

# COMMUNICATOR

November 2004

---

## Redistricting Proposal and vote

During the fall board meeting, the Board Directors approved a redistricting proposal to be voted on by THSSDL member schools. Please read the enclosed information and vote on the proposal by December 15. If the proposal is approved, the changes will take place for the 2005-06 season.

### Background

--The current district alignment has been in place since 1995. At that time the Memphis City schools and the Shelby County schools split into two districts (District I and District VII).

--No other major changes in district alignment have been made since at least 1985.

--Currently some districts have lost large numbers of active programs that no longer compete in the District or State Tournaments. For example, in 2004 District I had only 2 schools competing in their District Tournament with a total of about 25 entries and District III had only 5 schools competing with 38 entries.

--Other districts have added new programs increasing the number of participants in their District Tournament. For example, District IV had only 9 schools competing in 1995, but in 2004 District IV had 12 schools and 134 entries in the District IV Tournament. Even though District II has remained stable in the number of schools competing with 9 schools in 1995 and 9 schools in 2004, the number of entries has increased since 2002.

--In 1995 the THSSDL Board of Directors voted to allow only the top 3 winners in each individual event to advance to the State Tournament. This rule change was made to improve the quality of competition at the State Tournament and to provide more equity among the districts.

--However, with the extremes which now exist in participation at the District level, major inequities exist. A District which has so few entries at their District Tournament that every student who attends can qualify for the State Tournament is not equal to the District which has multiple sections in most events and where only 30% of the total number of students who compete can advance to the State Tournament.

--The THSSDL Constitution states that "the purpose of this League shall be to promote excellence in the study, preparation, and performance of speech and dramatic arts by providing quality competition..." Quality competition can be better served under the present THSSDL regulations by regularly adjusting the composition of the Districts to provide more equality in District Tournament participation.

### Recommendations

1. Remove the specific listing of district composition from the By-Laws (THSSDL Manual 5 and 6 "Article III-Membership, Section 2") and add the revised list to the Tournament Manual (THSSDL Manual 16 "Article I: Membership and Tournament Fees"). Section 2 in the By-Laws would then read: "Schools shall be divided into districts or regions by counties."

a. Currently, any major change in district composition requires a change in the By-Laws; therefore, motions for redistricting must be voted on by the entire THSSDL membership.

b. If a more general statement about districting is included in the By-Laws, then the Board of Directors may vote on changes in districts without involving all member schools.

2. Add a new Section 3 to the By-Laws (THSSDL Manual 6) that will read: "Upon application to THSSDL, counties not currently participating in any district tournament may be added to a specific district or region by a vote of the Board of Directors. District or region membership will be based on proximity to other counties in the district or region and on the number of schools currently participating in that district's or region's tournament."

3. The current Section 3 of the By-Laws (THSSDL Manual 6) which talks about the transfer of a school from one district to another district will become Section 4 and will remain unchanged. Add the following sentence to this section: "Any school affected by a transfer to a different district or region shall be notified in advance of the vote by the Board of Directors."

4. The current Section 4 of the By-Laws (THSSDL Manual 6) will become Section 5 and the wording shall be changed to read as follows: "Any county or metropolitan area having twelve (12) or more schools within the same county or metropoli-

tan area actively competing in a district tournament may petition the THSSDL Board of Directors to establish a separate district for that county or metropolitan area. Upon receipt of the petition, signed by at least 75% of the active member schools of the county or metropolitan area, the Board of Directors shall consider the petition at their next meeting.

5. The Tournament Manual "Article 1: Membership and Tournament Fees" (THSSDL Manual page 16) would be changed as follows:

a. Section I: Schools shall be divided into the following districts or regions by counties:

- District I: Tipton, Shelby, McNairy
- District II: Dickson, Cheatham, Henderson, Henry, Montgomery, Robertson, Sumner
- District III: Davidson, Lawrence, Putnam, Rutherford, Williamson
- District IV: Blount, Bradley, Coffee, Franklin, Hamilton, Knox
- District V: Hamblen, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Washington

New schools and inactive counties would be added through already established THSSDL procedures.

b. Other section numbers would be changed accordingly (i.e., Section I now becomes Section II, etc.)

