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## I. Introduction / History

### A. Introduction

Welcome to the new year, folks! We are all super excited for another year of getting back to normal with in-person competition and we certainly plan to make use of the lessons learned from last year (see IV. for more information) to hopefully help make this the best season of, and for, the Shenandoah Valley Forensics League!

Feel free to jump around as you need to as this e-mail will be one of the longest of the year! I am also including this text as a document which will be posted on our Tabroom.com first tournament website and should be saved for quick reference as need be.

Just a friendly reminder, if you e-mail me with a question and the answer is somewhere in this e-mail I may simply respond with: "Read the e-mail." This is to save both of us time!

-Stephen L. O'Baugh

Broadway High School Debate Coach and current baton holder for ShenVaFL.

Most, if not all, of today's information, may be found at our website:

<https://shenvafl.wordpress.com/> (References to the website will henceforth be hyperlinked.)

Our webmaster (and Clerk of Congress, Points Master, and all-around General Jack-Of-All-Trades) Mr. Michael Villacrusis of TA does a fantabulous job of maintaining and upkeeping all of the relevant information often sent out through me.

Questions answered on the website include:

What time do we start?

What time do we end?

When are the awards?

What events are there?

Where do we post Student Congress legislation?

How much is it?

When/where are the tournaments?

Results

## B. History

From our founder - Bill Wonneberger

"Looking back through old files to find out just exactly when this league began, I found this letter I'd written in hopes of encouraging some money to help us join a new league back in 2005. Two points really hit home. First, I am not a good writer. Second, we have accomplished the goal. The Shenandoah Valley Forensics League works, and we can all take credit for that. We have a wonderful team of coaches, mentors, and friends who have built exactly what we hoped for when we began. Thank you.

Here is the letter if you're curious.

Shenandoah Valley Debate

Bill Wonneberger

2005-2006

For the past sixteen years, I have been either coaching or assisting with the debate program at Turner Ashby High School. Over that time debate programs have suffered statewide for a number of reasons. Debate is a high-cost activity due in part to the materials, judges, and the distances we have had to travel to compete. Students must dedicate a great deal of time and effort to reach a competitive level of competency. The debate climate also suffers from some problems relating to format and league design. The VHSL takes responsibility for the State tournament but relies on coaches to schedule and run the District and Regional meets. There has never been a set schedule of events for practice to help coaches develop students' skills. This has also led to inconsistency in competitive philosophies in coaching and in judging. To facilitate a practice season the league has published a list of invitational events that are primarily fundraising activities for the host schools. These tournaments are spread over a large geographic region and they are costly to attend. Fees are usually based on a per-student or per pairing basis and may run as high as 25-30 dollars per entry. Add to that the cost of judges and transportation and it is easy to see that the costs are high and the quality is unpredictable.

Struggling to develop a competitive team over the years, I have become increasingly aware that the difficulty in establishing a viable program is nearly universal. With few exceptions, costs, time, and proximity to other teams continues to deter development. The simple solution seems to be to help establish other teams locally. Working together the coaches in Rockingham County have nearly achieved that goal. We now have teams in all three high schools. Our next objective is to assist teams beyond our district but still in the neighborhood. We have opened communications with Eastern Mennonite High School and Harrisonburg High School. Our hope is to have all five schools share a bus to tournaments this year. The students build strong friendships, they help teach each other, and they root for each other at meets. Hard to believe but it really happens and it is great to watch.

Recently an opportunity to greatly advance this process has developed. The following is an excerpt from an e-mail I received on August 22, 2005. I think it is self-explanatory:

Dear All,

Thanks to Arch (Sherando Debate Coach) for starting the ball rolling. Arch approached me with this idea a year ago and I have been spending the summer meeting with the VHSL, the debate and speech coaches at JMU, the speech coach at LFCC, and Bill Wonneberger, the debate coach at Turner Ashby High School. We have a great deal of support for this league.

The Northern Virginia Forensics League in the DC Metroplex has been using this 2-round, mid-week tournament format for over 30 years with a great deal of success. We would like to export the format to the Shenandoah Valley and give programs an opportunity for expansion, supply new coaches with a support network, and offer students more rounds of competition with important judge feedback. This is conceived very much as a learning league.

