

badges will be as well received. 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, while the badges will be awarded at the district contests.

Central States Speech Association Convention and Northern Oratorical League Contest. A special announcement of the Central States Speech Association Conference is enclosed to which we call the attention of all interested in speech activities in our schools. An unusual program is in process of preparation. It is not often that an opportunity is afforded to attend both this convention and the Northern Oratorical League Contest in the State of Wisconsin. The latter is held only once in six years in Wisconsin. These two events this year, together with the state contests, should prove an inducement to speech teachers, as well as to others interested in this educational activity, to come to Madison for the weekend of May 6-8.

Dramatic and Speech Institute, June 28-July 10, inclusive. 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 the University High School. For further information write to Miss Ethel Rockwell, Chief, Bureau of Dramatic Activities, University Extension Division.

Platform News. In addition to the other publications mentioned in previous News Letters as particularly helpful to coaches in connection with the development of speech activities in the high schools, Platform News is suggested. A copy is included with this News Letter. Your secretary had written for copies because of the discussion of the four questions to be submitted for debate. The National Committee had delayed supplying information on the debate questions. When the report from the National Committee was received it was too late to advise the Platform News that the copies would not be necessary; hence we are sending a copy to each member school, assuming that you may be interested in this publication.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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

Vol. VIII

MADISON, WISCONSIN, APRIL, 1937

No. 4

Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.

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

MAY PROGRAMS

The Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America are again sponsoring the state speech programs. The following schedule has been adopted: May 6—9:00 a.m.—Forensic Association Oratorical Contest—Agricultural Hall.

May 6—11:00 a.m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Reading Contest—Agricultural Hall.

May 6—2:30 p.m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.

May 6—3:30 p.m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Stations WHA and WLBL.

May 6—8:00 p.m.—Forensic Association Declamatory Contests—Humorous and Non-humorous—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room will be decided by lot.

May 7—8:00 a.m.—Breakfast Conference — Memorial Union — Superintendent M. A. Fischer, 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, 45c per plate. Reservations should be made with the Secretary of the Forensic Association, Almere L. Scott, University Extension Division, Madison, Wisconsin. Blank is enclosed.

May 7—10:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.—12:00 m.—Broadcast by the state champions over Stations WHA and WLBL.

Events of unusual interest are scheduled in Madison, May 6-8. In addition to the regular state contests, the following will be of special interest:

May 7—8:00 p.m.—Northern Oratorical League Contest—Music Hall. No admission charge.

May 7—8:00 p.m.—Wisconsin High School Play, "Rose of the Rancho", three-act comedy drama, by David Belasco.—Bascom Theatre. Contestants will be guests of the Wisconsin High School.

May 7 and 8—Central States Speech Association Conference—of special interest to the teachers. Special announcement enclosed.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

M. A. FISCHER, Chairman Dodgeville	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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PROF. A. T. WEAVER, Adviser in Speech		STEVENS POINT DISTRICT Harry Bender, Colby
ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics		SUPERIOR DISTRICT Geo. E. VanHeuklom, Mellen
		WHITEWATER DISTRICT C. H. Dorr, Milton

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

Once again the first weekend in May approaches bearing with it the grand finale of this year's State High School Forensic Association program. To many of you this finale is also the grand finale of your high school forensic careers, and for you it is peculiarly fitting that at this last landmark of your high school triumphs you should look ahead at the forensic scene which you are about to enter. I refer to the Wisconsin campus; and, for those of you who are able to attend, to the annual contest of the Northern Oratorical League which is held in Madison only every sixth year. The date of the contest this year is Friday, May 7.

To all of you we need only say that your presence in the state finals is sufficient proof of your ability in forensic activity. We welcome you to Madison, anticipating exciting contests and a good time. Good luck!

STATE DEBATE AND DRAMATIC CONTESTS

Debate. In addition to Eau Claire from the Northern Section, Two Rivers from the Central Section, and Milwaukee (Washington) from the Southern Section, the following schools participated in the sectional debates. They are given honorable mention.

Northern Section—Chippewa Falls and River Falls

Central Section—Clintonville and Phillips

Southern Section—Fort Atkinson and Horicon

Two Rivers, participating for the first time in the state contest, won the state championship, with Eau Claire ranking second and Milwaukee (Washington) ranking third. About five hundred, including several legislators, heard the three debates in the State Capitol, in which were presented very effectively the pros and cons of the public utility question. There was an increased interest in debate this year, many schools participating for the first time, and it is anticipated that next year will find more schools entering this very worthwhile educational activity.

Dramatics. In addition to Eau Claire from the Northern Section, Scandinavia from the Central Section, and Columbus from the Southern Section, the following schools participated in the sectional dramatic contests. They are given honorable mention.

