

Wisconsin High School Forensic
Association News Letter

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

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
AFFILIATED WITH
BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION

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NO. 2

Practice Debate Tournament Dates

The following addition can be made to the list of practice tournaments listed in the September Newsletter on page 5.

On January 10 the Fifteenth Interstate Debate Tournament for High Schools will be held at Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire. Contact Professor Grace Walsh if you are interested.

Introducing Fred Haug

It is a real pleasure to introduce the new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the WHSFA to the principals and coaches of our member schools.

Frederick Haug is a graduate of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire and has his Master's degree in Speech from the University of Wisconsin. He taught Speech for three years at West Allis Central High School and for one year at the Extension Centers in Wausau, Green Bay, Menasha, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan.

He will be increasingly responsible for the administrative duties of the state office. We hope you will have an opportunity to get to know him real soon.

Robert H. Schacht
Sec'y-Treas.
WHSFA

1958 - CALENDAR - 1959

Latest Dates for Contests

	Drama	Debate	Speech
League	-----	-----	March 25
District	-----	-----	Jan. 31 - April 11
Sectional	-----	Nov. 22 - Feb. 14	-----
State	-----	*Dec. 6 - Feb. 27-28	April 25

*At Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point

Latest Dates to Register for:

Tape-Recorded Panel Discussion	-----	Nov. 10
Tapes due in State Office	-----	Nov. 20
Tape-Recorded Radio Contest	-----	Feb. 13
Tapes due in State Office	-----	Feb. 25

BOARD OF CONTROL

Northern Section

Dale E. Krammes
Eau Claire

Eau Claire District
David P. Barnes
Eau Claire

River Falls District
Louis F. Berg
Baldwin

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
J. C. Gillmann
Marathon

Southern Section

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Madison

Milwaukee District
Clarence Thorson

Cedarburg
Platteville District
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University Extension Division
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University Extension Division

Professor A. T. Weaver
Advisor in Speech
University of Wisconsin

Professor Robert E. Gard
Advisor in Dramatics
University of Wisconsin

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Board of Control Election

Elections were held this fall in the Superior, Stevens Point, and Milwaukee Districts and in the Northern Section. The three incumbents who were on the ballot were all returned to office. Mr. Clarence Thorson, newly elected Milwaukee District Chairman, is not a newcomer to the WHSFA. He was a member of the Board of Control from 1946-48 from the Platteville District. Those elected were:

Northern Section-Dale Krammes, Eau Claire
Superior District-H. F. Connors, Hurley
Stevens Point District-J. C. Gillmann, Marathon
Milwaukee District-Clarence Thorson, Cedarburg

Debate Topic Selected for 1958-59

After a poll of the participating debate schools in Wisconsin, the official debate question selected for this year was announced to be:

Resolved: that the United States should adopt the essential features of the British system of education.

Marquette-Wisconsin Debate Tape

The Tape-recording of the annual debate between Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin on the 1958-59 debate question is now available on a loan basis from the state office. Requests will be filled in the order in which they are received. This recording is made available free of charge as a membership service.

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Board of Control Activities in Milwaukee

Mr. K. A. Curran, Cashton, was re-elected chairman of the Board of Control of the WHSFA for this year. Mr. A. F. Christ, New London, was returned to the position of vice-chairman.

Reports were made by committees that have been investigating problems of the Association. The committee that has been analyzing our contests raised the question as to whether or not some of our events could be modified or dropped.

The committee on awards recommended that the individual medal award be discontinued.

The question of ties at the State Debate Contest was discussed after examining the record for the past fifteen years.

Another question brought up was whether students who receive an "A" in a given contest should be prohibited from entering that same activity another year.

Definite action on these problems was postponed. To make certain future action of the Board of Control reflects your thinking, write your ideas to your district chairman. It is your obligation to let the men you have elected know your position on these important issues.

Mr. John Hamburg, President of the Wisconsin Association of Secondary School Principals, reported on a referendum sent out to high school administrators in that organization. It appears that that body will not be in favor of holding contests or other activities which will take students away from school time.

Mr. Frederick E. Haug was appointed as the official representative from the Board of Control to attend the Advisory Council of the National University Extension Association meeting in Chicago, December 29-31.