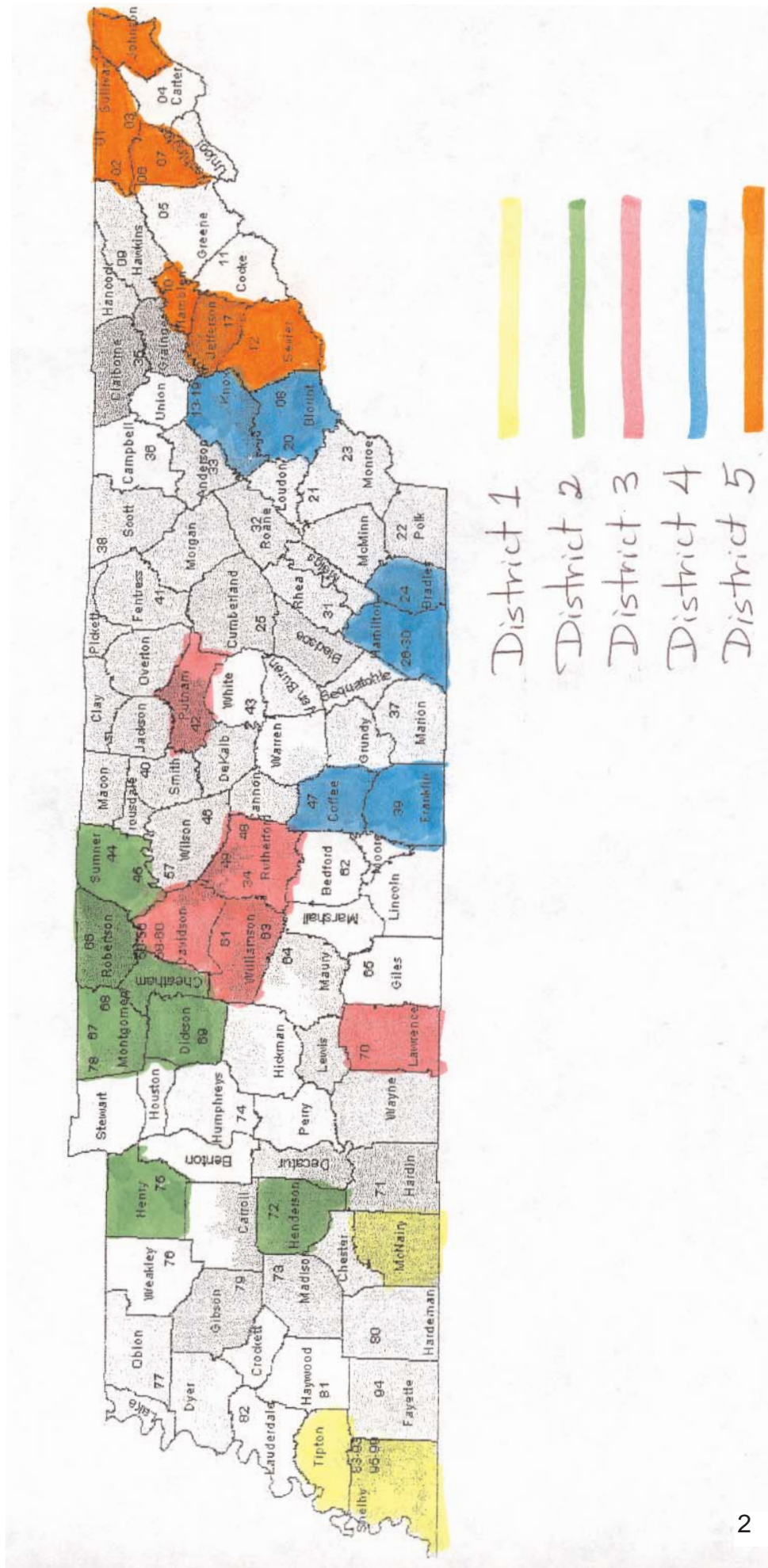
## Competition

If the proposal is approved, the top 4 (presently, the top 3) qualifiers at the District level in each IE event would advance to the State tournament.

## Vote

The Constitution requires a vote by the membership to approve the redistricting proposal. The Board of Directors supports the redistricting proposal. Board members believe the new districts will increase competition and reduce travel times for district schools. In general, you are voting to accept or reject the new districts as identified above.

Please vote to either approve or reject the proposal and submit your vote by December 15, 2004.



# Redistricting Proposal

Approve the Redistricting proposal

Reject the Redistricting proposal

Please vote to either **approve or reject** the proposal and submit your vote by December 15, 2004. Please submit your ballot to:

Dr. Mike Gotcher  
Dept. of Comm. & Theatre  
P.O. Box 4446  
APSU  
Clarksville, TN 37044

or fax (931) 221-7265

-----  
Please sign the ballot, the signature will be removed when the ballot is received.

