

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

Coming Speech Events in Wisconsin

"Sabrina Fair", Wisconsin State College Platteville	Dec 3-5
"Huckleberry Finn", University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Dec 5-6-9
"Ring Around Elizabeth", Stout College Menomonie	Dec 5-7
"The Constant Wife", Northland College Ashland	Dec 6-8
"The Little Foxes", Wisconsin State College Eau Claire	Dec 6-10
"Hedda Gabler", Wisconsin Players Madison	Dec 11-15
"Volpone", Ripon College Ripon	Dec 14-15
"The Joyful Mystery", Christmas Choric Drama Alverno College, Milwaukee	Dec 16
Christmas Tableau and Chorus Whitewater State College	Dec 16
Reader's Theatre Productions, Milwaukee-Downer Milwaukee	Jan 10-16
"Cry, the Beloved Country", University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	Jan 16-19
"Midsummer Night's Dream", University of Minnesota Touring Company - Superior State College Superior	Feb 5
Robert Jeffry Theatre Dancers Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire	Feb 8
Eau Claire College Speech Meet Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire	Feb 14-16
Inter-Center Forensic Tourney Racine Extension Center	Feb 22-23

Latest Dates for Contests

	Debate	Speech
League	-----	March 16
District	Feb. 2	March 30
Sectional	Feb. 16	-----
State	Mar. 1-2	April 13

Please try to avoid scheduling school activities which conflict with the above dates.

Debate Proposition: Resolved: that the federal government should sustain the prices of major agricultural products at not less than 90% of parity.

The annual dues should be paid by December 15.

BOARD OF CONTROL

Northern Section	Central Section	Southern Section
Dale E. Krammes Eau Claire	E. C. Marquardt Wausau	William Dawson Madison
Eau Claire District David P. Barnes Eau Claire	La Crosse District K. A. Curran Cashton	Milwaukee District G. W. Carlson West Allis
River Falls District Louis F. Berg Baldwin	Oshkosh District A. F. Christ New London	Platteville District Harold Gall Lancaster
Superior District H. F. Connors Hurley	Stevens Point District J. C. Gillmann Marathon	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.*
Richard R. Hetland, *Ass't Sec'y-Treas.*
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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Meet the 1956-57 Board of Control

Two new sectional chairmen have been elected to the WHSFA Board of Control. Mr. Dale Krammes of Eau Claire Senior High is now chairman of the Northern Section, for a two-year term, and Mr. William Dawson of Madison's Wisconsin High will direct the activities in the Southern Section for a three-year term.

New district chairmen are as follows:

Eau Claire District, Mr. David Barnes, Principal at Eau Claire Senior High, for a three-year term, succeeding Willard Swanson.
Platteville District, Mr. Harold Gall, Principal at Lancaster High, for a one-year term, succeeding Kenneth Holt, who left the profession.
River Falls District, Mr. Louis Berg, Principal at Baldwin High, for a three-year term, succeeding F. M. Robey.
Stevens Point District, Mr. J. C. Gillmann, Principal at Marathon High, for a two-year term, succeeding A. D. Wicklund, who left the district.
Whitewater District, Mr. Roland Hunsader, Principal at Fort Atkinson High, for a one-year term, succeeding John Bjorge, who left the district.

Board of Control Officers

Mr. Kenneth Curran of Cashton was elected chairman of the Board, to succeed J. A. Bjorge who is no longer a member.

Mr. A. F. Christ of New London was chosen to succeed Mr. Curran as vice-chairman.

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Administrators:

Are you routing your coach's copy to ALL of the teachers who have forensic responsibilities in your school? Many of their inquiries to this office can be eliminated if you will follow through on this request for us. Thank you.

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Minutes of the 30th Annual Meeting-WHSFA
Brooks Memorial Union, Marquette University
Milwaukee, November 2, 1956

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman K. A. Curran at 2:00 P. M. with 65 persons present.
2. The reading of the Minutes of last year's meeting was dispensed with, and they were approved as printed in the November 1955 Newsletter.
3. The Chairman announced the results of the election and introduced new Board members who were present.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board, held Wednesday, October 31. (See various articles in this Newsletter).
5. The Secretary-Treasurer explained the reason for the late announcement of the debate topic and apologized for the inconveniences it caused.
6. The Chairman asked for questions, comments, and suggestions from the floor.
 - a) Mr. Melzer asked that the state office do all it can to minimize the conflicts in dates of the spring music and speech contests. Mr. Barnes, a member of the Board of Control of each association, and Mr. Christ explained the difficulties of scheduling these various contests without conflict.
 - b) Mr. Helstad asked if the procedure for selecting the debate topic could be speeded up. The Secretary-Treasurer agreed to advance the time schedule next year so that the final announcement could be close to October 1.

