

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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NC

1957-58 CALENDAR

Latest Dates for Speech Contests

Actual dates may be obtained from your district chairman.

League	-----	March 15
District	-----	March 29
State	-----	April 12

The State Contest will be held in Madison

Try to avoid scheduling activities which conflict with these dates.

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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Special to Principals and Coaches

You will recall that it has been our custom to list in the May Newsletter the ratings of all students who participated in the Spring Speech Contest. Last year this involved 971 names on twenty-five pages of Newsletter. This is a lot of work and involves considerable expense. Is it worth it to you and your students? Would you object if we were to omit this feature in the May Newsletter, since we report the complete results in the September Newsletter? Please let us know.

First Come--First Served

If you can use up to twenty-five different mimeographed selections of North-American Folklore in prose, send us \$1.00 to cover handling and postage, and we will send you a set by return mail. These can be used as declamations--mostly humorous--and are especially appropriate for boys. Those whose orders are received after complete sets are gone may be sent some duplications, but will get their dollar's worth, in any case.

Certificates of Merit

A post card is enclosed with this Newsletter on which you may order certificates of merit for your students that have participated in one or more inter-school contests.

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State Drama Contest

Three play casts returned home from the State Drama Contest last December 7 with the coveted plaques and gold medals. The winning plays were from Ashland DePadua, La Crosse Aquinas, and Ripon high schools.

David P. Barnes, Chairman of the Eau Claire District, presided over the award assembly.

President William R. Davies welcomed the coaches, casts, and audience on behalf of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire, which was host to the contest.

The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association is deeply grateful to Earl Kjer for his invitation to hold the contest in his beautiful theatre, and to the many members of the College Players who helped in so many ways.

Judges for the State Contest were:

Howard C. Hansen, Chairman, Department of Speech,
Ripon College
Sherwood C. Collins, Assistant Director
Wisconsin Idea Theatre
Earl Kjer, Chairman, Department of Speech,
Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire

B ratings were won by Cedarburg, Eau Claire Regis, Platteville, Randolph, Reedsburg, Seymour, Superior Cathedral, Tigerton, and West Bend.

Stanley was awarded a C rating.

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Tape-Recorded Panel-Discussion Contest

The topic was

"What foreign aid, if any, should the United States give to the nations of the free world?"

Wisconsin High of Madison, and Merrill High tied for "A" awards in the tape-recorded panel-discussion contest. Both schools have ranked high in previous years, as Wisconsin High was awarded first place in 1954 and second place in 1955 and 1956. Merrill won third place in 1954 and first place in 1955 and 1956.

Mindoro and Wisconsin Dells were tied with "C" ratings. There were no "B" ratings awarded in the finals.

Thirteen schools participated and we feel sure that all students and coaches profited from the experience, and from the comments of the judges.

Copies of the two "A" tapes are on file in the State office and may be borrowed by any member school.

Preliminary Rounds

Group I - Judged by Richard Hetland. Ratings were: Merrill A, Elkhorn, Fort Atkinson and Greenwood B's.

Group II - Judged by William Dawson. Wisconsin High and Wisconsin Dells received A's, Schofield B, and Rhinelander C.

Group III - Judged by Ronald Allen. Mindoro A, Medford and Wauwatosa B's, Lodi and Prairie du Chien C's.

Judges for the Final Round

Herman H. Brockhaus, Professor of Speech
Kenneth Parsons, Professor of Agricultural Economics
Roy C. Vogelmann, Assistant Professor of Radio-TV
Education and News Director of WHA

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Tape-Recorded Radio Program

The experimental tape-recorded radio program was well received by WHSFA Schools. Tapes were received from twenty-one schools, and divided by lot into five groups for preliminary judging. Merrill submitted a non-original script, and while the tape was processed through the contest, it was declared an ineligible entry and not recorded in the results.

Four tapes were awarded A's in the first round and sent on to a panel of three judges for final evaluation. Superior East High School emerged with the only A. Beaver Dam, West Allis Nathan Hale, and Whitefish Bay were awarded B's.