---

Signature

# Forensics

## 2004 - 2005 Schedule of Tournaments

September 11	Heritage High School
September 25	West High School
October 2	Cookeville High School
October 9	Henry County High School
October 21-24	Tennessee Theatre Association in Jackson
October 30	White Station High School
November 6	Morristown West High School
November 13	Tennessee Tech Tournament (with LD and novice LD)
November 20	Dickson County High School
December 4	Rossvie High School
December 4	Sullivan East High School in Bristol, TN (tentative)
December 11	Farragut High School
January 14-15	St. Cecilia Middle School Forensics Invitational
January 14-15	Tennessee State Thespian Conference at Cordova HS
January 15	Ted Turner/Public Forum Debate at John Overton HS
January 22	Jefferson County High School
January 29	Wooddale High School
February 5	Collierville High School
February 18-19	NFL Debate Qualifier BGA
February 24-26	Carson Newman Invitational in Gatlinburg, TN
March 4-5	NFL Qualifiers at Brentwood High School
March 11-12	THSSDL District III (place TBA) THSSDL District V (place TBA) THSSDL District IV (Place TBA)
April 1-2	THSSDL District I (place TBA) THSSDL District II at CHS
April 9	NFL Congress Qualifier (place TBA)
April 15-16	THSSDL State Tournament at Cookeville High School

# Tennessee well represented at 2004 NFL Nationals

The following are the results of the Tennessee Team at NFL Nationals In Salt Lake City, Utah in June 2004:

National Champion in Poetry Reading:  
Jesse Gall, Battle Ground Academy

National Champion in Expository Speaking:  
Blake Jones, Dickson County HS

National Runner-up in Prose Reading:  
Shannon Mitchell, Collierville HS

National Runner-up in LFG Video Contest:  
Laura Baker, Dickson County HS

National Semifinalist (9th) in Humorous Interpretation: Joel Keelor, Battle Ground Academy

National Semifinalist (13th) in Duo Interpretation: Michael Jones & Samantha Stewart, Brentwood Academy

National Semifinalist (13th) in LD Debate: Spence Patton, Montgomery Bell Academy

National Semifinalist (14th) in Policy Debate: Jonathan Cannon & Kevin Wieck, Montgomery Bell Academy

National Semifinalist in Senate: Jonathan Ray, Montgomery Bell Academy

Congratulations to all those that represented Tennessee at NFL Nationals. You made Tennessee proud.

# Public Forum: The New Debate

Bonnie S. Barker

In 2002, the NFL in an attempt to revitalize debate in all schools gave birth to a new and more “user friendly” form of debate. They named the debate Ted Turner/ Public Forum after the news mogul who inspired it. The format is designed to accomplish 3 things: to limit the time of the debate rounds to a more attention holding length, to give debate a new emphasis on current events issues, and to allow the general public access to debate in a media friendly format. As an added bonus, Public Forum debate does not require the funding for neither research materials nor debate camps that have been associated with Policy and LD debate. James Copeland, former secretary of the NFL has said, “What will interest the public so that they might be instructed by and actually enjoy a debate is 1) Topic must be interesting, current, vital, and relevant to people’s lives. 2) Speeches must be brief. 3) There must be controversy!” Public Forum includes all three.

Public Forum topics are available on the NFL website on the 1st of the month for the following month. There is a new topic every month so that students can get research practice and will not get tired of debating the same topic continuously. Debaters will be either PRO (for the resolution) or CON (against the resolution). Each debate team will be prepared to debate both sides, and a coin toss at the beginning of each debate will decide the side taken.

Some examples of past topics are:

- Resolved: The United States should ban cell phone usage in moving vehicles.
- Resolved: The United States is winning its war on terror.
- Resolved: Pilots of commercial airliners should be armed.
- Resolved: The United States government should allow Americans to purchase prescription drugs from other countries.

Because the topics are currently in the news, research is best accomplished on the internet, in current news magazines, or daily media sources. Black’s Law Dictionary is a good source for definitions of terms. Polling data is also a good way to interest the general citizenry (judges). Since this debate form is evidence supported not evidence driven, both “hard evidence” (statistics, quotations from experts, polling results) and “soft” evidence (analogies, anecdotes, etc), will be persuasive to judges.

