

will be made by the Board to schedule one in Clintonville this year since there was no Institute in the Northeast last year. Possible dates -- December 2, December 9, January 13.

Declamatory Contests. Through the cooperative spirit of Miss Gwendolyn E. Gibbs, Beaver Dam High School, we are able to include in this issue a summary of her Master's thesis in which we felt coaches would be very much interested.

National Association of Teachers of Speech Meeting convenes in Chicago this year, December 26-31. This affords an unusual opportunity for teachers and others interested in speech in the central section to attend this great National conclave. A very interesting and helpful program is always planned. The detailed program is not available at this time but will be sent as soon as available by the secretary to anyone interested.

Speech Section of the Southern Wisconsin Education Association scheduled in Madison February 9-10 will also have a both interesting and helpful program including an address by Professor Gladys L. Borchers on speech teaching in foreign countries. Miss Borchers was privileged to lecture in England, Switzerland, and France during the past spring and will have a message very much worth while. A panel discussion by high school students is also contemplated.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

"Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence."

Vol. XI

MADISON, WISCONSIN, NOVEMBER, 1939

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, 1939-40:

REGISTRATION. Final date for registration for all contests except dramatics is December 15.

DRAMATICS:

November 2 ---- Latest date for registration
November 16 ---- Latest date for first round
November 23 ---- Latest date for second round
December 8 ---- Latest date for sectional contest
December 13 ---- Date for state contest -- Madison East High School

DEBATE:

February 3 ~~13~~ ---- Latest date for district debates
February 17 ~~23~~ ---- Latest date for sectional debates
February 26 ~~27~~ ---- Latest date for state debates ✓

OTHER CONTESTS:

April 6 ---- Latest date for league program
April 20 ~~17~~ ---- Latest date for district program
April 27 ~~24~~ ---- Latest date for state program

"Under dictators citizenship ceases to require self-expression and demands mute obedience in its stead. Moral: Intelligent self-expression is the base of successful Democracy!"

The Rostrum, October, 1939

"Well taught processes in argumentation and debating are basic in sound education for life work. They train the mind to visualize -- to look backward into the past, to observe the passing moment, or to peer into the subject matter under inquiry with all its nexus of contending factors each thrown into right perspectiveThe power to deal critically with facts is the true subject matter of education."

From "How My Debate Training Helps Me In My Life Work" by Robert W. Kelso.

The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho, March, 1937

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

E. J. McKEAN, Chairman Tomah	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
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ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics		SUPERIOR DISTRICT Geo. E. VanHeuklom, Glidden
		WHITEWATER DISTRICT Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF TREASURER

November 1, 1938 - November 1, 1939

BALANCE, November 1, 1938.....	\$817.16	
INCOME: November 1, 1938 - November 1, 1939:		
Dues.....	\$1435.00	
Selections.....	177.77	
Miscellaneous.....	13.50	1626.27
		\$2443.43
DISBURSEMENTS: November 1, 1938 - November 1, 1939:		
Mimeographing and Printing (Mimeographing - \$122.78 (41,320 pp.); Printing - \$274.30....	\$397.08	
Telephone - Postage - Envelopes - Post Cards...	368.97	
Supplies (Debate Handbooks, Supplements, Manila Envelopes).....	226.40	
Miscellaneous (Breakfasts, Lodging for State Contestants).....	106.36	
Travel.....	134.65	
Cuttings.....	22.50	
Banners - Badges - Medals - Cups.....	223.92	
Institute Expenses.....	254.36	1734.24
		\$709.19

Balance November 1, 1939.....

O. H. PLENZKE, TREASURER

(Since the Speech Institute was held October 28,
an item of \$77.40 is not included in this statement.)

DECLAMATORY CONTEST PROCEDURES

by

Gwendolyn E. Gibbs, Beaver Dam High School

Although the question of declamatory contest procedures has long been controversial, today justification for the very existence of the event is being challenged. It has been, therefore, the purpose of a recent investigation to discover and evaluate modern trends in this extra-curricular activity apparently on trial for life.

Gathering material involved contacting the National Forensic League, certain private colleges, and all state colleges and universities in the United States. An introductory letter sought to determine whether each group concerned operated under a constitution or under rules and whether or not amendments to existing constitutions were being contemplated. Although few suggested revisions were discovered through this initial inquiry, it was later learned that Minnesota had introduced several changes which merit favorable recognition. A later inquiry requested copies of current constitutions or regulations, and this same appeal went out to all speech representatives named in the December 15, 1937, annual report of the Committee for the Advancement of Speech Education in Secondary Schools.