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Highlights of the 32nd Annual Meeting of the WHSFA
Brooks Memorial Union, Marquette University
Milwaukee, November 7, 1958

Professor Grace Walsh presented several recommendations relative to WHSFA contests. The suggestions came from a speech she gave, and the subsequent forum discussion, at a Northwestern Wisconsin Education Association meeting at Eau Claire in October. Her recommendations were:

- a) Contest chairman should take special care in selecting the best judges available.
- b) Contests should be arranged to provide the judge ample time to give constructive comments to the contestants.
- c) The WHSFA should seriously consider discontinuing medals as awards in contests.
- d) Students who have received an "A" in a given event at the state contest should not be permitted to enter that contest another year.
- e) Some contests represent excessive duplication and could be eliminated.
- f) The Association should consider Legislative Assembly as a new contest.
- g) Mr. E. C. Marquardt, Debate Coach at Wausau Senior High School and Chairman of the Central Section, spoke on the awarding of medals. It was his feeling that such recognition is an important part of the contest structure and careful consideration should be taken before we abolish medals. He asked any coaches or administrators who have a definite feeling on this subject to write to the state office or to their district chairman.

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Wisconsin Speech Association News

Pauline Esaacson, Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point, was elected President and Charles McGivern, of Two Rivers, was elected Vice-President. Mrs. Hermoine Knapp, from Janesville High School, and Mr. Frederick E. Haug, from the state office of the WHSEFA were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Council.

Dr. Wynett Barnett, Wisconsin State College, Whitewater, and Dr. Gladys Borchers, University of Wisconsin, presented a report of a committee studying the requirements for the certification of teachers of speech in Wisconsin high schools.

Mr. Ronald Allen, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, summarized results of his findings from a research project which investigated the curricular speech programs in Wisconsin high schools.

Professor James McBurney, Dean of the School of Speech, Northwestern University, spoke on the subject "The Role of Speech in Our Schools and Colleges."

Professor Herman Brockhaus distributed the 1958-59 Speech Events Calendar of Wisconsin Colleges and Universities. Copies may be obtained by writing to him at Room 20, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wis.

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Report on Proposed Problem Area for 1959-60

Thus far we have received replies from fifteen schools with their suggestions for problem areas in discussion and debate for the 1959-60 school year. The results of this will be taken to the meeting of the NUEA Committee on Debate and Discussion Materials which will meet concurrently with the Speech Association of America in Chicago in December. There representatives from the affiliated state leagues will select the problem areas which they feel best represents the interests of their member schools.

Speech Institutes Held to Date

Institutes have been held at La Crosse, Stevens Point, Whitewater, Oshkosh, and River Falls thus far this year. Of special note was the Whitewater Institute which was designed for coaches only. Mrs. Julia Mailer, Play Librarian, gives us her impressions of this new approach to the institute pattern on the next page.

The following preliminary report of institutes held to date include:

	<u>Students</u>	<u>Schools</u>
La Crosse - - - - -	-285	- - - - - 15
Stevens Point - - - - -	-561	- - - - - 30
Whitewater - - - - -	-30 (coaches)	
River Falls - - - - -	-300	- - - - - 16
Oshkosh - - - - -	-487	- - - - - 32

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Institute for Coaches

Julia Mailer

On October 15 at Wisconsin State College, Whitewater, the fall WHSFA Institute had a new look. Only the coaches were invited and, of course, any administrators or forensic chairmen who wished to come. About 30 to 35 people accepted the invitation and came prepared to work.

Dr. Barnett welcomed us in the new faculty lounge and outlined the course for the day. She stressed the fact that this was to be a day of learning and that no question was too simple or too basic; that we realized this was a new experience for many teachers and perhaps a totally new field of study.

The program was set up with an hour from 9:30 to 10:30 for special and individual conferences with each of the advisory staff. Coaches were urged to put their personal problems in speech training before the staff member at this time. From 10:30-11:45 a formal seminar was scheduled for each staff member, at which time the specific problems of declamations, play reading, interpretative reading and orations were to be thrashed out.

In the afternoon, each staff member was in charge of another period from 1:30 to 3:00. He could repeat or continue the studies in his area.

