

LHSRA | LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL RALLY ASSOCIATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRINCIPALS (GAP) MEETING AGENDA SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 | 3:30PM

Around 95 people attended the meeting via Zoom. Spencer Roby presided over the meeting.

I. Call to Order

Called to order by Spencer Roby at 3:32PM on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

II. LHSRA Welcome & Introduction

Spencer thanked everyone one for being here today and explained how the meeting and voting will be conducted.

III. LHSRA Executive Committee Updates

Spencer provided an update on the LHSRA Executive Committee. He explained that Steve Penouilh and Henry Hingle are no longer at LSU and thanked them for their hard work and wished them the best. He also explained that Collise Dupont will serve as the LHSRA President and that we are looking for a Vice President and Assistant and Associate Directors.

- A. Executive Director – Spencer Roby, LSU
- B. Associate & Assistant Directors – Vacant
- C. President – Collise Dupont, McNeese University
- D. Vice President – Vacant
- E. Executive Committee Members

NAME	DISTRICT/UNIVERSITY
Renee Melder District Director	Central Louisiana (Louisiana College)
Chad Jones District Director	LSU Eunice
Tina Oubre Assistant District Director	LSU Eunice
Joan Edinger District Director	North Louisiana (Louisiana Tech)
Rebecca Boone District Director	Northwest Louisiana (Northwestern State University)
Amy Delatte District Director	South Central Louisiana (Nicholls State University)
Amber Siless District Director	Southeast Louisiana (Southeastern Louisiana University)
Nathaniel Harrison District Director	Southern Louisiana (Southern University-Baton Rouge)
Collise Dupont District Director & LHSRA President	Southwest Louisiana (McNeese State University)
Spencer Roby Executive Director	State Rally (Louisiana State University)

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IV. 2021 State and District Rallies COVID-19 Update

Spencer and Collise provided the following update cancelling this year's District and State Rallies and explained that the Executive Committee will take this year to strategically plan and improve for the following year. They explained that there wouldn't be any membership dues this year because of cancellation. There was also discussion about the types of improvements needed among the Executive Committee and the Rally Coordinators and Principals. This included the following:

- *Streamlining the registration process to make it is easier for schools to register for District and State Rally*
- *Updating the test*
- *Clearer communication and website updates*
- *More showcasing of campuses and what they have to offer for students*

A. Due to the impacts and uncertainty of COVID-19, the LHSRA Executive Committee has decided to cancel the 2021 District and State Rallies that were to be held on February 27 and April 17.

- This decision was made after considering the health and well-being of all those involved as well as not having physical and human resources to functionally host the rallies on our campus.
- Virtual Rallies would be too costly or infeasible to offer a fair and equitable competition for all students.

B. LHSRA 2020-21 Strategic Planning and Improvements

- We will take this year to strategically plan and improve District and State Rallies
- It is important for us to include the principals and Rally Coordinators, as we work to improve LHSRA. We want your feedback and input throughout the process. We will send out an initial survey for general feedback and to determine who may want to participate in further surveys or focus groups.
- This process will begin in October, and we will send the initial survey in early November.

V. Items of Information & Discussion

A. 2019 GAP Meeting Minutes

Spencer briefly discussed the previous GAP Meeting Minutes. The Executive Committee wasn't able to send out a letter to any of the New Orleans universities but will be addressed this year.

Link to 2019 GAP Meeting Minutes:

<https://lsu.box.com/s/vc8f17154g2rppyjq8iaxn4ghhvy50ff>

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B. Membership Report

Spencer provided an update about the 2019-2020 LHSRA Memberships but noted that this not be most accurate due to faulty record keeping at LSU. He explained that he counted any active member who paid and/or registered on the website. This data doesn't match with the schools participating in the District Rallies and so there are school participating in District Rally but not State Rally. Because of the faulty record keeping and the declining numbers at LSU, Spencer expressed concern that State Rally has not been doing well but promised to improve it.

2019-20 LHSRA MEMBERSHIPS	Div. I	Div. II	Div. III	Div. IV	Div. V	Total
Central Louisiana (La. College)	1	2	5	3	5	16
LSU Eunice	0	8	5	4	4	21
North Louisiana (LA Tech)	6	6	9	8	21	50
Northwest LA (Northwestern)	9	3	5	9	10	36
South Central LA (Nicholls)	7	8	3	3	2	23
Southeast LA (Southeastern)	20	19	15	9	10	73
Southern LA (Southern Univ.)	1	2	2	1	2	8
Southwest LA (McNeese)	5	6	9	4	17	41
UL - Lafayette	6	9	7	4	10	36
Totals	55	63	60	45	81	304

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Division I	55	63	66	63	63	62
Division II	63	71	75	77	80	79
Division III	60	81	80	78	87	84
Division IV	45	48	54	61	66	61
Division V	81	82	83	88	84	96
Totals	304	345	358	367	380	382

C. LHSRA Financial Standing Report

Spencer provided the following update about LHSRA Finances and explained that the Executive Committee will provide a projected budget on improvements after meeting and determining a plan of action for improvements.

D. 2020 State Rally Dues

Spencer provided the following update on State Rally dues.

- i. The 2019-20 State Rally Membership payments will be deferred and applied to the 2021-22 State Rally Membership dues. This means if a school paid for their 2019-20 State Rally membership dues, they will not have to pay for their 2021-22 State Rally membership dues.
- ii. Schools will still be responsible for paying for their 2021-22 District Rally dues.
- iii. A receipt of payment or non-payment of 2019-20 State Rally Membership payments will be emailed to principals and Rally Coordinators by September 30, 2020.
- iv. Any mistakes should be resolved by December 15, 2020 with the Executive Director.

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VI. Voting Items

Voting was conducted using an LSU Qualtrics form and a couple of votes were casted using the Zoom chat feature. Both proposed dates were passed. The breakdown is below.

Voting Results	Yes	No	Blank
District Rally: March 12, 2022	89	0	2
State Rally: April 02, 2022	89	1	1

A. Future Rally Dates

Proposed 2022 Rally Dates

District Rally: March 12, 2022

State Rally: April 02, 2022

VII. Open Discussion/Announcements/Miscellaneous

The following items were discussed at the meeting.

- *Concerns that native speakers were competing in foreign language events and having an unfair advantage over others. There was some discussion about this but will need to be addressed in a subcommittee or focus group.*
- *Tests are updated and approved by LHSRA Executive Committee, which includes the State and District Directors.*
- *There was discussion about including Study Guides, but people expressed concern that this wouldn't be good for competition.*
- *While we won't have Rallies this year, a GAP Meeting will be held in 2021 to for discussion and approval of updates and changes.*

VIII. Adjournment

Spencer Roby adjourned the meeting at 4:06PM.