

Wallenpaupack Wins State Championship in PPL-Sponsored Debate

PRNewswire

A team from Wallenpaupack Area High School in Wayne County won the state championship in the 2001 High School Debates co-sponsored by PPL Corporation.

Wallenpaupack Area edged out Elk Lake High from Dimock, Susquehanna County, in the tightly fought competition. Elk Lake's Eric Allen won the Most Valuable Debater Award.

Altogether, six teams participated in the championship round on April 19, held at the state House of Representatives' chambers in the Pennsylvania Capitol. The other competitors were two teams from Wilkes-Barre Meyers in Luzerne County, a second team from Elk Lake and a team from Susquehanna Community High in Susquehanna County.

"These debates provide an interesting and challenging format that encourages high school students to research a significant environmental issue and develop their skills in critical thinking and communication," said Larry Sparta, PPL's education relations director.

In this year's event, the teams debated whether sources of water pollution that can't be traced to a specific location, such as farm fields, should be regulated to the same extent as sources originating at a distinct location, such as a factory.

About 40 volunteers from PPL, businesses, government, the professions and education selected the winner and runner-up teams. Individual awards were presented to the debaters and the teams' coaches. The top two teams received trophies.

PPL, the state Department of Education and Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 sponsored the debates for the third consecutive year.

U.S. Rep. Todd Platts, R-York, gave the keynote address to debaters and volunteer judges at the conclusion of the competition.

The Wallenpaupack team consisted of Dan Waldron, Ryann Frantz, Amy Rae and Mike Schaffer, and faculty advisors Gene Schultz and Joan Schneider. The Elk Lake team consisted of Eric Allen, Kris Leibegott, Matt Smith, Jeff Gaylord and Stephanie Tyler, and faculty advisors Keith Brosious and Tim Woolcock.

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SOURCE: PPL Corporation

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