B.A. Gregg

District Chairman NFL

Randolph Macon Academy

Basically, a new league offers us the chance to compete more often at lower costs, closer to home, and will greatly aid schools in developing new programs in both debate and forensics. The initial cost for joining should be \$50.00 per team. The Northern Virginia League will cover the costs for medals and trophies. Membership to the National Forensics League will be included. Students will be awarded NFL points for every competition and have the opportunity to compete at the national qualifiers tournament in January. The Virginia High School League has endorsed this new league and George Mason and James Madison Universities have pledged assistance and funding.

In Conclusion, a new Shenandoah Valley Forensics League offers the opportunity to greatly enhance our efforts to help our students develop valuable skills in debate, forensics and public speaking in general. This document has been developed in hopes of informing and gathering additional support for continuing our efforts. Thanks for taking the time to read about our endeavors.

Respectfully,

Bill Wonneberger"

### C. ShenVaFL Crew (The people who make it all happen)

The following folks help embody Bill's vision of "many hands make light work" or in other (more corny) terms, "teamwork makes the dream work". I invite you to see who helps make everything possible for ALL of us and wonder at the variety of schools involved. If I left someone off the list I sincerely apologize and you have ample permission to smack me upside the back of my head!

Who's who?

Michael Villacrusis (Turner Ashby) - VP of Operations, Clerk of Congress, Web Master, Form Designer extraordinaire!

Tracee McDonald - Treasurer, Check-in Specialist, Supplies Procurer, Utility Tabber, and all-around amazing human being!

Cara Walton (Rocktown) - Forensics tabber, Photography expert, and stellar person to be around!

Zach Dobrin (Staunton) - Forensics tabber and absolutely amazing competitor, coach, and tournament host!

Danae Delozier (Freelancer!) - Debate tabber, and one of the brightest rays of sunshine in the tab!

Erin Widener (Waynesboro) - Extemp guru and outstanding ShenVaFL advisor! In addition to this Erin manages one of the most amazing Forensics teams ever. Just ask about the moose.

Emmett Sheahan (Spotswood) - This gentleman represents a significant portion of the brainpower and support for our Student Congress program. Student Congress saw the most growth and change over the past few years! In conjunction with Mr. Villacrusis (our Clerk of Congress), I dare say that we have one of the best Student Congress farm leagues out there!

Craig Edgerton (Fluvanna) - Craig has been an absolutely essential addition to the ShenVaFL crew as his advice has helped steer us in the direction that we feel is in the best interest of our competitors. Craig is also an absolutely authoritative source when it comes to Forensics and anything Forensics, which is why he will be helping us lead our Forensics judging overview at each tournament!

Hosts (building managers) for tournaments this year:

Michael Villacrusis: October's tournament at Turner Ashby

Steve O'Baugh / Amy Tewalt: November's tournament at Broadway

Audra Vasiliauskas: December's tournament at Harrisonburg

Taylor Johnson (JMU): January's ShenVaFL Champs

## II. Calendar

All of the information listed here is also on the [website](#). Feel free to reference that as much as this e-mail for items pertaining to the league, season, and individual tournaments.

Tor Johnson Halloween Costume Contest Tournament: Thursday, October 24th at Turner Ashby High School.

ShenVaFL #2: Thursday, November 21st at Broadway High School.

ShenVaFL #3: Thursday, December 19th at Harrisonburg High School.

Championship (champs): The date is tentatively set for Saturday, January 18th with a snow date of Saturday, February 1st. This is not official yet and may not be until sometime in November, but these are the dates that we have put forward to have reserved. (Last year it was January 20th) at James Madison University.

Entries for ALL tournaments are due Friday, the week before by 5:30 p.m.

**You can change entries (name change/swap/drop/add judges) up until the Wednesday before the tournament until 5:30 p.m. After that, there will be a nuisance fee (see below).**

The start time for regular-season tournaments is 4:30 registration, 5:00 for Policy Debate, 5:15 for LD and PF, 5:30 for ALL Speech and Congress swearing-in, and 5:45 for Congress Round 1.

Awards are always hoped to be at 8:30, but just as it says on the website: "Ending on time is an aspiration, not a common occurrence."



Registration is through the website [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)

If you are not already there please head over and register your school and go ahead and start setting up your roster. Our first tournament of the year is already up. Any questions/issues with [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) feel free to respond to me first and I'll take it from there. I have some resources provided under IV. F. to help in this endeavor.

### III. Dues/Payment Information

#### A. Season/League Dues

Our season-long (October - December) fee is being raised to \$75. This is the first raise since the league started and is due to a variety of factors (outside help, hiring judges, inflation, Tabroom.com registration fees, etc.).

