

PRINCIPAL'S
COPY

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter

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

Vol. XXX MADISON, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY 1959 No. 3
WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
Affiliated With
BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION
Room 20, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wis.
Phone: ALpine 5-3311, Ext. 4233

CALENDAR - 1958-59

Latest Dates for Speech Contests

Actual dates may be obtained from your district chairman.

League ----- March 25
District ----- April 11
State ----- April 25

The State Contest will be held in Madison

Try to avoid scheduling activities which conflict with these dates.

BOARD OF CONTROL

Northern Section	Central Section	Southern Section
DALE E. KRAMMES Eau Claire <i>Eau Claire District</i> DAVID P. BARNES Eau Claire <i>River Falls District</i> LOUIS F. BERG Baldwin <i>Superior District</i> H. F. CONNORS Hurley	E. C. MARQUARDT Wausau <i>La Crosse District</i> K. A. CURRAN Cashton <i>Oshkosh District</i> A. F. CHRIST New London <i>Stevens Point District</i> J. C. GILLMANN Marathon	WILLIAM DAWSON Madison <i>Milwaukee District</i> CLARENCE THORSON Cedarburg <i>Platteville District</i> HAROLD GALL Lancaster <i>Whitewater District</i> R. W. HUNSADER Fort Atkinson
K. A. CURRAN, <i>Chairman</i> Cashton A. F. CHRIST, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New London ROBERT H. SCHACHT, <i>Sec'y-Treas.</i> FREDERICK E. HAUG, <i>Asst. Sec'y-Treas.</i> University Extension Division		PROFESSOR A. T. WEAVER <i>Advisor in Speech</i> University of Wisconsin PROFESSOR ROBERT E. GARD <i>Advisor in Dramatics</i> University of Wisconsin

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

State Drama Contest

Five plays received "A" ratings at the State Drama Contest which this year was held in Stevens Point on December 6. Schools awarded the school plaque and individual gold medals included Marinette, New London, Ripon, West Bend, and West Allis Central. Schools receiving "B" ratings on their productions were Ashland DePadua, Brookfield, La Crosse Aquinas, Rice Lake, and Rosholt. These schools received certificates of merit and individual silver medals. Iola, Merrill, and Verona received "C" ratings and certificates of merit and individual bronze medals.

A. F. Christ, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Control, WHSFA, presided over the awards ceremony.

All present were impressed by and grateful to Professor Isaacson and her staff for their splendid cooperation in making the event run smoothly and efficiently.

Judges for this year's state contest were

Lester Fuhrmann, Associate Professor of Speech and Drama, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Robert E. Gard, Director, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, University of Wisconsin Extension Division
Pauline Isaacson, Chairman, Department of Speech Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Drama Contest - - - - -	2
Tape-Recorded Panel-Discussion Contest - - - - -	3
Rule Changes for Spring Speech - - - - -	4
Extemporaneous Speaking Magazines - - - - -	4
Official One-Act Play List 1959 - - - - -	4
Spring Board Meeting to be Held in May - - - - -	5
Speech Events of Interest in Wisconsin - - - - -	5
Theatre Workshop - - - - -	6
NUEA Pre-Planning Sessions - - - - -	7
Selecting Problem Areas in Discussion & Debate - - - - -	8
Certificates of Merit - - - - -	9
Four Week Summer Course for the Forensic Coach - - - - -	10
Good Literature for Declamations and Interpretative Reading Contests - - - - -	12

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Tape-Recorded Panel-Discussion Contest

A new winner emerged in the final round of the Tape-Recorded Panel-Discussion Contest this year. Whitefish Bay received an "A" rating, Merrill Senior High a "B" rating, and Antigo Senior High a "C".

A copy of the Whitefish Bay tape is available for loan, upon request, from the state office and may be borrowed by any member school.

Judges for the final contest were:

Merle Borrowman, Associate Professor of Education
University of Wisconsin
Winston L. Brembeck, Associate Professor of Speech
University of Wisconsin
Ordean Ness, Assistant Professor of Speech
University of Wisconsin

Preliminary Rounds

Sixteen schools participated in the preliminary rounds as compared with thirteen last year.