All information in the constitutions received was tabulated under eighty-nine units, the arrangement within each unit being alphabetical. The contribution of each state or the N.F.L. was quoted verbatim. The seven major divisions under which these eighty-nine items were organized were: training and evaluation, preparation for contests, personal eligibility, selections for declamations, conduct of contests, organization, and supervision and expenses. Every item of information pertaining to high school declamatory contests was used at least once in this tabulation. Those items used more than once owe their repetition to the fact that they were highly condensed, a single sentence

frequently carrying rulings on three or four subjects.

When each tabulation had been completed, a comprehensive picture of the situation in all states regarding that particular ruling was available. The closing paragraphs of each unit comprised a summary in which an attempt was made to cite prevailing tendencies and to make recommendations.

It is significant that out of our forty-eight states a total of thirty-one retain in some form that speech event known as the declamatory contest. Of these thirty-one states, twenty-nine have framed their own constitutions or rules, while two function under the general regulations endorsed by the N.F.L. While fourteen states report no declamatory events, a generous percentage of these conduct no other speech contests either. One state reports operation under very sketchy organization, while the remaining two have submitted information so incomplete as to be valueless.

Although this detailed study has failed to disclose spectacular procedures, it has demonstrated that the problems which vex our colleagues in other states and those which give us concern are essentially the same. The following comments deal with problems which, though familiar, are increasingly troublesome.

Vital to the survival of declamatory contests, if, indeed, they should and can be preserved, is more vigilant attention to the literary quality of selections. Upon the coach who hopes to continue this event rests direct responsibility for the elevation of standards. Before he engages the efforts of high school pupils through long periods of preparation, such a coach must make sure that the selections used are worthy of unmeasured time and effort. When he has found a selection that "grows" on both the contestant and himself instead of "wearing out" in a few rehearsals, he may be assured that he has chosen wisely.

Although time limits vary, in the several states, from five minutes to fifteen minutes and fifty-nine seconds, a maximum of ten minutes predominates. Possibly the plan which has now been introduced in Minnesota may merit trial in Wisconsin. This plan provides for limitation of the word count of a manuscript, and by judicious cutting such limitation can be achieved in the initial preparation of a reading. The contestant, no longer apprehensive about timing, may devote his entire energy toward effective delivery.

The persistent fear of turning out students possessing a "thin veneer of elocutionary training" has resulted in definite regulation by twenty states. Nearly all of these recognize declamation as a total interpretative activity, employing all four of the requisites of good speech. These requisites, which are: thoughts and feelings about which to speak, language in which to express ideas, vocal powers with which to appeal to the ear, and bodily expression with which to impress the eye, are modified to suit this specific activity.

There is evidence that at least six states already follow a ranking system similar to that which made its initial Wisconsin appearance during the 1939 district events. Some states employ five classifications, namely; fair, adequate, good, very good, and superior. Possibly this larger number of divisions might obviate clarification for judges of the exact meanings of the three terms now used in Wisconsin. Minnesota assigns to the several groups numerical values of one to five points, to be used only to facilitate averaging. With intent to nullify widely dissenting ballots, this plan provides that a contestant who receives a given rating from a majority of judges will retain that placement as his final evaluation.

Though it appears from this survey that many states favor limiting competition to member schools, there remain sound arguments against such narrowed activity. Since one potent device for increasing poise and grace before an audience is to appear before as many audiences as possible, it would seem that no reasonable invitation should be ignored. What, other than broadened experience through hearing others and speaking before them, could possibly be the

outcome of friendly competition between schools? Wisconsin is unique in its wealth of opportunities for such practice competition and the valuable student contacts which are its by-products. Statewide in scope is the program of annual speech institutes sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association with the cooperation of the Department of Speech of the University of Wisconsin, and excellent opportunity for student development prior to league events is provided at the annual invitational declamatory meet sponsored by Washington High School, Milwaukee.

Space in this article prohibits further comment regarding the findings of this detailed investigation. Wisconsin, whose present constitution is admirably concise and inclusive, is indeed qualified to assume a leading role in initiating further changes in forensic contest practices.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Districts and Sections for the Wisconsin Public Speaking Contest -- 1939-40

SECTION I - Vice President, Jack Vennes, Menomonie

- District 1. Polk and Burnett Counties
Frederic, Grantsburg, Luck, Milltown, Webster
2. Polk County
Amery, Balsam Lake, Clayton, Clear Lake, Osceola, St. Croix Falls
3. Dunn, St. Croix, and Pierce Counties
Baldwin, Downing, Glenwood City, New Richmond, River Falls, Roberts
4. Barron, Bayfield, Douglas, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties
Barron, Cameron, Cumberland, Hayward, Ondossagon, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, Spooner, Turtle Lake
5. Rusk and Price Counties
Bruce, Hawkins, Ladysmith, Phillips, Tony, Tripoli
6. Dunn, Pepin, and Pierce Counties
Arkansaw, Colfax, Dunn County, Durand, Ellsworth, Elmwood, Plum City, Prescott, Spring Valley

