

# WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

## Coming Events

Lake Shore High School Debate Tournament  
University Extension, Milwaukee -----Dec 4  
Interpretative Reading Institute  
Wisconsin State College, River Falls----Dec 4  
State Drama Contest, Bascom Theatre  
University of Wisconsin, Madison -----Dec 11  
Speech Ass'n of America Convention  
Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago -----Dec 28-30  
High School Debate Tournament  
Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire----Jan 8  
Forensic Institute  
Wisconsin State College, Whitewater----Jan 13  
Forensic Institute  
Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire----Jan 15  
Forensic Institute  
Wisconsin State College, La Crosse---- Feb 12  
College Speech Meet  
Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire----Feb 17-19  
Inter-Center Forensic Tournament  
University Extension Center, Green Bay--Feb 25-26  
State Debate Contest  
University of Wisconsin, Madison -----Feb 25-26  
Delta-Sigma Rho Discussion and Debate Conf  
University of Wisconsin, Madison-----Mar 11-12  
Spring Meeting-Board of Control-WHSFA  
Memorial Union, Madison -----Mar 17  
Central States Speech Ass'n Convention  
Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri ---Apl 1-2  
State Speech Contest  
University of Wisconsin, Madison ----- Apl 16  
Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference  
University of Wisconsin, Madison ----- Apl 16

AFFILIATED WITH  
BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION  
1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.  
Phone: Dial 5-3311, Ext. 4233

VOL. XXVI

MADISON, WISCONSIN, NOVEMBER 1954

NO. 2

## Latest Dates for Contests

	Drama	Debate	Speech
League Contests	Nov 10 -	-----	March 19
District Contests	Nov 20 -	Feb 5 -	April 2
Sectional Contests	Dec 4 -	Feb 12 -	-----
State Contests	Dec 11 -	Feb 25-26	April 16

Please try to avoid scheduling school activities which conflict with the above dates.

See back cover for additional dates of interest to speech and drama teachers.

The Annual dues should be paid by December 15th.

## BOARD OF CONTROL

### Northern Section

BARRY E. ROBINSON  
Eau Claire

*Eau Claire District*  
WILLARD SWANSON  
Rice Lake

*River Falls District*  
F. M. ROBEY  
Clayton

*Superior District*  
H. F. CONNORS  
Hurley

### Central Section

E. C. MARQUARDT  
Wausau

*La Crosse District*  
K. A. CURRAN  
Cashton

*Oshkosh District*  
A. F. CHRIST  
New London

*Stevens Point District*  
A. D. WICKLUND  
Nekoosa

### Southern Section

NEIL D. GREENE  
Muscodia

*Milwaukee District*  
N. E. COLBY  
West Bend

*Platteville District*  
M. V. CAMPBELL  
Muscodia

*Whitewater District*  
J. A. BYRGE  
Whitewater

H. F. CONNORS, *Chairman*  
Hurley

ROBERT H. SCHACHT, *Sec'y-Treas.*  
University Extension Division

RODERICK MCPHEE, *Ass't Sec'y-Treas.*  
University Extension Division

PROFESSOR A. T. WEAVER  
Advisor in Speech  
University of Wis.

PROFESSOR ROBERT E. GARD  
Advisor in Dramatics  
University of Wis.

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## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Results of Election of Board Members-1954

We are happy to announce the reelection of Mr. E. C. Marquardt as chairman of the Central Section and Mr. J. A. Bjorge as chairman of the White-water District.

We welcome the following new Board members and chairmen:

W. L. Swanson, Eau Claire District  
A. F. Christ, Oshkosh District  
M. V. Campbell, Platteville District

Our sincere thanks go to the retiring board members for their generous contributions in furthering the cause of high school forensics in Wisconsin. They are:

Mr. Julian Bichler, Eau Claire District  
Mr. Allan Stewart, Oshkosh District  
Mr. Kenneth Holt, Platteville District

### Board of Control Officers

We are pleased to announce that Mr. H. F. Connors of Hurley, Chairman of the Superior District, has been reelected Chairman of the Board of Control for the coming year. Mr. N. E. Colby of West Bend, Chairman of the Milwaukee District, has been reelected Vice Chairman of the Board for the same period.

