

Coming Events

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Lake Shore High School Debate Tournament         | Dec 5       |
| University Extension Division, Milwaukee         |             |
| State Drama Contest, Bascom Theatre              | Dec 12      |
| University of Wisconsin                          |             |
| Speech Ass'n of America Convention               | Dec 28-30   |
| Hotel Statler, New York City                     |             |
| High School Debate Tournament                    | Jan 9       |
| Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire              |             |
| Mock United Nations Assembly                     | Feb 18      |
| Wisconsin State College, Whitewater              |             |
| College Speech Meet                              | Feb 18-20   |
| Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire              |             |
| Inter-Center Forensic Tournament                 | Feb 26-27   |
| University Extension Division, Kenosha           |             |
| State Debate Contest                             | Feb 27      |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |
| Delta Sigma Rho Discussion & Debate Conf.        | March 12-13 |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |
| Spring Meeting of Board of Control-WHSF          | March 19    |
| Memorial Union Building, Madison                 |             |
| Central States Speech Ass'n Convention           | April 2-3   |
| Hotel Sherman, Chicago                           |             |
| Western Conference Debate League                 | April 8-10  |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |
| State Speech Contest                             | April 10    |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |
| Northern Oratorical League Contest               | May 7       |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |
| Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference Annual Meeting | May 15-16   |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison                 |             |

Additional copies of this News Letter available upon request.

## NEWSLETTER of the WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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. XXV

NOVEMBER, 1953

NO. 2

Latest Dates For Contests

|                    | <u>Drama</u> | <u>Debate</u> | <u>Speech</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| League Contests    | Nov 14       | -----         | March 13      |
| District Contests  | Nov 21       | Feb 6         | March 27      |
| Sectional Contests | Dec 5        | Feb 13        | -----         |
| State Contests     | Dec 12       | Feb 27        | April 10      |

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 15.

BOARD OF CONTROLNorthern Section

BARRY E. ROBINSON  
Eau Claire  
*Eau Claire District*  
J. J. BICHLER  
Augusta  
*River Falls District*  
DARYL K. LIEN  
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*Superior District*  
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N. E. COLBY  
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*Platteville District*  
KENNETH HOLT  
Cassville  
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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 --1953

We are happy to announce the reelection of Mr. Neil D. Greene as chairman of the Southern Section and Mr. K. A. Curran as chairman of La Crosse District.

We welcome the following new Board members and chairmen:

Mr. Julian Bichler, Eau Claire District  
 Mr. Allan Stewart, Oshkosh District  
 Mr. Kenneth Holt, Platteville District  
 Mr. F. M. Robey, River Falls District

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

E. A. Moede, Oshkosh District  
 E. J. Hill, 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 Ass'n elected the following officers for 1953-54  
 President--William Dunwiddie, Neenah High School  
 Vice President--Winston L. Brembeck, Univ. of Wis.  
 Sec'y-Treas--Ted McLaughlin, Univ. Extension, Milwaukee.

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Minutes of the 27th Annual Meeting  
Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, November 6, 1953

1. The meeting was called to order by N. E. Colby, vice chairman of the board, at 4:20 P. M. with 52 persons present.
2. Reading of the minutes of the 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 members of the board.
4. The first major item of business was the submission of a proposed amendment to the constitution for ratification by the annual Association meeting. The proposal would change Article III, Section 3, to read:

"The annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Control."

Mr. K. L. Curran made, and Mr. William Dawson seconded, a motion to ratify the amendment. After some discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Colby presented a report of a survey made by himself and Mr. Wicklund to discover what the members of the association think about the desirability of a state policy to govern the number of contestants which any school can enter in any one event of league speech contests. (See p. 14.) He further reported the action taken by the board which proposed the following rule change:

The maximum number of contestants each school may enter in each event of league speech contests shall be two.

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This proposal was discussed at some length. Members present were unanimous in their thinking that a maximum number be established. A minority thought that the number should be related to the size of the school and the membership dues paid. The majority thought the maximum should be three instead of two. Those in attendance were overwhelmingly opposed to adding sectional contests in speech. No formal action was taken but all members are urged to communicate their thinking on this proposal to members of the board before March 19.

6. Mr. Colby announced a clarification of existing rules by enactment of the following definition, to be effective this year:

League contests shall be interpreted to mean contests open to ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students.

7. Mr. Colby announced that the Board of Control had:
  - a) reelected H. F. Connors as chairman and N. E. Colby as vice chairman.
  - b) instructed the Sec'y-Treas. to work for the return by the NWEA Committee to the single debate topic procedure.
  - c) asked Mr. Gard to again be responsible for the official one-act play list for 1954. Please send him your suggestions.
8. Mr. Colby made the following announcements:

- a) The debate topic for this year is:  
Resolved: That the President of the United States should be elected by the direct vote of the people.