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- c) Mr. Dunwiddie and Mr. Helstad expressed concern regarding an understanding by the Board of Control of requests and proposals which come from the coaches; collectively, and individually. Mr. Schacht explained the necessity for compromising the various wishes of groups of coaches or individuals with the best interests of the entire program, and with varying local conditions.
 - d) One coach raised the question of communications between the state office and the coaches, and asked if those matters directly affecting the coaches could be sent to them rather than the principals. Chairman Curran pointed out that the WHSFA is an association of schools, and that communications should, therefore, be sent to the principal administrator of the school, and coaches who feel they are not getting communications referred to them should take the matter up directly with their own administrators.
7. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P. M. for the annual debate on the high school proposition between the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University.

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

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Speech Institutes

Over 600 at Oshkosh! Over 400 at Stevens Point! Such are the reports being received from successful speech institutes which have already been held at the state colleges in La Crosse, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Superior and Whitewater. As a follow-up to its drama workshop (see article by Mrs. Julia Mailer, page 12), Whitewater has scheduled another institute, this one on debate and speech, for November 15th. The La Crosse drama and debate institute will be followed by a general speech institute in January. At Oshkosh, four University of Wisconsin debaters presented a demonstration debate on this year's question before more than 200 debaters and their coaches.

These programs are sponsored jointly by the Association and the state colleges. Watch for announcements of others in your area.

Special Workshops Held

On October 20, the WHSFA cooperated with the Wisconsin Idea Theatre in putting on a day-long theatre workshop at Manitowoc High School. Here students and teachers worked together to learn more about the fine points of acting, scene construction, play selection, direction and production. An interesting outgrowth of this workshop was the organization of a high school division of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre. Mr. George Kanzelberger of Manitowoc is serving as temporary chairman of the group which is now in the process of formulating its constitution.

From Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire comes word that 170 students from Wisconsin and Minnesota high schools met at the college on October 20, to take part in the 10th annual Discussion Clinic. The 10 best discussors at the clinic were honored, with Michael Case of Prairie du Chien Champion winning top honors.

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Tape-Recorders Ready to Roll

What should be the policy of the federal government in regard to agriculture?

This is the question on which 16 member schools of the Association have committed a discussion to tape-recording. These 16 schools will be divided into sub-groups for an elimination, which will determine the best discussion in each group. By the time you receive this newsletter, judging of the sub-groups by single judges will be underway. The highest ranking school in each sub-group will receive a certificate of merit and enter the final round, to be judged by three judges.

Individual medals will be awarded to the top three schools, and a school plaque will be presented to the school with the winning tape.

Schools registered include:

Balsam Lake
Chippewa Falls
Ellsworth
Greenwood
Luxemburg
Madison - Wisconsin High
Medford
Merrill
Milwaukee - Messmer
Mindoro
Monona Grove
Wauwatosa
Weyerhauser
Whitefish Bay
Wilmot
Wisconsin Dells

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Practice Debate Tournament Dates

Here are four practice tournament dates to be added to the list printed on page 5 of the September Newsletter.

December 1

Richland Center - Invitational - Standard Style -- Clarence Rezek

December 8

Prairie du Chien Champion - Invitational B & C Divisions only - Standard Style Reverend R. J. Grennan

January 5

West Allis -- Hale-Central -- Invitational A, B, & C Divisions - Standard Style Hoyt Rawlings -- Frank Roberts

January 12

Sheboygan Central - Invitational A, B, & C Divisions - Standard Style A. E. Melzer

Committee to Study Proposed Contest Changes

The chairman of the Board of Control has appointed a committee to study the present program of the Association and any suggestions for its improvement. The committee, composed of Mr. Christ, Chairman; Mr. Marquardt, and Mr. Carlson will review ideas which have been solicited from coaches and teachers of the state colleges and universities, as well as from the principals and coaches of the high schools. Send your ideas for rule changes, contest additions or subtractions, procedural suggestions, etc., to your district chairman or to the state office. The sooner they are received, the more considered judgement they can be given prior to the March Board meeting.