### New Wisconsin Speech Ass'n Officers

At the Milwaukee meeting the Wisconsin Speech Association elected the following officers for 1954-55. President, Winston L. Brembeck, University of Wisconsin; Vice President, Fred Metzner, Waukesha High School, Secretary-Treasurer, Ted McLaughlin, Milwaukee Extension Center.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Minutes of the 28th Annual Meeting  
Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, November 5, 1954

1. The meeting was called to order by H. F. Connors, Chairman of the Board, at 4:20 P. M. with thirty-five persons present.
2. Reading of the minutes of last year's meeting was dispensed with.
3. The Sec'y-Treas. reported on the results of the election and introduced the new and reelected board members.
4. The first major item of business was the discussion of a proposed new rule to be acted upon by the board at the March meeting. The proposed rule is:

If there are three or fewer schools participating in drama or debate in any district, those schools will enter directly into the sectional contest.  
If there are four or more schools participating in drama or debate in any district, those schools must participate in a district contest.

Coaches and administrators are asked to discuss this proposed rule with their chairmen before the March meeting.

5. Following an announcement that fifteen schools are entered in this year's tape-recorded discussion contest, Mr. McPhee stated that a copy of the winning tape will be placed on file at Station WHA, Madison. Schools interested in hearing this discussion may obtain a copy by sending a blank tape and \$1 to Mrs. Betty Hansen, Station WHS, Madison, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

6. Mr. Connors announced that the Board had discussed the question of how member schools finance their extra curricular-interscholastic speech activities, and decided that such information might be very helpful to administrators and coaches. Therefore, a questionnaire on the financing of speech activities sponsored by WHSFA is enclosed with this News Letter. Please cooperate by returning it promptly. A report of the survey will be published in the February News Letter.
7. Mr. McGivern of Two Rivers raised the question of having institutes on school days. During the discussion which followed, most of those who spoke favored holding institutes on school days. There was general agreement, however, that the problems in various districts are different and that the days should be chosen which best meet the needs and convenience of the participating colleges and schools.
8. The question as to why some institutes are not having sessions on debate was raised, and Mr. McPhee explained that the offerings of the institutes were largely determined by the interests of the participating colleges and availability of competent staff.
9. A request was made from the floor that all contest chairmen, league and district, be sure to allow adequate time for critiques from the judges.
10. A proposal was made from the floor that at some future date the association discuss the possibility of dividing declamations into two categories, interpretation and impersonation.
11. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P. M.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Reviewing Stand Program

The NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials is this year sponsoring the broadcast of the discussion on the question "What Should Be the Foreign Trade Policy of the United States?" The program will be presented on the Northwestern Reviewing Stand over the Mutual Network on Sunday, November 21. Why not tape this program for the use of your debaters?

Dean James H. McBurney, School of Speech, Northwestern University, is the moderator. The program will feature the following speakers:

Clarence B. Randall, Chairman, Inland Steel Co.  
Charles P. Taft, President, Committee for a  
National Trade Policy  
Wayne Morse, Senator from Oregon  
J. G. Shennan, President, Elgin National Watch Co.  
O. R. Strackbein, Chairman, Nation-wide Committee  
of Industry, Agriculture, and Labor  
on Import-Export Policy.

The NUEA Committee will publish a transcript of this program. Copies are available at 2 for 25 cents from:

The NUEA Committee on Debate Materials  
1327 University Avenue  
Madison 5, Wis.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Discussion Contest Under Way

At the present time the tape recorded discussion contest is in progress with fifteen schools participating. The topic for discussion is:

What policy should the United States sustain concerning trade with Communist-bloc nations?