Group I, Judge, Herman H. Brockhaus, Univ. of Wis.
Whitefish Bay A, Wauwatosa C, Two Rivers disqualified

Group II, Judge, Kenneth Andersen, Univ. of Wis.
Prairie du Chien Champion B, Merrill Sr., A, Merrill
Our Lady of the Holy Cross B

Group III, Judge, Grace Walsh, Eau Claire
Madison-Wisconsin High B, Lancaster C, Medford B,
Greenwood B

Group IV, Judge, Joseph Laine, Marquette University
Fort Atkinson B, Eau Claire Jr., C, Ashland C

Group V, Judge, William E. White, Oshkosh
Unity B, Antigo Sr., A, Beaver Dam B

Two schools, Wauwatosa and Two Rivers were graded down because of their failure to comply with the time requirement of 28 minutes.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Rule Changes for Spring Speech

Schools that plan to enter events in Spring Speech contests this year should consult the September Newsletter, pages 11-20 for a detailed listing of all rule changes. In addition to this, carefully read Aims, Definitions and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests, pages 11-26, for explanations of each contest.

Your attention is called to page 22 of Aims Definitions, and Rules which refers to Interpretative Reading. The word "include" should be interpreted to mean "limited to" as is explained on page 21.

Extemporaneous Speaking Magazines

Schools that plan to enter the extemporaneous speaking contest are reminded that they should subscribe to at least two of the magazines listed on page 7 of the September Newsletter. Topics will be selected from the January, February, March, and April issues of these magazines.

Official One-Act Play List 1959

The list of Approved One-Act Plays for 1959-60 will be mailed out in May.

Professor Robert Gard of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre is responsible for the 1959 listing. If you have read any plays that you feel should be added to the list, please send them to us and we will forward them on to Mr. Gard.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Spring Board Meeting to be Held in May

The Board of Control will meet May 8 in Madison. This is after the State Speech Contest, rather than before it as in the past. The date of this meeting has been moved to better enable the Board to act on proposed rule changes that may arise out of the Spring contests. This will also give them a full year's experience with the present changes.

If you have any suggestions regarding the problems now facing the Board, as cited in the November Newsletter, please write your views to your district chairman.

Speech Events of Interest in Wisconsin

Mount Mary College- Annual Choral Speaking Festival, Saturday, March 21

Dr. Louise Abney, Kansas City Junior College, will act as critic. Contact Professor Agnes Curran Hamm, Mount Mary College, 2900 Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee, for details.

Lakeland College - Fine Arts Festival - May 11-16

Direct inquiries to Professor Ava Gjeiset, Dept. of Drama, Lakeland College, Route 1, Sheboygan.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Theatre Workshop

On March 14 - 15 in Waukesha, a major theatre workshop, designed for all persons interested in theatre will be held. Workshops in scenic design, acting, directing, arena theatre, musical comedy, religious drama--and featuring top statewide leaders and national figures. Lee Strasberg of the Actor's Studio in New York is the featured guest in the list that includes A. S. Gillette, University of Iowa, and leader in scenic design; Edward Mangum of the Fred Miller theatre; David Bryant, Sheboygan Community Players, and the staff of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre.

The workshop is designed for both adults and students with separate workshops for each. We sincerely hope the high school students and their teachers will attend. Special rates for lodging at the Moor Hotel, Waukesha; social activities are planned for all age groups.

For further information, write Sherwood Collins, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, University of Wisconsin, Madison. We'll see you at this headline event in theatre. Waukesha, March 14-15, Carroll College Campus and Moor Hotel.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

NUEA Pre-Planning Sessions

Charles McGivern, Two Rivers

This year the national committee decided to have high school coaches active in the planning work of discussion and debate phrasing. It was my pleasure to participate. There was much correspondence between Ed Rogge, Arthur Miller, Stuart Holcomb and myself before the meeting on Sunday, December 28. We had quite thoroughly compared feelings on the UN and Red China and were ready to agree on phrasings. This we did in three hours of discussions, concentrating on the UN.

Thereafter, three groups from league representatives, successively worked over all areas. The UN merged with national security somewhere along the line. This was no shock since the discussions had been relative to uniting.

Five other groups were working as we did. The results are phrasings we can use. It was necessary to devise three discussion topics. Three debate phrasings similarly prepared really present possible negative counter plans.

