

camps and in ten years, we have only attended one out-of-state invitational.

Because the school is so small, the pressure to engage in activities is immense. For example, just *one* student choosing to compete at a speech meet, over participating in a sports event, might disqualify the school from competing in the sport because the team is now too small.

▷ **How has coaching changed you?**

Jan: Coaching speech and debate has given me an invaluable opportunity to associate with talented and inspirational young people who remind me every day that the future is bright. Coaching affords me the ability to appreciate teenagers and the challenges that they face in life.

Lynn: Coaching has changed me because I see what our students give up in the short-term for life-changing skills and abilities.

▷ **What would your advice be to a new coach? What advice would you give to a coach who is feeling burned out?**

Jan and Lynn: One thing that can be a big help for both a new coach and a veteran who is feeling burned out is to develop a coaching team. Sharing the responsibilities, having another person to talk to about issues, or to generate ideas is extremely helpful. Even if everyone is new to the activity, the learning curve will be smaller and the available energy greater on a team.

▷ **What aspects of speech and debate participation are most attractive to your students?**

Jan: Obviously, our students like to win trophies, but they also appreciate how the skills they learn cross-apply to their other academic endeavors. Essays and term papers become easy. Giving oral presentations in class is no

problem. When non-team members see how effortlessly speech students speak in class and complete written assignments, they start to think that maybe there is something valuable in competing in speech and debate.

Lynn: They love the ability to be able to talk others into almost anything. I stop them on the street on their way to or from lunch, and ask them to join the team. When they observe the skills gained through speech and debate by fellow students, they want to join.

▷ **How does participation in speech and debate change your students?**

Jan: Speech and debate exposes participants to the world outside of their rural community. Team members often graduate at the top of their class, and realize that they can go to college. They gain confidence and realize that they can dream big.

Lynn: They are better able to look at both sides of all situations and decide upon proper course of action.

▷ **What goals would you have your students set for the coming year?**

Jan and Lynn: Butte Falls requires students to write goals for the school year. We expect that the team members will challenge themselves to do what seems difficult, be it competing in a new event, mentoring a younger student, or qualifying to state or to nationals. We hope each student makes new friends, visits new places, learns new things, and has fun as part of the team.

▷ **Tell us about your favorite memory of the activity or an experience that left a lasting impact on you.**

Jan and Lynn: In September 2013, the Butte Falls team, along with two other schools, participated in a community debate about a real problem in

front of actual stakeholders. The idea came from a former Eugene debater and Medford coach, Matthew Eldridge. Because of his experiences in the world of competitive speech, Matthew explained to the hosting organization that high school debaters would illuminate the discussion because of their training in developing logical arguments based on evidence and reasoning. Local citizens wrote the resolutions, and Matthew modified the debate format to allow the audience to ask questions. At the end of the day, adults who knew nothing about competitive debate were amazed at the thoughtfulness and clarity of high school students.

▷ **What is the most important thing you want your students to take away from this activity?**

Jan: The confidence to handle whatever happens in their lives.

Lynn: We hope that when students finish their high school competitive careers, that they take with them the realization that they have gained lifelong skills, and the confidence to compete in an ever-changing world. ✧

Jan Friedman-Pizzo joined the National Speech & Debate Association in 1977 as a competitor at Cherry Creek High School in Colorado. She served as President of the Oregon High School Speech League Coaches Association. Joseph Lynn Pizzo is a retired U.S. Army Military Intelligence Officer who joined the Association as a coach in 1989. Jan and Lynn are the 2012-13 Co-Oregon Speech Educators of the Year and future inductees into the Oregon Speech Hall of Fame. They both hold Master's Degrees in Liberal Arts from Texas Christian University. They are volunteer assistant coaches at Butte Falls Charter School in Butte Falls, Oregon, and reside in Bend, Oregon.