet until Brent's watch tells him it is 1:27 pm or so. Our discussion agenda appears on the following page. I hope we can spend good time together crafting some common understanding about how we want students to explore difficult issues, and to create productive ways to support all of our community members.

Attached is a **directory**. Please send any changes to me, and I will publish a new version after our meeting. Attached is also my best sense of the current **calendar**, which likely needs updating too. Please let me know if you are offering a high school tournament. And let me know of key national/out of region tournaments that may be of interest to our group.

This fall I hope we can enjoy a return to being together in person for tournaments. As far as I know, most regional tournaments are planning to meet in person. Jackson Miller at Linfield is interested in hearing from the community about preferring the Mahaffey to be in person or online. There may be reasons (health concerns, reduced budgets, increased travel costs, etc) to prefer one of our designated to be online. Please bring ideas, thoughts and concerns to our meeting.

For all that you have been planning and will plan (that is what August is for), thank you. Remember that what we do matters. A lot. It is important. And on behalf of our students, past, present and future, I thank you for making a difference.

I understand budgets are still tight and airlines are still expensive, so Luke and I will arrange a **zoom option** for those who cannot travel to CWI. I will send out a link prior to our meeting. But again, I hope as many who can will come to reconnect with colleagues face to face. Perhaps some carpooling or ride sharing can help. I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, September 10th at 9:00 Mountain time at CWI's Nampa campus.

Grace and peace,

Mike

From Luke:

The coaches meeting will be held at the **Nampa Campus Academic Building** located at 5500 E. Opportunity Dr. Nampa, ID 83687. We will meet in **room 320**. The campus is about 25 minutes away from the Boise airport depending on traffic, but it's a fairly straightforward drive. Head west on I-84 and take the exit onto Idaho Center Boulevard. Continue right at the exit and after a few lights the building will be on your right.

Parking at this location is incredibly simple, as we are a community college we haven't monetized our parking lot so feel free to grab the closest spot available to you. There are two lots, one as you enter the area and another tucked around the corner of the building. Both are fine.

Breakfast and coffee will be provided. There is also a restaurant nearby that does a great lunch for anyone still interested in socializing after the meeting. Its' called JaK's Place, at 6026 Birch Ln, Nampa 83687. It's across the street from our meeting so it's not hard to find.

The Friday before the meeting we would love for you to come spend time with us at the **Ram**. It's in downtown **Boise at 709 E Park Blvd**, 83712, so a much easier commute for those flying in. Depending on the weather we can sit and converse by the Boise river. I will set a reservation for 7:00 pm.

For those of you making the trip in on a tight budget, Both Julia and myself are more than willing to give rides out to campus to anyone who doesn't want to pay the Uber fee. I believe some others flying in might be willing to share their rentals as well, so if travel cost is a concern please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

My number is 208-794-2244 if you have any questions about the location or accommodations before arriving. My only request, as we are catering breakfast, if you have specific dietary needs please let me know in advance. You may reach out at either the number above or my email, lukeyeates@cw.edu.

Please RSVP to Mike by September 1

Agenda for 2022 NFC Coaches Meeting – September 10, 2022 @ CWI

C = Community

- Introductions
- How is your university treating your program? How can NFC help?
- Introduction of elected officers
 - President: Mike Ingram, Whitworth Univ
 - At large: Andy Orr, College of Southern Idaho
 - CC Rep: Luke Yeats, College of Western Idaho
- Introduction of appointed officers
 - BP: Brent Northup, Carroll College
 - IPDA: Brooke Adamson, Northwest Nazarene Univ
 - NIET: Joe Gantt, Lewis & Clark College
 - NPDA: Baker Weilert, Whitman College
 - PND/Policy: Trond Jacobsen, U of Oregon
- Budget report: Mike Ingram
- News from national organizations

C = Calendars

- Let us look at the slate of offerings. News from tournament hosts about schedules, etc.
- Review designated tournaments for the year
- Talk about online options

C = Conversation

- Discussion on trauma/trigger warnings/ selection of interp materials: Mark Galaviz and summer task force. (See following page)
- Other topics?

NFC Summer 2022 Task Force

As our community grow and develops, much talk has been about creating a space where we have a forum that can talk about the harms that confront us. While some inroads have been taken to safeguard students (i.e. trigger warnings and allowing competitors and audience members to leave the room), our judges have not had the same options placed in front of them. Our region is no exception, and our committee has been tasked to look for some viable solutions. While by no means do we wish to have a chilling effect on what is discussed at our tournaments and in our events, recent experiences have shown that we must allow our judging pool to find ways to extricate themselves from speeches that could potentially harm their mental well-being.

Our primary proposal is what I will term the “IMDb idea”: Striation of speeches according to their content. While this does cause some additional work on the coaching staff when they submit their teams for tournaments, the benefits would allow coaches and judges the option to self-select avoidance of topics and content. Also, of note this is not about mentioning instances of trauma – this is about avoiding being subject to graphic content that goes beyond talking about it. The proposed categories are as follows:

Sex/graphic sexual depictions

Sex/graphic violence including abuse and use of force

Violence/graphic depictions and abuse

Violence/gore

Profanity/excessive and/or graphic

Doing a cross-section of complaints registered by other coaches and judges, these five categories are the most prominent by far. Our Committees proposal is that Coaches upon submitting their students for tournaments would register if their students are performing works that contain the above details.

Our second proposal is coach training. Having a 15-20 minute session (in person or on-line) that discusses how certain topics impact others; and give details on how to discuss the issues that confront us without resorting to shock value. Our focus is centered on the following question: Who is your audience, and how will they react when they hear your speech?”

Finally, we propose having student/coach/judge conversations that allow all sides to be heard. Again, I feel it is critical to note that no one is suggesting what is and is not off limits. This community is a haven to discuss the issues of the world, and that must be maintained. The “how” of protecting all audience members, including our judges and coaches, is the ‘why’.

Thank you, Mark Galaviz and the NFC Task Force