

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
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NO. 4

NEXT SEASON'S DATES

Calendar for 1958-59

Latest Dates for Contests

	Drama	Debate	Speech
League - - - - -	Oct. 25 - - - - -	-----	March 25
District - - - - -	Nov. 4 - - - - -	Jan. 31	April 11
Sectional - - - - -	Nov. 22 - - - - -	Feb. 14	-----
State - - - - -	Dec. 6* - - - - -	Feb. 27-28	April 25

*At Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point

Problem Area for Discussion and Debate

What system of education would best serve the interests of the people of the United States?

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

William Dawson
Madison

Milwaukee District
G. W. Carlson
West Allis

Platteville District
Harold Gall
Lancaster

Whitewater District
R. W. Hunsader
Fort Atkinson

K. A. Curran, *Chairman*
Cashton

A. F. Christ, *Vice-Chairman*
New London

Robert H. Schacht, *Sec'y-Treas.*

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

Professor Robert E. Gard
Advisor in Dramatics
University of Wisconsin

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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

State Speech Contest

The number of contestants at the State Speech Contest continues to grow. This year 1,305 students participated, an increase of 301 persons or 23% over that of last year. The new play-reading contest accounted for 206 of this number. Our unofficial count records that 337 schools were represented. In spite of the numbers involved, the weather was fine and everything seemed to go quite well. Fifty-one judges gave 684 A's and 621 B's.

The major difficulty was in the distribution of programs. By working a special crew until 4:30 P. M., the Saturday before Easter, we were able to get the 34-page program in the mails to those schools from which we had received registration blanks. Some schools received them on Easter Monday. Others apparently never received them. We shall use a different system next year and hope to reduce all the long-distance phone calls. All spring vacations will also be over by the time of the district contests. This should help to eliminate much of the confusion.

We wish to express our appreciation to those principals, coaches, and contestants who were inconvenienced by any action of ours.

By action of the Board of Control, the results of the contest will appear only in the September Newsletter.

Speech Institutes Set New Record

In one previous year (1954-55) we had one more institute than this year, and in one previous year (1956-57) more schools were represented at them. We did set a new record this past year by reaching more participants (3,427) than ever before.

A total of ten institutes were sponsored: Whitewater held three, La Crosse two, and Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Superior, and Oshkosh one each. This report does not include those sponsored without the help of the Association, such as the annual and popular affairs at Eau Claire.

If you and your students have profited from the institutes you have attended, have you done anything to encourage the host college and district chairman to put on another?

Have you ever suggested ways by which they might be improved?

If there was no institute in your area and you think one should be held, write your district chairman or state college president.

Fall Elections

Elections shall be held in the fall for the following positions. The persons you select determine the kind of Association you will have.

	<u>Incumbent</u>
Northern Section	Dale E. Krammes
Milwaukee District	G. W. Carlson
Superior District	H. F. Connors
Stevens Point District	J. C. Gillmann

We Need Your Help

Three Committees of the Board of Control have been appointed to consider three major issues which must be acted upon next May. We urge the principal and coach to get together and send the persons listed their best ideas. Also---these would be good questions to discuss at coaches meetings at institutes, contests, and conventions.

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Which are our three most expendable contests? Our least expendable? The Board can not continue to add new contests without eliminating some of those we have. We do not wish to merely repeat our present contest structure indefinitely. What kinds of changes can be made within an established contest? How big should our contests be encouraged to become? What considerations should guide our annual decisions in determining our program?

Send your ideas to Mr. Christ, Mr. Connors, or Mr. Krammes.

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This past year your Association has spent \$1,750.00 for awards. The philosophy of the Board has been to try to make contest fees cover the costs of running the contest and the awards. This has led to increased registration fees, which added to travel costs makes it more and more expensive for a school to participate in state contests. Are medals and plaques necessary to motivate and reward excellence in speech and drama? Should we cut out plaques and/or medals, or should we be doing even more in giving tangible recognition for outstanding performance? Or are there other ways to consider?

Send your ideas to Mr. Barnes, Mr. Berg, or Mr. Hunsader.

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Help (cont.)

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What should we do if, at the state debate contest, more than one team emerges in first place after our traditional four rounds? Under our present system the tied teams are considered co-champs. Is this good or bad? Should a run-off be required?

Send your ideas on this to Mr. Marquardt or Mr. Gillmann.

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Should a student who receives an A at the state contest on one event, e.g., humorous declamation, as a freshman be allowed to continue in that same area in subsequent years, or be required to change his area the next year so as to receive experience and training in more than one type of expression?

Send your ideas to the state office.

New Play List Enclosed

"Approved Plays--1958" is being sent you with this Newsletter. Destroy all old copies. Note that the deadline for registering for the one-act-play contest has been moved up to October 1 to give the district chairman adequate time to set up the necessary league contests.

Please read the directions on the cover of the Play List very carefully.

Discussion and Debate Coaches

Our ability to list each of the various invitational and practice discussion contests and debate tournaments in the September Newsletter depends upon your cooperation in sending us this information by June 15.

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Other Board Action

The tape-recorded radio contest was made an official part of our contest structure, with individual awards, but no school plaque. The theme for 1958-59 will be that of Brotherhood, and the tapes will be due sometime in February.

As an economy move, certificates of merit will be substituted for the plaque in tape-recorded panel discussion contest. Individual medals remain.

The works of Charles Dickens will be the material for the 1958-59 Extemp Reading Contest.

Interpretative Reading material for 1958-59 will be limited to poetry. Students will be required to change their selections as they advance from one contest to the next.

Registration in the State Speech Contest will be raised to \$3.00 per contestant.

Latest date to register for the one-act-play contest has been advanced to October 1.

The rating of "C" was reinstated in district and state speech contests.

Warning

Mr. Schacht reminded the members of the Board that the use of copyrighted material in any contest for which an admission charge is made is in violation of the copyright laws unless permission to use such materials is specifically granted by copyright holders. It was his opinion that a registration fee levied upon contestants is not an admission charge.

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Position of State Department Clarified

The Board of Control was fortunate to have as one of its special guests at its March meeting Mr. C. W. Spangler, Secondary School Supervisor from the State Department of Public Instruction. He was asked to comment on the position of the Department relative to the teaching of speech as a separate subject. He said:

"The Department of Public Instruction does not determine such course offerings in schools as you realize. I think possibly the impression which you mention may have arisen from statements or warnings by some of our people that a special semester or year of speech during one year of high school must not remove the broad responsibility of English teachers and of all teachers for the improvement of the spoken language.

"Special courses in speech have their place for remedial purposes and also for enrichment for those with special talents. It is important that the purposes of these courses be kept in mind and that the improvement of the spoken word be emphasized for all pupils."

Folklore Selections Still Available

We still have a number of packets of up to 25 different mimeographed selections of North-American Folklore, in prose. We repeat the offer we made in our February Newsletter:

Send us \$1.00 to cover handling and postage and we will send you a set as long as the supply lasts.

These are especially good for getting boys interested in declamations.