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Poll, Professors Pick Parity Proposition

The official Wisconsin debate proposition chosen by a special committee of:

Professors Haberman, Weaver, Brockhaus and Brembeck, on the basis of an advisory poll of debate schools is

Resolved: that the federal government should sustain the prices of major agricultural products at not less than 90% of parity.

The polling resulted in the closest vote on record since the inauguration of this method of choosing the question. The parity question received 15 firsts, the soil bank proposition 14 firsts, and the Brannan Plan 13 firsts. 22 of the schools registered in debate did not vote.

Included in your package of free material on the debate proposition was an order form for additional materials at a substantial discount rate. You will find them very valuable aids in freshening your approach. Still more material is available through the loan package service of the Bureau of Information and Program Services, Memorial Library, Madison, Wis. (See page 6 of September Newsletter for loan policy).

Hellman of Marquette Heads WSA

Hugo Hellman, Chairman of Marquette University's Speech Department was elected President of the Wisconsin Speech Association at the annual meeting, held Friday, November 2, in Milwaukee.

Don Helstad, Kaukauna and Catherine Miller, Milwaukee-Rufus King, were elected vice-president and secretary-treasurer respectively. The two new members on the executive committee are C. J. Casper of Waupun, and E. R. Buetow of Hartford.

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The 1957-58 Debate Question

Yes, the wheels are already in motion for the selection of next year's debate and discussion topic.

Wisconsin coaches have submitted to the state office their suggestions for the 1957-58 area. Those ideas mentioned most often will be pooled with the suggestions of other states and referred back to Wisconsin coaches and principals in December for their preferences. These preferences will be brought to the NWEA Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials at its annual meeting in Chicago, by Richard Hetland, who has been appointed by the Board as its official representative.

The three problem areas chosen at the December meeting will again be referred to the debating schools of Wisconsin in January. Their choice, combined with the choices of other states will determine the national problem area for 1957-58.

Our thanks to the following schools for sending in their suggestions for problem areas:

Appleton	Rhineland
Barron	Richland Center
Deerfield	Sheboygan Central
Grantsburg	Stanley
Green Bay West	Stevens Point
Kenosha	Washburn
La Crosse Aquinas	Watertown
Melrose	Waupun
Merrill Holy Cross	Wausau
Merrill Senior	Wautoma
Milwaukee Marquette	West Allis Central
Neenah	West Allis Nathan Hale
Nekoosa	Wisconsin Dells
Northwestern Military Acad. (Lake Geneva)	

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State Drama Contest

You don't have to "qualify" to ATTEND the State One-Act Play Contest.

The casts vying for honors will, of course, have received "A" ratings at sectional contests. However, you and your students can learn much about how other schools proceed and enjoy a relaxing role as observers by attending the state contest. Why not bring a bus load? There is no admission charge.

The event is scheduled for Bascom Theatre on the University campus on Saturday, December 15 (with the possibility of a Friday night session as well).

As the Newsletter goes to press 106 schools have registered the name of their play; an indication that this may be one of the largest drama contests held.

This is the week-end that the Wisconsin Players will be presenting "Hedda Gabler." Here's a chance to climax a day of play watching by seeing what the University Theatre Department is doing.

If you are coming to the contest and are interested in securing tickets for Friday or Saturday evenings, we suggest you call Alpine 5-3311, extension 2141 and see what is available.

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Help Wanted!

By Mrs. Julia Mailer, Theatre Librarian
Bureau of Information and Program Services
University of Wisconsin Extension Division

We have not said much about high-school drama since the review of John Dietrich's stimulating lecture on that subject just a year ago. As we travel around the state and talk with our member friends, we find that there is great need to bring this subject up for discussion again. The need is evident from the questions we receive, not only at the institutes, but in our correspondence here at WHSFA. It seems that too many drama directors feel inadequate in selecting a play and plotting the business; in costuming, designing, lighting, and publicity. These techniques are not easy to learn and in the case of the very successful high school director, we find that he has had two or three years of good college experience behind him. But, does the average teacher have that special theatre training? If she does not, what can be done to help her?

