

**Debate Question for 1936-37.** Your secretary is a member of the National University Extension Committee on Debate Materials and Interstate Co-operation. The committee will meet December 29 to consider the question for next year. Send first, second, and third choices of question for debate for 1936-37 to the secretary by December 21.

**Special Magazine Rates.** The secretary, upon request, will supply information on special subscription rates for the three magazines from which the topics are taken for the extemporaneous speaking contest—Current History, Literary Digest, and Review of Reviews.

The secretary will also supply information and an examination copy, for a brief loan period, of the following magazines for special interest in the study of current events: American Observer, News Week, Weekly News Review, and Vital Issues. Vital Issues is a new magazine presenting in full, addresses of the leaders of public opinion in America.

**The News Letter** is your official publication. The secretary would appreciate suggestions for the February and April News Letters.

**Covers for News Letter.** New covers are supplied with this issue of the News Letter. We suggest that you include with this issue the September issue also.

**Institutes.** This year the Association, with the co-operation of the Department of Speech of the University of Wisconsin, of Professor Rexford Mitchell of Lawrence College, and the University Extension, will schedule four Institutes with a probable attendance of 2,000 students. Some schools, although very much interested, could not participate because of conflicts. The Board voted to determine the place and date, by preference vote, this year, for 1936 Speech Institutes.

**Dramatic Clubs.** The secretary has received requests for a constitution for a Dramatic Club. Will you send in a copy of your constitution?

**Publicity.** The publicity—organized and regular—on the debate question is most encouraging.

**Special Aid.** The Silver Treasury—Manner, Jane.. Samuel French. 25 W. 45th St., New York, N. Y., \$3.00. A collection of readings compiled and edited for platform presentation by Miss Manner, Director of Jane Manner Drama Studio.

**Radio Debate on Socialized Medicine** is available at 15¢ for a single copy or 12½¢ each for two or more copies, postpaid, from Mr. Bower Aly, Box 209, Columbia, Missouri. Cash must accompany all orders.

**Gloves found at Amery Institute.** One pair of brown kid gloves and one pair of blue knit gloves. Owner may secure gloves by writing to H. S. Merrill, Amery High School.

## WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Vol. VII MADISON, WISCONSIN, NOVEMBER, 1935 No. 2

Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.  
Copies available to other than member schools at ten cents each.

### SCHEDULE FOR CONTESTS, 1936:

#### Tentative

- Dec. 14—Latest date for registration for debate and dramatics.  
Feb. 1—Latest date for first round of debate and dramatics.  
Feb. 8—Latest date for second round of debate and dramatics.  
Feb. 22—Latest date for semi-final sectional debate and dramatics.  
Mar. 7—Latest date for sectional debate and dramatics.  
Mar. 20—State debate at State Capitol, Madison.  
The place of the dramatic contests will be decided by the competing schools, such contests to be scheduled as near to the date of the state debate as feasible. If the competing schools cannot agree upon the place and date the chairman shall decide.  
Mar. 2—Latest date for registration for speech contests.  
Apr. 11—Latest date for league contests.  
Apr. 25—Latest date for district contests.  
May 7 and 8—State contests at Madison.

### AMERY SPEECH INSTITUTE

The Speech Institute at Amery, held October 25 and 26, in excellence satisfied the hopes of those attending, and in numbers present greatly surpassed expectations. It is hoped that the Institute will result in more schools in this region adopting debate, extemporaneous speaking, and extemporaneous reading as a part of their regular speech program. If they do, it will be in no small part due to the sincere efforts of Miss Almere L. Scott, Secretary of the Wisconsin Forensic Association; Professors Gladys L. Borchers and Walter B. Emery, both of the University of Wisconsin; and the University of Wisconsin debating team.

Instruction was given by Professors Borchers and Emery in: good delivery; fundamentals of speech; preparing declamations; and extemporaneous reading and speaking. Demonstrations in the last two fields were conducted. Two debate round-tables were held, as well as a demonstration debate by the University of Wisconsin team.

