

President's Report

from Mark Quinlan

March 29, 2007

Welcome to a new era for the Minnesota Speech Coaches Association! After dealing with some technical challenges and a couple of other delays, the MSCA website is now operational.

- Thanks to Meg Krekeler from Eastview High School for her great work designing the site and for offering to serve as the webmaster.
- Thanks also to Dan Cronn-Mills for his offer to host the website on the MSU-Mankato website, linked through the CTAM site. However, one of the technical challenges was that we found out that having it hosted on the MSU server would make it extremely difficult for the webmaster to access our site to make changes, etc. So, we will not be taking Dan up on his offer.
- We have procured web services at a nominal cost. The MSCA domain name was already taken (by the Mechanical Service Contractors of America), so we thought that “mnspeechcoaches.org” would be easy enough to remember.
- Meg is still working on getting photos of all the officers, so some continue to look very fine, while I look like myself. Drat! I was hoping for maybe George Clooney.
- The website features are pretty basic right now. Meg is working on some additions, which should be included in the near future:
 - A on-line membership application form to make the process of joining MSCA easier. Renewal of membership will continue to also be done through the CTAM conference registration form, of course.
 - A “posting board” to allow member coaches to engage in ongoing communication. Thanks to an anonymous donation, we have been able to get posting board services without ads. A couple of member coaches have volunteered to serve as monitors of the posting board to ensure that inappropriate items are removed promptly. The issue of appropriate content has been brought up. That will be a topic of discussion at the MSCA meetings at the state tournament.
 - Candidate statements from Rick Purrington and Mark Thul, the candidates for president-elect. Information about the election will be on this site at a later date and will also be sent in the mail to all members.
 - We want the website to be a vibrant and useful tool for members of this organization. If you have suggestions for improvements, please contact me (or Cheryl Neidt after the state tournament).

In the near future, in this space, will be an explanation of the changes that have recently taken place in the MSHSL rules and policies.