I returned from the convention more convinced than ever that we debate coaches should be members of the Wisconsin Speech Association and the Speech Association of America. The NUEA activity and the attending of various speech sessions sponsored by many speech organizations is most stimulating. I was pleased to learn from Arthur Miller that the Washington Debate Coaches Association this year elected a phrasing of their own for state use. A coaches organization could take such action! Statements of some league delegates indicated that many felt that poor phrasings had been chosen for debate on the Education topic.

This development in phrasing should be continued. The whole experience was worth while.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Selecting Problem Areas in Discussion and Debate

Frederick E. Haug, Jr.

Assistant Sec'y-Treas. WHSFA

Each year the Advisory Council of the National University Extension Association, Committee on Discussion and Debate Material meets to recommend problem areas to be used for the following year. The WHSFA as well as all other state leagues affiliated with the NUEA sends a delegate to this meeting to carry out the wishes of the coaches. The Board of Control appointed me as their representative this year.

Before going to this meeting I polled all of the discussion and debate schools in Wisconsin twice. Once in October and again in December, to get general and specific suggestions, respectively, on next year's areas. In addition to this information we of the Advisory Council had the splendid recommendations that came out of the pre-session meetings to assist us. Mr. Charles McGivern, one of Wisconsin's representatives to this group, reports on his observations of these meetings in this Newsletter.

Careful consideration and constructive criticism was given to each area and I was impressed by the amount of time and effort each delegate devoted to this job. It was by no means a group of college professors gathered together trying to select what was best for the high schools. Of the eight people on the final wording committee, three were high-school coaches, three were directors of state high school forensic programs, one was the National Secretary of the NFL and one a college forensics director.

I was pleased to see that the three final problem areas closely reflect the Wisconsin coaches wishes in the December poll. The final problem areas were:

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

1. What labor-management relations policy will best serve the people of the United States?
2. How can the security of the free world best be maintained?
3. What should be the proper division of power in the United States between federal and state governments?

For me this meeting was a stimulating experience that gave me a better picture of the workings of the NUEA Committee.

I should like to thank the Wisconsin members of the pre-session meetings for contributing their experience and efforts. They were:

Herman Brockhaus, University of Wisconsin
William Dawson, University of Wisconsin
Father H. J. McAuliffe, S. J., Marquette High School
Charles McGivern, Two Rivers High School
Grace Walsh, Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire

Certificates of Merit

Enclosed with the Newsletter is a post card to be used in ordering certificates of merit for your students who have participated in one or more inter-school contests of the Association.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Four Weeks Summer Course for The Forensic Coach

The predictions are that in 1959 as in the two summers preceding, experienced and inexperienced teachers will come together in a course at the University of Wisconsin, called Education 120, Coaching High School Forensics. In 1958 there were individuals who were anticipating a first season of directing and college teachers who had for more than a dozen years trained students in how to teach speech. All were getting ready for the academic year 1958-59, and each hoped to be so well prepared that he would have materials in his files, books in his library, plans in his mind, for helping his school to a favorable rating when compared with what had been done in the past as well as with what other schools were doing.

The 1959 summer promises the same rich offering. Following are twelve benefits which are being planned for members of the course.

1. Students will hear the problems of other coaches and present the problems which they themselves have in teaching: Discussion, Debate, Drama, Play Reading, Extemporaneous Speaking and Reading, Tape-Recorded Panel Discussions and Radio Programs, and Humorous and Serious Declamations.
2. Solutions for the foregoing problems will come from class members, professors who are experts in each area, and from the course instructor.
3. Each student enrolled will have the opportunity to develop for the group some important phase of speech education.
4. An officer from the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association will make clear the aims and rules governing the various contests not only in Wisconsin but in other states represented.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

5. Mimeographed and printed helps on how to teach various types of speech activities to be included in the 1959-60 forensic program will be distributed.
6. Students will prepare and exchange cuttings for orations and declamations. In 1958 more than 30 different new selections were made available to each person.
7. A panel of expert judges will help to clarify aims and methods of judging.
8. Demonstrations by master teachers with high school students, on how to teach speech fundamentals and how to direct speech activities will be presented.
9. Class members will be invited to bring some of their own students to the sessions where they will present contest selections and receive constructive criticism.
10. Students will participate in a special institute devoted entirely to Speech pedagogy. A United States Senator, an eminent nationally recognized visiting professor and four master teachers from various high schools in Wisconsin will discuss and demonstrate how to teach Voice, Drama, Interpretation, and Discussion.
11. There will be social occasions for meeting new friends.
12. Students who attend from June 22 to July 17 and complete the work will receive four graduate or undergraduate credits in Education from the University of Wisconsin.