The record breaking registration of 421 is an indication of the growing interest in this type of gathering. There is nothing that can do so much to keep interest alive in speech work as the Speech Institute.

H. S. MERRILL

L. HEINSOHN

Local Committee

### SPEECH INSTITUTES

A similar Speech Institute held at Shawano will be reported in the February News Letter.

A one-day Institute is scheduled at Mellen December 7; the last for this year at Madison December 13 and 14. Program is enclosed for the Madison Institute.

### WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

M. A. FISCHER, Chairman Dodgeville	EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT Howard M. Lyon, Chippewa Falls	OSHKOSH DISTRICT T. J. McGlynn, De Pere
ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary Univ. Extension Div., Madison	LA CROSSE DISTRICT E. J. McKean, Tomah	PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville
O. H. PLENZKE, Treas. Sec., Wis. Teachers' Ass'n, Madison	MILWAUKEE DISTRICT G. J. Balzer, Wash. High School, Milwaukee	RIVER FALLS DISTRICT H. C. Mason, River Falls
PROF. A. T. WEAVER, Adviser in Speech		STEVENS POINT DISTRICT Harry Bender, Colby
ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics.		SUPERIOR DISTRICT G. A. Bassford, Ashland
		WHITEWATER DISTRICT C. H. Dorr, Milton

## "COME READ TO ME A POEM"

by

Gertrude E. Johnson,

Associate Professor; Department of Speech,

University of Wisconsin

The first Poetry Festival for high schools, which was held at the University last spring, was so great a success that another Festival will be held this year. The time has not yet been decided upon; the date as well as all plans are in the hands of a committee. The chairmen are Miss Krog of the Janesville High School and Miss Jax of the Beaver Dam High School.

While the plans will probably be quite similar to those of last year, there will be some variations. It is the desire of those interested not to have the Festival resolve itself into a system. It is vitally necessary that spontaneous elements be retained if the Festival is to serve its purpose of increasing the interest of the young people in poetry, its content and its interpretation. Both boys and girls will read, as before, an equal number of pieces of poetry; they will read both prepared and extempore selections. What poets or poet will be chosen by those in charge is not yet known.

The plans will again be simple, that is, there will be no preliminary eliminations except as any school desiring to send readers wishes to conduct preparatory readings. It was the hope last year, and it was fairly well realized, that interest would be created in the school and town where participation was expected. Much reading of poetry in general was done in several places, and great enjoyment was reported.

"Poetry is life, the best part of life, the only thing in life worth remembering." So said Lew Sarett last summer. Lew Sarett is a poet, near to us in Wisconsin by his college days and his life in this state. He went on to say: "Appreciation by the public of poetry and the other arts has greatly improved in the last twenty years. Men are coming to see that poetry is something more than intellectual embroidery; that it fosters a rich attitude toward life and its human and social implications."

Why should you read poetry? There are many reasons. Read it for faith, for joy, for the solving of life's problems, for fun, to increase your emotional span, to increase your understanding and insight into all the doings of your fellow students and friends. Education has never needed spiritual stirring more than now. Read poetry for that thrill which makes you wish to achieve as others have in a creative effort that brings moral stature to a finer height.

If schools are interested in encouraging the festival idea, let "winning" notions be abandoned by "all ye who enter here." Competition and festival do not mesh. Come together and read together to enjoy the interpretations that each may give. Preferably let several read the same poems to see how many shades of meaning, all correct too, may be brought out in the group. Form a poetry reading society. You will find plenty of interesting things to read. Choose one author and read and read in his poetry. Lew Sarett would be a fine choice. Boys and girls will find plenty of selections they will like. It is hoped that Mr. Sarett will be present at the next Festival here. Mr. Sarett teaches in Northwestern University, Evanston. Last spring another poet from Evanston, Mrs. Louise Ayres Garnett, was at the Festival. All who heard her speak and read from her own poems will never forget the occasion.