This covers any/ALL Debate and/or Forensics entries!

Of course, what helped to keep our entry flat and cheap is each team bringing judges with them so please continue to do this!

#### B. Payment

The [INVOICE](#) is on the website. Feel free to mail checks to our treasurer, Ms. Tracee McDonald.

OR

You may simply pay when you show up for the first tournament on October 24th at Turner Ashby!

### C. Championship (Champs)

The Shenandoah Valley Forensics League Championship in January has individual entry fees to help offset the cost of the trophies for the competitors/schools.

Individuals: \$10

Duos/Partners: \$15

The other thing of note when it comes to Champs is that it does have a qualifying requirement. This means that in order to qualify the Forensicator and/or Debater will need to place in the top six in their field at some tournament that season. If someone in the top six has already qualified previously we will move down the list of finishers accordingly to find the next non-qualified individual. This will help provide the best competition when it comes to the tournament in January at JMU. This will also be discussed below under IV G. JV in Debate, but there will not be JV categories at Champs for any event.

### D. Fees/Penalties

As we have done over the past few years there is still a charge if you are short a judge in a particular area.

Speech (and Congress): \$50 (You are asked to bring one judge for every SIX entries.)

Debate: \$50 (You are asked to bring one judge for every TWO entries (LD/PF/CX).

Also, there is a "nuisance fee" for any changes that need to be done after 5:30 p.m. the day before the tournament. If a student/duo drops it is \$10 per drop UNLESS it is an emergency drop (illness, death in the family, etc.) in which case there is no charge. Use your discretion and also use this as a teachable moment when it comes to competitors not being ready in time for a tournament.

#### IV. Reminders from Previous Years and Changes This Year

##### A. Awards Recognitions (Reminder)

One thing we would like to work on, as a league, is a bit of decorum and consistency in our awards recognitions. We certainly understand the fact that everyone is tired and run down at the end of what is a very long day but in order to help expedite awards and recognize those who are truly deserving we are going to give a brief overview before each awards assembly about going through the single-clap for qualifier recognitions, places two through six, and ask that everyone please stand to recognize and clap (more than just one) for the tournament winner.

##### B. No More Maverick (PF/CX-Policy) - Reminder

One of the things discussed in years past that we have seen as an issue in ShenVaFL is the notion of Maverick debate. This is something that used to be allowed over the years but is getting to a point where there is genuine concern that individuals seek to run Maverick with little to no effort put forth in finding a partner in what is a partner event.

In Forensics if a member of a duo is not present then the whole entry is dropped. VHSL rules clearly stipulate that there must be a partner present in Policy (CX) and Public Forum. While we are a learning league it is important to also learn about responsibility and dependability when it comes to events that involve having a partner. While it is unfortunate when a partner is ill or ill-prepared there is still the opportunity to learn by watching others compete.

### C. Two Judge Panels in Forensics - (Reminder)

A suggestion made at the end of the last pre-pandemic in-person year was to consider doing two-judge panels at Champs in January (Thanks, Mr. Edgerton of Fluvanna for that!) with the focus being on feedback for students as well as helping to clear up the "dirty judge" issue. This idea stayed with me throughout the development of our past virtual season. What we found is that two-judge panels are always better than one even if there is a school association involved.

However, providing two-judge panels in all events was simply too much to hope for unless we adjusted our judging requests/requirements which I know would not be the most popular idea. So, to help split that middle ground, what we are going to attempt to do this year is akin to what we did when we were all virtual: plan for two-judge panels in events that have more than one section wherever and whenever possible. Any event that consists of one section (reminder that our section sizes go up to 7 in ShenVaFL) will have one judge for both rounds.

Again, the benefits here are that competitors may receive more feedback and judges may be able to do plenty of more events since the cloud of potential bias is removed by having at least one judge removed from that school's association. The other big thing we are trying to do is help and avoid ties as much as it is possible to do. In a two-round tournament, this is not always feasible, but anything we can do to help break down ranks and placements the better. In that same vein, we are also going to try to have some more formalized scoring take place...

