

to *Building America*. Those schools that are interested in examining it may borrow an issue from the Department of Debating and Public Discussion for a limited loan period.

Panel Discussion. A special committee is working on panel discussion in high schools and the secretary would appreciate very much, for inclusion in future issues of the News Letter, any such programs used with success in any of the high schools. A mimeographed copy of the article on "Procedure for a Panel Discussion" from the *Journal of the N. E. A.* for May, 1935, is available for distribution and will be sent upon request. The Department also has accumulated other material on Panel Discussion in High Schools which is available through the loan package libraries.

Suggestions for Future Development. Your attention is called especially to the articles by Professors Borchers and Johnson outlining suggestions for future development of the forensic activities. It might be possible to arrange for a program this year as outlined by Professor Borchers providing the schools having representatives ranking A in the state contest would be willing to stay until after noon on the succeeding day. It is always inferred that the representatives would be able to be entertained at breakfast by the Forensic Association and thus be afforded an opportunity for a full discussion of the programs. Those ranking first have participated in the radio broadcast. This program we shall infer will be scheduled this year also. It is anticipated that if a sufficient number of participants are ranked A to assure community programs in Madison as outlined by Miss Borchers that the Forensic Association will be able to entertain the guests at a lunch Friday noon or the day succeeding the contest. That date, of course, has not yet been selected.

The plan as outlined by Professor Johnson is suggestive and cannot go into effect this year. I feel that that plan will require a constitutional amendment. You are urged to read both of these plans carefully, to send in your reactions to the secretary, and to offer any other suggestions for further development of the work of the Association.

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, NOVEMBER, 1938 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:

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

DEBATE:

Jan. 14—Latest date for first round.
Jan. 21—Latest date for second round.
Jan. 28—Latest date for third round.
Feb. 11—Latest date for semi-sectional.
Feb. 18—Latest date for sectional or tournament.
Feb. 24-27—Latest date for state debate.

DRAMATICS:

Dec. 9—State Contest—Central State Teachers' College Auditorium, Stevens Point.

OTHER CONTESTS:

Apr. 8—Latest date for league contests.
Apr. 22—Latest date for district contests.
Apr. 29—Latest date for state contests.

"DEBATE DIVIDENDS"—Walter Ewing Hope

From *The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho*, May, 1936. Reprinted by permission of *The Gavel*.

"There is no question in my mind that training in debating and public speaking is invaluable as a feature of the preparation for almost any type of subsequent activity or occupation."

"FINEST ACHIEVEMENT"—Edward Weeks Cross

From *The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho*, March, 1936. Reprinted by permission of *The Gavel*.

"The ability to make an interesting and effective speech is, at the present time, a distinct asset in every walk of life. The business man and the member of a Woman's Club need this ability as well as do the lawyer, the preacher, and the politician.

"I am still convinced that great public speaking is one of the finest achievements of the human spirit and, as in the days of Pericles, one of the best qualifications for a man who would be the leader of his fellow citizens."

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

E. J. McKEAN, Chairman	EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT	OSHKOSH DISTRICT
Tomah	Howard M. Lyon,	T. J. McGlynn, De Pere
ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary	Chippewa Falls	PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT
Univ. Extension Div., Madison		M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville
O. H. PLENZKE, Treas.	LA CROSSE DISTRICT	RIVER FALLS DISTRICT
Sec., Wis. Education Ass'n,	E. J. McKean, Tomah	W. E. Gordon, New Richmond
Madison	MILWAUKEE DISTRICT	STEVENS POINT DISTRICT
PROF. A. T. WEAVER,	W. R. Bussewitz, Horicon	Joseph F. Kraus, Stevens Point
Adviser in Speech		SUPERIOR DISTRICT
ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,		Geo. E. VanHeuklom, Glidden
Adviser in Dramatics		WHITEWATER DISTRICT
		Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn

**WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF TREASURER**

November 1, 1937—November 1, 1938

BALANCE, November 1, 1937	\$1,032.55
INCOME, November 1, 1937—November 1, 1938:	
Dues	\$1,602.00
Selections	91.62
Miscellaneous	20.00
	1,713.62
	\$2,746.17
DISBURSEMENTS: November 1, 1937—November 1, 1938	
Mimeographing and Printing	\$ 525.82
Telephone-Postage-Envelopes-Post Cards	271.18
Supplies (Debate Handbooks, Supplements, Manila Envelopes)	293.75
Miscellaneous (Breakfasts, Lodging for State Contestants)	62.44
Travel	216.41
Cuttings	22.50
Banners—Badges—Medals—Cups	147.30
Institute Expenses	389.61
	1,929.01
Balance Nov. 1, 1938	\$ 817.16

O. H. PLENZKE, TREASURER

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Districts and Sections for the Wisconsin Public Speaking Contest—1938-1939

SECTION I—Vice President, Earl Larson, Milltown

- District 1. Polk and Burnett Counties
Centuria*, 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*, Superior
5. Rusk and Price Counties
Bruce*, Hawkins*, Ladysmith*, Phillips*, Tony*, Tripoli*
6. Dunn, Pepin, and Pierce Counties
Arkansaw*, Dunn County*, Durand*, Ellsworth, Elmwood*, Plum City*, Prescott, Spring Valley*

SECTION II—Vice President, Chester Knight, Eau Claire

7. Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties
Augusta*, Cadott*, Bloomer*, Chetek*, Chippewa Falls*, Eau Claire*, New Auburn*, Stanley*
8. Clark and Marathon Counties
Athens*, Colby*, Dorchester, Greenwood*, Loyal, Owen*, Stratford*
9. Clark, Marathon, and Wood Counties
Auburndale*, Marshfield*, Neillsville*, Stevens Point, Wausau, Wood County*
10. Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties
Arcadia*, Blair*, Cochrane*, Gilmanton*, Independence, Mondovi*, Nelson*, Whitehall*

11. LaCrosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties
Galesville*, Holmen*, Melrose, Mindoro*, Sparta*, Tomah, West Salem*
12. LaCrosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties
Cashton, Elroy*, Mauston*, Nerwalk*, Ontario*, Wilton*

SECTION III—Vice President, Kenneth Biech, Baraboo

13. Vernon and Crawford Counties
Hillsboro*, LaFarge*, 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 County
Bloomington*, Boscobel, Blue River, Cuba City*, Fennimore*, Lancaster*, Montfort*, Mt. Hope*, Muscoda, Platteville*
16. LaFayette and Iowa Counties
Argyle, Belmont*, Blanchardville*, Darlington*, Dodgeville*, Highland*, Mineral Point*, Shullsburg*

SECTION IV—Vice President, Norbert Wiesner, Sturgeon Bay

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

SECTION V—Vice President, Charles Owens, Portage

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

* Established Chapters of Future Farmers of America. Chapters in bold-face are in charge of district contests. These contests may be held at any place in the district. 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 27. The secretary of the Chapter in charge of the district contest should write the secretaries of the other Chapters and determine the best time and place for district contests. These can usually be held where the Chapter that has charge of the contest is located. After the district contest is held, the secretary of the Chapter in charge shall immediately notify the state vice president for that section and the state adviser of the results on blanks provided for that purpose. After the sectional contest, the vice president shall immediately notify the state adviser of the results on blanks which he will receive.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FROM FORENSIC CONTESTS

By Gladys L. Borchers, Associate Professor of Speech, University of Wisconsin

A survey of the work of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association shows a gratifying improvement in the quality and influence of speech activities and a trend in the direction of student solution of vital life problems. The literary material is in better taste than formerly; separation of humorous and serious declamations has facilitated judging; the extemporaneous speaking and reading competition gives training for problem solving now and in the future; and minor changes in the conduct of all forensic activities aim at more successful speech training for greater numbers of students in the high schools of our state.

The most recent development—namely, the grouping of students fair, good, and excellent, rather than the old rating of 1, 2, and 3—leads me to propose another step in the direction of setting up situations true to life and adapted to the high school student's interest. I am suggesting programs before actual audiences by those students rated A in the state festival. Such programs would accomplish two purposes for the student: first, they would teach good program arrangement; and second, they would give the student the feel of various degrees of success before an actual audience.

After the state contest or festival, there will usually be a number of students rated A in oratory, humorous and serious declamation, and extemporaneous reading and speaking. These students will have been given this rating because they have shown skill in speaking and because the critics believe they can furnish worth-while entertainment for an audience.

