

**Reading Contest.** Biography was selected for this 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.

**Honor to Former Wisconsin High School Forensic Participants.** Roland Day and Robert Van Dreser, two of our former Eau Claire High School participants in state contests, have continued their excellent work in the University. Roland Day won the freshman extemporaneous speaking contest by unanimous vote of the three judges on the subject, "Is the C. I. O. Doing More Harm Than Good?" Robert Van Dreser, with Roland Day, reached the finals in the all-university discussion contest. Van Dreser and Day also made the Hesperia Debating Society which met Marquette University. Gordon Dupee of Oconomowoc is continuing his splendid work, participating in the Inter-collegiate Debates this year. Glora Buchanan from Menasha made the Woman's Debating Team and Mary Margaret Adams from Wauwatosa won the freshman declamatory contest.

## 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, FEBRUARY, 1938

No. 3

Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.

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

"There is no other accomplishment which any man can have which will so quickly make for him a career and secure recognition as the ability to speak acceptably."—Chauncey M. DePew. Source: The Rostrum, April, 1936.

### RESOLUTION FOR H. C. MASON

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His great wisdom to call to life eternal our beloved fellow-member of the State High School Forensic Board, Mr. H. C. Mason, and

Whereas, this dispensation of our Heavenly Father has taken from our midst a singularly efficient member of the said Board, a man whose conservative counsel and progressive leadership commanded the highest respect, whose wise diplomacy and uniform courtesy enabled him to discharge his duties as a member of this Board for eleven years, to the satisfaction of all; a man, who was an untiring worker in the cause of Forensics in High Schools of the State of Wisconsin; a man who has brought the genial warmth and cheer of his personality to all of our meetings pertaining to the welfare of Forensics.

Therefore be it resolved by the State High School Forensic Board, that we extend our deepest sympathy to the members of the family, praying that the everlasting arms of the Heavenly Father may be under those who mourn the loss of their dear one.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, the Board of Education of the City of River Falls, and the Wisconsin Education Association, and that they be spread upon the minutes of the State Forensic Board.

Dated January 24, 1938

By order of E. J. McKean, President

MILTON A. FISCHER

T. J. McGLYNN

HOWARD M. LYON  
Committee.

### SCHEDULE FOR CONTESTS, 1938

#### DEBATE:

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

#### OTHER HIGH SCHOOL CONTESTS:

Apr. 7—Latest date for league contests.

Apr. 21—Latest date for district contests.

Apr. 29—State Contests.

### WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

E. J. McKEAN, Chairman

Tomah

ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary

Univ. Extension Div., Madison

O. H. PLENZKE, Treas.

Sec., Wis. Education Ass'n,

Madison

PROF. A. T. WEAVER,

Adviser in Speech

ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,

Adviser in Dramatics

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT

Howard M. Lyon,

Chippewa Falls

LA CROSSE DISTRICT

E. J. McKean, Tomah

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT

W. R. Bussewitz, Horicon

OSHKOSH DISTRICT

T. J. McGlynn, De Pere

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT

M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT

W. E. Gordon, New Richmond

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT

Joseph Kraus, Stevens Point

SUPERIOR DISTRICT

Geo. E. VanHeuklom, Glidden

WHITEWATER DISTRICT

Chas. A. Jahr, Elkhorn

**MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR A. T. WEAVER**  
 Chairman of the Speech Department  
 University of Wisconsin

To the Students and Coaches of the W. H. S. F. A. Greetings!

The story goes that, while Coolidge was President of the United States, one morning about breakfast time as he was taking a walk around the White House grounds, he met an acquaintance. "A fine day, Mr. President," said the man. "So far," laconically returned Coolidge.

We are now well into the contest program of 1937-38. So far it promises to be the **biggest** in our history; our paramount concern should be to see that it is also the **best**. May I suggest some rather obvious possible means to that end?

(1) **KEEP OUR OBJECTIVES CLEAR.** Remember that ours is an educational venture; if it is not, it should not be supported by the schools. Above all else, we are seeking to promote personal growth and development in **speech**.

(2) **DISTRIBUTE THE BENEFITS OF THE FORENSIC PROGRAM AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.** Avoid too early a concentration of time and attention on those few who ultimately will represent the school in contests. Stimulate widespread participation of the student community in the preliminary local contests.