#### D. Uniform Scoring (Reminder)

Courtesy of Mr. Ray Smith we have a suggestion to adopt a scoring model that would hopefully help provide better and more consistent feedback to our students and also help alleviate some possible ties throughout the regular season. Here is what we are looking to make use of for this coming season:

##### Debate:

- 30 - Best Speaker; Should Win the Tournament
- 29 - Excellent Speaker; Should be in the Top 3 for the tournament.
- 28 - Good; Should have a winning record
- 27 - Progressing
- 26 - Needs Work
- 25 - Needs a Lot of Work
- 24 & below - Unsportsmanlike; Completely Unprepared

##### Speech:

- 100-98 - Best Speaker; Should Win the Tournament
- 97-93 - Excellent Speaker; Should be in the Top 3 for the tournament.
- 92-88 - Good; Could Place in Top 6 for Tournament; Some slight slip-ups - not many
- 87-83 - Progressing; Stumbled at times, Long Pauses; Very Short
- 82-80 - Needs Work;
- Below 80 - Unsportsmanlike; Completely Unprepared

[Source](#)

## E. JMU Involvement (New-ish)

JMU coach Taylor Johnson ([taydebater@gmail.com](mailto:taydebater@gmail.com)) has graciously continued to put forth some great resources for folks to make use of, and has even taken on the hosting responsibilities of our season-ending championship in January!

We are hopeful that there may be a Policy workshop at our first tournament in October, but the other opportunity is one I would encourage folks to take advantage of.

## F. Tournament Logistics/Management/Tabulation through Tabroom.com (Reminder and Something New)

Building off of the year that we just had there are some tournament operations that we are going to adjust as there is a particular benefit built in that I think we could all take advantage of:

### -Ballots / Postings

We will continue the use of Tabroom.com for postings/balloting and releasing results just like we did last year. This means that all students AND judges MUST have a Tabroom.com account in order to participate. This should be made easier following the tournaments we did last year, but you will certainly need to check with any/all judges and new competitors to make sure that they have an account.

There are many benefits to this approach as we discovered last year and we would like to build off of that to hopefully help streamline the process of running our two-round tournaments throughout the year.

### -Judges

Judges will need to bring devices with them to tournaments. While it has been confirmed that phones may be used for completing ballots it would be recommended that using a device such as a laptop may make it easier.



-Student Congress Exception-ish

Student Congress debaters will be having their speeches scored electronically via a form that will be linked in Tabroom. The PO and Parli score will still be done on paper. There will still be folders sent with Parli/PO scores, but individual speeches will be shared with the debaters via Tabroom with all of the other events ballots being shared out (Speech/Debate).

## Folders

Folders will still exist for Student Congress and receipt purposes but know that there are some other matters that make using Tabroom.com for tournament running a good and better choice.

## Resources

Here are some resources to help in this which were used heavily last year:

[Creating a Tabroom.com Account and Setting up Your Team](#)

[Creating a Student Account in Tabroom.com](#)

[Linking Student Accounts in Tabroom.com](#)

 [Tabroom.com Competitor Accounts](#)

[Creating a Judge Account on Tabroom.com](#)

 [Judge Account Linking Directions](#)

[Tabroom.com Judging](#)

G. JV in Debate

-Any JV debaters that place 1st or 2nd will not be permitted to compete in that division at any ensuing tournaments. (If registered in JV they will be moved to varsity by tab staff.) The final 1st and 2nd finishers in JV at the December tournament will be permitted to compete at Champs.

-There will not be any JV categories at Champs in January. To account for this the number of qualifiers for January will be increased to 8 as opposed to 6. (27 qualifiers for champs instead of 18.)

## H. Student Congress Chamber Formatting

At the same time, we are going to try out some new formatting for Student Congress to help encourage those who are new to the event. I don't want to use the term JV, but there will be a novice chamber available at November's tournament for those who are new so that there may be some concerted work toward learning and developing the debate skills necessary in Student Congress.

The makeup of the chambers for the year will look like this:

October - Two chambers - Mixed (veterans and newcomers) - The goal here is for those new to Student Congress to be able to see some experienced debaters before having a chamber all to themselves in November.

November - Two chambers - Veteran and Novice.

December - Mixed chambers.

January - Qualifications required, but mixed chambers.

## V. Forensics

### A. Entry Limits

There are none. If we get to be too big for a building this will be revisited. This also applies to debate.

### B. Double Entries

Extemp has not been able to double-enter for as long as this league has been around and so that will continue.

With us switching tournament mechanics to Tabroom.com we are going to once again open up Double Entry to duos in addition to all other events.

### C. Codes

Codes will be provided via Tabroom.com and should be utilized (this is a change from previous years).

## D. Extemp

### Laptops in Extemp -

"In preparing their speeches, students may refer to magazine and newspaper articles or printouts they have brought with them, or to files they have previously saved to a laptop computer. They may not use the Internet during their prep time."