The speech development of the PF debate is similar to that which one would find on the CNN television show Crossfire. The first speaker for both pro and con makes the case. It should introduce the issue, define the terms, analyze the issues, and explain why this issue matters to us. The 2nd speaker on both sides provides an introduction which links the 2nd speech to the 1st, gives an overview of the issues being discussed, gives reasons why the opponent’s position is wrong, and solidifies the side’s position. This speaker must provide the CLASH in the debate. The summary speech (1st speaker for both sides) has the job of managing for the judge what has been said so far. The speech should include a brief overview of the debate, a

focus on a key idea(s) with new evidence or a new presentation, and an explanation of what this all means. The Final Focus (2nd speakers for both sides) chooses a large issue that matters the most to the debate and reinforces the position with the “final shot.” The speech should contain a statement of the one issue and its importance, explain that issue, and give a final appeal to let this issue and the side’s position on that issue be the deciding force for the debate. Prep time should be 2 minutes per team to be used at any time the team chooses.

As in the TV version, questioning periods, crossfires, add interest to the Public Forum Debate environment. Crossfires between 2 speakers are held after the 2nd speech and the 4th speech. The purpose of the first crossfire is to clarify arguments and define clash. The second crossfire should advance the debate by finding areas of agreement and attacking arguments. Any contradictions should be exposed. The Grand Crossfire is between all 4 speakers. It is held after the summary speeches. The first question is asked to the team who just finished speaking. The remaining crossfire period should be carried on with politeness and with a plan. The point of the crossfire is for each side to establish one or two major points of the debate, gain admissions from the opponent and pose dilemmas.

The times for speeches and crossfire are as follows:

1st speaker	4 min
3rd speaker	4 min
Summary	2 min
Final Focus	1 min
2nd speaker	4 min
4th speaker	4 min
Summary	2 min
Final Focus	1 min
Crossfire	3 min
Crossfire	3 min
Grand Crossfire	3 min

In 2005, THSSDL has adopted the Public Forum Debate form for trial at the State Tournament. As a result, the Board of Directors hope that many schools, even those who have not had debate contestants in the past, will encourage their students to enter this new and exciting form of debate competition. Extempers, congresspersons, orators of all types will find that PF is an exciting stage for arguing their views on current event topics.

For a more detailed discussion of Public Forum Debate style and rules, go to [www.nflonline.org](http://www.nflonline.org) and click on Rostrum. The most concise explanation will be found in the April 2003 issue. If you are not an NFL affiliated school, e-mail me at [bonnie.barker@mnps.org](mailto:bonnie.barker@mnps.org), and I will mail you a packet of information that I gave out at the Fall Conference.

# THSSDL Fall 2004 Conference

THSSDL Fall Conference was held at St. Cecilia Academy. The Board of Directors thanks Cathie C. Stamps and her staff for the use of a beautiful facility as well as excellent hospitality. The conference featured engaging sessions and a touching Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame Members

Seated: Paulette Regan, Glenda Sullivan

Standing: Linda Wilson, Harriet Medlin, Kathyne Pugh, Billy Tate, Jane Eldridge, and Lee Ellen Beach

Induction ceremony. Glenda Sullivan, Dickson County High School, and Paulette Regan, White Station High School, were

inducted in the THSSDL Hall of Fame. The ceremony was very moving with Paulette playing her guitar and Glenda's son, Brian, presenting his thoughts about his mom as a teacher and coach.



Paulette Regan expresses her emotions in song

Speakers for the two inductees represented the many years of service that these two fine individuals have given to Tennessee forensics. Anson Adams Mount flew in from the shooting of his latest movie in Canada to express his appreciation for the commitment, dedication, and concern that Glenda Sullivan demonstrated when he was a student at DCHS.

In addition to the induction ceremony, the conference featured a lighting seminar directed by Ty Prewitt, Mainstage Theatrical Supply. Ty demonstrated lighting equipment as well as techniques for providing dynamic lighting on a limited theatrical budget. As well as a Q&A session by Anson Adams Mount addressing the professional opportunities provided through theatre-related degrees. Conference partici-

pants were provided first-hand information from a star of both stage and screen.

Participants were provided informative sessions on "Running a Tournament" by Dr. Kathy Ligon,



Ty Prewitt of Mainstage Theatrical Supply

"Training New Judges" by Harriet Medlin, "Public Forum Debate" by Bonnie Barker, and

"Teaching and Directing Shakespeare" by Robert Kimbro. In short, participants enjoyed a full day of



Anson Adams Mount answers questions

informative sessions and time with valued colleagues and mentors. Plan to attend the 2005 Fall conference, you will find it enriching.

