**2017-18 Randolph Speech & Debate Election Slate**

Here are the candidates for each position along with their statements. As a reminder, all candidates should attend the candidates’ forum at lunch this coming Thursday (4/6) in B164. Online voting will commence afterward and be open for 24 hours.

Note: If a position has no candidates, the position will either remain vacant, or a team member will be appointed to that position at a later date, at coaches’ discretion.

President

* Bryn Bennett
  + As some of you may know, last month I spent a week in a blue jump-suit at Space Camp. The program that sent me off to the moon was called the Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy, and although I learned a lot about NASA, I also gained many valuable leadership skills and strategies that I would love to apply to our team. In addition to being a part- time-astronaut, I am an active competitor and conscientious member of our team. I have been involved in forensics since sixth grade and it consumes the majority of my attention, as it is my single priority. Last year I held the position of RMS speech director and gained experience leading a group and hosting a tournament. This year I enjoyed serving as the VP of speech, and learned a lot about organization and communication through my duties of sending out emails about our upcoming tournaments and readying everyone for competition. I’ve spent two years in tab room during the RHS Classic, so I am fully prepared to host this year’s event. I have been thinking about ways to continue this past season’s success. If I am given the opportunity to serve as your president, I have decided upon 3 main goals for our team: furthering unification of speech and debate through more group activities, finding an innovative way to bring in improved coaching for both debate and speech, and continuing team growth through close work with the VP of communications. I hope you will allow me the honor of achieving these goals and becoming your next President!
* Renee Shen
  + Hello, I’m Renee Shen. I’m running to be the President of Speech and Debate. The Speech and Debate team has had the largest impact on me in high school. From confidence and speaking skills to making some of my best friends, I would like to give back to the club that has given me so much. A president must be decisive, organized, and bond with the entire team. As LD Captain, I organized lessons for novices, helped the President with funding, and helped to run the Randolph tournament. I strive to make every member of the team feel part of our family and will continue to do so. As President, my goals will be promoting team unity, increasing membership and dedication, and creating structured meetings that allow members to reach their full potential. Team unity is critical to consistent enthusiasm.  As President I will create friendships and unity by enforcing team-wide events such as warm-ups (which used to be optional for debate). In addition, to increase membership and dedication, I will ensure meetings are structured, efficient, and focus on supporting novices. Each meeting will have a clear purpose. I will consistently work closely with boosters to ensure that funds are used to their full potential and bring new ideas to use funds more efficiently. Finally, a President must be open to ideas. This year, I reached out to speech and debaters for ideas to improve the club. I hope to work with the team to implement these ideas next year.

Vice President of Speech

* Bryn Bennett
  + The leadership skills and strategies that I gathered while living on the moon in a blue jump-suit can definitely transfer to leading the speech side of the team. I am an active speech competitor and conscientious member of our team, as I am consistently present at after school meetings. I have been involved in forensics since sixth grade and it consumes the majority of my attention, as it is my priority extracurricular activity. I have attended all of our team’s national tournament trips, locals and have been lucky enough to travel to various larger scale national tournaments over the past three years. I have completed in multiple events and have trained with several coaches that have pasted leadership wisdom onto me. Last year I held the position of RMS speech director and gained experience leading a group and teaching necessary speech skills. This year I enjoyed serving as the VP of speech, and learned a lot about organization and communication through my duties of sending out emails about our upcoming tournaments and readying everyone for competition. I have gained a lot of knowledge regarding what it takes to assist people in finding the correct event and pieces for them, and I would love to continue applying these skills for another year.
* Caitlyn Dempsey
  + I believe that I should be Speech VP because I have immense experience. I will be a valuable resource to novices because I have done every interpretation event, Congress and plan to try more. I am also quite patient with teaching new students and am extremely dedicated. I am very organized as well, and have had practice in communicating with the team. I will be able to keep everyone on track as well as remain in contact with them throughout the season. I am confident that I will be able to maintain a healthy and beneficial relationship with the president as well. I would like to implement possible new programs, as I have a plethora of ideas. I want to start a mentorship for senior members and freshman members; this would create a bond within the team and also ensure each member gets someone’s undivided attention. I also plan on developing a pamphlet system with events to assist students if they still are unsure of what to expect. Hopefully with this, as well as other improvements, I will be able to make meetings more efficient. Overall, I want to make the year a good experience for everyone. I want novices to not only enjoy the activity, but to feel they are in a safe and comfortable environment where they can truly express themselves. I am passionate and driven, and I feel I am qualified for the job. Please consider this when voting in this year’s election.