### Observing -

We would strongly encourage competitors to observe after they complete their performance in order to better learn by watching others. The only speaker that this would prove difficult for would be the first speaker in the second round. Everyone should be staying and watching during the second round in October, November, and December.

### Topic selection -

Topics will be shared at the beginning of the month. For the first tournament, to encourage new extempers the question list will be shared out in addition to the topic areas to help further prepare them. After October, only topic areas will be shared.

## E. Impromptu

This year we are looking to work on some deliberate topic areas at each tournament. Here is a quick breakdown:

October - People and Events

November - Quotations and Things

December - Potpourri. There will be a mixture of all four topic areas in each round.

January - An attempt to work in all four topic areas.

Also, just a reminder on how Impromptu is to be run for our league:

Rather than have individuals wait outside of the room and be called in one at a time we will have everyone in the room to watch everyone throughout. This requires more topic selection which we are willing to take on, but we feel it would be in the best interest of the competitors to be able to watch everyone compete.

It also greatly assists with double-entry as those that are double-entered may either go first or last depending on their preference.

## F. Script Use

As we have done in previous years, scripts will be permitted at the first tournament in October and the script rule shall be utilized and enforced for the rest of the season.

## G. Entering/Exiting Competition Rooms

Due to a recent concern that was brought to the attention of our league (and other leagues as well), we will be asking that once students enter a competition room they not leave UNLESS they are double-entered. All bathroom use should be done before the round is initiated. If it is an emergency need we are going to instruct judges to wait until the competitor returns before continuing the round.

## VI. Debate

As always, we will continue to make use of NSDA topics all year long which may be found on their website: [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org)

Also, there are no entry limitations for debate and so long as buildings may house us we will continue to keep it this way.

### A. JV versus Varsity

A good question that comes up from time to time is why to offer JV? or how do I know which one to register my debater in?

JV helps ease some new debaters by ideally starting them off with someone of their caliber or experience level. Some coaches don't believe in JV which is their prerogative, but in order to help establish ourselves as a learning league and encourage debaters of all backgrounds, we offer a stepping stone that maintains all of the rules and topics but ideally tries to pair debaters with those that are starting out just like they are.

I personally start all new debaters, regardless of age/grade level, in JV and if they manage to qualify for Champs before December then move them up to Varsity to see and experience more practiced and veteran debaters. Also, after two years of competition in ShenVaFL starting in JV is not an option for those in my program.

But, again, this is my prerogative as a coach and everyone may decide to approach it in a different fashion.

We have never felt the need to have a hard and fast rule for this as we know coaches know their debaters better than any of us and know what is appropriate for them and their program.



## B. Congress

1. Legislation - The first tournament of the year is still wide open in terms of legislation posting. Still, students will be and are encouraged to also submit topic area ideas on the ShenVaFL website.

Also, for the first tournament and first tournament ONLY (I will repeat this in the next e-mail concerning Tor Johnson), we are looking to introduce Student Congress to those that are new by not requiring legislation from EVERY Student Congress Debater.

Instead, we are asking for a maximum of TWO pieces of legislation from each participating school. These do NOT need to be labeled as docket a or b as they should be from two different DIEV areas if doing more than one.

After the first tournament, our Clerk of Congress will be selecting topic areas for the remaining tournaments for the year (November, December, and Champs - January which should also feature a Super Session) and each Student Congress Debater will be required to submit a piece of legislation in order to compete/qualify for Champs.

There should be a link on the website or on the Student Congress portion of the website where students (and coaches!) may submit potential topic areas.

It's also linked [here](#).

2. Chamber Postings - Just like last year, we found a lot of benefits in having **COACHES** pre-determine the chambers that their students will be in. This kept things equitable between the two. We, ideally, would like to see two strong chambers with lots of leading and learning to go on. The blind leading the blind does little good to help expand the event. There will be a Google Sheet sent out, yet again, when it comes time to announce the opening of the next tournament.

For the second tournament, especially, if you would prefer that certain debaters be in a chamber together based on their experience level please be sure to note that in sharing your chambers with Mr. Villacrusis and/or me.

3. Judges - Per discussion with Mr. Painter it was decided that Congress will no longer have its own judge category, but will be, instead, folded into Forensics. What this means for you: If you are someone who coaches BOTH Forensics and Debate your judge burden was just significantly lowered.

e.g. I am bringing two Student Congress debaters and an Extemporaneous speaker. In previous years I would need one judge for Student Congress and one judge for Forensics. Now, I just need one judge instead of two.