## District Reports

In order to update and maintain the THSSDL files, I need district reports as soon as possible. Once I receive the reports, I can make changes in the Directory and email the revised Directory to the membership. Please have district members check the names, addresses, and phone numbers to be included in the Directory. Be sure to include e-mail addresses and fax numbers. Email addresses are essential if I am to send timely information to members!

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Send your reports to:

Dr. Mike Gotcher

Austin Peay State University

P.O. Box 4446

Clarksville, TN 37044

(931) 221-7364

## Changes for District and State Tournament

### Set Design and Costume Design

The event will be divided into 2 divisions: Set Design and Costume Design. Districts may send up to three entries in costume and three entries in set design. If you have more than three entries at the district level, a competition must be held at the district level. Schools need to provide one judge per three entries at the state level. If coaches need further clarification, they may contact Chris Luter, Terri Suico or SaraLyn Archibald.

Entrants may choose from:

OTHELLO

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

TARTUFFE

for the set design or costume design competition.

### Public Forum Debate

At the fall board meeting the board of directors voted to replace Policy Debate with Public Forum Debate for the 2005 district and state competition. The board members are enthusiastic about re-energizing debate competition by adding Public Forum Debate. This event provides an outlet for students with little to no debate experience the opportunity to compete in a debate format. NFL guidelines will be used for both district and state tournaments. Schools will be limited to five teams. (See article by Bonnie Barker for rules and guidelines.) Sample ballots will be provided in the next newsletter.

## State Tournament Committee Assignments

THSSDL State Tournament will be held at Cookeville HS, April 15-16, 2005. Please plan to attend.

One Act Play	S. Terry
Interp. Theatre Prelims	P. Parker C. Luter
Interp. Theatre Finals	T. Suico L. Bentz
Extemp Topics	G. Sullivan
Extemp Draw/Personnel	M. Hutson
LD Debate	C. Oakes
Public Forum Debate	M. Bean
Congress	H. Medlin B. Barker
TV Packets	A. Jackson
TV Draw	J. McCaleb
Friday Registration (10:00-4:00)	B. Barker L. Bennett
Saturday Registration (6:45-8:00)	L. Bentz P. Regan
Judges	K. Ligon S. Terry L. Beach Cookeville HS
Timekeeping	K. Ligon
Group Events Judge	M. Hutson
T-Shirts	L. Gillespie
Ballot Check	L. Colvin Cookeville HS
Hospitality	District IV
T-shirt Judges	C. Stamps L. Bentz

If you would like to volunteer to help at the State Tournament, contact Cathie C. Stamps at St. Cecilia Academy (615) 298-4525 ext. 339.

# 2004 THSSDL State Winners

## After Dinner Speaking

- 1st Pittman-Collierville HS
- 2nd Kumbroch-Collierville HS
- 3rd Adebunojo-Science Hill HS
- 4th Lewis-West HS
- 5th Parrott-Morristown West
- 6th Page-Farragut HS

## Extemporaneous Speaking

- 1st Warf-Dickson County
- 2nd Jones-Dickson County
- 3rd Masengill-Dickson County
- 4th Messamore-John Overton HS
- 5th Poteet-Brentwood HS
- 6th Masters-John Overton HS

## Original Oratory

- 1st Coates-Rossvie High
- 2nd Carson-Collierville HS
- 3rd Sheth-Farragut
- 4th Lane-Cookeville High
- 5th Courtney-Morristown West
- 6th Horner-Morristown West

## TV Broadcasting

- 1st Helms-Ridgeway HS
- 2nd Ellis-White Station HS
- 3rd Findley-Cordova HS
- 4th Bengston-Centennial HS
- 5th Kelley-Kenwood HS
- 6th Click-Dobyns Bennett

## Storytelling

- 1st Martin-Science Hill
- 2nd Schmidt-Sullivan East
- 3rd Grimes-Brentwood HS
- 4th Heath-Morristown West
- 5th Jarmon-Overton
- 6th Morin-Dickson

## Humorous Interpretation

- 1st Hubbard-Morristown West
- 2nd Wellbourn-Brentwood HS
- 3rd Johnston-Sullivan East
- 4th Arnold-Brentwood Academy
- 5th Nave-Morristown West
- 6th Camfield-Knox West