At 3:00 we attended a coffee hour in the lounge. Professor Brockhaus, representing the WHSFA state office, and Mr. Hunsader, Chairman of the Whitewater District, invited a discussion of problems pertaining to contests, rules, judging or anything else the members wished to bring up. They were able at this meeting to get an opinion on some problems which the Board of Control wished to have reviewed, and they took the opportunity to urge members to write to the Board to express these opinions further. This was a valuable contribution to an institute since Forensic members do not often have a chance to meet at this level.

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This writer felt that the day was unusually worth while. Certain areas of study were investigated and discussed which had never come up at other institutes because of the presence of the students. Coaches felt free to ask questions at any level of experience, and did. And in one seminar the coaches actually participated in an activity which they would be directing in their schools. The response at the end of the day was enthusiastic and opinions were expressed that the experiment had been successful.

Correction on Institute Date

The date of the Superior Speech Institute has been changed to sometime in January or February. Dr. O. T. Manion of the Wisconsin State College will notify the schools in that district of the end date.

Institute in Debate and Discussion

The University of Wisconsin will offer on December 13, an institute in Debate and Discussion at the Wisconsin Center Building. A day of instructional activities has been planned by the co-sponsors, the University Speech Department and the WHSFA. The program will feature an address by Professor Clifford S. Liddle of the University School of Education on "Our Schools and Those of Great Britain, France, and Russia," a demonstration discussion on the high school discussion topic, and a debate on the high school debate question by Wisconsin and Marquette debaters.

If you are interested in coming and have not been contacted, write Professor Winston Brembeck, Speech Department, University of Wisconsin.

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First Annual High School Drama Institute

The Department of Speech and Wisconsin Players of the University of Wisconsin are inaugurating a one-day drama institute for high school students and teachers on Saturday, February 28, 1959. The theme of the first institute will be "Backstage at a Musical Comedy," and the program will center about the world-famous Wisconsin Union Theatre.

It will include a lecture-demonstration on the problems of designing and mounting Rodgers and Hammerstein's notable musical comedy, Oklahoma!, conducted by Professor Fredrick A. Buerki, technical director of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre and Director of Wisconsin Player's production of the play, and by Mr. Joel Cook, designer of the production.

During the luncheon that follows, a lecture on theatrical make-up and a demonstration of the techniques used to make-up some of the key characters in Oklahoma! will be given. At 2:30 Wisconsin Players will present a special matinee performance of Oklahoma! in the Wisconsin Union Theatre. The program will end about 5:00 P. M.

The cost of both the luncheon and the play will be \$2.00 per person. Admission to the play only will be \$1.00, a reduction of 50 cents from the regular price of admission. Reservations for play and luncheon will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please do not write for reservations until you receive full particulars and reservation blanks, which will be mailed to all high schools in Wisconsin in January.

Coaches Institute at Eau Claire

Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire will play host to an institute specifically designed for coaches on December 5. Details as to the program can be obtained from Earl Kjer, Chairman of the Speech Department.

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Tape-Recorded Radio Program

This is the first year that the Tape-Recorded Radio Program will be an official part of the contest structure. Registrations should reach the state office by February 13th. Tapes are due February 25. Please observe these deadline dates. The theme for programs this year should be on Brotherhood. The details concerning this event can be found in Aims, Definitions and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests.

Report on Tape-Recorded Panel Discussion Contest

As of November 10 sixteen schools have registered for this year. Tapes must be sent in for this contest by November 20.

The question being discussed this year is:
What features of British and Russian Education would best serve the interests of the people of the United States?

We wish to call your attention to the rule change on the length of this program. Consult the September Newsletter or Aims, Definitions, and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests for complete information.

Folklore Selections Still Available

We still have a few packets of 25 different mimeographed selections of North-American Folklore, in prose. \$1.00 per set of 25, as long as they last.