The following schools are entered:

Amery	Middleton
Barron	Orfordville
Campion of Prairie	Racine Horlick
du Chien	Stoughton
Chippewa Falls	Whitefish Bay
Janesville	Winneconne
Lake Geneva	Wisconsin High-Madison
Marinette	
Merrill	

The winning discussion will be broadcast over the state network when the contest is over. We have arranged for Station WHA to place the winning tape on file so that it may be obtained by all those interested in hearing this discussion. Details will be announced in the February News Letter.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### State Drama Contest

The State Drama Contest will be held Saturday, December 11, at Bascom Theatre on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. Schools that receive "A" ratings in the sectional contests will automatically be scheduled for the state contest. As soon as we receive the results of the sectional contests, we will mail directions to the schools that are eligible.

For those of you who do not qualify to enter the state contest we would like to extend an invitation to bring a group of students to attend the contest and observe the plays. Watching these fine plays can be a very interesting as well as educational experience for your students. No admission is charged.

### One-Act Play List

The Board of Control at its November meeting, again asked Professor Robert E. Gard, Director of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre, to compile the official one-act play list for next year.

We are anxious to learn your reaction to this year's play list. Which plays should be omitted next year? Do you know of any which should be added? Now is the time to offer your suggestions for next year--while you are reading, seeing, and judging many of the plays now on the list. As you come across good one-acts not on the list, let us know of them. Next fall will be too late. Please send your suggestions to Robert E. Gard, Director, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, University Stadium, Madison, Wisconsin.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### The Debate Question

The official Wisconsin debate question for 1954-55 has been chosen and announced to those schools which checked debate on their registration cards. 51 of 72 eligible high schools voted in the referendum. The question is:

Resolved: that the federal government should initiate a policy of free trade among nations friendly to the United States

It is interesting to note that several other states have also announced a topic and all are using the same question as Wisconsin.

### Loan Packages on Debate Question

Loan packages of information on the debate question are available, for return postage only, from the Bureau of Information and Program Services, (BIPS) 1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis. These packages contain materials different from the free materials sent those schools which checked debate.

### Packet of Free Debate Materials

The Foundation for Economic Education has assembled a packet of materials on the question of free trade, which is available to schools debating this issue. The material is intended primarily for, and to explain the advantages of, free trade. As long as their supply lasts, packets are available for distribution--one free to each school. If you would like to obtain this material address your request to:

Bettina Bien  
The Foundation for Economic Education  
Irvington-on-Hudson, New York

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Marquardt WHSFA Representative to SAA

On December 28, 29, and 30 the Speech Ass'n of America will hold its annual convention at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago. Erv. Marquardt, Chairman of the Central Section and debate coach at Wausau High School, has been designated as the official delegate of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association to the meeting of the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Material, held in connection with the SAA Convention. This is the group which establishes debate procedure for the high school leagues of America and which chooses a national debate proposition for the remainder of the year. If you have any suggestions for Mr. Marquardt, write to him at the Wausau High School.

Other Wisconsin people will be featured on the program, and you would do well to make this your professional convention for the year. Many programs of interest to high school teachers will be given.

### Next Year's Debate Topic

Each year the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials asks the various state leagues to submit suggested problem areas for use by the high schools the following year. In order to reflect the desires of the debate coaches of Wisconsin we ask the coach of every school participating in debate to send us suggestions. This year only twelve of the seventy-two coaches contacted availed themselves of this opportunity to be a part of the process which will ultimately result in next year's problem area. Coaches from the following schools sent their suggestions: Mayville, Menasha, Medford, West Allis Central, Eau Claire Regis, Richland Center, Shawano, Stevens Point, Milwaukee Marquette, Milwaukee Pius XI, Prairie du Chien Campion, and Eau Claire Sr. -10-

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Reminder of New Rule

This is to remind all schools that, effective this year, the number of students each school may enter in each event of league speech contests is limited to two. Where league contests are not held this is interpreted to apply to the first inter-scholastic contest held.

### Proposed New Rule

At the meeting last March the board, acting upon a request from 14 schools in the central section, discussed the equity of allowing schools in certain districts to proceed to the sectional drama and debate contests without first going into a district contest. This policy had been followed where very few schools were entered and also where distances were very great and travel, consequently, very expensive. Mr. Robinson was asked to discuss the problem with coaches in the northern section and report his findings at the November board meet.