Vice President of Debate

* Brandon Luong
  + I have done debate for three years of my life and have gone to most meetings and a lot of tournaments. During these three years debate has had a large impact on my life, shaping me not only as a debater, but also as a person. I believe that as a member of the forensics board I can help give back to the team, as I have received so much from it.

First of all, I believe I am suited for debate VP due to my experience. In my time as a debater I have done one year as an LDer and two years as a PFer, so I have extensive knowledge on how both forms of debate work. I have attended a large number of tournaments throughout my debate career and devote a lot of time to working on my cases. I am always willing to help members who have issues regarding or not regarding debate. I am also extremely dedicated to the club, as I show up to as many meeting as possible and face little conflicts with other activities. I welcome anyone into the debate team and even encourage speechers to participate, so that they can experience a wonderful form of forensics. As, VP I will strive to create an environment of collaboration and education, so that each person can experience growth.

Having this position would be an honor, and if elected, I will consistently do my best to prove that I deserve it.

* Renee Shen
  + Hello, I’m Renee Shen. I’m running to be your Debate Vice President. As a shy, uncertain freshman, this team welcomed me and helped me develop leadership and organizational skills. For the past two years, it has been a support group, a network of invaluable friendships, and a source of immense personal growth. As Debate Vice President, I will ensure new debaters feel the same way. My experience as LD Captain this year has allowed me to see the shortcomings of our debate program, and more importantly, my own shortcomings as a mentor. For example, several novices this year felt unprepared for tournaments and discouraged by their results. As Vice President, I will create a structured debate program focused on giving novices the full benefit of our team’s resources and ensuring they are prepared for every tournament. Friendships and team unity are the most important benefits this team can offer. One of my main goals will be to create bonds with novices that go beyond the team, encouraging them to continue debate and showing them how rewarding it can be. As LD Captain, I have experience teaching philosophy and debate jargon, doing practice rounds and drills, and am very receptive to input from other members. Throughout the year, I have continuously asked novices about their suggestions for the team. Debate needs structure, focus on teaching novices, and unity between PF and LD. I hope to work with all of you next year to implement these ideas.