The theme was AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK.

A copy of the Superior East tape will be kept on file at the State office so that any member school may borrow it for a short loan period.

While this year no awards are to be given for this experimental contest, we feel sure that the experience of those young people and coaches who participated, and the critical comments of the judges were reward enough.

At the March meeting of the Board of Control, a decision will have to be made as to the future of this event. What is your opinion?

Judges for final contest
Wero
Ellen
Murray

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(Tape-Recorded Radio-Program, cont'd)

Results of Preliminary Radio Contests

Group I - Judged by Harold Engel. Ratings were: Ashland and Wauwatosa B's. Fall River and Scandinavia C's.

Group II - Judged by Robert Tottingham. Beaver Dam and Whitefish Bay received A's. Greenwood, Sheboygan Central and Wausau Newman received B's.

Group III - Judged by Bruce Nelson. West Allis-Nathan Hale received an A, Rhineland B, and Galesville C.

Group IV - Judged by Dorothy Miniace. Argyle, Eau Claire Memorial, and Eau Claire Regis received B's. DeForest received a C.

Group V - Judged by Robert Dick. Superior East received an A, Eagle River a B, and Neillsville and Rice Lake received C's.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Each school is responsible for securing its own magazines from which topics for extemp speaking will be selected. See page 7 of the September Newsletter for subscription rates and addresses of publishers. Each school should subscribe to at least two of these magazines.

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Wisconsin Has Six Debate Champions

You would think it couldn't happen, but it did. Six schools tied for first place in the State Debate Tournament with six wins and two defeats. The winning schools were Eau Claire Memorial, Kenosha, La Crosse Aquinas, Sheboygan Central, Wausau, and West Bend.

Another thing one would think couldn't happen is to place second in a state contest on a 4-4-count. But four schools did this: Milwaukee Marquette, Hartford, Merrill, and New London.

Third place went to Madison West and Kohler which won 3 and lost 5.

Wisconsin Rapids was fourth with a 2-6, and New Richmond and Eau Claire Regis failed to register any wins.

Awards were presented by A. F. Christ, Vice Chairman of the Board of Control.

The debate proposition was:

Resolved: that direct United States economic aid to individual countries should be limited to technical assistance and disaster relief.

The Friday evening dinner at the University YMCA was addressed by the Right Reverend Monsignor Edward Kinney, Rector of St. Raphael's Cathedral, Madison. His topic was "Imparting Truth."

Reflections of Wisconsin's Delegate
To the
Advisory Council of the
NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Material
William M. Dawson
Southern Sectional Chairman, WHSFA

In past years various people have represented the WHSFA at the national NUEA meetings when the coming year's discussion and debate questions and propositions have been decided. This year it was my privilege to be the representative from the WHSFA. I would like to pass on to those who are unfamiliar with this meeting the thinking involved in the decisions, announced on page 10 of this Newsletter.

In advance of the Chicago meeting each delegate was assigned to a study committee. My appointment was to the committee on Human Rights. Each of us did some individual work before leaving home, and each committee tried to meet in Chicago in advance of the first session. Due to the absence of my chairman, Donald Olson of Nebraska, I was asked to serve. Each chairman reported out his committee's findings and recommendations. After much deliberation, the seven areas were reduced to three, and the committees were re-shuffled so that each delegate was on one of the three wording committees. Each committee reported the next day to the final wording committee, which submitted a tentative, and later a final report. These report-ballots are mailed to each state league. In Wisconsin a referendum is held among those schools which participate in discussion and debate to determine Wisconsin's vote. The vote in the national referendum determines the problem area for the next year.

It can easily appear from a distance that the areas, questions, and propositions arrived upon are reached in a matter of a few hours, that no great concern is felt by the committee for its responsibility, and that little thought is given to the actual debating of the propositions. It is true only that the hours seem scanty, but in two days continuous meetings are held which are overflowing with research, ideas, discussion, and consideration. I remarked after arriving home that I had never had to work so hard mentally for such a continuous period of time.

