



NCOME NEWSLETTER

CREATIVITY IN THE EASTERN REGION SINCE 1982

FEBRUARY 2021 • ISSUE 7 • VOLUME 2

Welcome!

This year's Odyssey season is in full swing! As we get closer to competition day, make sure your team is prepared for the new virtual format.

This year's regional-level competition is going to look a little different! Instead of holding a competitive tournament, regionals will be more of a showcase for our teams. Check out **page 2** for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coaches Tournament

Planning Webinar

February 6, 9:00-10:30am

February 8, 7:00-8:30pm

This webinar will give coaches details on how to submit your team's Long Term solution and paperwork for this year's virtual tournaments, explain how Spontaneous will happen and have a Q&A session.



Virtual Regional Showcase

Dates

March 5

All Long Term solutions and paperwork are due on this date!

March 6

Regional-level judging officially begins.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Welcome and Announcements
1	Upcoming Events
2	Tournament Information: New Regional Format
3	Calendar of Events
3	Spontaneous Practice
4	NCOM Store
4	Team Resources
4	Alumni Awards
5	Meet Your Board Members!
6	Contact Information

TOURNAMENT AND SHOWCASE DETAILS!

While we will still be having two NCOM tournaments, this year's regional level competitions will be presented as more of a "showcase" than a tournament. As usual, teams will submit their Long Term solutions and paperwork, compete in Spontaneous, and receive scores from experienced judges. They will also receive their raw long term and spontaneous scores as well as sticky notes from the judges and penalties if applicable. However, regional competitions will not have an awards ceremony as usual.

All teams this year will advance to the state tournament in April to compete for trophies/medals and the opportunity to advance to the 2021 Virtual World Finals.

The regional showcase format for this year is organized so that all teams competing virtually for the first time may present their solutions and skills risk-free, and have the opportunity to get feedback from judges before the competitive state-level tournament!

Tournament Timeline

JANUARY 15: REGISTRATION CLOSED

March 5: Last day for long-term problem submissions for the regional showcase

March 6: Regional judging begins

April 9: Last day for long-term problem submissions for state tournament

April 10: State judging begins

April 24: State Virtual Awards Ceremony

World Finals is still TBD!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Coaches Tournament Planning Webinar

Saturday, February 6, 9:00-10:30am

Monday, February 8, 7:00-8:30pm

Zoom Meeting



Virtual Regional Tournament

Saturday, March 6, 2021



Virtual NCOM State Finals

Saturday, Apr 10, 2021



World Finals

May 26-30, 2021

Michigan State University

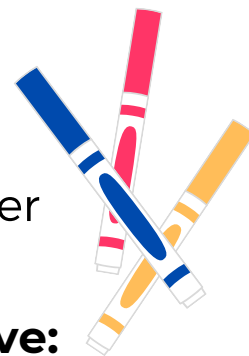
Spontaneous Practice

Team Masterpiece

Hands-On Verbal Problem

Materials:

- Colored markers
- 1 large piece of paper



Virtual Alternative:

- 1 Shared Google Drawing all members can edit

The Problem:

Each team member is given a different colored marker. The team will have 3 minutes to pass the paper, each teammate drawing a new image on the page.

Once time ends, work together to make comments on, or tell a story about your masterpiece!

Spontaneous Tips and Tricks!



Attention OMERS!

There are now two new ways to recognize your engagement and dedication to Odyssey of the Mind!

EMERGING ALUMNI AWARD

Eligible to current high school juniors and seniors

Winners will be awarded a \$250 gift card and a membership donated in their name

ALUMNI AMBASSADOR AWARD

The winner of this award will be the COU representative at World Finals and receive free WF room and board with a \$250 travel stipend

To find more info and apply by February 15th, visit odysseyalumni.org/awards

THE NCOM STORE IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!

We have an incredible selection of pins: 19 total for our 2020-2021 collection. And instead of shirts, in the true 2020 spirit, NCOM is printing our problem icons on face masks. Our masks come in different sizes, and are comfortable and adjustable for anyone to wear!

Go to <http://store.ncom.org>

Odyssey Academy

James A. Mourey from the Illinois OM Association has created a series of 15 free videos designed to introduce new members to Odyssey of the Mind. These videos are excellent for all teams, and especially for new students and coaches. Check them out! Link also at our website.

<https://ncome.org/2020/09/25/check-out-the-odyssey-academy/>

PODyssey of the Mind

Our friends in Pennsylvania have started a podcast on all things OM! Check it out on all podcast platforms. Find more info at

<https://paodyssey.com/podyssey/>

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Q&A with a few of our board members

Andy Cordes: Webmaster

How long have you been involved in OotM?

I've been involved as a parent since 1996, and as a regional board member since 2000.

How did you get started in OotM?

I supported my wife when she started coaching teams in 1995. For a while I supported her; when I saw how the program brought out the creative juices in my kids I decided to join the regional board and volunteer my time to help out in a more substantial way.

What roles have you held in OotM?

I've served as Webmaster for most of my time on the board--handling updates to ncome.org, managing email "blasts", and making sure online registrations run smoothly. I've also been the Sales Coordinator at coaches training and different tournaments.

What is your favorite problem?

I've always been a fan of P3 and 5 since my kids usually chose them!

Any interesting facts to share?

My wife and I have hosted 21 foreign exchange students over the years, and 2 of them (from Vietnam and Venezuela) participated in OM and made it to World Finals!

Bob Peco: Treasurer

How long have you been involved in OotM?

About 15+ years.

How did you get started in OotM?

I was "volunteered" to be the coach for my son's team in his 1st grade.

What roles have you held in OotM?

I've been a coach, school coordinator, judge, and board member.

What is your favorite problem?

All of them!

Any interesting facts to share?

I still like building things with Legos

CONTACT INFORMATION AND BOARD MEMBERS

Regional Director: Tom Hansen

Tom.Hansen.OotM@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Lexie Groner

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

Assistant Problem Captain: Tom Bojanski

Problem 2 Captain: Barry Groner

ncomePC2@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Lee Rafalow

Problem 3 Captain: Marj Moe

ncomePC3@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Gretchen Westman

Problem 4 Captain: Rita Welsh

ncomePC4@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Jacob Welsh

Problem 5 Captain: Suzanne Ladd

ncomePC5@gmail.com

Assistant Problem Captain: Sean Stickel

Primary Captain: Diana White

ncomePC6@gmail.com

Your 2020-2021 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

Questions and Answers

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on social media or feel free to contact our Regional Director, Tom Hansen, or our Assistant Regional Director and Tournament Director, Lexie Groner, at their email addresses provided to the left!



@ncomeastern

@ncomeastern



@NCOMEastern