Vice President of Communications

* Caitlyn Dempsey
  + I believe that I did a great job this year as Vice President of Communications and I encourage you to consider this in elections for the upcoming season. I believe I managed the social media impeccably well, however I plan on improving even further. I want to better utilize Twitter especially, to prove to everyone how successful we are. I also plan on staying in closer contact with the school newspaper and hanging up as many posters as possible to promote the club. I plan on using food to draw people in again, as well as keeping photos from every tournament as I previously did; I will make sure everyone is represented in these photos. I think electing someone who has had this position in the past will give the team an incredible asset. Not only do I have an extensive idea of how the team works, I will be able to improve on things I could have done better. I know how to work with excel and google docs, I can handle apparel and I’m extremely organized. I am open to new ideas, work well under pressure and have great drive to improve myself. Overall, I am passionate about this team and want everyone to be as impressed with us as I am. We do incredible things, and it’s important to me for everyone to know that.
* Katherine Hu
  + Hi! My name is Katherine Hu and I’m running for Vice President of communications/Captain of Interpretation. I’m a freshman, however do not underestimate my abilities, hard work, and dedication. Since October, I have attended almost every meeting, spent numerous hours outside of school practicing, and starting January, competed as much as I could. Ever since then, my passion has only grown however, actions speak louder than words and by attending these Saturday tournaments I have missed out on numerous AP Chinese classes and trainings for martial arts. Based on the job requirements, I believe I am qualified for this position because of my artistic abilities, my business background, my understanding for a need of communication via members and outside sources, and my organization skills. If elected for Vice President of communications, I will guarantee a fun filled, organized year which comes along with notices sent out as soon as possible. My networking skills will allow each involved student to feel on top of the schedules and included. As for promoting our club and merchandise, my business background will aid in the completion of my duties. If elected as Captain of Interpretation, I will help newcomers feel included and passionate. I will ensure that the whole process be done correctly as I have had prior experience in Humorous Interpretation, Original Oratory, and Duo Interpretation. Through this mere one year of experience, I have developed a passion for this club and it would be an honor to reciprocate this to newcomers.
* Daniel Kim
  + In three years, I’ve seen this organization change constantly: seniors come and go, advisors stay and leave, and even the club’s official name has changed. However, in those three years, I’ve experienced both personal growth and growth within the club, experiencing new events, learning my strengths and weaknesses as an orator, and teaching elf lessons from my mistakes. Through this, I have progressed both as a person and a member of Randolph Speech and Debate, and stand before you ready to fully fulfill my role as an officer. If I get your vote as Vice President of Communications, I will approach the role with a studious and diligent mindset: I will be sure to keep track of all events and will pass out information in a timely manner, just as I take note of all of my homework assignments in my agenda, will work with other board members to actively seek recruits into the club, and will always be ready to speak with and take suggestions from regular members. However, if I am elected as Captain of LPPAC, I will be able to showcase the strengths of each event to my peers, help practice with them to achieve better results, and will be able to prepare adequately for both competitions and home tournaments. If you vote for me, I will apply my studiousness at school to my role in Speech and Debate, and we all will be much better off as a result. Thank you.
* Nicole Nissel
  + I have been very active in high school forensics for two years. I have attended almost every tournament offered, competing in multiple events. With having gone to so many tournaments, and planning to do so again next year, the information on breaks and placements would be easily accessible and quick to post. The time I am planning on posting the information would be the Sunday after the tournament, sending on all platforms of the website, Facebook, and emails. While attending tournaments and meetings, forensics pictures could be taken by me emphasizing how happy all the members of the team are, competitors obtaining trophies, and all the work members put into their performances.

If elected, I am planning on taking on one of the biggest obstacles for the Randolph Speech and Debate Team, and that is gaining new members. I am planning on adding as many novices as possible to the team through posters, announcements, additions into the school newspaper, etc. Knowing many of the incoming freshman, convincing them to join forensics could be an advantage. Finally, I would make sure that the trophy case is organized and eye-catching to show how great the club and its team members are.

I ask that you elect me as the 2017-2018 VP of Communications. Thank you.

* Jordan Pontelandolfo
  + I’m Jordan Pontelandolfo and I am running for Vice President of Communications. As a dedicated member of the team, I believe I can bring a lot to this position. For recruiting new members, I plan to utilize my close relationship with the Drama Club to recruit people that are interested in the performing aspect of forensics. I would also like to reach out to clubs that share other similarities and communicate why speech and debate would be enjoyable for them. I intend to stress that it is possible to do forensics on top of other activities, which I feel will make people who are interested in sports or other clubs more open to joining. I would also like to stress that this club is a honor society that looks great on college applications. Another important aspect of the job is getting the word out to the community. I plan to post frequently on all of our social media accounts, draft weekly statements to be read on the morning announcements to share with the school the successes of our team, and to contact local newspapers periodically throughout the year to inform the community about the merits of speech and debate. For keeping track of members of the team, I would maintain a spreadsheet with each member on it and keep track of attendance so that we can always have the most accurate list of current members. For these reasons, I should be elected to be next year's Vice President of Communications.
* Allie Wu
  + Hi, it’s Allie here, and I’m running for Vice President of Communications. To begin, we can all agree that the Speech and Debate team has allowed many of us to build wonderful relationships to make our team as a whole. As Vice President, I would strive to cultivate this amazing team spirit. However, the duties that this position calls for doesn’t end there. I will work to ensure a complete understanding is built between the members, the officers, and the general public. This can only be done by someone who is active, who genuinely cares for the team, and isn’t afraid of change. I believe that I fit that description. I attend most meetings, competed throughout the year, and consistently provided team service. In addition to all of this, I can offer a variety of new and different skillsets that will come in handy. As our team yearns to find new means of advertisement and endorsement, I can answer this with both graphic design and technical skills, going towards the team site, apparel, etc. This team needs someone who can represent our team in person and on a digital level. The team needs someone who can step up and fulfill his or her duties on a serious level, but someone who is also able to reflect the team’s spirit and showcase it to everyone, which will, bring in more recruits and portray the progress that we, as a team, have made. And I believe that I can fit this role.

