

Coming Events

WHSFA State Debate Tournament University of Wisconsin, Madison ---	Feb	26 - 27
Inter-Center Forensic Tournament Kenosha -----	March	5 - 6
Delta Sigma Rho Discussion and Debate Conference, Madison -----	March	12 - 13
Spring Meeting of WHSFA Board of Control Memorial Union, Madison -----	March	19
Central States Speech Ass'n Convention Hotel Sherman, Chicago -----	April	2 - 3
Mount Mary Choral Speaking Festival Messmer High School, Milwaukee ---	April	3
Wisconsin Ass'n for Better Radio and TV Madison -----	April	3
Student Legislative Congress of Western Conference Debate League, Madison--	April	8 - 10
WHSFA State Speech Contest University of Wisconsin, Madison---	April	10
Northern Oratorical League Contest University of Wisconsin, Madison ---	May	7
Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference Memorial Union, Madison -----	May	14 - 16
Institute on Forensics University of Wisconsin, Madison---	July	9
Institute on Dramatics University of Wisconsin, Madison ---	July	23
Institute on Speech Correction University of Wisconsin, Madison---	July	30

ROUTE TO

Debate Coach _____

Drama Coach _____

Speech Coach _____

NEWSLETTER
of the
WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH
BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION
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Latest Dates for Contests

Speech

League Contests -----	March 13
District Contests -----	March 27
State Contest -----	April 10

Please try to avoid scheduling school programs on dates that will conflict with those given above.

See the back cover for additional dates of interest to speech coaches.

Last Call for dues! You will not receive the free declamations or Winning Orations until dues are in.

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State Drama Contest

An audience of approximately two hundred persons watched the State Drama Contest which was held this year in Bascom Theatre at the University of Wisconsin. Of the twelve schools participating, four were awarded "A" ratings and eight were awarded "B" ratings. The caliber of the contest can be determined by the fact that no "C" ratings were given.

The schools and plays which received "A" ratings were: Westfield (Fantasia), Milwaukee Marquette (A Night At An Inn), Eau Claire Regis (Box and Cox), and Green Lake (Happy Journey).

"B" ratings in the contest were received by Superior Cathedral, Muscoda, D. C. Everest High School of Rothschild-Schofield, Shawano, Cadott, Wittenberg, Shiocton, and Brussels.

The three judges for the contest were:

Professor Paul Gauger, University of Wisconsin
Professor Edward Kamarck, University of Wisconsin
Sister Mary Theodata, Aquinas High, La Crosse

This is the first year that three judges have been used in the state finals. Coaches and judges were asked to submit written opinions on the use of three judges rather than one at the state contest. Following are selected quotations from their replies.

"No matter how objective a judge or critic may strive to be, it is difficult not to be swayed by one's predilections and prejudices in regard to particular acting and directing styles. The use of three judges should make more fair decisions because there is some opportunity for counterbalancing subjective factors." (Continued P. 4)

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Make It Work!

One frequent complaint of teachers has been that for one reason or another they did not receive a copy of the News Letter. This occurs most frequently in the large schools where one or two copies must serve several teachers. In an effort to solve this problem we have added a routing box to the masthead of the Coach's copy. This technique will be only as useful as you and your fellow coaches make it.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

"I am highly in favor of three judges at the state drama contest. It certainly puts less strain on the judges, for no matter how efficient the judges may be, personal opinions differ. Three judges balance this perfectly human element. I sincerely hope the present plan continues."

"I'm in favor of having three judges. The job is too big and it is too much responsibility for one. With three judges, any school has a better chance of getting a fairer and better decision."

"I do not like the idea of having three judges for the state drama contest because the accent is placed on rating rather than on education. I would prefer a critic judge who would discuss each play after the morning and afternoon sessions. This would simultaneously build an audience which seems to be a vital factor in acting."

