



Dear Colleagues:

The annual Joel Hefling AFA-NST District IV Qualifying Tournament will be held virtually on Sunday March 2nd! Please indicate through Speechwire if you plan on attending - even if you are not ready to submit your entry.

We will be using Speechwire (registration site forthcoming) for entries, e-ballots, tabulation, extemp draw, and imp quotation dissemination, and we will use Zoom for our synchronous platform (please make sure that your Zoom applications are updated). If you have any questions about this spring district tournament or the National Speech Tournament, please don't hesitate to contact interim D4 Chair, Chris Outzen at [outzenep@uwec.edu](mailto:outzenep@uwec.edu) or via cell at 563-219-0265

In the following pages you will be able to find all of the tournament details as well as reminders about district awards, All-American nominations, and required forms and fees for the AFA-NST.

We look forward to seeing you virtually at the Joel Hefling AFA-NST District IV Qualifying Tournament!

Our Best,

Your 2024-2025 D4 Committee and Spring Tournament Hosts:

Chris Outzen	Interim D4 Chair   University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire   Eau Claire, WI
Jennifer Torres	D4 Vice Chair   Doane University   Crete, NE
Thomas Muscha	D4 Committee Member   University of North Dakota   Grand Forks, ND
Amanda VonGoodrich	D4 Committee Member   University of Nebraska-Omaha   Omaha, NE
Andrea Carlile	D4 Committee Member   South Dakota State University   Brookings, SD
Darren Valenta	D4 Committee Member   Concordia College   Moorhead, MN
Austin McDonald	D4 Committee Member   Hastings College   Hastings, NE
Emma Arneson	D4 Student Representative   South Dakota State University   Brookings, SD

## Entries:

Entries are due on Speechwire by Tuesday, February 25th at 5pm (CST). Any student from an AFA-NST District IV member school who has not qualified an event at-large may enter that event in the spring district qualifier.

\*Students may enter no more than three (3) events in each flight.

\*Each school may enter a maximum of five (5) entries per event.

## Entry Fees:

Entry fees are \$8 for each slot entered. Schools should provide one judge for every six slots entered. Each uncovered slot will be charged \$15. Fees will be calculated Wednesday, February 26th @ noon. Any changes in entry after this time will incur a \$10.00 drop/add fee per slot (exception: any event that qualifies at-large February 24th-28th) and any judge drops will incur a \$50 judge drop fee.

## Membership Fees:

AFA-NST membership fees must be paid by member schools to compete in the District IV Fall Qualifier (as per the AFA-NST by-laws). In the past, District IV had all member schools pay through the AFA website. However, to increase transparency and ensure NST membership fees are disseminated to both the district and the NST, all NST member school fees will be added to Fall District Qualifier tournament entry fees on speechwire. The NST membership fee is \$30 when registering for the District IV Fall Qualifier. If you have already paid this year's NST membership fee through the AFA website, please send your payment confirmation to the D4 chair.

### Checks:

Please make checks out to "Doane Forensics"

And mail them to:

Jennifer Torres

1014 Boswell Ave.

Crete, NE 68333

### Credit Card or Cash:

Please use the Zelle payment system

Send to Zelle Account: doaneforensics@doane.edu

Any member schools not in attendance at the District IV Fall Qualifier that need to pay their membership fee, please contact the D4 chair.

Reminder: Each member school must have one person who is a member of the AFA parent organization. This is not the NST membership. Entry into the NST will require the name of the school's AFA member. For the AFA membership fee, you can pay any time before the AFA-NST in April, here is the website:

<https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/product/afa-one-year-individual-or-institutional-membership/>

## Required Forms

### At-Large Forms:

At-large qualification verification is conducted on the district level. All digital, at-large student qualification forms must be completed and shared online (via Google Drive or email) with the D4 chair by 5pm on Tuesday February 25th at [outzencp@uwec.edu](mailto:outzencp@uwec.edu). Updates from tournaments with results February 28 and March 1 can be added after the fact.

Earlier in the semester, all student event at-large qualification forms were shared with the head coach or student of each program. If you are having difficulty finding your form, please email [outzencp@uwec.edu](mailto:outzencp@uwec.edu)

### Student Verification Forms:

Student verification forms must be completed and emailed to the District Chair no later than Friday March 7. You can find the verification form on the AFA-NST website. *Please note that it does require your registrar or records office to verify the information, so you will not want to wait until the last minute.*

## Anti-Sexual Harassment Education and Training:

Every student, judge, and coach that attends the AFA-NST must complete anti-sexual harassment training and sign the Anti-Sexual Harassment Resource Signature Form prior to the 2025 AFA-NST. The committee will have those trainings and forms available on the [AFA-NST 2025 webpage](#) coming soon.

# Tournament Rules:

The top three competitors in all 11 AFA-NST events at the Spring Qualifier will count as district qualifiers to the 2025 AFA-NST. If that placement qualifies the student at large, the district qualification will “trickle-down” to the next student. No student that has already qualified an event at-large to the 2024 AFA-NST may enter the Fall District Qualifying Tournament in that event.

All events with 2 or more sections will have a final round. Advancement to elimination rounds will be based on preliminary rank and rate. Ties in preliminary rank and rate mean that all tied contestants advance to elimination rounds. When possible, ties in rank and rate resulting in a final of 8 or larger will be broken using reciprocals to create a final of 7.