Captain of Lincoln-Douglas Debate

* Simran Kakkar
  + Let's put it this way - I can make a convincing speech in 10 minutes to convince you that I can be LD officer. Considering that I apparently have “potential” to be officer, I'll just reiterate those points.
    1. Not to be cocky, but I'm actually a pretty good leader and can get people under my control in a calm and composed way (like 75% of the time)
    2. I'm actually pretty good at explaining complex subjects - especially LD (and we all know how hard that is) - I actually get LD and I'm willing to change my opinions to help someone in need
    3. I'm committed and hardworking - let's just say that I don't sleep anymore just to finish my homework that's due weeks away. That's how I'll help every future LD-er succeed. I won't sleep. Simple.
    4. I'm advanced! Not only in academics, but also in critical and analytical thinking programs -- what does this mean? Well, I'm a problem solver. If there's a problem, I can solve it.
    5. I'm a master at BS-ing (basically, I'm a great improviser). Enough said.
    6. I'm actually merciful! If you're suffering, I'll help you! Physically and mentally!
    7. I'm flexible and open to whatever is necessary--if something needs to be changed, then sure! Go ahead.
    8. Finally (I know, it's about time) I'm like OCD-organized. I'll make sure I know the information **before** anyone needs the information.

So, consider these points -- I'm sure this will convince everyone that I can be LD Officer. Yeah I did it - a 250 word speech in 7 minutes (yeah I timed it and wrote 262 words).

Captain of Public Forum Debate

* Brandon Luong
  + I have done debate for three years of my life and have gone to most meetings and a lot of tournaments. During these three years I have both grown a lot as a debater and also as a person.

I have spent the majority of my time doing PF, so I know the format of debate and the techniques involved well. In the past, I have helped fellow pf members by going over their cases and providing them with counters or cards to help them better prepare themselves for the tournament. Currently, due to the large influx of debaters in general there has been trouble monitoring over all of them and making sure that they are focused on working on their cases. There has also been problems with the debaters being prepared mentally for tournaments. I plan to solve this problem by increasing the amount of mock debates. This way debaters can not only work on their argument generation, but they can also practice getting into the flow of the debate format in a more relaxed environment, before going straight into tournaments. I have experience with flow and argument generation drills due that will be useful in helping the PFers to progress into future varsity members.

Having this position would be an honor, and if elected, I will consistently do my best to prove that I deserve it.

