

Michelle Voegele: Delegate, Chair, and Advisor



By: Third Committee Press
Reporter

I recently had the privilege of sitting down with Michelle Voegele, a student teacher and current adviser for O'Fallon High School, who is also a former delegate and chairperson.

"I first joined Model UN when I was a sophomore in high school," Ms. Voegele said, when asked what first got her interested in Model UN. "The adviser at the time told me that I was pretty much going to join and I was like, 'Okay, sure.'" Even though she was forced into the program, Michelle ended up loving it and has been doing it for seven years now.

As a chairperson, Ms. Voegele's job was to make sure everything for her committee was in line, and she also had to be knowledgeable about the topics

because the delegates would always have questions. "So I just had to know the general information because things come up and you have to understand how your committee works, because someone might say, 'We're going to sign a law that says this.' It's my job to tell them, 'No, that's not us. That's Sixth Legal.'" Apart from that though, and just knowing the basic rules, it's really not that much," Ms. Voegele said.

Michelle seemed to be a fan of the new Model UN Journalism program, saying it was awesome and that it allows communication between the committees. "If you're in GA, and you're in there with two hundred other college students, you don't know what's going on in other committees during the day," she stated. "It's really good to have that communication with the committees." She also thought that it was a great thing for students who want to be in the committee, who have a love for writing, as opposed to debating, and who are interested in doing it in the future.

When asked if she had any advice for high school Model UN students, Ms. Voegele most definitely had some to give. If someone's new and just starting out, don't be afraid to talk. "No one knows your position better than you do," she advised. "It's a new year; new things happen," she said. As for the veterans, she says keep working hard. "If it's something you enjoy, keep going with it," she advised.