SECTION II - Vice President, Rudolph Christ, Arcadia

7. Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties
Augusta, Cadott, Bloomer, Chetek, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, New Auburn, Stanley, Thorp
8. Clark and Marathon Counties
Abbotsford, Athens, Colby, Dorchester, Greenwood, Loyal, Owen, Stratford
9. Clark, Marathon, and Wood Counties
Auburndale, Marathon, Marshfield, Neillsville, Stevens Point, Wood County
10. Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties
Arcadia, Blair, Cochrane, Gilmanston, Independence, Mondovi, Nelson, Whitehall
11. Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties
Alma Center, Black River Falls, Galesville, Holmen, Melrose, Mindoro, Sparta, Tomah, West Salem
12. LaCrosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties
Cashton, Elroy, Kendall, Mauston, Norwalk, Ontario, Wilton

SECTION III - Vice President, Frank Wing, Baraboo

13. Vernon and Crawford Counties
Guys Mills, Hillsboro, LaFarge, Seneca, Viola, Viroqua, Westby, West Lima

14. Richland and Sauk Counties
Arena, Baraboo, Lone Rock, Mazomanie, Prairie du Sac, Reedsburg, Ithaca, Richland Center, Sauk City, Spring Green, Wisconsin Dells
15. Grant and Crawford Counties
Bloomington, Boscobel, Blue River, Cuba City, Fennimore, Lancaster, Montfort, Mt. Hope, Muscoda, Platteville, Wauzeka
16. LaFayette and Iowa Counties
Argyle, Belmont, Blanchardville, Darlington, Dodgeville, Highland, Mineral Point, Shullsburg

SECTION IV - Vice President, Norman Sawyer, Waupaca

17. Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, and Shawano Counties
Antigo, Crivitz, Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Shawano, Wabeno, Wausaukee
18. Door and Kewaunee Counties
Algoma, Gibraltar (Fish Creek), Kewaunee, Luxemburg, Sevastopol, Sturgeon Bay.
19. Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties
Brandon, Brillion, Chilton, Kaukauna, Markesan, Omro, Oshkosh, Plymouth, Rosendale, Winneconne
20. Outagamie and Waupaca Counties
Clintonville, Little Wolf (Menawa), Marion, New London, Seymour, Shiocton, Waupaca, Weyauwega, Wittenberg

SECTION V - Vice President, Merlin Dalton, Portage

21. Dane, Green, and Rock Counties
Albany, Belleville, Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Janesville, Milton, New Glarus, Oregon, Stoughton
22. Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties
Deerfield, Ft. Atkinson H. S., Hartford, Lake Geneva, Lake Mills, Oconomowoc, Palmyra, Pewaukee, Racine Co., Waukesha, Whitewater, Wilmot
23. Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Fond du Lac, and Jefferson Counties
Beaver Dam, Columbus, DeForest, Lodi, Marshall, Mayville, Poynette, Randolph, Waterloo, Waupun
24. Columbia, Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties
Berlin, Endeavor, Green Lake, Montello, Portage, Princeton, Wautoma, Westfield

Vice presidents are in charge of sectional contests. All contestants should have their membership cards. All district contests should be held not later than April 1 and all sectional contests not later than April 15. The date for the state contest is tentatively set for April 26.

NEWS ITEMS

Debate Plan for 1940. The question of greater participation in the state debate was discussed fully both at the Board meeting and at the Annual meeting. The Board, vested with the management of state contests, approved the following plan submitted by the special committee, Messrs. Fischer and Lyon, and Donald Olson, high school debate coach, which will be in effect this year.

Each district may hold a debate tournament of three rounds. On the basis of wins and losses at least the nine highest in the section shall hold a sectional debate tournament. Any school losing only one debate in the district tournament shall be eligible to enter with the previously

selected nine schools into the sectional tournament.

Each section may hold a debate tournament of three rounds. On the basis of wins and losses at least the three highest schools and all tied with them on a basis of wins and losses will be eligible to participate in the state finals.

The state finals will consist of three rounds. The highest school and all tied with it on the basis of wins and losses will be considered the state champions.

Amendments Passed at the Annual Meeting and in Effect This Year. See Extemporaneous Speaking. See Oration and Declamation. Since the orations and declamations supplied by the Forensic Association are twelve minutes in length it will be necessary to cut these selections to ten minutes. No new selections will be supplied this year because of the limitation of funds.

Board. The re-elected Board members to serve to dates indicated are as follows:

Eau Claire District: H. M. Lyon, Chippewa Falls -- to 1942

Oshkosh District: T. J. McGlynn, DePere -- to 1942

Whitewater District: Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn -- to 1942

Superintendent E. J. McKean, Tomah -- re-elected as chairman.