* Allie Wu
  + Hello, I’m Allie Wu and I’m running for PF captain. Despite the fact that this year was my first year of participating as a member of the team, I believe that the effort I’ve put forth this season has made up for the lost time. Just as a few examples, I’ve attended nearly every meeting, competed at tournaments throughout the year, and have helped with forensics activities in the middle school on multiple occasions. I only intend on becoming an even more active member next year and plan on going above and beyond with not only playing my part, but also with helping other members as well. Through this year of actively pushing myself forwards with each and every new month and resolution has given me a variety of new skills such as leadership and analysis. I have consistently and am constantly growing these skills and hope to use these to teach the upcoming freshmen and current members of the team. I’ll aid team efforts through a variety of different ways, such as organized block documents and practice rounds. Speech and debate is an activity that I have definitely fallen in love with, especially regarding the overall team spirit and intellectual stimulation that comes with representing our team at every tournament, and it is something that I really will cherish. As the PF debate captain, I hope to be able to – and would be honored – to share this passion with other members and continue to grow alongside them.
* Julia Yan
  + Despite my short background on this team, I believe that I would work well as the PF captain. I have a genuine interest in aiding others develop their debate skills and spurring them unto achievement. This year, I have applied much effort into familiarizing myself with the skills necessary for novice public forum and thus will be able to give the incoming debaters in-depth insight concerning their first debate rounds.  I have been known, or at least seen, to have been an assiduous worker during my attended meetings which I will definitely apply to teaching the incoming freshman and organizing middle school events. Ultimately, I want to make the Randolph PF team as strong as it can be and to do so I will make sure to properly fulfill the duties of effective PF Captain. Thank you.

Captain of Interpretation

* Kathryn Altman
  + I’m Kathryn and I’m running for Interp Captain. I am a sophomore and have been an active member of the Randolph forensics community since sixth grade; I have competed in four Interp events. I’m the current Speech Captain. This year, I guided novices, coached the middle school, and ran the RMS scrimmage and tournament. My goals at RMS have been increasing membership, increasing inter-speech/debate unity, and exposing the team to at least one out-of-school tournament. I’ve accomplished every one of those goals through hours of dedication and hard work.

My goals for next year’s RMS team are: continuing to increase membership, introducing the Info event to RMS, which will eventually grow the RHS Info team, and introducing another Interp event to prepare RMS students for high school forensics.

I bring unique qualities to this position. I have five years of experience as a competitor, and one year already in this position. I love teaching and coaching, and work well with the RMS students. This year, several students came to the first meeting, and did not plan on staying. I pulled these kids aside individually to talk to them, and was able to convince at least three kids not to quit. I have coached next year’s rising freshman, and thus am well equipped to help them adjust to high school forensics. I am dedicated to helping both the RMS and RHS teams flourish. If you vote for me, I will work hard to make sure this team succeeds. Thank you.

* Katherine Hu
  + Hi! My name is Katherine Hu and I’m running for Vice President of communications/Captain of Interpretation. I’m a freshman, however do not underestimate my abilities, hard work, and dedication. Since October, I have attended almost every meeting, spent numerous hours outside of school practicing, and starting January, competed as much as I could. Ever since then, my passion has only grown however, actions speak louder than words and by attending these Saturday tournaments I have missed out on numerous AP Chinese classes and trainings for martial arts. Based on the job requirements, I believe I am qualified for this position because of my artistic abilities, my business background, my understanding for a need of communication via members and outside sources, and my organization skills. If elected for Vice President of communications, I will guarantee a fun filled, organized year which comes along with notices sent out as soon as possible. My networking skills will allow each involved student to feel on top of the schedules and included. As for promoting our club and merchandise, my business background will aid in the completion of my duties. If elected as Captain of Interpretation, I will help newcomers feel included and passionate. I will ensure that the whole process be done correctly as I have had prior experience in Humorous Interpretation, Original Oratory, and Duo Interpretation. Through this mere one year of experience, I have developed a passion for this club and it would be an honor to reciprocate this to newcomers.
* Nicole Nissel
  + I have been very active in high school forensics for two years. During this time, I have attended every single Randolph Middle School Forensics Team meeting. I have been assigned to run the meetings when the official Captain could not attend. I have attended almost every tournament offered, competing in multiple events. Those events are Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, and Program Oral Interpretation. Over the summer, I will be learning how to compete in Duo Interpretation with my sister. During my own time, I will learn about Oral Interpretation.

If elected, I would plan to make every Tuesday be an Interpretation Day with workshops based on the different events. With my experience of different Interp events, I would be able to help all Interp members. This would allow all of the novices to decide on the event(s) that they would like to compete in, and allow them to have the one-on-one time needed to start competing at an early date. I am open to any and all comments on the activity that would improve the program. At the beginning of the school year, I will help novices choose and create pieces using the script library, which will be kept neat and organized. During meetings (officer or after school), I will be professional, calm, and open to new ideas. Finally, I will gladly assist the VP of Speech as needed.

