

ROUTE TO  
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Drama Coach .....  
Speech Coach .....

COACHES'  
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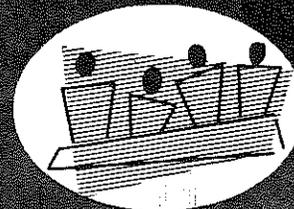
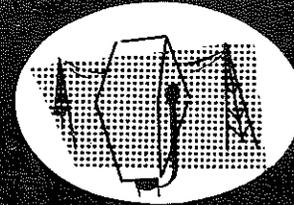
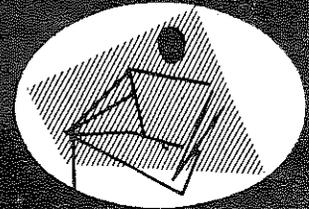
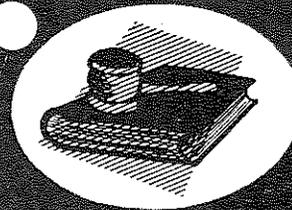
# Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter

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

Vol. XXXI

MADISON, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY 1960

No. 3



**WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION**  
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1959 - CALENDAR - 1960

Latest Dates for Speech Contests

League . . . . . March 12  
District . . . . . March 26  
State . . . . . April 9\*  
\*Madison

Actual dates of the league and district contests may be obtained from your district chairmen.

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State Drama Contest

Kaukauna, Greenfield, and Fish Creek High Schools received "A" ratings at the State Drama Contest which was held at Wisconsin State College, Oshkosh, on December 5. The schools were awarded plaques and the participants received individual gold medals.

Brookfield, Superior Cathedral, Ashland De-Padua, Green Bay Preble, Thorp, and Rosholt were awarded "B" ratings. Wautoma received a "C" rating. The schools rated "B" and "C" received Certificates of Achievement and the participants received individual Certificates of Achievement.

Judges for the contest were: Gloria Link, Assistant Professor of Speech, Wisconsin State College, Oshkosh; Jonathan Curvin, Professor of Speech, University of Wisconsin; and Robert Friedel, Director of Drama and Music, Milwaukee Public Schools.

Mr. A. C. Christ, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Control of WHSFA, presided over the awards ceremony. The President of the College, Dr. Roger E. Guiles, addressed the coaches and students who were present. During the program the three judges were called upon to speak to the group. They praised the ten schools competing in the contest and stated their pleasure at having had the opportunity to serve as judges.

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Tape-Recorded Radio-Program Contest

Two schools, Superior Cathedral and Cedarburg, received "A" ratings in the Tape-Recorded Radio-Program Contest this year. Certificates of Achievement were awarded to the two schools, and individual gold medals to the participants.

Brookfield, Fort Atkinson, Racine St. Catherine and Whitefish Bay received "B" ratings; Beaver Dam and Gale-Ettrick "C" ratings. The "B" and "C" winners were awarded Certificates of Achievement for the school and for the individual participants.

Judges for this event were: Mr. Thomas Wirkus, Instructor in Speech, Wisconsin State College, La Crosse; Dorothy Miniace, Associate Professor of Speech, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Sloan Williams, Teaching Assistant in Speech, University of Wisconsin.

The theme for the 1959-60 school year was: "A Public Relations Program for Your Local School."

Tape-Recorded Panel-Discussion Contest

Three schools received an "A" rating in the preliminary rounds of the Tape-Recorded Panel Discussion Contest and were advanced to the finals. In final competition Milwaukee South Division received an "A" rating, Tomah and Wisconsin High of Madison received "B" ratings.

The "A" school was awarded a Certificate of Achievement and individual gold medals for the participants; the "B" rated schools received Certificates of Achievement both for the school and for the individual participants.

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Judges in the final round were: O. Gayle Manion, Chairman, Department of Speech and English, Wisconsin State College, Superior; Ted Jackson, Instructor in Speech, Wisconsin State College, Oshkosh; Edna Sorber, Assistant Professor of Speech, Wisconsin State College, Whitewater.

Fourteen schools were entered in the preliminary rounds: Racine St. Catherine, Stevens Point Pacelli, Milwaukee South Division, Mindoro, Medford, Merrill Holy Cross, Oconomowoc, Greenwood, Sparta, Shullsburg, Whitefish Bay, Tomah, Wisconsin High School Madison, and Beaver Dam.

Judges in the preliminary rounds were: Theodore Clevenger, Assistant Professor of Speech, University of Wisconsin; Gail Compton, Ron Carpenter, and James Powell, Teaching Assistants in Speech, University of Wisconsin.

