

consideration to an Institute in that section. The time and place, however, should be determined before July.

This year there were 1277 registrants from 112 schools. Can we do better next year?

Central States Speech Association meeting is scheduled for Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 14 and 15. Plan to attend. It will be worth your while.

**Reduced Rates for Round Trip Railroad Tickets.** Reduced rate coach round-trip railroad tickets are available. Consult your local ticket agent for the price of round-trip fares.

**Certificate of Merit.** The Certificates of Merit awarded by the Association have been very much appreciated. Last year some member schools did not take advantage of receiving these Certificates. Any student participating in an inter-school contest sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association is eligible to a Certificate of Merit. A blank is enclosed for a report of students' eligibility. The report, however, should not be sent in until all of the names can be included for all events. The secretary had splendid reports on the method of making these awards in various high schools in the state. It is very desirable that this occasion be made a community event, if possible, with a special dinner. Send in the report of the event in your community to the secretary.

**Reading Contest.** Travel was selected for this year. A suggestive list of books in the field of travel is enclosed.

**Extemporaneous Speaking.** By action of the Board, the topics for extemporaneous speaking will be selected from the February, March, and April issues of the *American Observer*, *Current History*, *News Week*, and *Scholastic Social Studies Edition*. If your school is not already subscribing to these magazines, information in regard to special rates for the second semester is available from the secretary. The Department of Debating and Public Discussion will not be in a position to lend these magazines, although the Department will aim to be prepared to send loan package libraries on any of the topics upon the receipt of a report from a high school student listing systematically the references available locally in both public and school libraries. This plan of co-operation avoids unnecessary duplication and expense of governmental departments and affords the student practice in learning how to find material and in listing that material—a training which we all realize is important in preparation for effective citizenship. The student should give the specific page references to the particular topic if the practice is to be of any educational value. If the school has no facilities for duplicating, report blanks will be supplied.

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

The proposed amendment permitting the use of reference material during the preparation period is not in effect this year since it must come up for final action at the annual meeting next year.

**Participation by the same student in more than one contest in a single year is prohibited in extemporaneous speaking, reading, humorous declamation, non-humorous declamation, and oration.**

**Prompting.** Any student prompted shall be disqualified.

**Stage Properties.** All stage properties, including costumes, chairs, and handkerchiefs, are prohibited in declamatory, reading, and oratorical contests.

**Public Discussion.** Public discussion as a feature of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association activities will be given special consideration at the next annual meeting. Through the cooperation of the publishers of *Civic Leader*, an article, "A Student Discussion Program That Works," by Charles E. Sohl and Millard E. Gladfelter, is available to any school interested in considering experimentation in this field. It is hoped that many schools will co-operate and report to the secretary their experience in order that some definite information may be available for consideration at the next annual meeting.

**Radio.** At the annual Board meeting Mr. Joseph F. Kraus, Stevens Point, was appointed chairman of a special committee to consider that subject. Mr. Kraus would appreciate very much a report from any schools that have had experience with radio programs.

# WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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

Vol. X MADISON, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY, 1939 No. 3

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

### DEBATE:

Mar. 1—8:00 p.m.—State Debate—State Capitol, Madison. (See News Item.)

### OTHER HIGH SCHOOL CONTESTS:

Apr. 8—Latest date for league contests.

Apr. 22—Latest date for district contests.

Apr. 26-28—State Contests (depending upon the number of participants).

## MESSAGE FROM ROBERT DES JARLAIS

President of the Forensic Board, to participants in the State High School Forensic Contests.

It is most gratifying to those of us at the University interested in speech to view the intense interest with which you students are following your debate activities during this school year—most gratifying because you evidence appreciation of all that can be obtained from the pursuit of forensic activities.

Later in the school year a number of you will come to Madison as competitors in the final round which determines the state championship. To you we say, "Welcome." Our anticipation is that you will profit from the visit in all of the many possible ways. To all of you: "Congratulations and carry on!" You are doing splendid work. You are blazing the trail today that marks you as the leaders of tomorrow. Let this year's experience enrich you and prepare you for superior performances next year.

In closing, I extend to you the invitation to visit us when you're here, whether as attendants of the finals or as students at the University.

## WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Regulations and Arrangements for the Local, District, and State Public Speaking Contests

**Eligibility.**—The national contest of Future Farmers of America is open only to boys less than 21 years of age who are regularly enrolled undergraduate high school students and who are active members of chartered F. F. A. Chapters in good standing with the state association and the national organization. Members must have their membership cards to be eligible to represent their Chapter in the district contest.

**Regulations regarding speeches.**—Each contestant's speech must be the result of his own efforts. Training in both composition and delivery are limited to the facilities of the school from which the contestant comes, but facts and working data may be secured from any source.

Contestants may choose their own subjects for their speeches. Any current subject of an agricultural nature which is of general interest to the public

## WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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PROF. A. T. WEAVER, Adviser in Speech		WHITEWATER DISTRICT Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn
ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics		

will be acceptable. Suggested lists of subjects may be secured from Louis M. Sasman, State Adviser of Future Farmers of America, or Miss Almere Scott, Director, Department of Debating and Public Discussion, University Extension Division, Madison.

Each speech shall be limited to ten minutes in length and five minutes additional time is allowed each contestant for questions which shall be asked by the judges.

**Judges**—In local, district, and sectional contests, judges may be instructors in agriculture, county agents, high school principals or superintendents, local farmers or businessmen, clergymen, and high school teachers, and in sectional contests possibly agricultural representatives of the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education and of the College of Agriculture.

**Scoring**—The rules for scoring the state contest are as follows:

Score on written composition	40
Content of the manuscript	25
Composition of the manuscript	15
Score on delivery	60
Voice	10
Stage Presence	10
Power of Expression	15
Response to Questions	15
General Effect	10

Two points are deducted for each minute overtime.