Management of Contests. The Constitution provides for the management of contests as follows: League Contest--Article V,--3. The officers of each League shall be a Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer. District Contest--Article VI,--2. An Executive Committee composed of one representative from the State Teachers' College, one high school principal, and two coaches or teachers of Public Speaking.

Reading Contest. By vote at the annual meeting of the Board, non-humorous fiction (novel) was selected as the type for the reading contest for this year.

Extemporaneous Speaking. The following amendment, adopted in accordance with constitutional provision, is in effect this year:

Article VII, Rule 6, last sentence to be amended to read: He may bring printed references to use in the preparation of a four-minute speech on the topic chosen.

No notes may be used when giving the speech. The plan of asking questions of each contestant will be continued.

By action of the Board, the topics for extemporaneous speaking for this year and next year will be selected from the February, March, and April issues of the American Observer, Current History, News Week, and Scholastic--Social Studies Edition.

Neither the Department of Debating and Public Discussion nor the Forensic Association is prepared to lend copies of these magazines. Special subscription rates will be supplied upon request.

Oration and Declamation. The following amendment, adopted in accordance with constitutional provision, is in effect this year:

Article VII, Rule 8. In the first sentence substitute ten for twelve, as amended to read: It shall be the duty of the chairman to appoint official time keepers who shall stop the orators and declaimers at the end of ten minutes.

Prompting. Any student prompted shall be disqualified.

Article on Ranking and Re-ranking. Because of the questions that have arisen in regard to the plan of ranking and re-ranking used in the speech contests, the secretary was authorized to mimeograph the article from the News Letter explaining the plan. Copies will be sent on request to any teacher or coach interested.

Student Participation. Reports were received from 117 schools, or approximately 25%. It is estimated from the reports that approximately

20,000 students participated in the scheduled program of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association and at least 45,000 participated in activities not included in the regular schedule of the Association. No doubt several of these are duplicated, that is, the same student participated in both the forensic and the non-forensic speech activities.

Certificates of Merit. Only 1,822 Certificates of Merit were granted to students from 194 schools last year. The Board felt that many more students were eligible to receive Certificates of Merit than received them. Every member of the Association is eligible to receive Certificates of Merit for all of the students that have participated with any other school in any event sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. All of those who participate in debate tournaments that are scheduled as a part of the Forensic Association activities are eligible to receive the Certificates.

Debate Question for Next Year. Please return immediately the Information Blank on the Debate Question for 1940-41. The National University Extension Committee meets December 26 in Chicago.

Nation-wide Radio Debate. Forensic students and teachers are advised of a radio debate on the current state debate question, "Resolved: That the Federal Government Should Own and Operate the Railroads." The debate is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, over the NBC Blue Network. If the school finds this annual debate worth while it is most desirable that a card of appreciation be sent to Mr. Franklin Dunham, Educational Director of the National Broadcasting Company, New York.

Speech Conference in Madison. Because of the interest in a week or ten-day speech conference at Madison, which would afford an opportunity for intensive training in speech activities, another effort will be made this year to plan such a conference. There are so many conferences held in Madison during the summer that it will be very necessary that a decision be made at an early date. If you feel that your school could be represented at such a conference will you return the enclosed blank promptly?

Special Committees Appointed at the Annual Meeting. The change in the plan of the activities of the Association has resulted in more extensive participation in state programs and the consequent greater expenditure of funds which makes it necessary to either curtail activities or increase the income. By motion at the annual meeting, the following committees have been appointed by the chairman: ON DUES: Superintendent T. J. McGlynn, DePere; Principal James A. Jones, North Fond du Lac; and Coach Donald Olson, Shawano. ON AWARDS: Committee to be announced later.

Awards for Debate. Because of the new plan for debate, no statement can be made in regard to awards at this time. An effort will be made, however, to include information in the February News Letter.

Speech Institutes. Since there was not a sufficient number of schools that sent in registrations for the Lake Geneva Institute, it was deemed advisable to abandon that Institute for this year. In addition to the Institute at Madison November 17 and 18, an Institute is scheduled at Tomah January 20. The following Institute Committee was appointed by the Board to decide upon not more than four Institutes each year in different parts of the state with one at Madison at the time of the Intercollegiate Debate: Principal H. M. Lyon, Chippewa Falls; Principal Joseph F. Kraus, Stevens Point; and Superintendent Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn.

Speech Institute in the Northeast. Clintonville High School has extended an invitation to the Forensic Association to schedule an Institute at Clintonville. Return blank enclosed to the secretary by November 18 if interested. If twenty schools express an interest in attending such an Institute an effort