The festival idea has been growing all over the country. It had its inception in England where the poets a few years ago became interested in helping young people to enjoy poetry as it should be enjoyed. Every year at Oxford a Poetry Reading Festival is held at which many types of presentation are used including the group, or chorus, readings. But as far as I know, the university is the first to make a state-wide effort to set up the High School Poetry Festival idea. And it is the hope that it may grow to something

significant, not in medals won, but in the lives, the hearts, and the minds, of the young people who participate.

Last year the selections of poems were all taken from the poetry of Witter Bynner who has done so much to increase interest in poetry in the high schools. Mr. Bynner has read literally thousands of verses sent in by high schools, verses which had been submitted in poetry writing contests. There are still copies of the selections used last year available if any one cares to have them. They may be secured by writing to me.

In concluding this article I shall quote from a letter from Mr. Bynner who was traveling abroad when the Festival took place. Please note what he says about differences in interpretation which different people may give. Note that he says even the poet himself, the author, may still hear new meanings when the poetry is voiced. Mr. Bynner wrote in part:

"Naturally I am pleased that you should have chosen my work to use and I would give much to be hearing it interpreted, in stress and rhythm, by Wisconsin students. A poet's ear is so attuned to his intended rhythm and his mind so attached to his meaning that he is sometimes surprised by someone else's interpretation, which can show him not only where he has failed to make his meaning clear but where the rhythm intuitive to him beats differently for the other person. And let me add, without shame, that on occasion I have gratefully accepted from the other person additions of meaning and variations of rhythm. The more, then, do I regret being too far away to take a lesson from your students.

"It is a wholesome sign of the times, when realization spreads that an interest in poetry is not the business of poets only. In the history of every great culture, golden periods of general achievement have always been accompanied by a golden interest in poetry, an interest almost universal. This holds in both Occident and Orient. And there is more reason for it than may appear. The great periods are the times when life falls into right rhythm, when progress has a singing beat and when therefore the very speech of people demands fine rhythm too. And it is not only the great visible deeds that march to rhythm. The little, homely, invisible deeds are made smoother and happier, as when one sings at one's work. While the hands labor, the heart floats. More power to you all, then,—more handsome hearts, more hearty hands!"

The potential power in poetry is voiced by Arthur O'Shaughnessy in "The Music Makers."

"With wonderful deathless ditties  
We build up the world's great cities,  
And out of a fabulous story  
We fashion an empire's glory:  
One Man with a dream, at pleasure,  
Shall go forth and conquer a crown;  
And three with a new song's measure  
Can trample an empire down."

The following books will prove interesting and helpful:

Eastman, *The Enjoyment of Poetry.*

Ellsworth, *Readings from the Poets.*

Brenner, *Ten Modern Poets.*

Rogers, *The Fine Art of Reading.*

Bradley, *The Uses of Poetry.*

Untermeyer and Davidson, *Poetry, Its Appreciation and Enjoyment.*

French, *Recent Poetry.*

Lieberman, *Poems for Enjoyment.*

Wilkinson, *Contemporary Poetry.*

Wilkinson, *The Way of the Makers.*

## SOURCES FOR DECLAMATIONS

The Association has met with considerable difficulty in obtaining permission to cut and to mimeograph selections from literary works. It has been suggested that an annotated list of such sources would be appreciated. The following short list is suggested by Gladys L. Borchers, Associate Professor of Speech of the University of Wisconsin; annotated by Gladys Page, graduate student in Speech. The teacher must cut the selection to twelve minutes. If this list proves helpful, a longer list will be prepared. The secretary would appreciate suggestions and criticisms.

1. FAILURE, THE—Katherine Haviland—Taylor, American Magazine, November, 1932.

This will appeal to both boys and girls. Dr. Eli Watt, a country doctor, is a financial failure. His nephew, Jim, becomes a great surgeon. Because of his keen understanding and sympathy for people, Dr. Watt is able to save one of Jim's patients who was not expected to recover; consequently, Dr. Watt's true greatness is recognized by the medical profession.