My suggestion is that a committee of the Forensic Association arrange these students on a number of programs to be presented before high schools and clubs in the city or vicinity where state meetings are held. This committee will make a real effort to exemplify the principles of successful program building by adapting the material to the particular audience and by working for variety in arrangement and presentation. High school students will preside. A critic will listen to each performance, but his comments on the program arrangement and the speakers will include no ratings and will be made to the speakers in private or at the conference. The audience will come to be entertained, to hear a fine program. The speakers will come because they have shown that they can give a fine program. Each one will judge himself by the audience response. He will learn to sense favorable and unfavorable reactions. As in his future life, he will decide for himself whether he has been successful or unsuccessful.

Such a project could be carried out with few difficulties in a city like Madison. There are clubs, schools, and radio stations eager to sponsor entertainment and students rated excellent in the state festival are prepared to furnish it. I suggest that sponsors and students be brought together so that to the long list of benefits derived by students from forensic activities, may be added experience in program planning, and experience in judging the success of a performance directly by audience reaction.

NEW OCCASIONS, NEW PLANS

By Gertrude E. Johnson, Associate Professor of Speech, University of Wisconsin

Since there are admirable changes in the Declamatory Contests going into effect this year, it occurs to me that some plan will be necessary to care for the added number privileged to appear in the finals at Madison.

As I understand it, the new plans permit all those rated "Excellent" in the District Contests to appear in the finals and this is surely a movement in line with other progressive ideas, ideas founded on the principle that opportunity is for the many and not for the few. Due to this democratic change, the time allowed each speaker in the finals becomes a problem and yet it seems to me in no way an insuperable one.

In the hope of being of assistance the following suggestions are offered. They are the result of seasoned judgment and of conferences with groups in two other states, groups interested as we are in broadening and bettering the scope of declamatory activity.

Let the time in the humorous and non-humorous selections in the finals be limited to eight minutes. Let each speaker use not over TWO of the eight to speak directly to the audience in his own person and language explaining briefly the content of his or her selection as a whole and then saying in effect, "And I begin my presentation at the point when," then going on in the selection proper for six minutes. This plan, besides taking care of the time element in a most desirable way, gives the declaimer the opportunity to contact the audience in his or her own person, an element sadly lacking in declamatory activity, in these two events.

Should these suggestions be adopted, teachers would then have ample time to plan what portions of the entire selections should be arranged for the finals and to oversee the two minute introduction to the same. I am confident that judges would react most favorably to this plan and that they would find eight minutes thus used ample time in which to give accurate and sympathetic judgments.

In my opinion the time allotments for the extemporaneous events, especially the extemporaneous reading which has always been too short in comparison with the time allowed the memorized readings, should not be changed at all. I do not see why some such a plan as outlined might not also be profitably used in the oratorical event. Possibly the same adaptation could be used even in the semi-finals.

NOTE: This plan does not go into effect this year but will come up for consideration at the next annual meeting in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment.

NEWS ITEMS

Membership. 286 compared with 263 at this time last year is encouraging. The 400 goal can be reached with the cooperation of everyone. No county is yet 100%.

Latest date for registration for all contests except dramatics is December 15.

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

LaCrosse District: E. J. McKean, Tomah—to 1941.

Platteville District: M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville—to 1941.

River Falls District: W. E. Gordon, New Richmond—to 1941.

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

Constitutional Amendments. The following constitutional amendments, again acted favorably upon at the annual meeting, having been passed by referendum, are now a part of the rules of the Association:

1. **Debate Rules, Article VIII, 3** as revised to read:

Each school shall hold three decision debates. On the basis of wins and losses, the nine schools ranking highest shall participate in the sectional debate. In case of ties, schools shall be ranked on the basis of total points as herewith defined. The winner of each sectional debate shall represent the section in the state debates. *Sup*

All debates shall be judged by one or three judges. The number of judges shall be decided by the majority vote of the schools participating. In a dual debate, if the schools disagree on the number of judges, the chairman of the district shall decide.