Placing in final rounds will be based on predominance of 1's, followed by cumulative rank. Ties in rank in finals will be broken by the following: judges' preference, drop low rate, and cumulative rate.

On speechwire, please indicate if your judges have any student or school blocks. Additionally, please email the District Chair with any judge blocks for a student, event, or team.

## Schedule:

8:45 am	EXT Draw (using Speechwire)
9:00 am	Round 1 A (ADS, CA, DI, EXT, POE, POI)
10:15 am	Round 1 B (PERS, DUO, IMP, INFO, PRO)
11:30 am	Ext Draw
11:45 am	Round 2A
12:45 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	D4 Meeting & D4 Student Meeting
2:00 pm	Round 2 B
3:15 pm	Finals A
4:30 pm	Finals B
ASAP	Awards!

\*\*\*Flights/rounds may be collapsed depending on the number of entries.

# Service Project:

Our D4 student rep Emma Arneson (SDSU) has proposed the return of the District IV service project, a previous practice in our district to return some of our efforts to bettering our communities. This year, the project was focused on forensic outreach, building connections to our local forensic communities especially at the high school level. You are encouraged to send your team's contributions to service in this area to Emma ahead of the

# District IV Awards:

District IV notes two awards for outstanding members of our district, one for students and one for coaches. Each award requires two nominations from two separate schools in order to be put on the ballot for district voting. Nominations for BOTH awards should be shared with District IV chair [Chris Outzen](#) by Friday February 28th at 5:00pm

## The Kevin Heineman District Student Award

Each year, an outstanding student from District IV is chosen by their peers to receive recognition as an outstanding member of the regional community in memory of Kevin Heineman, a beloved coach at Hastings College who exemplified the true spirit of competition, excellence, and honor. This award is based on the leadership, fellowship, and sportsmanlike conduct witnessed by the students and coaches of the district throughout the nominee's collegiate career.

Each school may nominate two (2) students (only one can be from your own school). A letter of recommendation justifying the nomination must accompany the nomination. **Any student with two or more nominations will be placed on the ballot.** In the case where only one individual is given multiple nominations, that person shall be chosen as the award recipient. Ballots will be cast at the District IV spring tournament. The recipient will be announced at the awards ceremony.

## The Larry Schnoor District IV Distinguished Service Award

This award was created in honor of Professor Schnoor to acknowledge the spirit and service of coaches within the district who, like Professor Schnoor, have shown dedication to the health, vitality, and progress of the district, its students and its schools. The award should not be given on the basis of competitive success but on the impact of the individual on the coaches and students of the district through their leadership, interaction, and service.

Each school may nominate two (2) coaches (faculty or graduate assistants) from the district (only one can be from your own school). A letter of recommendation justifying the nomination must accompany the nomination. **Any coach with two or more nominations will be placed on the ballot.** In the case where only one individual is given multiple nominations, that person shall be chosen as the award recipient. Ballots will be cast at the District IV spring tournament. The recipient will be announced at the awards ceremony.

### Previous Winners of the Larry Schnoor District IV Distinguished Service Award

1999	Tom Workman	2007	Penni Pier	2015	Megan Orcholski
2000	Joel Hefling	2008	Leah White	2016	David Brennan
2001	Susan Collie	2009	Deano Pape	2019	Andrea Carlile
2002	John Nash	2010	Kittie Grace	2020	Nathaniel Wilson
2003	Dan Cronn-Mills	2011	Kris Kracht	2022	Aaron Blackman
2004	Karen Morris	2012	Abbie Syrek	2023	Julie Walker
2005	Mark Fokken	2013	Brian Klosa	2024	Chris Outzen
2006	Kelly Jo Wright	2014	Aaron Duncan		

## All-American Team

Criteria and forms for nomination to the AFA-NST All-American Team have been attached to this email. In contrast to previous restrictions, teams may now submit more than 2 student nominations for All-American. All files are due district committee member Andrea Carlile ([andrea.carlile@sdstate.edu](mailto:andrea.carlile@sdstate.edu)) by Friday February 28th at 5:00pm. **Please make sure the subject line reads "ALL-AMERICAN NOMINATION: [LAST NAME].** On the Nominations Process attachment, please note all materials that need to be submitted, including official transcripts directly from the nominee's institution.

## Deadline Summary

- Tuesday February 25th at 5:00pm: Entries due on SpeechWire

- Tuesday February 25th at 5:00pm: At-Large Nomination forms should be updated on Google Drive and/or shared with [District Chair](#)
- Friday February 28th at 5:00pm: All-American Nomination Packets due to Andrea Carlile at [andrea.carlile@sdstate.edu](mailto:andrea.carlile@sdstate.edu)
- Friday February 28th at 5:00pm: Nominations for Kevin Heineman District Student Award and Larry Schnoor Distinguished Service Award due to [District Chair](#)
- Saturday March 1 by 7:00pm or ASAP: Results from tournaments February 24-March 1 shared with [District Chair](#)
- Wednesday March 5th: Student Verification forms due to [District Chair](#)
- Wednesday March 5th: Anti-Sexual Harassment Training Verification form due to [District Chair](#)