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- b) The State Debate Contest will be four rounds. Two rounds will be held on Friday afternoon and two on Saturday morning. A dinner is being planned for Friday evening. Attorney General Vernon Thomson is to be the guest speaker.
  - c) This year there will be three judges at the State Drama Contest.
  - d) If your school checked debate on the registration card, you have been requested to submit suggestions for next year's discussion-debate problem area. Please respond.
  - e) Send your suggestions for the type of material to use in extemporaneous reading for next year to your board member before March 19. This year extemporaneous readings will be taken from Reader's Digest.
  - f) Refer to Aims, Purposes, and Definitions, of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests, for information on each contest.
  - g) The Northwestern Reviewing Stand will broadcast the discussion of the 1953-54 problem area "How Should we Select the President of The United States" on November 15, over the Mutual Network.
  - h) The Speech Association of America Convention will be held in New York City, December 27-29.
9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P. M.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert H. Schacht  
Sec'y-Treas. WHSFA.

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State Drama Contest

The State Drama Contest will be held on Saturday, December 12, at Bascom Theatre, on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. Schools receiving "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 1953-54 has been chosen and announced by post card to those schools which checked debate on their registration cards. The question is:

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

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

### Plans for Debate Tournament

At the Spring meeting of the Board of Control the Board voted unanimously to increase the number of rounds at the state debate tournament from three to four. (See p. 4, May 1953, News Letter.) A referendum of all debating schools was conducted to discover when they would prefer to have the tournament held and a majority of the coaches indicated that they would prefer two rounds on Friday afternoon and two rounds on Saturday morning. Plans are presently underway for a Friday evening banquet at the Memorial Union for the debaters, coaches, and judges.

An outstanding guest speaker has been secured for this event. He is Vernon Thomson, formerly a debate coach at Viroqua, and presently Attorney General of Wisconsin.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Next Year's Debate Topic

Now is the time to be thinking about next year's discussion and debate topic. Post cards asking for your ideas on possible topics for next year, have been sent to those schools indicating an interest in debate on their registration cards. We urge you to return these post cards immediately. This is an opportunity for you coaches to have a voice in the selection of the topic with which you will have to work next year.

This year some coaches have expressed themselves as being disappointed in using a topic which was debated four years ago. Yet, last year when this same poll was conducted among the 122 schools which had checked debate, only twenty schools bothered to reply. Five of these replies were received after the deadline. The schools that sent suggested topics last year were:

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kewaunee                   | Blair                   |
| Neenah                     | Hurley                  |
| Stevens Point P. J. Jacobs | Grantsburg              |
| Richland Center            | West Allis Central      |
| Appleton                   | Merrill                 |
| Beaver Dam                 | Whitewater College High |
| Sheboygan Falls            | Oconomowoc              |
| Beloit                     | Monroe                  |
| Medford                    | Kohler                  |
| Wisconsin Dells            | Superior Cathedral      |

Don't forfeit your right to be an important part of this procedure by neglecting to perform your role in this process.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Who Chose That Debate Topic?

Each year when the official debate proposition is announced, a number of debate coaches invariably ask, "Who chose that '#.% & \_s #' topic?" Few people seem to realize that the process for choosing the topic is very carefully worked out to attempt to give debate coaches definite opportunities to participate directly in selecting the topic with which they will work. Wisconsin coaches have already been asked to participate in the first step, which is the suggesting of possible topics for 1954-55. Next spring Wisconsin coaches will be asked to vote upon the three problem areas which have been suggested.

This process of selecting a topic is one which takes fifteen months to complete. In an attempt to clarify this procedure in the minds of all interested persons we are reproducing below the procedure for selection of the NUEA proposition as announced by Robert Schacht, Chairman of the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials. The procedure is as follows:

#### October

THE NUEA Committee sends out a call to members and affiliates for suggested problem areas for discussion and debate next year.

Members and affiliates refer the request to their local schools for grass-roots ideas, compile such, and respond to the Committee call.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### November

Responses from all members and affiliates are compiled to get the picture of nation-wide grass-roots ideas on what to discuss and debate the following fall and winter.

### December

Results are sent to the members and affiliates, to study and get reactions to, previous to the December meeting of the Speech Association of America and the NUEA Committee.