2. HEMLOCK TREE—Vincent Sheenan—Harpers, October, 1933.

Rolfe is lost in the Blue Ridge Mountains. He obtains shelter in a mountain home for the night and discovers that the family is named "Larkin"—involved in the "Larkin-Draper" feud. Rolfe spends a very unpleasant night while mysterious happenings occur all around him.

3. KIDNAPPING OF BILL PATTERSON, THE—Don Marquis—Golden Book, January, 1935.

The "Dalton Gang"—a gang of boys—swear vengeance on their city and end up by kidnapping the town drunkard, who turns the tables on the boys by threatening to reveal them if they turn him loose.

4. LITTLE ORVIE'S NEW DOG RALPH—Booth Tarkington—Saturday Evening Post, September 30, 1933.

Eight-year old Orvie Stone finds a stray dog in the alley. Orvie persuades the garbage collector to tie one end of a rope around the dog's neck and the other end around Orvie's waist. The dog proves stronger than Orvie, and his inclinations lead them through many strange adventures.

5. PIGLET MEETS THE HEFFALUMP—A. A. Milne. From Winnie-the-Pooh, published by E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. \$2.00.

In this fanciful story about Piglet's and Winnie-the-Pooh's attempt to catch a Heffalump, Winnie-the-Pooh gets caught in the trap intended for the Heffalump.

6. SHAMROCK WAISTCOAT, THE—Gordon Malherbe Hillman—Milwaukee Journal, June 10, 1934.

Mr. McInnis of New York is anxious to find a home in the country for his beloved horse, Seumas, his only remaining possession. As a last desperate effort he enters Seumas in a riding derby.

7. SIRE DE MALETROIT'S DOOR—R. L. Stevenson—Golden Book, March, 1925.

This is a romance of the 15th century. Sire de Maletroit, thinking that Denis is a young captain who has been secretly courting his niece, Blanche, insists that Denis marry Blanche at the end of two hours or he will be hanged. Blanche and Denis deny ever having seen each other but to no avail. There is a happy ending.

8. SLAVE CATCHER, THE—John P. Marquand—Saturday Evening Post, April 12, 1930.

This story is about the abolitionist era. Mathew Swale refuses to aid a fugitive slave but gives the slave catcher shelter when a mob threatens to ride him out of town on a rail. A dire calamity is averted by the timely and wise interception of Mrs. Swale.

9. TRAMP TRANSFIGURED—Alfred Noyes. From Collected Poems, Vol. II., Frederick A. Stokes Company, 443-449 4th Avenue, New York, N. Y. \$2.75.

In this fanciful, philosophical poem a tramp dreams that he is transformed into a beautiful white butterfly by Psyche because of a kindness he has rendered to an old lady.

10. TRIAL IN TOM BELCHER'S STORE—Samuel A. Derieux. From Frank of Freedom Hill—Doubleday, Doran & Co., 75 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, N. Y. 1922. \$1.75.

Buck, Mr. Thornycraft's maltreated dog, follows Davey Allen home. Davey is brought to court on a charge of theft. Mr. Kirby, the magistrate, understands the whole situation and decides the case with wisdom, and sympathy for Davey.

11. UNDER THE LION'S PAW—Hamlin Garland. From Main Travelled Roads—Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York, N. Y. \$1.50.

This is a heart rending story of Mr. Haskin's struggles to improve a badly rundown farm. As a result of the increased value of the property, Mr. Butler, the hard-hearted owner, shows his gratitude by raising the rent he is charging Haskins.

12. VOICE OF BUGLE ANN, THE—MacKinley Kantor—Atlantic Monthly, August, 1933.

In this stirring story of fox-hunting as practiced in Missouri, eighty-four year old Spring Davis shoots a neighbor because he believes that this neighbor has killed Bugle Ann. Bugle Ann is the best fox hound in the community and the pride and joy of Spring Davis' heart.

## FROM THE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SPEECH

Monday, December 30

1:00-2:00 P. M.—Coordination: Kindergarten through College—Gladys L. Borchers.

2:00-3:30 P. M.—Declamation—A new plan for the high school declamation contest. A demonstration with high school students by Dean Ralph Dennis, Northwestern University.

8:00 P. M.—Debate—Chairman, Joyce Gregory, South Saint Paul High School, St. Paul, Minn.

Arguments for and against state medicine by William Trufant Foster.

Tuesday, December 31

10:00 A. M.—Teaching Methods—Chairman, Miss McGrath.

1—A Plan for Speech Training in the Social Studies of the Junior High School—Rachel Mayhue, Ada, Oklahoma.

2—Rhythm in Bodily Activity in Poetry and Creative Dramatics—A Demonstration—Carrie Rasmussen and Idelle Boyce, Madison, Wisconsin.

3—A Scientific Approach to Speech Education in the Public Schools—Lloyd Jones, Denver Elementary Schools.

12:00-1:00—Course of Study Luncheon—Chairman, Clara Krefting, Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas.

Round table discussion of courses of study prepared by the Secondary Speech Committee. All members are urged to bring suggestions for revision.

Wednesday, January 1

9:00 A. M.—Drama—Chairman, Rose Johnson, Woodlawn High School, Birmingham, Alabama.

1—Demonstration in Dramatization—Winifred Ward, Northwestern University.

2—Training the Adolescent Actor—Katherine Ommanney, North High School, Denver.

3—Production Problems in High School Dramatics—Wilhelmina Hedde, Sunset High School, Dallas, Texas

4—Demonstration in Make-Up—Carl Cass, University of Pittsburgh.

An exhibit of interest to secondary school teachers will be on display during the three-day convention. Chairman—Jean Liedman, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## REPORT OF TREASURER

November 1, 1934—November 1, 1935

Balance—November 1, 1934 .....	\$1,090.62	
Income: Nov. 1, 1934, to Nov. 1, 1935:		
Dues .....	\$1,574.00	
Selections .....	145.06	
Miscellaneous (Part-payment from Capital City Bank, programs sold to Future Farmers, and refund for lodging for state contestants ....	236.58	1,955.64
		\$3,046.26
Disbursements: Nov. 1, 1934—Nov. 1, 1935:		
Mimeographing and Printing .....	\$ 486.35	
Telephone-Postage-Envelopes-Postal Cards .....	329.43	
Supplies (Debate Handbooks, Supplements, Manila Envelopes) .....	231.37	
Miscellaneous (Fed. Tax, breakfasts, lodging for state contestants) .....	99.53	
Travel .....	40.45	
Cuttings .....	22.50	
Banners-Badges-Medals-Cups .....	136.34	
Institute Expenses .....	392.93	\$1,738.90
BALANCE, November 1, 1935 .....		\$1,307.36
O. H. PLENZKE, Treasurer.		

## NEWS ITEMS

**Registration.** No district has yet reached 100%, although the increase in registration this year over last year at this time is most encouraging. To date we have 258 registrations as compared with 234 last year at this time. The Forensic Association is pleased to welcome some new schools this year.

**Debate Registration.** It is encouraging to note the increased interest in debating, due, perhaps, to the importance of the question under consideration. The latest date for registration for the regular debate schedule is December 14. Please co-operate with your district chairman. Be sure to let him know the schools with which you prefer to debate. As far as possible, the schedule will be planned to comply with your wishes. It is very difficult to arrange the schedule, and more difficult to change the schedule.

**Board.** The newly elected and the re-elected Board members to serve to dates indicated are as follows:

La Crosse District: E. J. McKean, Tomah—to 1938.  
Oshkosh District: T. J. McGlynn, De Pere—to 1936. (To fill unexpired term of J. E. Kitowski, resigned.)  
Platteville District: M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville—to 1938.  
River Falls District: H. C. Mason, River Falls—to 1938.  
Whitewater District: C. H. Dorr, Milton—to 1936. (To fill unexpired term of F. C. Bray, resigned.)

Principal M. A. Fischer was elected chairman of the Board to succeed Superintendent Bray, resigned. The Board and the Association have profited by the intelligent interest and earnest efforts of Superintendent Bray, who has worked so effectively in the development of forensics in our high schools.

Principal Balzer is convalescing. Because of serious illness, Mr. Balzer was unable to attend the annual meetings of the Board and the Association. This is the first meeting Principal Balzer has missed since the organization of the Association in 1925. The Association missed his counsel.

**Criticisms.** All suggestions and criticisms submitted were given careful consideration by the Board. Amendments were presented to the Association for initial action. You are urged to send in criticisms and suggestions at any time.

**Amendments to the Constitution.** The following proposed amendment passed at the annual meeting of 1934 and by referendum vote, 96 for, 3 against, was passed unanimously and hence is a part of the constitution:

**Vacancy on the Board.** Add Section (j) to Article IV as follows: The office of chairman of any district shall be declared vacated when the incumbent of that office absents himself from two consecutive board meetings without a reason acceptable to the majority of the board. Such a vacancy shall be filled by Board appointment, and the chairman so appointed shall serve until the next regular election. The incumbent thus removed shall be ineligible for re-election.

The two amendments relating to reading and extemporaneous speaking up for final action were rejected. The Board was requested to give further study to both subjects and to propose amendments at the annual meeting of 1936. Hence the constitution as printed in the November, 1934, News Letter covers both these contest features. The member schools are urged to send suggestions to the secretary for the consideration of the committee.

**Proposed Amendments.** The following proposed amendments, passed at the annual meeting, are now submitted to referendum vote. If approved, amendments will come before the Association for final action at the annual meeting of 1936:

## Proposed Amendment to Rules and Recommendations

To add to AWARDS under RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS—DRAMATIC CONTEST:

... and shall include the award of medal or medals to one or two stage hands, as recommended by the director of the play.

## Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

To add to Article VII, Rule 2:

No student shall represent his school in a league, sub-district, district, or state contest in more than one of the following speech activities:

Extemporaneous Speaking  
Extemporaneous Reading  
Humorous Declamation  
Non-Humorous Declamation  
Oration

To add to Article IV, Section I, Officers (b):

If any one nominee for district chairman shall receive a majority of all votes cast at the primary election, such nominee shall be declared elected by the secretary.

**Debate Handbook Official.** By action of the Board the terms and definitions in the Debate Handbook shall be adopted as official.

**Properties in Declamatory Contests.** By action of the Board all properties, including chairs and handkerchiefs, are prohibited in declamatory contests.

**Choral Speech Lecture.** Miss Marjorie Gullan of London, England, a pioneer in Choric Speech, will be in Madison for an institute from December 6 to December 13. Miss Gullan comes to Madison through the efforts of Professor Gertrude E. Johnson of the Speech Department of the University of Wisconsin. Any teachers who are particularly interested might be afforded an opportunity to attend a general lecture.

**Judges.** Number of judges, as well as personnel for any contest except the state, should be approved by the participating schools before the contest, to avoid any misunderstanding. The Board voted to send a preference ballot in February to all schools for indication of choice for state contests. An effort will be made to comply as far as possible, with the wishes of competing schools.

**Meeting of National Association of Teachers of Speech in Chicago, December 30-January 1.** It is not often that the Association convenes in the Central West for its annual convention. An unusual program for high school teachers has been arranged. See page 5 for special program.

**National University Extension Association Committee on Debate Materials and Interstate Co-operation** will meet in Chicago, December 29, at Stevens Hotel. All interested are invited.