



# NCOME Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2020

## Your 2020-2021 Board!

*Thanks so much to our brand new 2020-2021 Eastern Region Volunteer Board!*

**Regional Director:** Tom Hansen

**Assistant Regional Director:** Lexie Groner

**Tournament Director:** Lexie Groner

**Secretary:** Gail Hemedinger

**Treasurer:** Bob Pecaut

**Web Master:** Andy Cordes

**Web Assistants:** Alison Blake and Dawn Imershein

**Sales:** Andy Cordes

**Communications Team:** Lexie Groner, Suzanne Ladd, Zoe Hansen Burnet, Elizabeth Fleming, Evelyn Hemedinger, Zaria Vuksan, Ben Cruz

**Pin Team:** Jackie Burton, Marc Blake

Please also see our current Problem Captains and Assistant Problem captains on Page 4.

## Creativity during COVID!

*A lot has changed in the world around us, but we hope you are getting excited for Odyssey of the Mind!!*

### Welcome:

Hello Odyssey of the Mind coaches and coordinators! We hope that you and your families have stayed safe and healthy during the difficult times we have been experiencing since March. We know that the challenges of the upcoming school year may preclude Odyssey of the Mind participation for many programs and individuals. We also know that many students are looking for social connections, fun, and any sense of normalcy they can maintain this year.

Because Odyssey of the Mind is all about finding creative solutions to difficult problems, officials at the regional, state, and international level have been brainstorming since the spring about ways to continue to make this program available to OMers during this challenging year.

### What is new in the Odyssey Program:

- Long Term Problems have been reworked to make it easier for teams to solve them even if team members are unable to meet in person.
- Spontaneous Problems have been reworked so that teams can solve them together and submit their responses online within a given time limit.
- In addition to the traditional team memberships available to school and community groups, CCI has created a "virtual" membership option, with the same number of team member and age limits, but which allows students from multiple schools and organizations to come together to create a team.

Continued on page 2.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Your 2020-2021 Board!
1	Creativity During Covid
2	Coaching is Best with a Buddy
2	Creativity During Covid Con't.
2	Wiki Wealth
3	Calendar of Future Events
3	Supporters Needed
3	Spontaneous Problem: Get Emotional
4	Contact Info and Social Media Account Names

# Coaching is best with a buddy.

If you interested in coaching, but haven't done it before, the Eastern Region has a Buddy Coach program through which we will connect you to an experienced coach to help guide you through your first year.

If you are an experienced coach and willing to spread the wealth of knowledge, we would like to hear from you too!

Please contact Suzanne Ladd  
[ncomePC5@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC5@gmail.com)

## Wiki Wealth.

Did you know that some of our dedicated volunteers created a searchable Wiki full of valuable information for you to use as a resource?

Articles include: Team Development, Program Rules, Brainstorming, Outside Assistance and Preparing for Tournament Day.

Please note that the Wiki is updated as the creators have time. It is intended to be used as a guide, but not as the law. Please direct any questions to [regional-director@ncome.org](mailto:regional-director@ncome.org).

**Where do you find this amazing tool?** You can get to the Wiki by clicking [HERE!](#)

Have suggestions or Questions we can address in our next Newsletter? Please contact us at [ncomeTD@gmail.com](mailto:ncomeTD@gmail.com)

## What is new in the Odyssey Program

con't. from page 1

- There will be a Virtual Worlds Championship, available to virtual and traditional membership, as well as an in-person Worlds Championship (if pandemic conditions allow) available to traditional memberships.

## What is new for Odyssey of the Mind in the Eastern Region and NC:

- **All of our usual Eastern Region and State events will be held virtually.** This includes Coaches Training, Skills Fair, Spontaneous Fair, Judges Training, the Regional Tournament, and State Finals.
- Teams will not be required to provide a judge or volunteer for the 2021 virtual regional tournament. (This requirement will return when in-person tournaments resume in 2022.)
- The primary teams will present their solutions virtually in the same way and during the same time frame as the Div I, II, and III teams.
- We have added a webinar in September to help coaches, coordinators, and prospective coaches learn more about how Odyssey of the Mind can/will work this year and to ask questions. As always, the Eastern Region board members will be available to answer questions and support individual and programs any time as needed. Contact information is on the last page of the attached General Information Packet.