"I like three judges for the state contest. It would seem that the division of responsibility relieves the strain thus making enjoyment greater which in turn should lead to better judgment. With the three judges one is apt to have a balanced viewpoint. This should make both coaches and contestants more confident and satisfied."

Don't Throw That Script!

Drama teachers--before you throw away those copies of one or three-act play and operettas which were once given by your school and are now gathering dust on the shelf, select the best copies and send them to the Play Library of the Bureau of Information and Program Services (BIPS).

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Discussion--An Interschool Activity
Mrs. Audrey Smith, Stoughton High School
Chairman, Badger Conference Speech Coaches

At their last annual fall meeting the speech coaches of the Badger Conference recognized the growing need for an adequate program to satisfy the mounting student enthusiasm toward interschool discussion activities and set up the following program.

Under the guidance of Mr. Robert Skouge and utilizing the vast resources of the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union, Wisconsin High School acted as host to a Discussion Clinic on November 4, 1954. The clinic, which was attended by one-hundred Badger Conference students, began at 1:30, in the Play Circle of the Memorial Union. The program was opened by Mr. Roderick McPhee, Ass't Secretary-Treasurer of WHSFA, with an analysis of the "Aims and Purposes of Discussion in the Everyday World." Students of Wisconsin High School then presented a model panel discussion using as their topic "The Selection of the President of the United States."

After these presentations, the entire group of students participated in Rounds I and II of discussion using the same topic. These individual groups, of 12 to 15 students each, met in various small rooms in the Union. Mr. Skouge had sent topic outlines in advance of the clinic, giving the students ample time to prepare for the discussions. Each group had a student chairman.

When Round II had been completed, the students again assembled in the Play Circle for a question-answer period concerning individual discussion problems and the advisability of continuing interschool discussion activities. (Continued P. 6)

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Needless to say, all were enthusiastically in favor of the continuation of this activity. In the months following similar discussion meetings have been held at Stoughton, Middleton, and Monroe with topics varying from "The Election of the President of the United States" to "Curbing Juvenile Delinquency." At present there is every evidence of discussion as an interschool activity becoming an established custom in the Badger Conference League.

Schools in the Badger Conference League are:

Edgerton	Madison Wisconsin High
Evansville	Middleton
Fort Atkinson	Milton
Jefferson	Monroe
Lake Mills	Stoughton

Recent Publications of Interest

The January 1954, Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, is titled "A Speech Program for the Secondary School." All phases of high school speech activities are covered. This is a bulletin that should be read by every speech teacher. Check with your principal to see if he has received his copy.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Each school is responsible for securing its own magazines from which the topics for extemporaneous speaking will be selected. We urge every school to subscribe to two or more of the magazines suggested on page 16 of the September News Letter. It should be obvious that the Bureau of Information and Program Services and the State Traveling Library can not lend magazines for this contest.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Whitefish Bay Wins Discussion Tournament

This year, for the first time in the history of the association, a statewide contest in discussion was held. This contest was experimental and no awards were given although the schools were ranked. Each school tape-recorded a twenty minute discussion on the topic "How Can the Method of Nominating Presidential Candidates Be Improved." The tapes were then judged as group discussion efforts.

Ten schools were entered in the contest. Whitefish Bay High School was ranked first place with Wisconsin High School of Madison second place. The Whitefish Bay group was coached by Mrs. Lois Ramstack, and consisted of Robert Hobuck, moderator; and Nial Schmidt, James Kohn, Franklyn Gimbel, Armin Sadoff, and Paul Kovenock. The winning tape was broadcast over the statewide FM Network on February 20.