(3) **INSIST THAT CONTESTANTS DO THEIR PROPER SHARE OF THEIR OWN PREPARATORY WORK.** Debate coaches must not substitute ready-made research for the students' own study, pre-fabricated arguments for the debaters' original arguments. Students must not miss the rich values of initiative and invention in the building of the "case." Coaches of oratory, extempore speaking, declamation, and reading should place a premium on spontaneity and independence on the part of the student.

(4) **CLING TENACIOUSLY TO HIGH STANDARDS.** In debate, always stick strictly to the truth. Avoid any suspicion of subterfuge or trickery. In the other contests choose dignified, worthwhile materials. Eschew bombastic, insincere, "show-off" delivery. Stress good taste, simplicity, and communicativeness.

And so, forward to those victories over self and circumstance which may or may not be recognized in judge's decision!

**DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS**  
 for the  
**WISCONSIN PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTESTS**  
**FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**  
 1937-1938

**SECTION I**—Vice President, Walter Babula, Hawkins

- District 1. Polk and Burnett Counties  
 Centuria, Frederic\*, Grantsburg\*, Milltown\*, Webster\*
2. Polk County  
 Amery\*, 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\*, Spring Valley\*

**SECTION II**—Vice President, Louis Gaytas, Stanley

7. Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties  
 Augusta\*, Bloomer\*, Chetek, Chippewa Falls\*, Eau Claire\*, New Auburn\*, Stanley\*
8. Clark and Marathon Counties  
 Athens\*, Colby\*, Greenwood\*, Owen, Stratford\*

9. Clark and Wood Counties  
 Auburndale, Marshfield\*, Neillsville\*, Wood County\*
10. Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties  
 Arcadia\*, Blair\*, Cochrane\*, Gilmanton\*, Mondovi\*, Nelson\*, Whitehall\*
11. La Crosse, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties  
 Galesville\*, Holmen, Mindoro\*, Sparta\*, West Salem\*
12. La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon Counties  
 Cashton, Elroy\*, Mauston\*, Norwalk, Ontario\*, Wilton\*

**SECTION III**—Vice President, Justin Williams, Viola

13. Vernon and Crawford Counties  
 Hillsboro\*, LaFarge\*, Viola\*, Viroqua\*, Westby\*, West Lima\*
14. Richland and Sauk Counties  
 Arena\*, Baraboo\*, Lone Rock\*, Prairie du Sac\*, Reedsburg\*, Ithaca, Richland Center\*, Spring Green\*, Wisconsin Dells
15. Grant County  
 Bloomington\*, Blue River, Cuba City\*, Fennimore\*, Lancaster\*, Mt. Hope\*, Platteville\*
16. LaFayette and Iowa Counties  
 Belmont\*, Blanchardville\*, Darlington\*, Dodgeville\*, Highland\*, Mineral Point\*, Shullsburg\*

**SECTION IV**—Vice President, Clinton Brott, Plymouth

17. Forest, Langlade, Marinette, and Oconto Counties  
 Antigo\*, Marinette County\*, Oconto Falls\*, Wabeno
18. Door and Kewaunee Counties  
 Algoma\*, Gibraltar (Fish Creek)\*, 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\*

**SECTION V**—Vice President, Joe Motl, Waterloo

21. Dane, Green, and Rock Counties  
 Albany\*, Belleville\*, Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton\*, Janesville\*, Milton\*, Oregon\*, Stoughton
22. Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties  
 Deerfield, Ft. Atkinson\*, Lake Geneva, Lake Mills\*, Oconomowoc, Racine County\*, Waukesha, Whitewater\*, Wilmot\*
23. Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Jefferson Counties  
 Beaver Dam\*, Columbus, Lodi\*, Marshall\*, Randolph\*, Waterloo\*
24. Columbia, Marquette, Waushara Counties  
 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 2 and all sectional contests not later than April 16. The date for the state contest is set for April 29. 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, giving the place of the contest, the Chapters taking part, the name of the boy winning the district contest, the subject of his talk, and the Chapter from which he comes. After the sectional contest, the vice president shall immediately notify the state adviser, giving the names and Chapters of the contestants, the name of the boy winning the sectional contest, the subject of his talk, and the Chapter from which he comes.