The new virtual membership option provides flexibility for team formation. This may be a great year for former team members to reconnect virtually and work together again. This also may be a great year to create a brand new team.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR – SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

WEBEX MEETING  
1:00PM

### COACHES TRAINING – OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

ZOOM MEETING  
8:30AM

### SKILLS FAIR – NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

ZOOM MEETING  
8:30AM

### SPONTNEOUS FAIR – JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2021

ZOOM MEETING  
TIME TBD

### VIRTUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT – MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

### VIRTUAL NCOM STATE FINALS – APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

### WORLD FINALS – MAY 26-30<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

LIKE ALL THINGS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, THESE EVENTS ARE  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## Additional NCOME Supporters Needed!

The Eastern Region board is actively recruiting for additional supporters. No prerequisites necessary. All that is needed is a willingness to serve the children of the Eastern Region and the desire to contribute. Many hands make light work. We welcome you to serve on our Volunteer Board or to help in a different way by presenting at one of our fairs or helping on the big tournament day. If interested, please reach out to Tom Hansen for the date, time and location of our next board meeting (regional-director@ncome.org)

## Spontaneous Problem

### Get Emotional

(When the team enters the room, tell them this is a verbal problem)

1. You will have 1 minute to think, and 3 minutes to respond. You may ask questions at anytime, but the clock will continue.
2. Your team is to take turns in sequence. You may not skip your turn or repeat or pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
3. Once the time beings, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat a response, to clarify, or to give another response, time will continue. Speak loudly and clearly.
4. Your problem is to complete this sentence: I get (happy / scared / angry) when \_\_\_\_\_. The words happy, scared, or angry must be used to fill in the first blank. Any word or phrase may be used to complete the sentence. For example, you might say “I get happy when I get presents).

(Repeat number 4, “Your problem is…….”)

### FOR JUDGES ONLY

1. Be sure to give exactly 1 minute to think and 2 minutes to respond. Students responding at the buzzer can finish and be scored.
2. Score: 1 point for each common response, 3 points for each creative response.

**Please Note: Website upgrades coming soon.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Regional Director: Tom Hansen [Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com)

Tournament Director: Lexie Groner [ncometd@gmail.com](mailto:ncometd@gmail.com)

Score Room Captain: Stephen Downhower

Spontaneous Problem Captain: Ann Ross

Assistant Problem Captain: Zoe Hansen Burnet

Problem 1 Captain: Randy Burton [ncomePC1@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC1@gmail.com)

Assistant Problem Captain: Tom Bojanski

Problem 2 Captain: Barry Groner [ncomePC2@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC2@gmail.com)

Assistant Problem Captain: Lee Rafalow

Problem 3 Captain: Marj Moe [ncomePC3@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC3@gmail.com)

Assistant Problem Captain: Gretchen Westman

Problem 4 Captain: Rita Welsh [ncomePC4@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC4@gmail.com)

Assistant Problem Captain: Jacob Welsh

Problem 5 Captain: Suzanne Ladd [ncomePC5@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC5@gmail.com)

Assistant Problem Captain: Sean Stickel

Primary Captain: Diana White [ncomePC6@gmail.com](mailto:ncomePC6@gmail.com)



NC Eastern Region Odyssey of the Mind



@NCOMEastern



@ncomeastern

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where do we even start? We know that there will be a lot of questions this year as a result of the new options for memberships and the new array of challenges facing teams. Please do not hesitate to contact us on social media or feel free to contact our Regional Director, Tom Hansen, at [Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com) or our Assistant Regional Director and Tournament Director, Lexie Groner, at [ncomeTD@gmail.com](mailto:ncomeTD@gmail.com). Whether you are a seasoned coach now navigating something unprecedented, or a brand new coach taking on this challenge to provide a positive experience for your child or others, we are here to brainstorm with you and to support you throughout the season!