



American Forensic Association – National Individual Events Tournament  
Committed to public advocacy and those who teach it

#### AFA-NIET COMMITTEE REPORT

AFA Business Meeting

NCA Convention Zoom

November 17, 2020

Submitted by Nance Riffe, AFA-NST Committee Chair

The American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament, scheduled to be hosted by the city of Santa Ana, California, city and schools, was canceled due to COVID-19 (and issues including school travel restrictions and budget freezes). The decision to cancel the tournament was made by a vote by the entire committee about one month before the tournament.

The All American Team was selected based upon academic success, college and community service, and forensic accomplishment---13 new members were identified for this award.

The 2020 Outstanding New Coach Awards were still awarded to Jordan Johnson of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Ryan Tinlin from the University of Texas at Austin.

At the spring NST Committee meeting, Dr. Nance Riffe of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte was elected Committee Chair. Shannon LaBove, Rice University, was elected to continue in her role as Committee Secretary. Darren Epping of Kansas State University will serve as the committee's Vice Chair. Dave Gaer of Lone Star College North Harris was elected to serve as our tournament director for the 2021 national tournament.

Other members of the NST committee include:

District 1 Chair, David Hale, East Los Angeles College,

District 2 Chair, Joe Gant, Lewis and Clark College,

District 3 Chair, Craig Brown, Kansas State University,  
District 4 Chair, Kittie Grace, Hastings College,  
District 5 Chair, John Stanley, North Central College,  
District 6 Chair, Amy Martinelli, University of Florida,  
District 7 Chair, Sam Ohrenberger-Hopkins, Seton Hall University,  
District 9 Chair, Sarah Hinkle, Colorado College.

Regional Reps include:

Southern Rep. Kelly Roberts, University of Florida,  
Western Rep. Brent Northup,  
Central Rep. Nathaniel Wilson, Doane College,  
Eastern Rep. Mark Rittenour.

M'Liss Hindman of Tyler Junior College serves as the Two Year College Representative. The 2020-21 National Student Reps are Ally Knighton, Lewis & Clark College and Marley Lowe, Kansas State University.

The NST Board of Trustees is comprised of Larry Schnoor, Minnesota State University (Chair 2022), Lee Mayfield, James Madison University (2021), Dave Gaer, Lone Star College North Harris (2020), Holland Smith, California State University-Los Angeles (2024), and Dawn Lowry, Wiley College (2023).

The AFA-NST made the decision to host the 2021 NST online. Riffe established two committees to help determine qualification procedures and tournament logistics for the 2021 NST: The Online Standards & Qualifications Committee chaired by Joe Gantt of Lewis & Clark and the NST COVID-19 Planning Committee chaired by Nathaniel Wilson of Doane College.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln put in a bid to move hosting the NST to 2022 and the bid was accepted.