There were a number of things which impressed me about the entire meeting; among them the amount of research that had been done prior to the meeting by the delegates, the highly reasonable and logical discussions held by the group as a whole in discussing the merits of each area, and the complete willingness to admit that certain areas were of more vital concern than "vested interests." Here was a group of highly intelligent people who were engaged in endless hours of thinking, listening, and evaluating areas which would be of great interest and concern to high school students and teachers throughout the country.

In conclusion, I can only say that this has been a highly enjoyable and educational experience for me. We all find it easy to sit at-home and dissect the wordings that come to us. I may still be in personal disagreement with individual items, but it is my opinion that the effort, intelligence, discussion, and sincere concern shown at this annual meeting result in decisions which are best for the nation's debaters.

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NUEA Committee Crosses Up Wisconsin Debaters

For the first time since the NUEA Committee adopted its problem area approach to discussion and debate (1952-53), the topic selected by the Wisconsin procedure of fall referendum was not the same as that selected by the Committee in its December meeting. When news of this got around last month, there was some confusion as to what proposition would be debated at various invitational tournaments and in our own Association contests.

The Association has no jurisdiction over any invitational tournament. Its sponsors can use any topic they wish. However, any Association contests must debate the official Wisconsin question which is announced in the fall. Any change in this procedure would have to be made by the Board of Control.

Schools to Debate Education in 1958-59

The National referendum on the 1958-59 discussion and debate problem area resulted in the selection of the education topic by a close 19-17 vote. (Wisconsin's poll was 19-18 in favor of the labor issue.) So you might begin to think about next year's problem area which will be

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

The debate question is likely to be:

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

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Play Reading Contest

We feel sure that those who try our new play-reading contest will find it an enjoyable adventure. Mrs. Julia Mailer, our Play Librarian, has this to say about selecting a cutting:

"In choosing a scene to cut from a play it seems to us that some plots would be easier to handle than others. This is especially true since the rules are quite conservative as to the amount of movement on stage which is allowed. A play which depends upon physical action and interaction of characters for its interest would be more difficult to read than one in which the plot is adequately carried by conversation. For example, some parts of "You Can't Take It With You" would be difficult to make really ridiculous by reading alone. But, on the other hand, Noel Coward, Shaw, Richard, Sheridan, and Shakespeare offer many scenes which are dramatic or humorous because of what is being said, irregardless of the action. Such scenes would make the best cuttings for the purposes of this contest."

While the rules say that an introduction to the reading is optional, we feel sure that you will want to make one, however brief. The introduction should normally be done by one of the readers, except if the occasion really demands it. The total number of students, however, can not exceed five.

We refer you again to the Rules on page 18 of the September Newsletter and to pp 29-30 of Aims, Purposes and Definitions of Contests.

Some coaches have written us to ask if we think the use of play cuttings for this contest would violate the copyright laws. We repeat in part what we said in the May, 1955 Newsletter. (p 9.)

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"The law was clearly designed to extend to performance for profit the same protection the owner enjoyed in its publication. It appears the intent of Congress was not to label the reading of copyrighted material an infringement upon the copyright unless some sort of monetary reward accrued to the reader or his sponsor.

"It is, therefore, our interpretation that students may use copyrighted material for the normal purposes of our Association without securing permission from the copyright owner, if no profit is involved. We think this interpretation rules out the use of these materials in any type of program for which admissions are charged or at which collections are taken, whether the proceeds go to the school or to the individual.

"Readers are urged to remember that this is a lay, rather than a legal opinion. If you wish to check this interpretation with the source of our information, we refer you to the United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News, 1952, 82nd Congress, 2nd Session, Chapters 669-951, pp 3825-4649, particularly pp 1313ff and 2307-10."