During the annual conference of the Speech Association of America and the NUEA Committee:

1. Authorized representatives of members and affiliates of the NUEA Committee meet to advise the committee on matters of policy and procedure.
2. Open conference is held on debate topics which results in selection of three problem areas.
3. The wording committee meets in an open session to receive recommendations, suggestions, and criticisms of the wording of problem areas, discussion questions, and debate propositions.

### January--February

NUEA Committee submits the three problem areas to members and affiliates, who submit them in turn to their local schools. Returns are compiled and returned to the NUEA Committee.

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### March

NUEA Committee announces the result of the balloting to the members and affiliates and instructs its editor to begin preparation of official discussion and debate manual.

### Summer

Preparation of Volumes I and II of the official discussion and debate manual, and selection of low-cost and free materials. (By the Committee's editor.)

### Fall

Discussion of the selected problem areas and experience in debate, by schools, with each of the suggested debate propositions.

### December

1. Selection of the national debate topic and discussion question. This is done by vote of the members and affiliates attending the executive session, which is held during the annual conference of the Speech Association of America.
2. Ratification of the choice, by the NUEA Committee.
3. Announcement of the topic, by the chairman of the Committee.

### Certificates of Merit

Forms for certificates of merit will be included with the February News Letter. Please hold your requests until you receive the forms.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Discussion Contest Under Way

At the present time the experimental discussion contest is in progress with ten schools entered. These schools have each recorded a discussion on "How Can The Method of Nominating Presidential Candidates be Improved?" The following schools are participating:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Amery                    | New Richmond  |
| Campion-Prairie du Chien | Two Rivers    |
| Chippewa Falls           | Wauwatosa     |
| Eau Claire               | Whitefish Bay |
| Lake Geneva              |               |
| Madison- Wisconsin High  |               |

### Reviewing Stand Program

The NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials is this year sponsoring the broadcast of the discussion on the question "How Should we Select the President of the United States." The program will be presented over the Mutual Network on Sunday, November 15.

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

Ed Gossett, Former Congressman from Texas  
Charles S. Hyneman, Chairman of the Political  
Science Department of Northwestern University.  
Karl E. Mundt, Senator from South Dakota  
Roland Young, Professor of Political Science,  
Northwestern University

The NUEA Committee will publish a transcript of this program. Send 20 cents for one copy. 50 cents for four copies. Address, NUEA, 1327 University Ave. Madison 5, Wisconsin.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Summer Conference-Tapes Available

Last summer's Conference for Speech Teachers and Clashes was once again somewhat disappointing from the standpoint of attendance. Those who were present, however, agreed that it was a valuable experience and would prove to be helpful in their speech work this season.

Some of the highlights of the conference were tape-recorded and may be obtained from the WHA Tape Library. On tape are two excellent speeches by Professor W. Norwood Brigrance of Wabash College. One is titled: "The Use of Logic vs Appeals to Emotion In Debate." The second is "Delivery in Debate." This second, however, is not as limited as the title suggests, and is concerned with delivery in all speech situations.

Also on tape is a demonstration debate between students from Eau Claire High School and Tomah High School on this year's official debate question:

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

Each of the above tapes is about one hour in length. If you are interested in obtaining these for your own use send enough tape to cover the length of the program or programs you want, with \$2 for each hour of material which you want transcribed. WHA will put the material on your tapes and return them to you. Send orders to

Mrs. Betty Hansen  
Station WHA  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wis.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### Result of Poll on League Practices

Conducted by

N. E. Colby and A. D. Wicklund

Of 185 replies to the poll sent to all member schools on October 27 concerning league practices, 154 members believed that a maximum number of contestants a school might enter in each event of a speech contest should be established to apply to all league contests authorized by the WHSFA. Thirty members voted no, and one was undecided. The popularity of the suggested maximums was as follows:

| <u>Maximum Number<br/>of League Entries</u> | <u>Number of<br/>Votes</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1   | 3                          |
| 2   | 94                         |
| 3   | 30                         |
| 4   | 10                         |
| more  | 15                         |

Mr. Colby reported that a breakdown of forty of the largest schools reporting showed no significant trend on the part of the larger schools to have more contestants.

The second question was misleading insofar as present practice enables all contestants awarded "1" in the league to proceed to the next contest.

The third question indicated 165-7 that the members overwhelmingly meant the word "league" to mean a contest where pupils from grades 9, 10, 11, & 12 are permitted to compete.

See other parts of this news letter for Board action on this report.

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### 1. Challenge and a Promise By Julia Tailer, Play Librarian

October 17 marked the last day of the Speech Institutes for the fall of 1953. It was a day that was filled with the buzz and whish of questions and answers. There were many things to be accomplished and many new forensic students to be guided. When it was all over and we had come back to our respective jobs, there were probably still many unanswered questions and unsolved problems.