**SPEECH INSTITUTE  
SHAWANO, NOVEMBER 12, 1937**

By Miss Margaret Perry

Shawano High School, for the third consecutive year, was chosen by member schools of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association to conduct the activities of a Speech Institute, and to act as host to the schools in the north-eastern section of the state.

The Institute held in Shawano on November 12, 1937, was sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association with the cooperation of the University of Wisconsin and of Lawrence College, Appleton. Miss Sarah Mielke, Head of the Speech Department of Shawano High School, was in charge of the complete program arrangements. Assisting Miss Mielke were the following Speech and Dramatic coaches: Miss Helen Meiselwitz, Miss Marge Weber, Miss Lydia Johnson, Miss Margaret Perry, Mr. Don Olson, and Mr. Robert Lewis.

It is believed that the Institute in Shawano was the largest of its kind ever held in the state. According to a report from Miss Almere Scott, Secretary of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, we find that there were 448 in attendance at the Shawano Institute from 28 communities. Thirty-six of the 448 registrants were coaches. The following schools were represented: Shawano, Two Rivers, Oconto, Kewaunee, Algoma, Tigerton, East De Pere, Clintonville, Manawa, Wittenberg, Neenah, Kaukauna, Mattoon, Waupaca, Antigo, Oconto Falls, Stevens Point, Seymour, Kimberly, Bowler, Rhinelander, Gresham, Rosendale, Madison, Appleton, De Pere, Mosinee, and East High School in Green Bay.

The purpose of the Institute was to give clinical help in forensic work, not only to the coaches, but also to the students. This was accomplished by arranging the program so carefully that consideration was given to each branch of Forensics during the day's session. Prominent forensic teachers in the state conducted the various sections in a manner that was helpful and entertaining. Professor H. L. Ewbank, University of Wisconsin, led the discussions on Extemporaneous Speaking. He was assisted in the Debate work by Professor Rexford S. Mitchell, Lawrence College. Professor Ethel T. Rockwell, University of Wisconsin, conducted the Dramatic section; Professor Harriett Grim, University of Wisconsin, the Declamation and Reading; and Professor Mitchell, the Oratory.

At the opening session, T. J. McGlynn, Chairman of the Oshkosh District of the Forensic Association, formally began the Institute by the presentation of the staff. From then on, all through the day, sectional meetings were held in each branch of Forensics. The sections were generally divided into two time periods: in the first, helpful comments were given to the students and the coaches by the staff members in charge; during the remainder of the time period, students who so desired participated in actual demonstration work. In the afternoon, a general speech assembly was held, at which time students who had demonstrated at the various sectional meetings were chosen by the staff members to perform before the entire delegation. After this general assembly, the coaches were given the opportunity of attending a conference with advisers.

One hundred and fifty of the visitors attended a luncheon prepared by the Home Economics Department of the Shawano High School at noon. Miss Ruth Adams, student in Shawano High School, was the toastmistress. Mr. O. A. Reetz, Superintendent of the Shawano Public Schools, extended a welcome. The Home Economics department prepared a Banquet in the evening. Two hundred delegates attended. Loren Hotz, President of the Shawano Chapter of the National Forensic League, acted as toastmaster.

In the evening, the University of Wisconsin Debate team presented a demonstration debate for the members of the Institute. The question debated was: Resolved: That the Several States should adopt a Unicameral System of Legislation.

At the sectional meetings the following coaches acted as chairmen: Debate—Melvin Bartz, Clintonville, and C. J. Nuesse, Antigo; Dramatics—Robert Lewis, Shawano; Declamation—Miss Margaret Hecht, Oconto Falls; Reading—Miss Marge Weber, Shawano; Extemporaneous Speaking—Thomas Nolan, Kaukauna; Oratory—John Novakofski, Menasha.

**SPEECH INSTITUTE  
SPOONER, DECEMBER 4, 1937**

By R. K. Sorensen

More than three hundred high school students, speech instructors, and principals participated in the first Northwestern Wisconsin Speech Institute, which was held at Spooner, December 4, 1937.