Gladys L. Borchers,

Professor in charge.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Good Literature for Declamations And Interpretative Reading Contests by Julia Mailer

Now that spring contest time is drawing near, coaches for the declamation and interpretative reading contests are eagerly searching out material for their students. This takes time and thought and judgment. It takes taste to choose the best in literature; and ability to analyze the student reader's potentials in creating an emotion, a scene or a characterization in order to suggest what kind of literature is best for him.

Throughout the long history of forensic activity in Wisconsin, much has been accomplished in raising the standards of the contest material. Much work must still be done. While it is this writer's belief that a judge should primarily evaluate a reader's speech techniques whether the material be good, bad, or indifferent, the fact remains that cheap, shoddy writing does not give a reader who may have hidden creative ability, the opportunity to develop this gift.

We know that rich ore deposits usually lie hidden deep in the ground. One does not ordinarily come upon them lying on the grass for the first lucky person to pick up. To develop creative thinking, intellectual concepts, emotional reactions, a reader must have literature which has ideas and imaginative passages which can be wellsprings of inspiration for him. If all this is true, we need to consider again what good literature is. How do we recognize it when we read it? Where do we look for it?

GUIDEPOSTS FOR GOOD LITERATURE

Saint Beuve, a French literary critic and author of the mid-nineteenth century, gives us five "touchstones" which he feels will help us to distinguish the sham from the pure. We quote them here for your study and use while you are searching for material.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

A good writer exhibits:

1. Taste, a kind of magical sixth sense, which like a magnet picks up valuable ore.
2. Reality, a true portrait of life, not necessarily a photographic description, but true to the inner meaning of life.
3. Truth to tradition, a sense of connection with the past which seems to be continuing and believable.
4. Logic and consistency, a clear analysis as contrasted to mere whimsy of unreasonable proportions.
5. Truth to morality, not a blind puritanical adherence to dogmas, but an acceptance and belief in the larger moral standards which govern our society.

One can see how Dorothy Canfield, Stephen Vincent Benet, Willa Cather, Pearl Buck, Thornton Wilder, Chekhov, De Maupassant and many, many others measure up to these ideals.

What not to use is also worth considering when we get into a maze of reading. We have found personally that the following seven points have helped us to clarify what we want to rule out. As a study along with the guideposts just mentioned, they help us to define more exactly what we are looking for. We also think they are valuable because they were formulated by Gertrude Johnson who did much pioneer work with Wisconsin forensic contests. We can benefit from the results of her wide experience.

MATERIAL TO BE AVOIDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

1. Broad comedy that degenerates into low comedy or burlesque.
2. Selections demanding impersonative elements entirely beyond the attainments of the pupil.
3. Selections where the tragic element is utterly beyond the experience, comprehension, or imagination of the pupil, and where this element is sustained to too great length

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

without transitions in mood which might offer relief and balance.

4. Selections where the pathos is mere bathos (false)
5. Selections where death must be impersonated (can it be?) and last words of dying person spoken.
6. "Cute" child pieces where the speaker attempts performances, vocal and physical, unlike any human pro-type.
7. A large group of material utterly untrue in its theme situation, psychology, or other elements which make its main appeal.

(Reprinted from Modern Literature for Oral Interpretation by Gertrude Johnson. New York. Century Co. 1920.)

We hope that these ideas, along with a consultation of Source Materials included in WHSFA Aims, Definitions and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests, as well as reference to the English and American literature anthologies in your high school libraries will give you a successful start in your contest preparation.

We feel strongly that most commercial declamations are cut to emphasize theatricality, stunt performances, and bizarre effects. Our students and coaches have better taste and can surely do a more intelligent and more creative piece of work when they choose and cut their own.

Good luck and best wishes for a rewarding 1959 forensic contest.