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State Drama Contest at Stevens Point

The State One-Act Play Contest will be held at Stevens Point on December 6. Any schools that are interested in attending as spectators are cordially invited to do so. Programs will be available from the state office the first part of December

Charles Dickens Library--Now Available

The four-volume set of the Charles Dickens Library, which will be valuable to you in the extemporaneous reading contest, is now ready to be sent to those schools that want them. The cost of the complete set is \$2.00. The contents of the set include:

David Copperfield
Oliver Twist
A Tale of Two Cities
Great Expectations

Title of Official Publication Changed

The handbook describing the various WHSFA contests is now titled Aims, Definitions and Rules of Speech, Drama, and Debate Contests. This title reveals a somewhat different format for the handbook. The rules for all contests have been listed in this publication as well as in the September Newsletter. We hope this addition to the handbook will prove to be a convenience for coaches, judges, and students.

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What About the Ninth Grader?

Syd Wright, Speech Director
Eau Claire Junior High School

There are only five junior high schools listed in the WHSFA bulletin. It is true that there are still many more four year high schools than three, but we can assume that in preparation for speech contests in four-year high schools, few freshmen are taken seriously in the first "weeding out." Should they be?

Naturally, we maintain the affirmative. Last year was Eau Claire's first with a 6-3-3- public school. This meant that ninth graders stayed at the Junior High and it became eligible, as a school, to join the WHSFA for the first time.

There was some trepidation by teachers and administrators regarding the emotional maturity or lack of it on the part of ninth graders. It was felt by some that they would be so obviously out-classed that the intense competition would be harmful. Parental approval also needed to be secured. Additional money for dues and travel expenses had to be budgeted. Some felt that one experience in competition was a great plenty and that opportunity would come with senior high. Unfortunately, as the hue and cry about "frills" arose last year in the nation's periodicals, there was concurrent criticism of all competition at the lower levels.

To make a long story short, we joined the Association last January on a trial basis. We entered three contests; league, district, and state. Scrupulous care was taken to inform parents ahead of time of the details of the trip. We preferred to err on the side of over-concern and so kept our group together much of the time visiting the Union Theatre, Capitol Building, and the campus. We did not allow them to roam the hotel late at night. Shopping time was allowed Saturday and was without

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teacher supervision. Perhaps our ideas were old-fashioned, but at least there was not a single complaint by student, parent, or administrator. This, to me, indicates a degree of success more important than A's or B's. As a result, I believe we have established a positive local attitude toward ninth grade competition.

Do ninth graders have enough of a chance in competition with juniors and seniors? Is it possible to assign ninth graders characteristics that will affect him as a competitor? This business of maturation is far too variable to make all predications valid, but in general they seem this way:

1. They are eager-not only to compete, but to work.
2. They will listen to criticism and work to improve.
3. Many are as mature looking as seniors.
4. Contests are new to them. They do not come with pseudo-sophistication or great complaining about judges.
5. They are imaginative where it counts.
6. Their finished work has an excellent chance of equalling that of seniors.

Note to teachers preparing ninth graders for the contest: I believe the best chance for success is in

- 1) declamation, 2) 4-minute speech, and 3) non-original oration.

We believe that care should be taken that they have appropriate material. Time should be spent helping them prepare, but the work must never be done for them. These qualifications would be the same for a student of any age and if they are applied faithfully, ninth graders can be expected to produce. More important, you as a coach will be privileged to witness great growth on the part of your student.

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Wisconsin Idea Theatre-Play Directing Course

Some of the smaller high schools of the state want drama in the extra-curricular program but have no teacher trained in theatre techniques. The Wisconsin Idea Theatre of the University Extension Division, is attempting to meet this need with a new course designed especially for the teacher of other study areas who has been assigned the direction of the class or school play.

Sincere drama is a performance art. The Idea Theatre feels that directing can be taught best when the teacher has a play in rehearsal, the play being used as a laboratory unit. It would be ideal if the course instructor could attend each rehearsal with the teacher of the local high school. However, this would make the costs of the course prohibitive. So, the course in directing plays in small high schools has been designed to combine both correspondence study and visits from one person of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre Staff.

The study would include the production from the time the teacher is assigned to direct the play, through selection, casting, rehearsals, production and the final analysis of the play. A syllabus will be provided to guide the high school teacher in his preparation for the play and its rehearsals.

Costs for this course will be kept to a minimum and will be worked out with each individual school. Other teachers and members of the community would be invited to participate if the teacher and school administration wish.

For further information, contact Sherwood Collins, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, Room 3022, Stadium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin