

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Vol. V

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No. 3

Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.

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RIVER FALLS DISTRICT: Amery, Baldwin, Colfax, Hammond, Hudson, New Richmond, Osceola, Rice Lake, River Falls, St. Croix Falls, Spooner.

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT: Adams-Friendship, Birnamwood, Marion, Marshfield, Mattoon, Medford, Merrill, Nekoosa, Phillips, Port Edwards, Red Granite, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Wautoma, Westfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Wittenberg.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT: Hurley, Mellen, Ondossagon (Ashland), Park Falls, Phelps, Superior East, Washburn.

WHITEWATER DISTRICT: Ableman, Baraboo, Deerfield, Edgerton, Elk-horn, Fort Atkinson, Hartland, Lodi, Madison (Wisconsin High), Middleton, Mon-roe, Randolph, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Watertown, Waunakee.

DRAMATICS

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT: Eau Claire, Fairchild, Menomonie (Dunn County School of Agriculture), Thorp.

LACROSSE DISTRICT: Bangor, Necedah, Onalaska, Tomah, Trempealeau, West Salem.

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT: Horicon, Milwaukee (Riverside), Milwaukee (Washington), Oconomowoc.

OSHKOSH DISTRICT: Menasha, Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Shawano.

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT: Barneveld, Boscobel, Mount Hope.

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT: Amery, Cumberland, Hudson, River Falls, St. Croix Falls, Somers, Spooner.

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT: Athens, Birnamwood, Marion, Mattoon, Medford, Nekoosa, Port Edwards, Red Granite, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Wau-toma, Wisconsin Rapids, Wittenberg.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT: Mellen, Superior East.

NEWS ITEMS

Registration. It is encouraging to note that the registration exceeds by thirteen the registration of last year at this time. Some new schools have regis-tered for the first time. No district is yet 100%. The latest date for registration for speech contests is March 3.

Value of Debate. The increase in the participation in debate by our young people indicates that school men as well as parents are appreciating more and more the value of this educational activity in preparation for effective citizenship in a representative government. The question this year is of such special in-terest that community organizations should appreciate a debate by your high school students. Even though you do not enter the regular state schedule, you are eligible to receive two copies of the Debate Handbook and the use of other reference material. It is interesting to note that all of the nine districts will be represented in the debate contest this year, with an increase in the number of schools participating in every district with the exception of Whitewater in which the number is the same as last year.

Dramatic Contest. The play must be registered with the secretary in ad-vance. From reports, some schools are scheduled for the dramatic contest, but the play has not yet been registered with the secretary. There is an increase in participation in the state schedule in dramatics in all districts except the White-water District which is not participating.

Declamatory Contests. It is not compulsory, but permissible, for two decla-matory contestants—one giving humorous and one non-humorous selections—to participate from each school. Two state contests will be held in declamation.

Reading Contest. The selections for the reading contests should be all of the same class, that is, all short story all poetry, all biography, or all essay, etc., and of the same type that is, all humorous, all dramatic, or all of a general nature.

Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. Special rates to schools for the maga-zines from which the topics will be taken for the state contest are available to schools sending in several subscriptions. Write to the secretary or directly to the publishers for special rates. News Week, American Observer, Today, and Scholastic are helpful inexpensive reference aids in the study for the extem-poraneous speaking contests.

Extra-Curricular Activities. Information on the Extra-Curricular Library, a valuable aid to all high schools is available from the Department of Debating and Public Discussion or directly from A. S. Barnes and Company, 67 W. 44th Street, New York, N. Y.

Trip to Capitol. Several graduating classes plan a trip to the State Capitol instead of a Senior Party. Funds for such a trip are often raised through some special project or activity of the class. Special programs and entertainments have been arranged for March 22 and 23.

Hotel Rates. Special arrangements have been made with the management of the Park Hotel for rooms with bath at \$1 per person per night when two or more persons occupy the same room. There are many large rooms with private baths which will accommodate five or six people. Make reservations with Mr. W. R. McNeil, Manager, Park Hotel.

Debate Question for 1934-35: Send in your suggestion now.

Judging. The coach or principal of schools participating should sign the ballot indicating agreement on judges before the contests begin. Directions in regard to judging and sample ballots should be sent to the judges in advance; their attention should be called to the plan for judging.

Speech Institute. Those schools that are interested in arranging for a Speech Institute next fall should plan to make application to the secretary early. Such an Institute will be arranged, if possible, when twenty-five schools in any one section of the state have requested it.

SCHEDULE FOR CONTESTS, 1934:

Mar. 10—Latest date for sectional debate and dramatics.

Mar. 22—8:00 p. m.—State Debate—State Capitol.

Mar. 23—8:00 a. m.—Debate Conference Breakfast at Memorial Union. De-baters guests of the Association. A discussion of the debates by the critic judges, and other special features. An opportunity for ques-tions.

State Dramatic Contest—Date and place to be determined by schools participating. A Dramatic Conference Breakfast will be arranged.

Mar. 3—Latest date for registration for speech contests.

Apr. 14—Latest date for league contests.

Apr. 28—Latest date for district contests.

May 3 and 4—State contests at Madison—Tentative.

GREETINGS FROM HOWARD SCHNEIDER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY FORENSIC BOARD

The University of Wisconsin Forensic Board is again to be accorded the privilege of being host to the finalists in the state debate tournament. We are happy to assist the Wisconsin Forensic Association with arrangements, and thus be enabled to extend our policy of encouragement of forensics beyond the borders of our own University.

It is a source of gratification to us to realize that the State of Wisconsin is training its young people in so worth while an endeavor as forensic work; also to realize that Forensics at the University are so soon to have the im-petus of the talent of the high school contestants. Especially should we all be jealous of the forensic record of the University, and the Board looks to these student guests to carry on the tradition. It is a significant thing that the ma-jority of students who carry out a university forensic program are the same students who carried their high school banner in the state contests.

The opportunity of reaching you through this little note tempts me to re-mind you of what we at the University are painfully aware. The economic, social, and political chaos demands more than ever that ideas be clearly pre-sented; the spoken word is of vast importance in the formation of policy. I venture to say that the ability to present one's ideas will be no small factor in determining one's economic security.

But this is not to be a homily, so—Welcome to Madison! We shall be happy to see you.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

G. J. BALZER, Chairman
Wash. High School, Milwaukee

ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary
Univ. Extension Div., Madison

O. H. PLENZKE, Treas.
Sec., Wis. Teachers' Ass'n,
Madison

PROF. A. T. WEAVER,
Adviser in Speech

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C. W. Dodge, Stanley

LA CROSSE DISTRICT
E. J. McKean, Tomah

OSHKOSH DISTRICT
J. E. Kitowski, Menasha

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT
M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville

MISS ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,
Adviser in Dramatics.

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT
H. C. Mason, River Falls

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT
J. E. Rohr, Nekoosa

SUPERIOR DISTRICT
William R. Bruce, Park Falls

WHITEWATER DISTRICT
F. C. Bray, Fort Atkinson

AIMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SPEECH EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

by

Gladys Borchers, Assistant Professor of Speech
University of Wisconsin

High School Speech Teachers everywhere will be interested in the aims and progress of the Committee for the Advancement of Speech Education in Secondary Schools. This committee has been in existence for four years and in that time has had two primary aims: first to obtain a complete picture of the amount and nature of Speech Training in the United States; and second to improve and extend that speech training.

In order to accomplish the first aim an effort is being made to compile a list of all speech teachers. This work has been under the direction of Professor Clara Krefting of Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas. With the help of Dean Dennis of Northwestern University, the Southern Association of Teachers of Speech, and the State Associations in New Jersey, Texas, South Dakota, and Florida, Professor Krefting has secured complete surveys of several states and representatives to undertake such surveys in 32 of the 48 states. Fred Baxter, director of debate, West Bend, Wisconsin, represents Wisconsin. You will be helping Mr. Baxter and the committee if you will fill out the blank accompanying this news letter and mail it to him in care of the high school at West Bend.

In order to accomplish the second aim, that is, to improve and extend speech training in secondary schools, the committee is (a) preparing a model course of study for the beginning speech course in high school; (b) carrying on research in teaching methods in high school speech; (c) studying college entrance requirements in speech; (d) collecting and publishing articles on Secondary speech subjects; (e) attempting to answer all inquiries on high school speech problems.

Mr. Merle McGinnis of Huntington Park High School, Huntington Park, California, is working with a state committee on the course of study. While the members of this committee are not satisfied that they have drawn up a model course of study, they have made sufficient progress to be of great help to teachers of Speech. By writing to the committee chairman, you may secure copies of the experimental course and may borrow, for examination, courses of study which have been accepted in other states.

Four experiments in teaching methods are completed or are in progress. Miss Sara Barber, New York City, Miss Stella Price, Pittsburg, and Miss Rose Johnson, Birmingham, are in charge of this phase of the committee work. Last year four research studies were completed. An experiment in administration of Speech work in high schools in New York City was reported on at the National Convention in New York City by Dr. J. L. Tildsley.

Sara M. Barber at the same meeting gave a talk on an experiment in speech education for the gifted student. Miss Ruth Dieckhoff of Neenah High School discussed an experiment on differences between direct and indirect methods of speech teaching. Her experiment is to act as a check on the same experiment carried out at the University High School last year. More certain improvement in the speech of the high school student is the aim of Miss Barber and her committee.

Professor Gus Campbell of the DeKalb, Illinois State Teachers College, with the help of Miss Rose Johnson of Birmingham, Alabama, is collecting and editing material on secondary school problems. The articles are to be published in the Quarterly Journal of Speech and other magazines. Twenty pages of each issue of the Quarterly Journal are to be devoted to this material. This was voted by the executive council at the National Meeting in New York City.

Perhaps you will welcome most the last function of the committee, that of trying to help you solve your speech problems. The members feel that in order to justify the existence of such a body, they must make themselves indispensable to the secondary speech teachers of the country. Write for information and suggestions. If the committee is unable to answer your questions or to send you the material you desire, it hopes to be able to direct your request to proper sources. If high school teachers and students look to this committee as a general clearing house for speech teaching in secondary schools, the committee will be serving its purpose.

PRACTICE DEBATES

Helen Darrah, Debate Coach, Richland Center High School

A new experiment in debating, originated by Miss Gladys Borchers, speech instructor at Wisconsin High School, was begun last year in the southern section. Several schools participated and declared the meet successful.

This year nine schools in all, Portage, Beloit, Wisconsin High (Madison), Waunakee, Monroe, Platteville, Fort Atkinson, Richland Center, and Baraboo, met at Wisconsin High School on December 15, 1933 for another series of non-decision, practice debates. After one round of debates had been finished, the 112 debaters and coaches gathered in the auditorium for an open forum on the state debate question "Resolved: that the United States should adopt Great Britain's system of radio control and operation." Some schools were represented by as many as fifteen debaters. The open forum was adjourned at 12 o'clock, after which many of the debaters and coaches made a visit to radio station WHA.

A luncheon for all the participants was enjoyed at the Y. W. C. A. Following this, the meeting was adjourned with the understanding that these and any other schools interested would meet for a similar series of practice debates on a date to be set later, probably some time in December, 1934.

This experiment has aroused much interest in debate circles since it allows many more students to get practical experience at little cost. Richland Center was the scene of another such meet on February 17.

PRACTICE DEBATES

Alice McCaul, Debate Coach, Baraboo High School

To further an interest in debate, the Baraboo High School arranged for a day of practice debates at the High School January 20. Teams from seven schools participated in two rounds of debate, the teachers of the Baraboo High School acting as critic judges. A luncheon meeting for all of the 70 debaters and coaches was followed by a round-table discussion of the peculiar problems of this year's debate question. Each school had an opportunity to meet the teams of three other schools before an impartial critic as well as to talk over informally the problems of debate with boys and girls who are interested in this activity. The schools which participated were Baraboo, Lodi, Portage, Wisconsin High School (Madison), Middleton, Viroqua, and Reedsburg.

The idea of arranging for these debates arose from the current practice of having practice debates between two schools. Since this was recognized to be valuable, we felt it would be easier and better to have several teams meet at one place and engage in several debates. The critic judges very kindly gave their time to analyze and criticize the teams and to give a decision if both teams wanted one. These decisions were in no way "official"; there was no elimination and no winning the day. This was to encourage schools to bring their second or third teams and let everyone debate. For that reason also we did not call the event a "tournament" or "meet" for fear that some would think the debates had official standing or that some school had "won." Neither of these ideas should result if debate meetings such as these are to serve their purpose of giving every debater a chance to debate another school's team without the strain and stress of working toward an award.

The latest report to the secretary includes the following schools in the debate and dramatic schedules:

DEBATE

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT: Barron, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Menomonie, Menomonie (Dunn County School of Agriculture).

LACROSSE DISTRICT: Arcadia, Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua.

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT: Beaver Dam, Chilton, Columbus, Cudahy, Elkhart Lake, Hartford Horicon, Kenosha, Kiel, Kohler, Mayville, Milwaukee (Bay View), Milwaukee (Washington), New Holstein, Oconomowoc, Plymouth, Racine, Sheboygan Falls, Valders, Waukesha, West Allis West Bend, West Milwaukee.

OSHKOSH DISTRICT: Algoma, Clintonville, Kewaunee, Menasha, New London, Oconto Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Shawano.

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT: Benton, Livingston.