

ON TO THE CAPITAL CITY FOR THE FORENSIC PROGRAMS APRIL 29

See Program on page 1

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.

Lodging Rates. Belmont Hotel: \$1.00 per person two to a room, double bed, without bath but with running water and private toilet; \$1.25 per person two to a room, double bed, with bath; \$1.75 per person two to a room, twin beds, with bath. Park Hotel: \$1.00 per person two to a room, double bed, without bath; \$2.00 per person two to a room, twin beds, with bath. Y.M.C.A.: A very limited number of accommodations might be available from the Y.M.C.A. at 75¢ or \$1.00 per night. Early reservation is suggested. Write to Loran B. Cockrell, Y.M.C.A., 207 West Washington Avenue, Madison.

NEWS ITEMS

Registration. Although the registration for this year has not reached the maximum of 394, it has exceeded last year's registration by four. Total registration for the current year is 388.

Speech Institutes. We are enclosing a preferential ballot for the places and dates for the Speech Institutes for 1938 and urge your careful consideration and prompt response in returning the ballot to the secretary in order that the places and dates of the Institutes, except Barron which is October 29, may be announced before July 1. During the past year 1508 students and coaches from 127 high schools took advantage of the opportunity afforded for class instruction by members of the University faculty at the Speech Institutes held at Shawano, Spooner, Sparta, and Madison.

Debate Question for 1938-39. The result of the ballot on the debate topic for next year shows a very decided preference for America's Foreign Policy. The Wording Committee has not yet decided on a definite statement of the question. It is anticipated that this information will be available to send out with the results of the forensic contests.

Certificates of Merit. Some very interesting reports have been received on the presentation of the 1385 Certificates of Merit awarded last year. They were awarded at special assemblies, community events, or on special occasions at the same time that other awards for scholarships, athletics, and music were made. The Certificates of Merit seem to have met a real need and are very much appreciated. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that the Certificates of Merit should be awarded at the individual schools by the principal or coach.

Badges. The badges awarded at the district contests have been much appreciated. At two league contests this year, similar badges were awarded at a cost of 15¢ per badge for a minimum order of forty-five badges. This number is sufficient for three year's contests—three for each of the five events. It is anticipated that other leagues might like to investigate the possibility for next year. A sample for consideration may be borrowed directly from the Wisconsin Sporting Goods Company, 215 State Street, Madison.

Participation Blank. A blank for a report on student participation is enclosed. Last year we received responses from only 198 schools, indicating a total participation of 14,639 students. This is only about a 22 per cent participation of the 51 per cent of the schools that reported. From the reports submitted this year the schools reporting 100 per cent participation will be listed in the September News Letter. Participation means simply taking part in one of the local speech programs; that is, participating in some type of speech training afforded to the high school student either in a Speech or English class. It does not necessarily mean participating with other schools nor in an assembly program.

Dramatic and Speech Institute, June 27-July 9, inclusive, under the auspices of the Bureau of Dramatic Activities, University Extension Division. The purpose of this Institute is to offer training in community and school leadership in the art of play production and all of the other arts that are closely bound up with it. High School students are also eligible. The headquarters will be Rooms 415 and 417, Chemistry Building, 1100 Block University Avenue. For further information, write to Miss Ethel Rockwell, Chief, Bureau of Dramatic Activities, University Extension Division, Madison.

THE BOARD WISHES TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE COURTEOUS COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO WORKED SO FAITHFULLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPEECH ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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

Vol. IX

MADISON, WISCONSIN, APRIL, 1938

No. 4

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

APRIL PROGRAMS

The Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America are again sponsoring the state speech programs. The following schedule has been adopted:
April 29—8:30 a.m.—Forensic Association Oratorical Contest—Auditorium, Agricultural Hall.

April 29—10:30 a.m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Reading Contest, Auditorium, Agricultural Hall.

April 29—1:00 p.m.—Forensic Association Non-humorous Declamatory Contest—Auditorium, Agricultural Hall.