This librarian had many questions still whirling around in her mind relating, of course, to her responsibilities in helping those who write to the Bureau of Information and Program Services for new ideas in the area of play selection and for material for humorous and non-humorous declamations.

There are two major considerations which the Bureau and the WHSFA office face at this time. First, to find the time to read, cut selections and write to copyright owners for permission to send these cuttings out in mimeographed form to members of the WHSFA. Second, the possibility that in so doing we are not helping forensic students to fulfill the desired aims of the declamation contest--namely, "an understanding and appreciation of good literature." It seems to us that part of the training of a good declaimer is the ability to distinguish good writing from bad, to sense real meaning, human values, and universal concepts in the books that he views for cuttings. This takes time but it is time well spent. The student should realize that it is as difficult for a total stranger to choose a reading for him as it would be to fit him to a pair of shoes without knowing his size. If some bit of writing once sets off a spark in a reader, we know that his ability to share it with his listeners is increased tenfold. The "techniques" will be more natural and the reader will enjoy himself.

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This year the WHSFA offers 21 mimeographed cuttings from short stories and magazines. These have been selected and cut by different coaches and by this librarian. Permission has been obtained from the publishers and copyright owners to cut and mimeograph and send these through the mail to WHSFA members for public reading. These, and the list of declamations prepared in other years are the only mimeographed cuttings which we can send.

We realize that help is still needed. We are at work compiling a list of short stories, magazine articles and novels which offer rich possibilities for cutting. This will be ready in a short time and we will be glad to mail it to you upon request, for 25 cents.

We wish at this time, however, to call to your attention again the amendment to the copyright law effective January 1953. It was printed in the News Letter of November 1952, with Mr. Schacht's comments. We think it would be wise to reprint it here so that those of you who missed it before can study it now.

Sec. 1, of Title 17, U. S. Code,

"Only the copyright owner has the right to deliver, authorize the delivery of, read, or present the copyrighted work in public for profit if it be a lecture, sermon, address or similar production, or other non-dramatic literary work; to make or procure the making of any transcription or record thereof by or from which, in whole or in part, it may in any manner or by any method be exhibited, delivered, presented, produced or reproduced; and to play or perform it in public for profit and to exhibit, represent, produce or reproduce it in any manner or by any method whatsoever."

We believe that the existence of the word "profit" would seem to allow the reading of copyrighted non-

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

dramatic material in such situations as our forensic contests. However, in sending out stories, novels, or magazines the Bureau cannot assume responsibility for the reading in public from these books or for the cuttings taken from them. It might be a wise idea, to choose the material in plenty of time so you may get clearance from the copyright owner yourselves. You would then be absolutely sure.

We hope that this will in some way clarify the part that the WHSFA office and the BIPS can play for you in the coming year. We are doing all that time and the law allows.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Declamation Catalog

The 1953-54 catalog of Recommended New Oral Readings will be sent you if you write to

Louise W. Hanley, University Extension Center,  
Wausau, Wisconsin

For other sources of catalogs see the September News Letter, p. 20

### Ready Soon!

Sources of Cuttings for Humorous and Serious Declamations, published by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. Edited by Julia Mailer. Send your order now. 25¢ per copy.

### 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.

## Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

### New Speech and Drama Films

Several films of interest to speech teachers have recently been added to the stock of the Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction. We are simply listing the title, running time, and cost. For complete descriptions write to the BAVI, 1312 West Johnson Street, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

|                             |        |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Curtain Time                | 31 min | \$3.64 |
| Four ways to Drama          | 33 min | 3.90   |
| Good Speech for Gary        | 22 min | 3.00   |
| How To Conduct a Discussion | 22 min | 3.50   |
| How To Organize a "         | 25 min | 3.00   |
| One way to Build a Flat     | 14 min | 1.75   |
| Room For Discussion         | 25 min | 3.50   |
| Self-Conscious Guy          | 11 min | 1.75   |
| Shakespeare's Theatre       | 16 min | 3.00   |
| Speech: Conversation        | 11 min | 1.75   |

### Three Act Play List Available

A selective three-act play list has been compiled and published by the BIPS, to aid the teachers, coaches and directors in choosing the three act play for high school production. This list may be ordered for 10 cents from:

Bureau of Information & Program Services  
1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.

### Of Interest to the Drama Coach

Low Budget Lighting, by David W. Weiss, Jr.,  
price 35 cents

Available from:

wisconsin Idea Theatre  
Room 3020 Stadium  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wis.