Northern Section—River Falls

Central Section—Kimberly and Tomah

Southern Section—Mazomanie and Muscoda

Eau Claire won the state championship, with Columbus ranking second and Scandinavia ranking third. Scandinavia participated for the first time in the state contest. About two hundred and fifty attended this contest which was held in Bascom Theatre.

We have published in this issue of the News Letter, articles on the value of attendance at the state contests expressed by coaches attending this year. The Board feels 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 the students, as well as helpful to the individuals in the further participation in speech activities.

WHAT THE COACHES SAY

DEBATE

From Kenneth A. Dewey, Washington High School, Milwaukee:

Why attend the state debate? Naturally this question doesn't need an answer for those who are successful enough to win one of the three sectional championships. The final debate at Madison is the culmination of their efforts throughout the season. They go to Madison to try to win. But win or lose, they find that the state contest is one of the most inspiring events of the year. The good fellowship they experience in meeting debaters and coaches from all over the state more than compensates for the time and money spent in going to Madison. For this reason, it is obvious that other debate teams throughout the state, even if they haven't won a sectional championship, would profit much by attending the state debate. Particularly would this be true if they would arrange to stay over for the breakfast the following morning at the Memorial Union. Every student and coach who has attended any of these breakfasts will vouch for the fact that they are exceedingly inspirational and helpful. The criticisms by the three judges of the debates, the talks by coaches, the introductions of debaters to one another, etc., all help to make the occasion most worth while. It is the breakfast of champions, for whether in victory or in defeat, every person present truly calls himself a champion of the cause of high school forensics in Wisconsin.

From Sherman Gunderson, Two Rivers:

The state debate dramatizes the possibilities of debate experience.

The state contest places debate in its natural setting—the assembly and senate chambers and a legislative committee hearing room of the state capitol, where debate is the heart of governmental functioning. The state debate demonstrates that debate is important to important people, since the lieutenant-governor, the speaker of the assembly, and a state supreme court justice are chairmen of the three debates and since many state legislators and educational leaders are in the audience. The occasion brings together three strong evenly-matched teams whose examples should spur other teams on to similar achievement. The dramatic presentation of awards in the assembly chamber provides a psychological award of permanent inspiration to any debater. Finally, the forensic breakfast, with the presenting of the debaters and the thorough analytical discussion of the debates by such authorities as Professor Weaver, Miss Borchers, and Mr. Toussaint, is worth the trip in itself.

No one can fully appreciate the vitality and power of debate as an educational force until he has had the fine experience of witnessing the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association state debate.

From H. W. Mathison, Eau Claire:

Debate to the average student may look dull and uninviting. There are no cheering mobs, gesticulating cheer leaders, or bands with their exhilarating music. Can we blame the student if he comes to feel that debate is not worth while, that it is unimportant, and that only a very few ever take interest in it? The need is plainly for something to make debate look more attractive. The promise of a trip will serve as a splendid incentive and will inspire interest.

A trip to the state capital to hear the speech finals is inspirational and educational. If a pupil is not inspired by the thought of partaking in a debate in the halls of the Senate, the Assembly, and the Hearing Room, he probably cannot be reached in any way.

In these halls the pupil has the opportunity to hear the best that the high schools of the State offer in the line of speech. He will be inspired to learn to do as well or better, and will have much greater enthusiasm for speech work.

Such a trip is educational, not only in that it furnishes good examples of correct speech, but in that it affords an opportunity for students to become acquainted with the State Capitol and the State University. It is an opportunity which every high school student should have, because it will teach him more of lasting value than weeks of book work. A trip to the state capital

during the speech contests affords the double opportunity of speech training and of direct contact with our government and our university.

The trip is not expensive. Transportation no longer presents any serious obstacle, and lodging for a night can be had at a very reasonable figure in Madison. For the past few years Eau Claire has pursued the policy of sending many students who are not actually participating in the contests to hear the state contests. This has proved very valuable training and has done more to promote an active interest in speech than any other form of motivation. It has served to place speech work on a higher plane in the estimation of the students. This alone has justified any extra effort needed to make arrangements. If you wish to boost your speech program, try it.

DRAMATICS

From Ruth Kussman, Scandinavia:

I am very happy to have this opportunity to express my opinion on what it means to go to Madison to participate in the state dramatic contest.

All dramatic activities should be shared and enjoyed by all high school pupils. It is a great experience to be able to present a play in Bascom Theatre.

The breakfast conference was especially interesting, entertaining, and instructive. Many new and helpful ideas were contributed during the discussion of the plays.