April 29—3:00 p.m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Auditorium, Agricultural Hall.

April 29—4:00 p.m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Auditorium, Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Stations WHA and WLBL.

April 29—8:00 p.m.—Forensic Association Humorous Declamatory Contest—Auditorium, Agricultural Hall.

April 30—8:00 a.m.—Breakfast Conference—Memorial Union—Superintendent E. J. McKean, Chairman of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, presiding. The contestants will be guests of the Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America. Others, 45¢ per plate. Reservations should be made with the Secretary of the Forensic Association, Almere L. Scott, University Extension Division, Madison, Wisconsin. Blank is enclosed.

April 30—11:00 a.m.—12:00 m. over WHA; 11:15 a.m.—12:00 m. over WLBL—Broadcast by the state champions.

MESSAGE FROM BYRON JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY FORENSIC BOARD, TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE STATE HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC CONTESTS

You are ending, as April draws to a close, another year's contests in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. To you who won, our congratulations. We are happy to have you at Madison for the final contests.

To all who participated, whether you won or lost, we still congratulate you on your forensic efforts and talents. Don't let defeat discourage you, nor let success prevent you from improving further. You will find that forensic training pays dividends wherever you go.

If you are lucky enough to be able to attend the University some day (and we hope you will be), you will find that it offers a complete program in forensics, including debate, oratory, extemporaneous speaking, reading, dramatics, radio, and speech activities.

Best wishes for continued and enjoyable participation in forensics.

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	LA CROSSE DISTRICT	M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville
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		Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn

STATE DEBATE AND DRAMATIC CONTESTS

Debate. In addition to Chippewa Falls from the Northern Section, Shawano from the Central Section, and Waukesha from the Southern Section, the following schools participated in the sectional debates. They are given honorable mention.

Northern Section—Eau Claire and Hudson.

Central Section—Clintonville and Plainfield.

Southern Section—Platteville and Stoughton.

Waukesha won the state championship, with Chippewa Falls ranking second and Shawano ranking third. Shawano and Waukesha participated for the first time in the state debate since the reorganization of the Forensic Association. Because of the keen interest in the question and its applicability to citizenship, more schools debated this year than any year during the history of the Association. It is anticipated that with the selection of a question on some phase of international relations for next year that there will be a further increase in participation.

Dramatics. Due to the expense involved in travel, Cable from the Northern Section defaulted, leaving only two schools to participate in the state dramatic contest. In addition to Oconto Falls from the Central Section and Muscoda from the Southern Section, the following schools participated in the sectional dramatic contests. They are given honorable mention.

Central Section—Colby and Tomah.

Southern Section—Pewaukee and Portage.

Oconto Falls won the state championship with Muscoda ranking second. Muscoda participated for the first time in the state contest.

WHAT THE COACHES SAY

Those who have been privileged to attend the state contests have enjoyed the contact, particularly the breakfast conference. I am sure that all are agreed that if more students would plan to attend the state contests it would prove very effective in the development of a greater interest on the part of students as well as prove helpful to the individuals in the further participation in speech activities.

DEBATE

From Roy C. Nelson, Waukesha:

For the first time in its history, Waukesha High School went to Madison to debate in the state finals on the question of unicameral legislation in the ideal surroundings of the assembly and senate chambers. We returned with the state championship and a great deal of pride in the knowledge that we had been judged better than the excellent teams representing Shawano and Chippewa Falls. Now after an elapse of some weeks, with time for reflection, we sense better the significant results of our achievement. Although there is always a momentary thrill that comes with a winning decision, the more lasting values are those that are too subjective to be measured by any such score as 100 to 98. We prize most highly the experience itself of participating with the best of Wisconsin in an argumentative clash of research, thinking, and speaking. Along with this, we treasure the memory of friendly associations, the delightful social time at the forensic breakfast, the critical analyses of the judges, and the fun of debating through the facilities of Station WHA.