Valuable instruction in the various branches of forensic work, including debate, oratory, declamation, extemporaneous speaking, and dramatics was administered by the visiting professors of the University of Wisconsin. Student participation was encouraged, and in a general assembly held in the late afternoon, demonstrations by superior students in each branch were given.

Following the Institute banquet, attended by more than two hundred guests, a debate on the high school question was staged by four University of Wisconsin students. The instructional nature of the debate, which was discussed and criticized by the judges, proved very helpful to the high school debaters and coaches in attendance.

Participants in the Spooner Institute came from an area of more than one-fourth the territory of the state of Wisconsin to gain the benefits of clinical instruction in forensic work. For many of them it was the first opportunity to obtain such training. We believe that they returned to their homes with the assurance that the day, although crowded with activity, had been very beneficial. The success of this initial meeting has given the speech students and the leaders of forensic activities in the high schools of Northwestern Wisconsin the right to expect that another Institute will be held in 1938. We are looking forward with anticipation to such a meeting.

**SPEECH INSTITUTE  
SPARTA, JANUARY 8, 1938**

By Roger B. Holtz

On Saturday, January 8, Sparta High School played host for the Western Wisconsin Speech Institute. The Institute marked the fourth successful gathering in this state to further the work in speech activities in Wisconsin.

The program was sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association with the cooperation of the University of Wisconsin. In behalf of those in charge at Sparta High School, I wish to thank all those who helped to make the Institute so worth while.

The success of the speech gathering might be expressed in the fact that thirty-seven schools were represented with approximately four hundred registrants. The value of such a gathering can be realized in the score of remarks and compliments, which were extended by participating schools, which later found their way back to Sparta High School.

The Institute was off to an early start, despite the fact that a number of the schools came eighty to ninety miles with the thermometer hovering around twenty degrees below zero. A cheerful welcome on the part of Charles A. Jahr, chairman of the Whitewater District, substituting in the absence of Mr. McKean, put everyone in a receptive mood for speech activity. Miss Delia Kibbe of the State Department of Public Instruction expressed the desire of the state to perpetuate speech activity in every department of school work. After preliminary remarks, the group dispersed to designated rooms for sectional meetings. Each section was well attended by students and teachers interested in the respective activities.

Following a very profitable morning of critical instruction based on participation of members from registered schools, the entire group assembled for a luncheon at the Sidney Hotel, which was crowded to overflowing with speech enthusiasts. Miss Katherine Mitchell of the Sparta High School faculty acted as toastmistress. Superintendent W. R. Bruce of the Sparta Schools extended a hearty welcome to the participating schools. A message from the University was given by Mr. Bergstresser, assistant Dean of the University Extension Division, expressing the sincere interest of the university in the progress of speech in the Wisconsin schools.

The afternoon found the schools again assembled for a series of sectional

meetings. An assembly program was presented in all divisions of speech work by the talent of the sectional groups. The afternoon activities were concluded with a play presented by the Tomah High School under the direction of Miss Dorothy Stauffacher. The play was excellently presented and was received very well by an enthusiastic audience.

To finish a day filled with rich speech activity the University of Wisconsin Debate Team presented a debate on the high school debate subject, Unicameral Legislatures. Following the debate the critic judges, Mr. Ewbank and Mr. Meyer of the University, analyzed the debate giving a critical discussion on the material and the cases as presented.

With the activities of the day concluded, the various school delegations departed, voicing the uniform comment of "a most worth-while day of speech activities."

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

#### DEBATE

**EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT:** Augusta, Barron, Bloomer, Chippewa Falls, Colfax, Cornell, Durand, Eau Claire, Ladysmith, Menomonie, Mondovi, Rice Lake.

**LA CROSSE DISTRICT:** Arcadia, Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua.

**MILWAUKEE DISTRICT:** Beaver Dam, Columbus, Horicon, Mayville, Milwaukee (Washington), Oconomowoc, Plymouth, Port Washington, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, West Allis, West Bend.

**OSHKOSH DISTRICT:** Berlin, Clintonville, De Pere, Kaukauna, Kewaunee, Kimberly, Marinette, Menasha, Neenah, New London, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Ripon, Shawano, Two Rivers, Waupun.

**PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT:** Barneveld, Darlington, Dodgeville, Fennimore, Livingston, Mineral Point, Platteville, Richland Center.