Those people who were at the Speech section of the S. W. E. A. in Madison last February will remember that Mr. Gauger talked at some length on how the University might help. However, nothing has really crystallized in our planning and thinking.

This fall we have seen some very useful and stimulating theatre workshops; one at Whitewater and one at La Crosse State College. La Crosse offered the high school students a choice of debate seminars and theatre workshops. At Whitewater the students spent the whole day in actual theatre activities. In both programs, there was real and practical help given to the teachers and the students. They directed, painted sets, made up characters, planned posters and sold tickets. We applaud both of these efforts and hope for many more.

(Cont'd)

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It seems fairly clear that the greatest technical help for high school theatre directors can come by meeting at the theatre buildings in the different state colleges, where flats, grids, levels, spots, and floods can be demonstrated objectively, and where the best people in theatre will be willing to give their time to teach and demonstrate. The state colleges have already shown their willingness to give help in this field. But more can be done. Let's do some thinking about this. Write to the WHSFA office, or to the drama staff at the colleges. Talk over your needs with others in your district, and then let your district chairman know what you need. Let's work for better high school theatre productions in Wisconsin.

Cuttings from Longer Plays to be
Included in One-Act Play List

The Wisconsin Idea Theatre has again been asked to prepare the official one-act play list for 1957. One innovation in the new list has been authorized by the Board of Control. The 1957 list will include longer plays as well as the traditional one-acts. HOWEVER, the contest will continue as a one-act event. This means that a scene or act may be cut from the longer plays on the list. The responsibility for making a cutting appropriate to the suggested time limits (25 to 35 minutes) will devolve upon the schools selecting the longer plays. It is hoped that this move will give play directors a greater variety of good drama from which to make their choice.

Coaches are again asked to send suggestions for additions or deletions to Professor Robert Gard, Wisconsin Idea Theatre, Stadium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

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And Still More Help for the Play Director

We have a newly published three-act high-school play list to offer our WHSFA members. This list has been carefully compiled, with consultation from the Wisconsin Idea Theatre, the Speech Department of the University, and successful directors in community theatre in Wisconsin. It offers 150 plays with a short synopsis, information about the cast, royalties and sources of production copies. The list costs 25 cents, and if you wish to buy it, write to the Bureau of Information and Program Services, Memorial Library, University of Wis.

Examination copies of the plays may also be borrowed from BIPS.

"C's" Still Possible in League Speech Contests

Since a number of leagues have been awarding trophies on a point basis involving the use of "C" ratings, and since the application of the new rule eliminating "C" ratings to these contests would upset long-established policies and procedures, the Board ruled that the new rule was not intended to apply to league contests, but only to district and state speech contests.

New Rule for Debate Contests

We call your attention to the new rules governing debate contests. Schools desiring to use more than four debaters may do so by designating in advance the names of all debaters and alternates on the new registration form.

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They Must Like Madison

As we again prepare to welcome the "champions" to the state drama and debate contests for 1956-57, our attention turns to what schools might be making the trip to Madison for the first time. In the past ten years, 62 Wisconsin High schools have brought their one-act play to Madison, and 50 schools have had the experience of debating in a state tournament. With an average of 12-15 plays and debate teams here annually, this, of course, means that there have been a number of "repeaters." We thought you might be interested in which drama and debate schools have been here most often. Eau Claire Regis, Milwaukee-Marquette, and Superior Cathedral have reached the one-act finals for the past five consecutive years, while the same record in debate has been achieved by Eau Claire Senior and West Bend. Through the past ten years the list of most frequent repeaters looks like this:

<u>One-Act Play</u>	<u>No. of Years</u>	<u>Debate</u>	<u>No. of Years</u>
La Crosse Aquinas	9	Chippewa Falls Senior	9
Milwaukee Marquette	8	Eau Claire Senior	9
Superior Cathedral	8	Amery	8
Eau Claire Regis	6	Wausau	8
Eau Claire Senior	5	West Bend	8
Shawano	5	La Crosse Aquinas	6
Milwaukee Riverside	4	New Richmond	6
Mondovi	4	Chippewa Falls McDonell	5
Muscoda	3	Eau Claire Regis	5
Green Lake	3	Madison-Wisconsin High	5
Greenwood	3	Port Washington	5
Milwaukee Mercy	3	Sheboygan Central	5
Mosinee	3	Tomah	5
Superior Central	3	Two Rivers	5