**Time of State Contest**—The State Contest will be held at 3:30 P.M. on Friday, April 28, in the Auditorium of Agricultural Hall at the College of Agriculture and will be broadcast over State Stations WHA and WLBL.

#### SPEECH INSTITUTE

MADISON, NOVEMBER 18, 19, 1938

By Superintendent W. R. Bussewitz, Horicon

An all-time record attendance for Wisconsin Speech Institutes was established when 505 students and coaches from 51 high schools crowded the sessions of the fall institute at Madison last November.

The registration was efficiently handled by Miss Almere L. Scott and her staff of volunteer workers. Because of the number interested, the morning debate section was divided into two groups. That was a fine idea, as it gave twice as many debaters a chance to appear for performance and criticisms. Further it gave participants a choice of two different professors of debate from whom to receive suggestions. Other morning sessions treated serious and humorous declamations. The members of the humorous group were jammed into an agricultural laboratory, but they met the emergency by sitting on tables and by making the speakers stand on a table so as to be better seen.

The program at the noon luncheon was excellent, but was not very well attended. When it comes to eating, the children like to "be on their own" when in Madison.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to extemporaneous speaking, extemporaneous reading, oratory, and dramatics. These were likewise well attended, but did not evince the interest and support given to debate, possibly because debating was of direct interest at that time. About 300 attended the meeting at 4:00 p.m. to hear the ones chosen as best throughout the day, one from each type of activity.

Music Hall was well filled for the evening program, when the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota clashed on the debate subject.

All in all it was a day very well spent. Such institutes should be considered a permanent feature of the work of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

#### SPEECH INSTITUTE

SPARTA, DECEMBER 10, 1938

By Roger B. Holtz

For the second year in succession Sparta High School played host to the Southwestern Wisconsin Speech Institute. This speech institute, held on Saturday, December 10, was, like others throughout the state, sponsored in cooperation with the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association and the University of Wisconsin.

The entire program was designed along the lines of a non-competitive one,

during which university speech instructors assisted in guiding and directing high school participants. The value in this procedure lies in the fact that high school forensic participants can avail themselves of an opportunity of receiving excellent instruction from instructors who have specialized in a particular speech activity.

The program was off to an early start at 9:30 a.m. when 441 known registrants (registration incomplete) from 32 schools assembled in the gymnasium for the opening meeting. In the absence of E. J. McKean, Chairman of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, Roger B. Holtz, Chairman of the Institute, made the opening remarks. Miss Della Kibbe represented the State Department of Public Instruction and voiced the sincere greetings and interest of that Department in the speech activity of the Wisconsin schools. Miss Almere Scott, Secretary of the Association, presented the staff for the day's work. The instructors included Professor Gladys Borchers, University of Wisconsin; Professor J. H. Baccus, University of Redlands, California; Professor George F. Totten, Wayne University, Detroit; and Miss Ethel Kaump, Madison East High School. With this very competent staff the morning and afternoon activities proceeded under exceptionally fine instruction in all phases of speech. Students participated with part-time selections.

At twelve o'clock some 232 students, teachers, and members of the University staff assembled at the Hotel Sidney for the noon luncheon. Roger B. Holtz, Instructor of Speech, Sparta High School, presided at the luncheon. Superintendent W. R. Bruce of Sparta extended a most welcome greeting to the visiting schools. Benno W. Meyer, of the University Extension Division, extended the greetings of that Division.

A very interesting and unique program was presented at the luncheon. A flute solo and duet was presented by Benjamin Johnson and Henry Schallert, who were accompanied by Beverly Jackson, all of whom are Sparta High School students. Chief Thunder Light of Tomah sang several numbers which were very well received. The next feature of the program was unique in all respects. Five Sparta High School boys presented a hilarious farce in one act under the title of "Executives of a Nut Factory." The cast included Homer Gee, David Nicol, Bob Gerletti, Bob Flood, and Dean Bekken. After much laughter and excitement as a reaction to the activities in the Nut Factory, the luncheon dismissed for the afternoon sessions of speech work.

The day of speech activity was brought to a close in the evening with a debate on the high school question. Two university teams debated the question, which afforded high school debaters an excellent opportunity to improve in the art of debate. Bob Flood, a Sparta High School student, acted as chairman for the evening. The teams were composed of the following university debaters: Douglas Pledger and John Short, affirmative, and Leon Epstein and Gordon Dupee, negative. Professors Baccus and Totten gave a critical analysis of the two cases at the conclusion of the debate.

One student seemed to voice the merits of a day spent in worth-while speech activity and the value of such an institution when he said, "Gee, this is great, mingling with 450 other people just as interested in speech as I am."

#### NEWS ITEMS

**State Championship Debate, Madison, March 1, 1939, in the State Capitol.** All interested are cordially invited. Several graduating classes plan a trip to the State Capitol instead of a Senior Party. The Legislature is in session and it would be a splendid opportunity for the students to visit the Legislature either on Wednesday or Thursday. Can your school make it this year? Breakfast Conference in the Memorial Union, March 2, 8:00 a.m. Contestants are guests of the Association. Others \$45 per plate. Reservations in advance; blank enclosed. The Forensic Board is cooperating in securing lodging for the contestants.

**Registration.** We have not yet reached the 400 mark in registration—the goal for this year. What can you do to secure 100% for your district?

**State Debate Question.** Read carefully the Report of the Committee on the state debate question for 1939-40. Return the ballot as directed.

**Speech Institutes.** Tentative arrangements for Speech Institutes for 1939-40: Ladysmith — October; Madison — November; Tomah — December. If the schools in the Northeast are interested, the Board will be very happy to give