**August 18, 2014**

**Dear Colleagues:**

This is your invitation to the Valdosta State University Blazer Classic Friday and Saturday October 24-25. Please go ahead and get your rooms at the Comfort Inn Suites. See hotel info below. This tournament is sanctioned with NPDA. This year we will also offer IPDA after NPDA events are over.

The tournament will feature the following, remaining essentially the same as last year’s tournament, but with a few new twists:

* Five preliminary rounds of Parliamentary Debate in Open and Novice Division, and a rookie division. By definition, this is a novice definition, but is more restrictive. No high school or college experience of any kind. Only classroom exposure or practice rounds on your campus. If entries do not warrant, rookie and novice will be collapsed. A minimum of 8 teams is needed to make a division. IPDA will be in one division. IF entries warrant it, there will be a separate novice IPDA division as well.
* Elimination rounds depending on the size of the entry (Quarters or larger in most divisions)
* Plaques for the top five speakers in the tournament.
* Topics for resolutions should be submitted to Mike Eaves at meaves@valdosta.edu by Monday, October 7, 12 noon. Late entries cannot be accepted. Three resolutions per school please. Final topics selected will be available at least one week prior to tourney starting.
* Entry at meaves@valdosta.edu. Entry deadline is Monday, October 21 at 12noon.

**All the best,**

**Michael Eaves, Past President, Georgia Parliamentary Debate Association**

**DOF, Valdosta State University**

**Cell 229-200-8887 Office 229-259-5116 w/machine**

**Keven Rudrow, Assistant Debate Coach, Valdosta State University**

**\*\*\*Hotel Information\*\***

**We have secured a block of rooms at the Comfort Inn Suites on 1332 St Augustine Rd. Valdosta GA 31601. Please phone 229-249-8880. Identify yourself as “VSU Debate”. We have a special rate of 77.00 for two doubles up to 4 per room. This is a very good rate for a theme park town. \*\*This is HOMECOMING weekend. Get your rooms today!! Please use our tournament hotel and keep tourney costs down. An awesome breakfast is free at the hotel. Please help us by supporting our tourney hotel.**

**Schedule of events**

**VSU Blazer Debate Classic 2014**

**Friday, October 24, 2014**

**Registration 11-1pm, \*\*New Comm Arts Building (corner of Brookwood & Patterson, room 131) Most of the debates will take place in Nevins or West hall.**

**Topic Announce 1:40pm. You will debate the same topic for rounds 1 and 2, opposite sides. Nevins 1061 for all topic announcements.**

**1:40-2:30pm Prep**

**2:30-Round 1 NPDA**

**3:30-Round 2 NPDA**

**5:10--Topic Announce and Prep, Rd 3**

**5:30-6:30-Round 3 NPDA (powered hi-hi w/n brackets)**

**7:10pm-Topic announce and Prep, Rd 4**

**7:30-8:30-Round 4 NPDA (power hi-lo w/n brackets)**

**Dinner 8:30 ☺ on your own…..**

**Saturday, October 25, 2014**

**8am—8:20—Topic Announce and Prep for Round 5**

**8:20-9:20---Round 5 (powered hi-hi w/n brackets)**

**10:15ish—Topic Announcement and Prep for Elims**

**10:35-11:35—Elims**

**11:35-12:30—Lunch (on your own)**

**Elim continue**

**IPDA starts about 3pm.**

**Three rounds of IPDA…breaking to semis or appropriate level**

**On or About 9pm--Awards Ceremony and Announcement of Speaker Awards and**

 **Sweepstakes, for whole tourney**

**Entry Fees:**

**School Fee: 25.00**

**NPDA Debate Teams: 50.00**

**Uncovered NPDA Debate Teams\* 70.00 (we want your judges, not your hired money)**

**IPDA debaters: each 25.00**

**Uncovered IPDA debaters each 35.00**

**\* First time Blazer attenders may be discounted. Anyone traveling over 1000 miles, fees are cut by 50%.**

**\*Each judge covers two debate teams. For example, as school with four teams and one judge would owe $365.00:**

**Entry Limitations:**

**Schools may enter as many teams as they desire, within the following constraints:**

**1) As with the NPDA point system, only the top four teams per school will count**

 **toward sweepstakes.**

**2) A school will not be allowed to account for more than 50 per cent of the tournament**

**Entry and/or 50% of a division.**

**3) A school’s teams may not hit each other in preset preliminary rounds. However,**

**If a school has 40 or more per cent of the entry, its teams may hit each other in the afternoon power matched rounds in order to accommodate fair power matching.**

**4) Elimination rounds will be power-protect—for example, in the case of quarterfinals,**

 **the 1 seed hits the 8 seed, with 2 vs. 7 and so forth. The tournament does NOT break brackets in elims.**

**5) IPDA points for each win, will be added to NPDA team points.**

**6) Tournament director reserves the right to limit entry without proper judges to cover entry.**

**Sweepstakes:**

**The sweepstakes formula will be as follows counting only a school’s top four teams:**

 5 points per win in preliminary rounds

7 points per each team advancing to first elimination round

Speaker awards on the basis 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1for first place, second place, etc.

**Elimination Rounds:**

**If the tournament has fewer than four teams, it will not take place.**

**If the tournament has 4-7 teams, it will break to finals**

**If the tournament has 8-15 teams, it will break to semifinals**

**It the tournament has more than 15 teams, it will break to quarterfinals.**

**Seedings are based on the following criteria, with subsequent criteria being tie-breakers:**

**1. Won-Loss Record**

**2. TOTAL number of speaker points.**

**3. Speaker points dropping high and low**

**4. Speaker Ranks**

**5. Opposition Record**

**6. Random numbers**

**Speaker Awards are based on the following:**

**1. TOTAL number of speaker points.**

**2. Speaker points dropping high and low**

**3. Speaker Ranks**

**4. Opposition Record**

**5. Random numbers**

**Entering the Blazer Debate Classic Tournament**

**Entries must be emailed to** **meaves@valdosta.edu** **no later than Monday, October 20 at 12 noon. This is the only means entries will be accepted. Late entries are subject to a nuisance fee at registration. Any late entry may be rejected at the discretion of the tourney director.**

**Please do NOT phone in entry. Multiple emails are not needed. Make one final entry before deadline. Minimal changes please. After Wednesday, October 22, there will be a 25.00 nuisance fee assessed. Changes at registration will incur a 50.00 per change fee.**

**Please enter the following way:**

**School:**

**Name of Director of Forensics:**

**Phone number:**

**Email:**

**First and Last Names of Each Team:**

**1.**

**2.**

**. . . .however many. Although only the teams with the top four records per school count toward sweepstakes, you may enter as many teams as you wish. Only in the very unlikely situation that your school has more than half the entries may your entry be limited.**

**First and Last Names of Each Judge (one judge covers two teams):**

**1.**

**2.**

**…..however many.**