One-Act Play List 1958

The one-act play list for next year will be mailed out to all member schools with the May Newsletter. It is being sent in May so that the coaches may read plays during the summer months when there is not such a demand for examination copies and more of the plays are available for reading.

Professor Gard of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre is again compiling the 1958 list. If you have any suggestions for plays to be added to the list, please send them to us and we will forward them to Mr. Gard.

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A Course for Coaches
A success In Its First Year!
Mary Ellen Jenks*

Have you been "recruited" to coach forensics next spring even though you're the business education teacher at your high school? Are you a mathematics teacher struggling with the Senior class play? Are you a debate coach with an impressive win-loss record who is still looking for new coaching techniques? If the answer is YES, the University of Wisconsin now has a special course designed just for you!

The idea for such a course was originated last year to meet the needs of experienced and inexperienced coaches from Wisconsin and neighboring states. The discussion, debate, forensics and dramatics course for coaches which evolved from the idea is a four credit, four-week summer school course, under the heading Education 129.

Last summer's 18 students came from New-Mexico, South Dakota, New York, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. Some were experienced (one had chalked up 25 successful years of forensics coaching) but still wanted to acquire some fresh ideas. Others admitted they had "just a little experience" and still others were taking the course in order to get ready to coach their first debate squad or direct their first play. But despite individual differences in training and experience they all had the same goal. It's the one you'll have too if you elect this course: to go back to your high school next fall better qualified to direct your assigned speech activities.

* Miss Jenks assisted with the course in Summer Session 1957. She is now in Public Relations with Sherriff-Horsey Corporation Ltd., Toronto, Canada.

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What are the benefits of such a course to you? Here are some that last summer's teachers discovered.

1. You'll brainstorm ideas and information with a friendly, enthusiastic group of teachers like yourself. These new ideas will give you a head start on your coaching season.... a fresh slant.
2. You'll compile a source list of cuttings for forensics, titles of plays for the one-act-play contest and play reading contest, and materials for debate and discussion. You'll pool your cuttings. Last summer's class pooled 18 new orations and declamations.
3. You'll become better informed on all of the speech contests. You'll gain tips on how to conduct a local contest, how to become eligible for the state contests and how to coach your students in each field of extracurricular speech. For example, you'll listen to the state winning discussion tape and analyze it. Then you'll discuss how you, too, can enter the contest and prepare your students for it.
4. You'll do concentrated individual work on a project of your own choosing and share what you've learned with your group.

Last year's guests included:

Professor Winston Brembeck, University of Wis.
Professor Herman Brockhaus, University of Wis.
Mrs. Julia Mailer, Play Librarian for BIPS
Richard Hetland, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer,
WHSFA

Professor Don Smith, University of Minnesota
William Dawson, Director - Wisconsin Players
Professor Fred Buerki, Technical Director
Wisconsin Union Theatre

These and many more guests highlighted last summer's four week session. We hope they will all come back this summer. Can we expect you too?

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Choral Speaking Festival

Mount Mary College invites all teachers to present their verse speaking choirs at its 17th Choral Speaking Festival, Saturday, March 29. There are five divisions, from first and second grades to high school. This is not a contest.

Dr. Kenneth Burns, Professor of Interpretation at the University of Illinois, will act as Critic.

Further information may be secured from Agnes Curren Hamm of the college.

Extemporaneous Reading

This year the material for the Extemp Reading Contest will be editorials. This decision of the Board reflected a desire to experiment with an event which would provide some aspects of radio news reporting. Pages 15-18 of Aims, Purposes and Definitions of Contests explain the contest's objectives and requirements. Be sure to read this material. This contest shall include, at least on the state level, only bona-fide editorials--not signed articles or syndicated columns.

At the time the Board meets on March 20, league contests will have been held and coaches and judges who have worked with this event should have a good idea as to the value of this type of material (editorials) in this contest. The Board will have to decide what material to use in this contest next year. If you have suggestions, please make them in writing to your district or sectional chairman, or send them to the state office.