The official discussion question for 1959-60 was: "What should be the responsibility of government in solving the current labor-management problems?"

A copy of the "A" tape is available on a loan basis from the state office.

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Rule Changes for Spring Speech

Spring speech events will soon be occupying the time of over 5,000 high school students and teachers in Wisconsin. Each year some people in this group are disappointed in contest results because they did not read the rules carefully. Annually, at its spring meeting, the Board of Control reviews the rules for each event and may modify them. The rule changes made last spring that affect this year's Spring Speech Contest are:

1. DECLAMATIONS—may be humorous or non-humorous, but only one contest will be held, termed "Memorized Declamation". Each high school will be allowed to enter a maximum of two contestants in this event.
2. EXTEMPORANEOUS READING—will be limited to the following works of Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer, Puddin' Head Wilson, Life On the Mississippi, and The Prince and the Pauper.

The other spring speech events remain unchanged. If you have any questions regarding any of these contests, refer to pages 19-21 of the 1959 September Newsletter. The publication, Aims, Definitions, and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests (light gray cover) also contains the rules as well as a complete explanation of each event.

Extemporaneous Speaking Magazines

Schools planning to enter the extemporaneous speaking contest this spring are reminded that the following magazines will be used as source material in the selection of topics: American Observer, Current History, Newsweek, The Reporter, Senior Scholastic, and U. S. News and World Report. Issues from January, February, March, and the first week of April will be used in the selection of topics for the state contest.

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Board of Control Meeting in April

The Board of Control will meet April 23-29 at the Wisconsin Center Building in Madison. This date is after the Spring Speech Contest and the Board of Control will be better able to view last year's rule changes and make any necessary revisions for 1960-61. If you have any suggestions concerning rule changes or contest regulations, please write to your district chairman, whose name appears on the inside cover of this Newsletter.

Official One-Act Play List

The official publication "Approved One-Act Plays for 1960-61" will be mailed out to Wisconsin High Schools in May. The Board of Control assigned the responsibility for compiling the new list to the Wisconsin Idea Theatre and to Mrs. Julia Mailer, Theatre Librarian for the University of Wisconsin Extension Division. If you have read any plays which you feel should be added to the list, send the titles to Wisconsin Idea Theatre, 3022 Stadium, University of Wisconsin, or to Mrs. Julia Mailer, Room 20, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Certificates of Participation

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a post card to be used in ordering Certificates of Participation for your students. Those who have taken part in one or more inter-school contests sponsored by the Association are eligible to receive these certificates.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Selection of Problem Areas, Discussion Questions and Debate Propositions

By Frederick E. Haug, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer, WHSFA

Although the schools in Wisconsin participating in discussion and debate have just completed the 1959-60 season, considerable activity has already taken place on the selection of the problem area, discussion questions, and debate propositions for the 1960-61 school year. Because the process is a rather lengthy and involved one, it is perhaps advisable to review the procedure.

Coaches in Wisconsin high schools that engage in discussion and debate were polled in October of 1959 to obtain their suggestions for general problem areas for the 1960-61 school year. These results were sent to the chairman of the National University Extension Association Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation. He included them in a master ballot compiled from recommendations sent to him from all state associations affiliated with the NUEA Committee. In December a copy of this ballot was mailed by WHSFA to Wisconsin coaches, giving them the opportunity to select which of the areas listed they preferred.

The December poll was designed to guide the delegates to the Advisory Council of the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation. The Advisory Council is composed of one delegate from each affiliated state association plus the National Forensic League. The Advisory Council's function is to recommend to the NUEA Committee three general problem areas, with three discussion questions and three debate propositions in each area.

The responsibility for the selection and wording of the problem areas, discussion questions, and debate propositions rests with the NUEA Committee. Both the Advisory Council and the NUEA Committee met in Washington D. C., December 28-30.

The Secretary-Treasurer of the WHSFA, Frederick E. Haug, Jr., was Wisconsin's delegate to the Advisory Council. Professor Herman H. Brockhaus, Chairman of the Department of Speech of the University Extension Division, served as a member of the nine-man committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation.

Well in advance of the Council and Committee meetings, however, several groups from the Advisory Council had been appointed to investigate problem areas that had been mentioned frequently, by state associations, in previous polls. Possible areas were examined to determine if materials were available and if debatable propositions could be worded. In addition to the help provided by this pre-session activity, the Advisory Council had the assistance of subject-matter experts from Washington, D. C. Representatives from the Library of Congress, United World Federalists, American Good Government Society, and Federal Union, Inc., were present at several meetings. These men were able to provide invaluable service to the Advisory Council, providing specific information in each of the proposed problem areas.