Our group was especially impressed by the excellent display of costumes and the miniature stage in the Memorial Union. New suggestions in designing inexpensive but attractive costumes were most instructive.

Each member of our cast was thrilled by the trip to Madison. From now on our entire student body will be especially eager to participate in dramatics.

Such a trip to Madison should be an incentive to all high school students to enter the field of dramatics.

From Phyllis Luchsinger, Columbus:

All of the educational and psychological values of a student's activities in a play adhere whether or not the school finally wins representation in the narrowest competition, but there are some definite benefits to be obtained only from participation in the state contest.

From the practical point of view, those of us who come from small schools where stage space is limited or equipment rudimentary appreciate the opportunity to show theatrically-minded students the facilities provided by Bascom Theatre. And perhaps the very necessity of the students to adapt themselves to different working conditions is as valuable, educationally, as anything.

Participation in a state dramatic contest can be a great spur to an otherwise desultory dramatic program. One-act plays assume new importance in the eyes of formerly indifferent students. The competition brings a new awareness of dramatic technique, of dramatic values, and even of the drama as a literary form. And a sluggish, grudgingly attentive public may be aroused to new interest and, what is sometimes most needed, new support.

But what I believe to be most valuable of all is the gain to the student in poise, courtesy, and social awareness. Members of the various casts acquire a surprising number of social niceties which would not otherwise come within their experiences. Broadening one's horizon is after all a relative matter; it can be done without leaving one's own state—at least in certain stages of development.

From O. M. Skalbeck, Eau Claire:

Perhaps the greatest value to the student of a trip to the state dramatic contest at Madison is seeing the other plays presented. When groups of students from one school see the work of other students, they get a better idea of what is good and what is bad in dramatic productions. This is especially true when

good and bad features are pointed out afterward by the judges and critics who have seen the performances and the plays themselves serve as the examples. Many a time the director can stress a point without its seeming to take hold; but when a competent critic makes the same point, it usually is remembered. In view of this fact it would seem advisable to have more plays presented, and, if necessary, to conduct the contest more as a festival with separate divisions for different types of plays.

Another feature that makes a trip to the state contest of value is the enthusiasm which it arouses. The trip, the "show," the breakfast the next morning, and the meeting of new people all become an experience which will long remain a pleasant memory in the minds of the persons taking part, regardless of the outcome of the contest.

The above, it seems, points toward the justification for larger numbers of schools to participate. If need be, a division of schools as to size would be one way of bringing more schools into competition.

NEWS ITEMS

Judges for State Contests. The preferential vote for judging contests—coaches, a single critic judge, or expert judges—will decide as far as possible the judging plan for state contests this year. Please return the enclosed ballot promptly.

Reduced Rates for Round Trip Railroad Tickets. Reduced rate round trip railroad tickets at as low as 1.8c per mile, are now on sale daily. Consult your local ticket agent for the price of round trip fares.

Hotel Rates. Special arrangements have been made with the management of the Park Hotel for rooms with bath at \$1 per person per night when two or more persons occupy the same room; without bath at 75c per person. There are many large rooms with private baths which will accommodate five or six people. Make reservations with Mr. J. H. McNeil, Manager, Park Hotel. Be sure to indicate when registering that you are a member of the Forensic Association. This is necessary to take advantage of the special rates. These special rates are available only to those from Wisconsin attending the forensic contests. Information on rates for the Central States Speech Association Convention is given on special card enclosed.

Debate Question for 1937-38. It is anticipated that the returns from all the states will be in by May 6, and the question selected for next year by the National University Extension Association Debate Committee will be announced at the state contests on that date. The number of ballots returned to the secretary is indicative of an increasing interest in debate.

Speech Institutes. We are enclosing a preferential ballot for the places and dates for the Speech Institutes for 1937. Will you return this promptly, together with your ballot on preference for judging system, in order that the ballots may be summarized and an opportunity afforded to vote on the final places and dates for the Institutes. The Board is very anxious to schedule an institute in the northwest section of the state. Since that section was not covered in a satisfactory manner last year, it will be given first consideration. Towns voted on in that section last year were Park Falls and Menomonie. The vote is not restricted to these towns, however.

District Contest Awards. By action of the Board at the last annual meeting, this year, for the first time, badges will be awarded at the district contests to those ranking first (blue), second (red), and third (white).

Awards. Last year approximately 2000 Certificates of Merit were awarded. Some very interesting reports have been received on the presentation of the Certificates of Merit. They have been awarded at a special assembly or community event at the same time that other awards are made for scholarships, athletics, music, and any other particular event. The Certificates of Merit seem to have met a real need and are very much appreciated. We hope that the