Following Mr. Robinson's report the board discussed the problem thoroughly and proposed the following new rule, with final action to be taken at the March meeting.

"If there are three or fewer schools participating in drama or debate in any district, those schools will enter directly into the sectional contest. If there are four or more schools participating in drama or debate in any district, those schools must participate in a district contest."

Please give this proposed rule your thoughtful consideration, and let your district or sectional chairman know your reaction to it.

Let's Get Audiences

One of the most frequent criticisms leveled against speech contests today is that the speaker too often appears in a nearly empty room, perhaps with only a judge and a timekeeper as an audience. While the speaker will still derive many educational benefits from such a situation, few of us would deny that these benefits would be increased immeasurably if he were to have a real audience for his speech.

The difficulties in attracting audiences for speech contests are many. Besides the fact that most adults have little understanding or appreciation of the aims and procedures of the WHSFA contests, there is the increasing dependence of Americans upon the mass media of communication, such as radio and television, for education and entertainment. However, the one thing that these mass media cannot often offer is the local element. In the attempt to attract audiences, this should be the factor which is stressed--that here is an opportunity to see and hear students from their own communities participating in an activity which has much to offer in the way of education with a high level of interest.

The contest chairman should send news releases to all daily and weekly newspapers in the area, several weeks prior to the contests. A later news release, listing the names and schools of all participants, should be sent to all papers just before the contest. Similar releases should be sent to all area radio stations, as they are usually happy to publicize events of this nature. In any release be sure to emphasize the fact that the public is invited to attend. In the event that you have never

written a publicity release of this nature, we suggest that you contact the editor of your newspaper, explain what you are trying to do, and ask his help. This has the added advantage of making him a partner in the venture, and he may give you much more publicity than you would otherwise get.

Another suggestion for building audiences is to have your student speakers appear before as many audiences as possible before the contest is held. PTA groups are usually delighted to receive program assistance of this sort, as are groups like the Rotary, Kiwanis, and others. This type of promotion affords the student an opportunity to have experience before audiences, and it may serve to stimulate interest in the forthcoming contest.

Whatever the techniques used, however, keep in mind at all times when planning the contest that for any speaker there is no substitute for a real audience.

Certificates of Merit

A blank for ordering Certificates of Merit earned by students in inter-school competition will be sent you in February with the February News Letter. Please hold your orders until you receive the blank

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Kaukauna Leadership Conference

On May 10 and 11, 1954, Kaukauna High School pioneered an activity which warrants serious consideration by other high schools in Wisconsin. This was a Leadership Conference for students of Kaukauna High School, sponsored by the Student Council, the National Forensic League, and the Youth Center Board.

For two days approximately 120 students were excused from their regular classes to participate in this conference. The students attending were those in positions of responsibility in various student activities who felt a need to improve their understanding of and competencies in group leadership.

Three speakers were featured at the conference. Mayor Joseph Bayorgeon opened the conference, The Reverend Axel G. Pearson gave a luncheon address, and Rod McPhee of the WHSFA was the evening speaker.

Four workshop sections were held in which five aspects of leadership were discussed. Each workshop had a student leader, a panel of students, and a faculty member acting as a resource person. The five subjects discussed were:

- (1) Psychology of Leadership
- (2) Opportunities in Community Leadership for the Student and the Young Adult
- (3) What is Leadership
- (4) What Can Student Governments Do
- (5) Techniques of Leadership

(Continued)

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

While many students and faculty members at Kaukauna high school deserve credit for their assistance with this conference, chief credit should be given Mr. Walter Schmidt and Mr. Donald Helstad for their work in initiating and coordinating the conference.

Mr. Schmidt made the following statement about this conference, "Through the method of a conference an attempt is being made to study the various aspects of leadership so that the student may have a basis for personal development in terms of school and community leadership. The belief that such a conference will prove valuable lies in the assumptions that (1) improved quality of leadership at all levels of our society and governmental life is important, (2) the students selected to attend the conference have the awareness necessary to profit from this type of learning situation, (3) within the course structure of instruction not sufficient time can be allotted to consideration of the problems of leadership."