

# NEWSLETTER of the WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH  
 BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES  
 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION DIVISION  
 1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.  
 Phone: Dial 5-3311, Ext. 4233

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NO. 3

## Coming Dates

Delta Sigma Rho Discussion and Debate Tournament, Madison-----	March 7-8
HSFA State Speech Contest Madison-----	April 19
Theatre Workshop (Whitewater)-----	April 27
State Music Festival (Madison)-----	May 10
Theatre Workshop (Oshkosh)-----	May 11
State Music Festival (Eau Claire)-----	May 17
"King John"-High School Performance Madison-----	May 17
Midwest Junior High School Conference Madison-----	July 7-9
Band Directors' Conference Madison-----	July 21-25
Conference for Speech Teachers and Coaches Madison-----	July 22-24
Orchestra and Chorus Clinic Madison-----	July 28 Aug 17
Orchestra and Chorus Director's Conference Madison-----	Aug 4-8
Childrens' Theatre Conference Madison-----	Aug 25-30

## Latest Dates for Contests

	Speech
League Contests -----	March 22
District Contests -----	April 5
State Contest-----	April 19

Please try to avoid scheduling school programs on dates conflicting with those given above.

See the back cover for additional dates of interest to speech and drama teachers.

Last call for dues! You will not receive the free declamations or Winning Orations until dues are paid.

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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

We Still Need Your Advice!

In the November News Letter we asked to hear from you concerning your

1. Suggestions for the revision of the one-act play list.
2. Reactions to changing from banners to plaques for first place award in the state drama and debate contests.
3. Ideas on how we can make the fall speech institutes more valuable to you and your students.
4. Reactions to the proposals of the Speech Association of America and their implications for our Wisconsin program.
5. Reactions to the article by Earl Kjer entitled "Shall We Change the Interpretative Events in the Forensic Program."

Please send your district or sectional chairman, or the state office, your ideas before the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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### State Drama Contest

Fourteen schools participated in the State Drama Contest.

"A" Awards were earned by:

Muscoda	Whitewater City
Greenwood	Milwaukee Marquette
Superior Cathedral	

"B" Awards were earned by:

Mondovi	Marinette
Green Lake	Mosinee
Superior Central	La Crosse Aquinas
Eau Claire Regis	Shawano
Chippewa Falls McDonell	

Mr. Jonathan W. Curvin, Associate Professor of Speech of the University of Wisconsin, was the critic judge.

### Drama Teachers--Stop!

Before you throw away all those copies of one and three-act plays and operettas which were once given by your school and are now gathering dust on the shelf or in the cupboard, pick out the copies which are in best condition and send them to the Play Library of the Bureau of Information and Program Services. The more copies and titles we have, the more service we can give to you and other coaches.

### Planning Student Activities in the High School

For Student Councils and Assemblies. Available from Bureau of Information and Program Services (WIPS) 1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis. 244.

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### Introducing Our New Play Librarian

We're happy to announce that Miss Betty Jean Bender has accepted the position of Play Librarian at the Bureau of Information and Program Services. She is the daughter of Harry M. Bender, Supervising Principal at Colby, who has served on our WHSFA Board of Control for several terms.

Miss Bender has taught at Medford and Shawano high schools and has had practical experience in rural and high school dramatics.

We hope that many of you will have a chance to meet her at speech institutes this fall. Meanwhile, continue to feel free to use the extensive services of our Play Library. We have 15,000 titles, all available for examination purposes, upon request.

Miss Bender replaces Miss Ruth Rowland, who resigned because of ill health after twenty eight years of faithful service.

### Theatre Workshop

This spring the Wisconsin Idea Theatre Conference will sponsor two workshops in theatre which will be of special interest to teachers as well as rural and community theatre people. The first workshop will be held in Whitewater, Sunday, April 27., with the Whitewater Little Theatre as host group. The second, under the local sponsorship of the Oshkosh Community Players, will get under way early Sunday afternoon, May 11, at Oshkosh. Definite program arrangements have not been made. However, it is expected that sessions will include such things as directing, elementary and advanced acting techniques, makeup, lighting, set construction, and business management. The Oshkosh meeting will also include a demonstration of the script-in-hand style of play reading.

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## University Players and Wisconsin Idea Theatre

### Present

### A High-School Performance

### of

### "King John"

May 17, 1952

The Wisconsin Idea Theatre will present the Wisconsin Players in "King John", in a special matinee for high school students and rural young people associated with the state 4H clubs. The place is the Union Theatre on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. The time is 2:00 P. M. May 17, a Saturday.