## Dramatic Interpretation

- 1st Cleveland-Overton
- 2nd Lutz-Brentwood HS
- 3rd Treider-Henry County
- 4th Woods-Cookeville
- 5th Sherrod-Science Hill
- 6th Milford-Farragut

## Prose Interpretation

- 1st Meggs-Knox West
- 1st Hurst-Morristown West
- 3rd Bush-St.Cecilia
- 4th Hinds-Farragut
- 5th Ensley-Morristown West
- 6th Griffin-Dobyns-Bennett

## Poetry

- 1st Branch-Knox West
- 2nd Jamieson-Brentwood Academy
- 3rd Ley-Dobyns Bennett
- 4th Radford-Science Hill
- 5th Axley-Springfield
- 6th Grandfield-Centerfor Creative Arts

## Pantomime

- 1st Shields-Ootlewah HS
- 2nd Tharp-White Station HS
- 3rd Brown-Ootlewah HS
- 4th Bradfield-Brentwood Academy
- 5th Little-Cordova HS
- 6th Bush-White Station HS

## Solo Acting

- 1st Feltner-Jefferson County
- 2nd Williamson-Heritage
- 3rd Neuhoff-St.Cecilia's Academy
- 4th Miller-Ravenwood
- 5th Gray-Overton HS
- 6th Stegale-Ravenwood

## Duet Acting

- 1st Cooper/Hickey-Science Hill
- 2nd Case/Hutson-Farragut
- 3rd Mullaly/Isaac-Knoxville West
- 4th Lawson/Harmon-Science Hill
- 5th Walker/Crafton-Portland
- 6th Brian/Robbins-Jefferson County

## Duo Interpretation

- 1st Carpenter/Mitchell-Collierville
- 2nd Jones/Houston-Morristown
- 3rd Garrett/Holloway-Cookeville
- 4th Gaughan/Granberry-St.Cecilia
- 5th Mills/Mani-Dickson County
- 6th Wall/Osborne-Rossvie High

## Interpreter's Theatre

- 1st My Big, Fat Greek Western-  
Science Hill
- 2nd Passionella-Rossvie
- 3rd Animal Farm- Knox West
- 4th Wife of Bath-Ravenwood
- 5th Teenage Waistland-Dickson
- 6th Come On, Ride the Train-  
Chattanooga Center for Creative Arts

## One Act

- 1st The Miracle Worker-Dobyn's Bennett
- 2nd The Belle Of Amherst-Cookeville HS
- 3rd Necessary Targets-Chatt Creative Arts
- 4th Final Dress Rehearsal-St. Cecilia
- 5th Tradition 1A-Dickson County HS
- 6th Good Business Sense-White Station
- 7th Mr.Bundy-Cordova High School

**Best Actress:**Emily Woods-Emily Dickson  
"The Belle of Amherst"

**Best Actor:**Joel Higgins-Michael Banner  
"Tradition 1A"

## All-Star Cast

Katy Griffin-Dobyns Bennett  
Allison Fulghum-Chatt Center Creative Arts  
Clare Ferandez-St. Cecilia Academy  
Lauren Hixson-Chatt Center Creative Arts  
Mandy Laszewski-St.Cecilia Academy  
Kathryn Parker-St. Cecilia Academy  
Erika Snapp-Dobyns Bennett  
Brittany Carlton-Chatt Center Creative Arts  
Kevin Karl-Cordova High School  
Joseph Wilson-White Station

## Technical Theatre

- 1st Delaney-St.Cecilia
- 2nd Fortier-White Station
- 3rd Higgins-Dickson County
- 4th Gay-Knoxville West
- 5th Karl-Cordova
- 6th Salyer-Dobyns-Bennett

## Novice LD

Top Speaker James-BGA  
1st Pignone-McCallie  
2nd Greenwood-McCallie  
Semi-Finalist:  
Tao-McCallie  
Lackey-Collierville

## Varsity LD

Top Speaker Young-McCallie  
1st Riley-McCallie  
2nd Young-McCallie  
Semi-Finalists:  
Powers-Brentwood HS  
Herren-BGA

## Congress

*Senate:*Presiding Officer  
Amy Thomas-Brentwood HS  
Superior Speaker  
Christina Lordeman-Brentwood HS  
Outstanding Speaker  
Jacob Shorter-Rossvie HS  
*House:* Presiding Officer  
Caitlin Eckstein-Brentwood HS  
Superior Speaker  
Caitlin Eckstein-Brentwood HS  
Outstanding Speaker  
Jacob Hamburger-Brentwood HS