I ask that you elect me as the 2017-2018 Captain of Interp. Thank you.

* Braedyn Speight
  + I know that I have only been on the team for year, but I have shown true dedication this season. I am qualified for this position because I was a part of the middle school forensics program and know what it takes to run it successfully. I have great organizational skills and believe that I could uphold the duties for this position. I want to continue to improve the middle school program and help others to find the same love that I have found for forensics.

Captain of Limited Prep, Public Address, and Congress

* Daniel Kim
  + In three years, I’ve seen this organization change constantly: seniors come and go, advisors stay and leave, and even the club’s official name has changed. However, in those three years, I’ve experienced both personal growth and growth within the club, experiencing new events, learning my strengths and weaknesses as an orator, and teaching elf lessons from my mistakes. Through this, I have progressed both as a person and a member of Randolph Speech and Debate, and stand before you ready to fully fulfill my role as an officer. If I get your vote as Vice President of Communications, I will approach the role with a studious and diligent mindset: I will be sure to keep track of all events and will pass out information in a timely manner, just as I take note of all of my homework assignments in my agenda, will work with other board members to actively seek recruits into the club, and will always be ready to speak with and take suggestions from regular members. However, if I am elected as Captain of LPPAC, I will be able to showcase the strengths of each event to my peers, help practice with them to achieve better results, and will be able to prepare adequately for both competitions and home tournaments. If you vote for me, I will apply my studiousness at school to my role in Speech and Debate, and we all will be much better off as a result. Thank you.
* Sabrina Hu
  + Hi, I’m Sabrina Hu, a junior extemper who has been in Speech and Debate since freshman year. Prior to Extemp, I was a PF debater and additionally dabbled in interp events. I believe that my experience acting as a bridge between speech and debate will be useful as Captain of LPPAC. I am a mentor and teacher for my novice extempers and am also familiar with Congress; I am a debate mentor over at the middle school as well. Over the past three years, I’ve become familiar with giving constructive feedback after holding practice debate and extemp rounds, as well as with the Extemp/Congress software, Prepd, and have contributed to its maintenance and organization. Furthermore, with my guidance, and their innate talent, my novice extempers have found success at multiple tournaments.

My objective is to help club members feel comfortable speaking on the spot and intellectually. Whether it’s for a Socratic Seminar or an ad-libbed toast at a future dinner party, LPPAC is an important category of public speaking, just like acting in interp or persuasion in PF/LD.

Next year, I hope to expose novices/returning members in LPPAC to more collaboration. For extemp, too much of our time was spent on saving articles that could’ve been done at home. Instead, I want to hold practice rounds and/or in-depth discussions about current events every week.

Thank you, and it would be an honor to be the Captain of LPPAC.

* Claudia Pietrus
  + Most people who know me know that since the start of middle school, forensics has been my life. Although I go to MCST in Denville, I rarely miss a meeting and love waking up at 6 every Saturday. I am absolutely thrilled to be running for the position of Captain of Limited Preparation, Public Address, and Congress. I’m running for only this position because it’s the only thing I’ve ever wanted to do. Working with the Randolph Middle School team each Wednesday and seeing them succeed in tournaments is a joy and an honor; having personally competed in Impromptu, Extemp, Congress, and Original Oratory, I would be training middle schoolers and novices in the events I know inside and out. I’m aware of the challenges that come with going to a different school, but I always find my way around potential conflicts. I’m dedicated to what I do; my schedule is organized around forensics, rather than the other way around. I still remember being a novice and figuring everything out, and I know that I’d be nothing without the help of those around me. I fell in love with these events, and now I want to be the person that inspires success and makes sure everything and everyone is taken care of. I love working with fellow team members and organizing scrimmages and watching seventh graders talk about the problems in the education system. I adore every minute of it, and becoming LPPAC Captain would allow me to give back.