Results of Preliminary Rounds

Section I - Judge--T. J. McLaughlin, University
Milwaukee Extension Center

Chippewa Falls	1*	Excellent
Lake Geneva	2*	Excellent
Eau Claire	3*	Average
Amery	4	Average
Two Rivers	5	Average

Section II- Judge--Grace Walsh, Wisconsin State
College, Eau Claire

Madison Wisconsin High	1*	Superior
Whitefish Bay	2*	Excellent
New Richmond	3*	Average
Wauwatosa	4	Average
Prairie du Chien (Campion)	5	Average

*Advanced to next contest (Continued P. 8)

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Results of Final Discussion Contest

Judged by: W. L. Brembeck, University of Wisconsin, H. H. Brockhaus, University of Wisconsin, and F. W. Haberman, University of Wisconsin

<u>School</u>	<u>Brembeck</u>		<u>Brockhaus</u>		<u>Haberman</u>		<u>Rank in Contest</u>	
	<u>Rank-Rating</u>	<u>Rank-Rating</u>	<u>Rank-Rating</u>	<u>Rank-Rating</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Contest</u>		
Eau Claire	4	Average	1	Excellent	3	Excellent	8	3*
Wisconsin High	1	Superior	5	Average	2	Superior	8	2*
New Richmond	6	Average	6	Poor	5	Average	17	6
Whitefish Bay	2	Excellent	3	Average	1	Superior	6	1
Chippewa Falls	3	Excellent	2	Excellent	4	Excellent	9	4
Lake Geneva	5	Average	4	Average	6	Average	15	5

*Although Eau Claire High School and Wisconsin High School were tied for second place on the basis of points for rank, Wisconsin High School was awarded second place on a re-rank involving ratings.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Action of NUEA Committee

At the December meeting of the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials several decisions were made which are of direct concern to debate coaches in Wisconsin. In order to keep all Wisconsin coaches informed as to what action was taken, the following material is reprinted from a release sent to the directors of the forty state leagues by Robert Schacht, Chairman of the Committee.

I. Acting upon the unanimous recommendations of a meeting of twenty-five authorized representatives of its members and affiliates, this committee designated as

The National Discussion Topic:
How Should the President of the United States be selected?

The National Debate Proposition:
Resolved: That the President of the United States should be elected by the direct vote of the people.

II. This committee also approved a recommendation which the advisory body of state representatives had passed 19-4 to continue for the year 1954-55 the plan now in effect concerning the selection of problem areas with supporting discussion questions and debate propositions. (Wisconsin voted with the minority at the direction of the Board of Control.)

III. This advisory body also requested, by a 15-8 vote, that the chairman of the NUEA Committee appoint a committee to study procedures which might give the high school coaches a more effective voice in selecting the problem areas for discussion and debate and to report to this advisory body at its December 1954 meeting. This action was approved by the NUEA Committee and the Chairman appointed the following committee:

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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Bruno Jacob, Secretary-National Forensic League
(Chairman) Ripon, Wisconsin
Brooks Quimby, Director of Bates Debate League
Lewiston, Maine
L. R. Kramer, Washington High School,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Gertrude B. Baccus, Redlands High School
Redlands, California
Robert H. Schacht, ex-officio

Persons wishing to make suggestions on this subject are urged to write to any of these people.

IV. The NUEA Committee decided that during the meetings held in Chicago in December 1954, during which the problem areas for 1955-56 will be determined, discussion will be open to anyone attending but voting will be by authorized representatives of members and affiliates of this committee.

Within the last few weeks, schools which checked debate on their registration cards have received ballots to vote on the three proposed problem areas which were selected during the New York meetings by a group consisting of approximately 50% high school coaches and 40% state officers representing high school coaches. Be sure to return it by February 26. We want Wisconsin's vote to accurately reflect the wishes of Wisconsin coaches, principals, and debating students.

The three problem areas are:

How Can Labor-Management Relations Best Be Improved?
What Should Be the Foreign Trade Policy of the U. S?
How Can Adequate Federal Revenue Best Be Derived?

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Speech Convention to be Held in Chicago

Few of us have the opportunity to attend the annual conventions of the Speech Association of America. This spring, however, Wisconsin coaches are fortunate in that the Central States Speech Association will hold its annual convention at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago, on April 2-3, 1954.