Tickets may be ordered by mail directly from the Box Office, Wisconsin Memorial Union, Madison, Wisconsin.

Ticket prices are 35 cents for students, \$1.00 for all others.

All proceeds of the matinee will go into the Wisconsin Idea Theatre fund to help defray expenses and offer prizes and awards in the state-wide drama program.

Teachers wishing to bring large groups of students are urged to order tickets as soon as possible.

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### Themes For Your Senior Prom

Are you looking for new and different ideas for your senior- or junior prom? Or for any other school dance? The Bureau of Information and Program Services (BIPS) has mimeographed an article of this title by Beth Wallace Yates, which appeared in the Recreation magazine. BIPS will be glad to send you a copy upon request. The address: 1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.

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## Wisconsin Rapids Wins State Debate Contest

Wisconsin Rapids High School came through the State Debate Contest with six wins and no losses and carried home the team banner and individual gold medals. Rapids met the following schools: Sheboygan Central, Appleton, Wausau, River Falls, Tomah, and Chippewa Falls.

Individual silver medals were won by Bill Buys's Wisconsin High School debaters who placed second with five wins and one loss--to Superior Cathedral.

Two schools tied for third place the first time they got into the state contest--Racine Horlick and Kohler. Their squad members received bronze medals.

The other schools with their wins and losses appear below:

	Won	Lost
Sheboygan Central	3	3
Wausau Senior	3	3
West Bend	3	3
La Crosse Central	3	3
Port Washington	3	3
Eau Claire Senior	3	3
Amery	3	3
Eau Claire Regis	2	4
Appleton	2	4
Tomah	2	4
Superior Cathedral	2	4
Chippewa Falls Senior	2	4
River Falls	1	5

Prairie du Chien Campion qualified to enter the state contest but a conflicting tournament prevented their participation.

The Debate Question: RESOLVED: that all American citizens should be subject to conscription for essential service in time of war.

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### WHAT FORM OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SHOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT?

This general subject was chosen by a majority of all of the state leagues over the other two problem areas:

What should be our federal tax policy?  
How can we as a nation improve the ethical and moral standard of our government?

This new procedure of submitting problem areas rather than specifically worded debate questions was determined at the December meeting of the Committee on Debate Materials of the National University Extension Association. This action was taken after a meeting of representatives of nineteen of the cooperating state leagues discussed the proposal very thoroughly and finally came to a clear consensus as to its educational soundness and practical workability. You will remember that the Wisconsin debating schools voted 38-24 in favor of this new procedure last spring.

Bruno Jacob, Secretary of the National Forensic League, Father Grennan of Campion High School Prairie du Chien, and your Secretary-Treasurer represented Wisconsin at the general sessions of the committee during which the three problem areas were proposed, discussed, and finally approved. (See article by Father Grennan on page 13.)

The new procedure is described in the five paragraphs following:

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1. At the annual December meeting of the NUFA Committee on Debate Materials the Committee should select three problem areas from which debate propositions and discussion questions can be drawn. These three problem areas should be submitted to a referendum of the state leagues as heretofore during the month of February. In the meantime, the problem areas will have been submitted to a wording committee instructed to phrase three propositions for debate and three questions for discussion within each of the problem areas selected.

2. The Committee should sponsor handbooks of source materials and special articles much like the present books except that they would present background material and several possible solutions of the problem instead of centering largely on support of the proposition or any one particular solution. The handbook would list a number of approved propositions submitted for debate within the general problem area.

3. In the beginning of the school term, or even in the spring, for that matter, the Committee should encourage local and interscholastic discussions within the problem area selected for that year.

4. The Committee should encourage the holding of practice debate tournaments in the fall as usual, the sponsor of each tournament choosing one of the debate propositions stated in the handbook or phrasing a proposition within the problem area for the year.

5. At the December meeting next succeeding, the NUFA committee, drawing on the experiences of earlier debates, should select one of the three propositions stated in the Debate Handbook; and with only minor modifications to meet objections which have arisen should announce this proposition as the official wording for the remainder of the debate season. At

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the same December meeting the foregoing process should be initiated again by choosing three new problem areas for submission to a referendum of the state leagues.

The suggested debate propositions comprehended in next year's problem area include:

1. Resolved: That the Atlantic Pact Nations should form a federal union.
2. Resolved: That the United States should take the initiative in forming a federal union of all nations.
3. Resolved: That the United States should withdraw from the United Nations.

Any one of these--or possibly a different one depending on the issues most pressing next winter--will be chosen next December and announced immediately.