We waited a long time to go to Madison, but it was well worth the wait. We view our participation as most pleasurable and worthwhile; already stimulus and added impetus in all phases of speech work are growing out of it, at Waukesha High School.

From Donald Olson, Shawano:

The program of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association in debate creates an incentive for high schools throughout the state to do better work in that activity. Every school would like to participate in the final state contest; consequently each one strives to build up a speech program within the school that will bring results. Non-decision debating is a vital part of that program. It is an incentive for greater participation within the school and gives a larger group experience in interscholastic debating. This type of debating is not enough. The decision contest is needed to set standards. When the contest element is missing, debaters become careless and the debates that result are of a low calibre. When students know that their work will be

eventually judged, they strive to improve their debating ability. The Wisconsin Forensic Association's debate program with a final State Championship Debate gives the schools in the state the needed decision contests, which act as an incentive to better speaking and better debating, and which create a greater interest in debating in the state of Wisconsin.

From Grace Walsh, Chippewa Falls:

Madison is the magic word. To be in the state debate is an objective that provides the stimulus for students to be vitally interested in the many months of debate practice. In itself it is a selfish rather than a noble goal, but as George D. Baldwin said, "A corporation cannot live on patriotism. Our stockholders must have dividends." Individual progress and school loyalty motivate debate, but the trips are the dividends, and the greatest dividend of all is the state debate.

A conversation with a student recently brought to my attention the importance of it all when he said, "I came to school a stranger. I found positions in the band and on the newspaper staff all filled—but because I was able to go to Madison with the debate team, I'll be grateful all my life."

DRAMATICS

From Margaret Hecht, Oconto Falls:

Of outstanding value to the winner of a one-act play contest is the opportunity for prolonged study through survival of the preliminary contests. If a cast earns representation at the state contest it has achieved not only material awards of victory, but also an experience in drama which usually can be gained only through intensive and prolonged study. The erroneous impression that too much work on one play makes for tiresome and mechanical performances is defeated by choosing a play that requires true character delineation; by continued vitalized rehearsing; and by insistence upon additions and improvements. Only through thought-creating, genuine understanding can a professional standard be reached.

One objection to any contest is the inevitable fact that there must be a loser as well as a winner; whether a cast is a loser or a winner, considerable harm is apt to result. The only help for the situation is to dwarf the contest decisions as much as possible and by so doing eliminate disastrous results. Whether a cast wins or loses there is profit as well as risk in the contest.

From M. Elizabeth McCoy, Muscoda:

It seemed gratifying that both plays, "Barred" by Calista Clark and "No One Can Say" by Warren Beck, representing Wisconsin High Schools in the state contest were by Wisconsin authors.

Our boys and girls were actually able to live their parts because they have neighbors and perhaps even ancestors comparable to the characters they played in the chosen dramas. The contest exemplified the vital truth that in the drama, as well as in the classroom, it is the familiar that vitalizes the educational process.

May we offer a word of appreciation to those two Wisconsin writers who delineated Wisconsin people for the young actors of Wisconsin?

RADIO BROADCAST

By Gordon Hubbel, Radio Station WHA

Thursday, February 3, 1938, brought to the high schools of Wisconsin a brand new radio program. . . . English As You Like It. Registration was immediate and surprising. Five thousand four hundred students from one hundred and seventy classes in ninety-six schools registered. The broadcasts in forensics are now concluded for this semester, and, judging from the response from pupils and teachers, they justified their inclusion in the series. Teachers from the participating schools tell us of the increased interest created by the broadcasts, of the improvement in the pupils' participation and of the many helpful hints and suggestions derived from the broadcasts. The four programs were **Readings in Biography, Readings in American Humor, Orations of Today, and Extemporaneous Speaking.** These programs were designed to help teachers and pupils in their speech problems.

Next year will see an entire semester of programs on Speech. Based on the experience and conclusions of these four preliminary broadcasts, these future programs will attempt to be even more helpful to the listening schools and classes. We are told that many more high schools are installing radio receivers, and that they will be among our listening audience next year.