

NEWS ITEMS

Speech Conferences. Since the conference on debating was so much appreciated, a similar conference has been arranged for coaches in the other fields of speech. Reservation blank enclosed. See first page for program. Come prepared to participate—to help and be helped.

Wisconsin Players. An opportunity will be afforded to see the Wisconsin Players in "Peter Pan" Saturday afternoon, May 7. It is suggested that you secure tickets in advance.

Railroad Rates. The special fare introduced by Wisconsin carriers on January 1, 1931, for a trial period of six months proved fairly satisfactory. Because of the satisfactory trial period the carriers operating in Wisconsin have agreed to continue this special arrangement until June 30, 1932. In other words the special fare for secondary school groups under which ten or more are given a single fare for the round trip will be effective for the present school year.

Each high school group desiring the special fare must present a special certificate. These certificates can only be secured through the Secretary of the W. I. A. A., Mr. P. F. Neverman, Marinette, Wisconsin. Schools are urged to secure required certificates at once in order that they may be available when needed.

High School principals and coaches are urged to use the railroads whenever possible. A satisfactory use of railroads during the year will encourage the carriers to continue the special fare after this year. Failure of the schools to use the railroads will mean the non-continuance of this special fare after the present year. (From the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Bulletin, September, 1931.)

Hotel. 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. There are many large rooms with private baths which will accommodate five or six people. Make reservations with Mr. W. R. McNeil, Manager, Park Hotel.

Entertainment. The Madison Association of Commerce and the Forensic Board of the University will co-operate in the entertainment of contestants.

Officers. Principal G. J. Balzer, Washington High School, Milwaukee, was re-elected chairman of the association, Miss Almere Scott, of the Department of Debating and Public Discussion, University Extension Division, and Bart E. McCormick, Secretary of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association, continue as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Membership. Membership for 1932 has reached 381, the highest since the reorganization of the Association. It is still possible to affiliate and receive the thirty selections without competing in the state contests.

Coaches as Judges. It is suggested that schools try the experiment of having coaches of schools participating act as judges. By agreement of participating schools, if number exceeds three or five or less than three, judges can be selected by lot, or additional judge or judges secured. No coach shall judge his own contestant. The Board will appreciate a report on any contests so judged.

Reports to Secretary:

Debate: The secretary has not yet received reports for all of the debates held on the Unemployment Insurance question from all member schools. Please send in your report promptly—number of debates, entire number participating in try-outs as well as regular debates, and the estimated attendance at all debates.

Other Speech Reports. Please fill out and return promptly the report blanks enclosed. This information is very helpful to the Board in the development of the activities of the Association.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution. All schools have not yet returned the ballot on the proposed amendment to the constitution limiting participation in contests, which was sent out with the November News Letter. The schools that were not members last year are receiving a ballot with this New Letter. Please return the ballot promptly.

Debate Question for 1933: Send to the secretary or to your district chairman, your suggestions for debate question for next year.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Vol. III

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No. 4

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

STATE CONTESTS AND CONFERENCES

In compliance with the action of the state meeting last fall, the Forensic Association is co-operating with the Future Farmers of America (an organization of students in agriculture in the high schools) in the conduct of the state contests this year. The following schedule has been adopted:

- May 6, 10:30 a. m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Station WHA.
- May 6, 2:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Reading Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.
- May 6, 3:15 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.
- May 6, 8:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Declamatory and Oratorical Contests—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room to be decided by lot.
- May 7, 8:30 a. m.—Breakfast at which contestants will be the guests of the Association—Memorial Union. Greetings from University Forensic Board—Aaron Tietelbaum. Criticisms and suggestions from judges.

Conference for Coaches with Members of Department of Speech.

- 10:00-11:00 a. m.—Oratory—Professor H. L. Ewbank.
- 11:00-12:00 a. m.—Reading—Professor Gertrude Johnson.
- 12:00 p. m.—Broadcasting by the winners of State Contests over WHA.
- 12:15- 2:00 p. m.—Luncheon—Memorial Union.
- Music—Mrs. A. T. Weaver.
- Reading—Professor Gladys Borchers.
- One Advantage of the Oratorical or Reading Contest—
By the coach of each school represented in the state contest.

AN APPRECIATION

Glenn Frank, President of the University of Wisconsin.

"In a time when everything educational is being subjected to acid criticism, I find my faith in our schools strengthened whenever I listen to the debating teams in our state contests. The earnestness, the grasp, the poise, the agility of mind, and the evident mastery of materials the debaters show are the first fruits and final justification of an authentic education."

(President Frank presented the awards at the State High School Debate at the State Capitol March 31.)

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

G. J. BALZER, Chairman
Wash. High School, Milwaukee

ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary
Univ. Extension Div., Madison

B. E. MCCORMICK, Treas.
Sec., Wis. Teachers' Ass'n,
Madison

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Adviser in Speech

MISS ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,
Adviser in Dramatics.

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MESSAGE FROM RAY E. HOLCOMBE, CRITIC JUDGE,
Formerly Professor of Dramatics,
University of Oklahoma.