After initially studying over twenty possible areas, the Advisory Council concentrated on five main topics. Free World Security, Federal-State Relationships, U. S. Immigration Policies, Conservation of Natural Resources, Federal Regulation of Mass Media.

Committees were appointed to consider the potentialities of the topics as general problem areas. Each of these committees formulated a tentative wording for one problem area, three discussion questions, and three debate questions. The final meeting of the Advisory Council was characterized by a discussion of the advantages and limitations within each area. By vote of the delegates the following three problem areas were recommended by the Advisory Council to the Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Inter-State Cooperation. The Committee adopted the recommendation of the Council.

1. How can the security of the free world best be maintained?
2. How can the United States best use its water resources?
3. How may television best serve the public interests?

The affiliated state associations were polled again in January of 1960 to select one of these three problem areas. The three discussion questions and debate propositions also appeared on that ballot. The problem area selected by a majority of the state associations voting will be the official one for 1960-61 and will be announced in the May, 1960, Newsletter. No state is obligated to accept either the general area or any specific wording of questions or propositions. Almost every state without exception, however, does use the problem area recommended by the NUEA Committee.

Next summer the selection of a discussion question for Wisconsin will be made by a special advisory committee appointed by the Secretary-Treasurer of the WHSFA. This official discussion question will be announced in the September 1960 Newsletter.

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In September, shortly after school has resumed, Wisconsin coaches will be asked to indicate in a mail poll which of the three debate propositions within the one problem area they prefer to debate. A committee appointed by the Secretary-Treasurer of the WHSFA will examine the results of this referendum in the light of any contemporary legislation or circumstances that may affect the wording of the proposition. The official debate proposition for Wisconsin high schools will be announced by October 1.

Each step in the selection process is important, especially where debate and discussion teachers are asked to give their recommendations. Coaches will be asked to express their opinions four times during the school year: 1) In October, to suggest general areas to be considered for the next year; 2) in early December, to recommend the main areas and give direction to Wisconsin's delegate to the Advisory Council meetings; 3) in January, to choose one problem area from the three coming out of the Advisory Council and NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Inter-state Cooperation meetings; 4) in September, to designate one of the three debate propositions within the official problem area. It is important that coaches participate actively in this selection process by giving each ballot careful and prompt attention. If your school participates in discussion or debate and you have not been receiving material on these referenda, please inform the state office of the WHSFA.

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Prior to 1952-53 the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Inter-state Cooperation recommended only one debate proposition rather than three. The North Central Association

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of Colleges and Secondary Schools levied considerable criticism on the emphasis placed on competition in inter-school debate. Because of this, the NUEA Committee decided to follow the practice of recommending a problem area including three discussion questions and three debate propositions in the spring of the year. This plan was designed primarily to encourage schools to explore the general problem, to participate actively in discussion, and to carefully investigate all three debate propositions before making a decision as to the final one to be used for the year. At our December meetings, the Advisory Council was informed that the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has not altered its earlier position.

Credit Course in Directing High School Forensics

A course entitled Education 129, Directing of High School Forensics, will be offered at the University of Wisconsin during the 1960 summer session. The four week class will run from June 20 to July 15 and will carry four graduate or undergraduate credits in Education.

The course is designed to assist both the experienced and the inexperienced teacher of forensics. Students will have an opportunity to learn more about forensics from professors who are experts in each contest area. Classroom demonstrations by successful high school students will be a part of the program. Teachers attending the class will obtain experience in selecting and cutting orations and declamations for contest use.

Further information concerning specific details of this course may be obtained by writing Gladys L. Borchers, Professor of Speech and Education, University of Wisconsin, who will be the instructor in charge.

Speech Events of Interest in Wisconsin

Annual Choral Speaking Festival  
Mount Mary College  
March 21, 1960

High school and grade school teachers are invited to present their verse speaking choirs at this annual choral speaking festival. Mary Beth Owen, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, will act as critic. Write Professor Agnes Curran Hamm, Mount Mary College, 2900 Menomonie River Parkway, Milwaukee, for details.

Annual Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference  
March 25-27, 1960

This program of instruction will be held at the Moor Hotel, in Waukesha. It will feature social events, outstanding theatre productions, and national authorities on theatre. For additional information write to Wisconsin Idea Theatre, Room 3022 Stadium Building, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

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