Every effort has been made to plan programs that have a real and practical value for all speech teachers. Experts from twenty-two American colleges, universities and high schools, plus leaders in business and industry will participate in programs designed to help you solve your problems.

Wisconsin people will play a prominent part in this convention. President of the Central States Speech Association is Professor John Dietrich, of the University of Wisconsin. Participating on the program will be Professors Borchers, Brembeck, Haberman, and Irwin of the Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin; Professor Hugo Hellman from Marquette University; Grace Walsh from Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire; O. Gayle Manion from Wisconsin State College, Superior; Robert Skouge from Wisconsin High School, Madison; and Rod McPhee from the WHSFA.

Plan now to make this your professional convention for this year. We'll see you in Chicago on April 2-3!

Wisconsin Coach Heads AETA Committee

Sister Margaret Mary, speech teacher at Superior Cathedral High School, was appointed chairman of the Secondary School Project of the American Educational Theatre Association at the convention of the Speech Association of America.

Congratulations!

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

New Book

Sets Standards for Speech and Drama Contests

The Minnesota State High School League has adopted a booklet called

Speech-Debate-Drama in Contests and Festivals

It was written by William S. Howell, Donald K. Smith, and David W. Thompson of the Department of Speech and Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota. The purpose of the 96 page booklet is stated in its preface:

"The objective of this book is to describe performance standards of speech contests through examination of educational aims most logical to these contests."

The January 1954, Minnesota State High School League Bulletin says:

"This booklet is an outgrowth of experience in judging speech activities in Minnesota and neighboring states. It is built around the league program of activities. It is a valuable aid to teachers and pupils and should find a useful place in every school and speech department."

Because of the similarities in the speech activities of Minnesota and Wisconsin, this book will be extremely useful to Wisconsin coaches.

If you wish to purchase this booklet, a copy may be obtained for \$1.25 from:

The Minnesota State High School League
839 Plymouth Building
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Summer Speech Institute Plans

For the past three summers a conference for speech teachers and coaches has been held on the campus of the University, sponsored by the Department of Speech, The Wisconsin Idea Theatre, and the WHSFA. This year a new pattern has been announced.

Three special institutes will be held, each meeting on a different Friday afternoon during the summer session. One institute will be concerned with forensics, one with drama, and one with speech correction. Each institute will feature a lecture by an outstanding authority, an open forum discussion period, and a social hour.

On July 9, James H. McBurney, Dean, School of Speech, Northwestern University, will lecture on forensics. On July 23, Rosamond Gilder, noted New York dramatic critic, author, and editor, will lecture on dramatics, and on July 30, M. D. Steer, Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Purdue University will lecture on Speech Correction.

You will be sent a complete program for these institutes with the May News Letter.

Certificates of Merit

A post card for ordering certificates of merit for students having participated in one or more interschool activities, is included with this News Letter.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Choral Speaking Festival

Mount Mary College is planning a workshop for verse speaking choirs at Milwaukee Messmer High School, on April 3, 1954. Grade school and high school choirs will participate. Gail Boardman, Ph D., Professor of English and Speech at the State Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and author of Oral Communication of Literature, will serve as critic. For further information, write Agnes Curren Hamm, Mount Mary College, Milwaukee.

One Act Play List 1954

The Wisconsin Idea Theatre is presently working on the revision of the Approved Play List for 1954-55. Your help is needed to insure the list being as valuable as possible to high school coaches. Next fall will be too late to make your wishes known. Write now to Mr. Ronald Gee, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, University of Wisconsin, 3024, Stadium, Madison, Wis.

Reviewing Stand Programs Still Available

We still have a number of copies of the Northwestern Reviewing Stand Broadcast of November 15, on "Presidential Elections." Send 20 cents for one copy, 50 cents for four. See your November News Letter for details of this program.

Declamation Catalog

Speech Coaches: if you have not already done so, you should write to Louise Hanley, University Extension Center, Wausau, Wisconsin, for the 1953-54 declamation catalog. For other sources of catalogs see the September News Letter, page 20