On April 1st, the three sectional winners in the high school contests performed before a full house in Bascom Theatre to decide the state championship.

Oconomowoc, producing **SUBMERGED**, with its clever manipulation of stage effects and lighting, garnered the necessary points to clinch the championship. Running a very close second because of some excellent acting, River Falls High School, with **SOD**, elicited much comment for its intelligent line reading and its simplicity in action.

Third place was given to Marshfield with **WHERE THE CROSS IS MADE**.

In commenting on the progress of this work in the state we may quite proudly point out that here was a program of serious pretensions, one in which each play represented an extremely ambitious undertaking. Certainly this is ample indication that the high schools are "stepping out" from the cheap clap-trap material of a few years ago. No one who saw this year's contest could help but catch the serious atmosphere of honest purposeful endeavor underlying this presentation.

STATE CONTESTS IN DEBATE AND DRAMATICS,
Madison, March 31 and April 1, 1932.

Clintonville high school holds the state debate title for 1932, and Oconomowoc high school is the trophy winner for high school dramatics, by virtue of decisions awarded at the state contests on March 31 and April 1. These contests were the culmination of the annual activities in these branches by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

In debating, Kenosha high school was awarded second place and Eau Claire high school third place. This was a triangular contest, with each school having two teams, debating both sides of the question, "Resolved, that the several states should enact legislation providing for compulsory unemployment insurance."

In the dramatic contest, Oconomowoc high school won with the play "Submerged," by H. Stuart Cottman and LeVergne Shaw. River Falls high school, presenting "Sod," by Stuart McK. Hunter, received second place, and Marshfield high school with "Where The Cross Is Made," by Eugene O'Neill, was placed third.

In both divisions the winning school was awarded a trophy cup. Each participant in the state contests received a medal, and each school a banner.

Judges of debates were Professors A. T. Weaver, H. L. Ewbank, and Gladys Borchers, of the University Department of Speech. For the dramatic contest, Ray E. Holcombe, formerly Professor of Dramatics at the University of Oklahoma, acted as judge, substituting for Professor Claude M. Wise of the University of Louisiana. This substitution seemed advisable since Professor Wise had edited one of the plays that was produced. At the dramatic breakfast conference Professor Wise gave some interesting information on "Submerged," bringing out the fact that in its original form it was written by two high school boys in New Orleans, who later, with the advice and co-operation of Professor Wise, published it in the form in which it was produced.

The conference breakfasts, well attended not only by contestants but by others interested in forensics, were very much appreciated. Because of the general interest, Professor Ewbank will prepare for the debating issue of the News Letter an article incorporating his Fourteen Points in Debating, and Miss Borchers will prepare for the first issue an article incorporating the points developed in her talk on Ethics of Debating.

OUTCOMES OF SCHOOL DEBATING

By Fred S. Sorrenson, Director, Division of Speech Education,
State Normal University, Normal, Illinois.

Source: The Journal of the National Education Association, January, 1932, p. 4.

The list below grew out of a discussion which was held at a sectional meeting devoted to debating at the 1931 convention of the Illinois Association of Teachers of Speech.

In interesting himself in well directed debating, a student:

- (1) Becomes more keenly aware of the large place which argument and persuasion have in human relations.
- (2) Forms the habit of relying more and more upon evidence rather than prejudice, tradition, and intuition in reaching conclusions.
- (3) Acquires a keener interest in the pursuit of truth.
- (4) Receives training in the accurate statement of ideas and facts.
- (5) Develops more fixed habits of intellectual honesty.
- (6) Becomes more skilful in the use of libraries.
- (7) Becomes more keenly interested in social, economic, and governmental problems.
- (8) Becomes better acquainted with the sources of reliable information upon social, economic, and governmental problems.
- (9) Acquires a better understanding of the fundamental principles relating to sociology, economics, and government.
- (10) Receives training in the use of scientific methods of gathering data bearing upon social, economic, and governmental problems.
- (11) Receives training in analyzing social, economic, and governmental problems.
- (12) Learns to test the value of data.
- (13) Acquires greater skill in interpreting data.
- (14) Learns to reason conservatively from data.
- (15) Acquires greater skill in organizing data.
- (16) Becomes a medium for the dissemination of knowledge of superior quality bearing upon social, economic, and governmental problems.
- (17) Becomes more skilful in presenting data clearly and attractively.
- (18) Learns to adapt his point of view to that of others.
- (19) Learns to adapt reasoning and evidence to different types of audiences.
- (20) Develops an appreciation of the point of view of others.
- (21) Acquires skill in presenting data with poise and confidence.
- (22) Becomes a more easy extempore speaker.
- (23) Becomes a more resourceful and forceful public speaker.
- (24) Develops a more expressive body and voice.
- (25) Develops a stronger and more pleasing personality.
- (26) Learns to present his views and the reasons for them with conciseness.
- (27) Forms the habit of refraining from expressing himself with confidence upon subjects regarding which he knows little.

Many schools have set up such worth while objectives in teaching debating that the work is recognized as one of the most helpful activities of the institution.