**RIVER FALLS DISTRICT:** Amery, Baldwin, Boyceville, Clear Lake, Frederic, Glenwood City, Hammond, Hudson, New Richmond, River Falls, St. Croix Falls.

**STEVENS POINT DISTRICT:** Adams-Friendship, Antigo, Birnamwood, Colby, Granton, Greenwood, Loyal, Manawa, Marion, Marshfield, Mattoon, Medford, Merrill, Mosinee, Nekoosa, Plainfield, Port Edwards, Red Granite, Rhinelander, Scandinavia, Stevens Point, Tigerton, Tomahawk, Waupaca, Wausau, Weyauwega, Wisconsin Rapids, Wittenberg.

**SUPERIOR DISTRICT:** Hayward, Mellen, Park Falls, Phillips, Spooner, Superior (Central), Superior (East), Washburn.

**WHITEWATER DISTRICT:** Baraboo, Beloit, Cambria, Cambridge, Deerfield, DeForest, Delavan, Edgerton, Elkhorn, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Lodi, Madison (East), Madison (Wisconsin High), Marshall, Monroe, Oregon, Poyette, Randolph, Reedsburg, Stoughton, Verona, Watertown, Waunakee, Wisconsin Dells.

#### DRAMATICS

**EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT:** Gilmanston, New Auburn.

**LA CROSSE DISTRICT:** Cashton, Galesville, Mindoro, Onalaska, Tomah, West Salem.

**MILWAUKEE DISTRICT:** Columbus, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Port Washington.

**OSHKOSH DISTRICT:** Kimberly, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Shawano.

**PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT:** Muscoda.

**RIVER FALLS DISTRICT:** Because of the illness of the chairman and the change of date, the dramatic work was not organized in this district in time to participate in the regular schedule.

**STEVENS POINT DISTRICT:** Colby, Plainfield, Wittenberg.

**SUPERIOR DISTRICT:** Cable.

**WHITEWATER DISTRICT:** DeForest, Delavan, Edgerton, Milton Union, Portage.

#### MESSAGE FROM BYRON JOHNSON, President of the Forensic Board, to participants in the State High School Forensic Contests.

Many hundreds of you have been debating this year in high school contests. You have gained from that participation, whether you won or not, because it is "not that you won or lost, but how you played the game" that counts in the last analysis.

Twenty-four of you will come down to Madison to participate in the final round, which will determine the state championship. To you we say that we are glad to have you come. We hope that you will enjoy your stay here; that you will benefit from the experience as much as we will from the contacts we make and from the informal discussions we will have. To all of you, we offer our congratulations. Whether you know it now or not, you are the leaders of tomorrow. It is interesting to observe that many of our best students, a great many of our best faculty members here, and other leaders have been debaters at one time or another. Most of you don't win medals or cups, but you all profit by the experience.

We look forward to seeing you all. Some of you will attend the finals at the State Capitol, and we will meet you then. We hope to see you all at the U some day; when you come, look us up.

#### NEWS ITEMS

**State Championship Debate, Madison, March 1, 1938, in the State Capitol.** All interested are cordially invited. Several graduating classes plan a trip to the State Capitol instead of a Senior Party. 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 \$0.45 per plate. Reservations in advance; blank enclosed. Debaters will be the guests of the University Forensic Board for lodging.

**Registration.** The percentage of eligible schools registered in each district this year will be announced in the next issue. Will your district be 100%? It can be with the earnest cooperation of member schools.

**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.** Be sure to read carefully the proposed amendment and return your vote by March 1 as requested.

**State Debate Question.** Read carefully the Report of the Committee on the state debate question for 1938-39. Return the ballot as directed.

**Speech Institutes.** The dates and places for Speech Institutes must be decided in time to announce them with the reports of the state contests in May. This year there were 1508 registrants from 127 schools.

**Central States Speech Association meeting** is scheduled for Columbia, Missouri, April 1 and 2. Those who attended the meeting in Madison last year will be anxious to attend this year. A very helpful and interesting program is in process of preparation. There will be something of special interest to every teacher of speech and to every educator interested in speech work in our schools.

**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 is eligible to a Certificate of Merit, a blank 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.