If you ONLY do Debate, realize that you STILL need to bring judges, but they may be used in Speech Categories as well (and of course, EVERYONE is good for Public Forum judging!).

We will continue to do the best that we can when it comes to assigning judges in ALL events but it takes everyone's participation to make it work.

4. PO Judging - We will continue to ask Parliamentarians to judge POs and not put the burden on Student Congress judges so that Presiding Officers may receive truly pointed and expertly written feedback which may assist them later in the year.

5. Coach Oversight - Please, coaches, be looking over legislation before students submit it. We always want kids to put themselves into what they are doing, but legislation that is recycled, shock value-oriented, and/or lazy needs to be coached.

### C. Public Forum

The only change this year is in bringing back the JV division. If we are truly bursting at the seams at any point this year we may consider double-flighting PF, but we are hoping to avoid that. Please note that the topic for November is also the same for December per NSDA.

We are not abiding by the NSDA change in PF timing but maintaining the two minutes for Summary and Final Focus. (Just like in VHSL.)

Per the above discussion, we will not be permitting maverick debate in Public Forum.

We are not using novice topics (NSDA).

### D. Lincoln-Douglas

Per the items above JV LD will not be offered at Champs and anyone placing first through third during the season will not be permitted to stay in JV. As we continue to do, we will NOT be offering the use of the LD Novice topic. There are many reasons for this which you may ask me about, but the simple answer is: We don't need it.

LD will also be double-flighted again this year based on numbers. If we are able to get by with simply double-flighting JV then we will, but there is a good chance that both JV and Varsity will need to be double-flighted. This is an added benefit for those debaters observing as they will get to watch how other debaters perform and will be exposed to even more ideas and original thoughts.

## E. Policy

We will once again be (hopefully) holding a Policy Clinic at our first tournament in October. Also, per the above - no maverick.

There are also opportunities for assistance from JMU's Debate program. Feel free to reach out to their director, Taylor Johnson ([tayjdebate@gmail.com](mailto:tayjdebate@gmail.com)) for more information.

## VII. Contact Information

### A. Personal Information

Serving as league head please address any/all questions to me directly and if I don't have or know an answer I will certainly consult someone who does. My cell number is 540-421-3716.

Please do let me know if there is anyone who should be on this list and also feel free to forward this message along to those who may be interested in joining our wonderful (not so little anymore!) league!

I certainly try to get to folks in a timely manner and I apologize for the delays in responses. I also apologize if I am ever appearing to be somewhat curt in my responses as I am simply trying to answer as quickly and efficiently as possible. I tend to go with a "need to know" response.

Also, if there is an answer to something in one of these e-mail blasts that come out I will simply respond with "read the e-mail".

### B. Arrival Times - Also Tabroom.com On-Site Check-In!

If you are going to be arriving after 5 p.m. please call me (540-421-3716) or text and let me know if there are any drops or changes that we need to know about. Also, feel free to simply text me when you are on your way with everyone as we can pre-register you on-site which helps with setting up rounds faster which we all appreciate!

I will try to call coaches, as well, starting from here on out, but I need numbers to be entered into Tabroom and for them to be accurate for me to make use of them.

The sooner we know if you have any drops/changes the sooner we can go ahead and pair rounds and get things moving in the tab room. Even though you may be showing up after 5 we can make up for any lost time by not waiting for rounds to be announced.

Following our experience last year please know that you can actually check yourself in ahead of time via Tabroom.com. This would be good if you have no changes to who all you are bringing to tournaments - judges and competitors. Either way is fine so long as we know about any/all drops.

### C. Judge Notes

Please check any notes you have on judges as we DO look at those and can use that information to make sure that we are using people to the best of their abilities. If you have someone entered into Congress to judge, but they are qualified for Lincoln-Douglas or Speech please do put that on there. If we end up being short in an area when setting up the night before we look at the notes to see who we might be able to slide into another category.

## VIII. Next Up

Later on this week I will be e-mailing about the first tournament of the year and have already opened up tabroom for: [The Shenandoah Valley Forensics League Tor Johnson Halloween Costume Classic Tournament!](#)

(At TA!)

Thanks, everyone, for all that you do, and please, don't hesitate to respond with questions/concerns.

-Steve O'Baugh

[Google Doc version of this e-mail for saving and referring to as need be.](#)