By point system the winner shall be determined. The judge or judges shall rank each team on a scale of from one to five depending on his estimate of its excellence—the maximum rating to be five points and the minimum rating to be one point. No judge shall give the two teams in any one debate the same number of points. In determining survivals of elimination rounds, any ties in total points earned may be broken by using the square of the judges' rankings for all debates counted in such elimination rounds.

2. **Debate Rules, Article VIII, 5:** Each debate team shall consist of two speakers. The constructive speeches shall be limited to ten minutes;

the rebuttal speeches to five minutes.

3. **Topics for Extemporaneous Speaking, Article VII, 6:** First sentence as revised to read: The Board of Control shall name each year at its annual meeting the periodicals from which the topics for extemporaneous speaking shall be selected for the current year.
4. **Grading of Contestants, Article VII, 3:** Third sentence as revised to read: All markings in league contests shall be on the scale of one hundred. Add the following to paragraph 3: In district and state contests the judge or judges shall grade speakers A, B, or C according to merit, possibly having several of the same grade or having none of some grade. All those graded A in the district shall go to the state contest. If several judges are used, the median of their ratings shall be the final grade.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments. The following proposed constitutional amendments, passed unanimously at the 1938 annual meeting, are submitted for referendum vote, ballot enclosed. In order to become effective these amendments must be approved by referendum vote and acted upon favorably at the next annual meeting.

1. **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.
2. **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.

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, Travel was selected as the type for the reading contest for this year.

A suggestive list of books in the field of travel will be sent out to all the schools at the earliest possible date. We shall indicate in the list the books that may be borrowed from the Traveling Library, State Office Building, Madison.

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 cooperation 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.

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.

Prompting. Any student prompted shall be disqualified.

Debate Question for Next Year. Please return immediately the Information Blank on the Debate Question for 1938-39. The National University Extension Committee meets December 27 in Cleveland.

Student Participation. Last year questionnaires were returned from 142 schools indicating a participation of 11,710. This is only 36% of the schools; hence we estimate that approximately 29,275 participated last year. This is an increase of approximately 1,000 over last year. There is an increase also of 100% participation, that is, of the participation in some special activity by the entire enrollment in the high school. Another questionnaire will be submitted this year with the February News Letter affording an opportunity for reporting on the participation in the forensic activities and in the other speech programs. There seemed to be some misunderstanding last year and the Board has authorized the division of the participation. All preliminary try-outs, however, should be included under the participation in the forensic program.

Certificates of Merit. Only 1,831 Certificates of Merit were granted to students from 171 schools last year. The Board felt that many more students were eligible to Certificates 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.

Radio Broadcasts in Speech.—The Board of the Forensic Association appreciates the opportunity to announce the series of broadcasts which will be of special interest to all teachers and students of speech. During the second semester of this school year, radio stations WHA and WLBL will present a series of broadcasts dealing with Speech for senior high school students. These programs are to be presented by the Research Project in School Broadcasting, and have been endorsed by the Wisconsin Association of Teachers of Speech. The series will be broadcast every Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, February 7, 1939.

Speech Conference in Madison. Because of the interest in the possibility of a speech conference of a week or ten days, which would afford an opportunity for intensive training in speech activities, the Board has authorized the secretary to investigate the possibility and report to the Board on the feasibility of such a plan. If you feel that your school could be represented at such an Institute, will you return the enclosed blank promptly? It may not be possible to arrange such an Institute this year, but an effort will be made to complete plans at least for next year if there is a sufficient number of schools that are interested.

Radio Broadcasting in High Schools. Any schools that are interested in or have promoted any radio broadcasting, please send a very brief statement to the secretary immediately. At the annual meeting a motion carried authorizing the appointment of a special committee in each district to study high school broadcasting and to report to the Association. In order to appoint such a committee it would be helpful to know what schools were interested and had participated in such programs.

News Map of the Week. The Department of Debating and Public Discussion has recently received sample copies as well as supplementary information on the *News Map of the Week*. This publication has also been noted in the last issue of the Wisconsin Library Bulletin. It no doubt could be included in the reference budget item of some of the larger schools in the state and would probably prove a great impetus to the development of the study of current events. The Department will be very happy to send a copy of the *News Map of the Week* as well as descriptive material to any school that is interested.

Building America. Many high schools in the state are regular subscribers