

**President's Report
Spring 2008 Business Meeting**

Activities Since November 2008 Business Meeting

Independent Affiliation Status for NPDA

Because of problems related to scheduling the NCA business meeting of NPDA through the American Forensic Association, I have initiated conversations with the NCA National Office to pursue independent affiliate status for the NPDA. This is still some ways away from being realized and would not impact NPDA for this coming convention year. My goal is to try to get such an affiliation on the agenda of the appropriate NCA governing bodies for the 2008 Convention. The advantage of this status will be our own time slot for the business meeting, representation with NCA, and possibly panel blocks if we can demonstrate sufficient membership and interest. More information will be forthcoming on this initiative as it becomes available.

Site Visit for NPDA 2009

Joe Gantt, Brent Northup, and I completed a site visit to Stockton, California and the University of the Pacific in late December. We found the facilities and the planning at UOP to be excellent and received a written commitment by the Administration of UOP to host the tournament on the intended dates—despite the significantly more-than-typical advanced distance. UOP will be bringing new buildings, including a new student center, online well in advance of the tournament. Negotiations with several hotel properties are still ongoing as of this writing but should be completed in late spring in time for a late summer announcement.

Future Sites

As of this writing, only one inquiry (an unaccompanied-by-school inquiry by the Denver Convention and Visitor's Bureau) has been made for 2010 and beyond. Site proposals are welcome for 2010 and beyond, and recent experience suggests that contracting with hotels earlier, rather than later, is desirable. As inflationary pressures continue to propel hotel rates upward, solidifying earlier agreements is definitely in the NPDA's interest.

Possible Officers' Retreat

I have asked Treasurer, Brent Northup, and Finance Committee Chair, Marty Birkholt, to consider approving the reallocation of unused funds from under-spent budget categories to facilitate a summer meeting of the Executive Council and key committee chairs to work on expediting the uncompleted work of some committees. The goal of such a meeting is to move legislation forward for the November business meeting and "clear the docket" of some of the more critical problems in recent business meetings over the last two years.

The idea of an "officers' retreat" is one borrowed from other national forensics organizations for whom the practice is already a long-standing one. My hope is, if approved, this will become a pilot for an annual event that will allow officers to coordinate their efforts and expedite requests for change by the membership. This initial effort will be done "on the cheap" and will likely take place over a few days in either Kirksville or some nearby accessible Midwest city.