For those schools that wish to explore the various aspects of this large problem through the processes of discussion, the Committee suggests the following discussion questions comprehended in the above problem area:

1. What have been the weaknesses of past plans for world organization?
2. What functions should an effective organization of nations assume?
3. What forms of international organization appear practical at this time?

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The Committee further decided to change the name of the Debate Handbook to the "NUEA Discussion and Debate Handbook" and to ask the NUEA to change the name of the committee to the "Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation."

The Committee believes that its actions are in harmony with the spirit of the recommendations of the Speech Association of America which have been adopted by the North Central Association.

This new procedure will be further explained and discussed during the Conference for Speech Teachers and Coaches to be held on the University Campus July 22-24.

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### Results of Debate Topic Poll in Wisconsin (Mailed Jan. 15, 1952)

The voting on the Ballot mailed out to schools having checked Debate on their registration cards was as follows for the three problem areas:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. What should be our federal tax policy?   | <u>2nd choice</u> |
| 2. How can we as a nation improve the ethical and moral standard of our Government? | <u>1st choice</u> |
| 3. What form of international organizations should the United States support?       | <u>3rd choice</u> |

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How we "Sold" Our School on Debate  
By Wilbur Sperling, Debate Coach  
La Crosse Central High School

If the student body and teachers see value in a co-curricular activity, they will give it their support. Many activities, fortunately or unfortunately, die from lack of such support. La Crosse Central High School ventured into a new activity this year--debate. The response to a call for debaters was gratifying.

The next job was to develop an interest and appreciation of debate itself and this year's debate topic. The question of conscription was new and unfamiliar, but did offer many interesting possibilities. As a result it became a topic for discussion in several social studies groups. Debaters in the classes pointed the way by outlining the possible major issues. It soon was evident that the debate question was interesting and offered a challenge in research and discussion.

Our next problem was to acquaint the student body and faculty with the technique of debate. Fortune again smiled on us, for Tomah high school indicated their interest in debating us during school hours. With the cooperation of Mr. Rayment, the Tomah debate coach, our principal, and several teachers in the social studies and English areas the debates were arranged. Interest was high and the response gratifying. The classes felt the importance of the current issue and the teachers recognized debate as a valuable teaching aid.

We concluded that this experiment not only served to motivate interest in co-curricular activity, but presented a technique wherein pupil participation would be enlivened. Since then we have held similar debates with Champion High School of Prairie du Chien, and have introduced it into our Junior high school.

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I Was There  
Reverend R. J. Grennan, S. J.

Our Secretary-Treasurer asked me to write an article upon the proceedings of the NUF A Committee on Debate Materials at the recent Chicago Speech convention. The reason for this is evident, for he wanted me to convey my impressions and reactions of those meetings to you readers of the News Letter. I seem to recall that at past gatherings of debate coaches so many of us pestered him with questions like "who makes up the committee," "who selects these men," "how often do they meet", "do they give sufficient time and energy to the selection of debate proposals", "how do they go about that work", questions that to us debate coaches are pretty important. I can't answer all these questions but shall comment on those in which I believe you are most interested.

First of all let me state that I went to Chicago with a definite purpose in mind. I was against the coming 1952-53 discussion-debate procedure. I felt that the introduction of discussion would not prove a cure for debate ills, nor would this coming change of procedure improve the committee's wording of future debate propositions. So my purpose in going to Chicago was to vote "nay" on the proposed change.

However, that vote was not allowed to be given, for the first two meetings of the NUF A Committee on Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation--meetings at which this new procedure was voted in were executive sessions, and delegates for those meetings had already been chosen and sent. The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association was represented by our Secretary-Treasurer. It was, therefore, democratic and had my vote been permitted, the balance in State representation would have been upset.

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But Thursday afternoon the open sessions started and reports were read on the Brannan Plan and the Atlantic Pact. More important though was a paper entitled "A Review of Propositions Submitted", which gave the results of sixty topics sent in by twenty state leagues. These sixty were categorized into national-sociological, national-political, and international. Those who attended that meeting were divided into three committees and asked to discuss over the dinner hour the possibility of reducing these general problem areas into discussion and debate topics.

These committees went to work and reported at the evening session and I must say here it meant work. We discussed, argued, divided, sub-divided, pro'd and con'd until headaches were in order but before the meeting adjourned we had agreed on three problem areas. Friday afternoon the group met again to develop discussion topics and debate propositions within the three problem areas, and again the agreements and disagreements, distinctions multifarious and to the point, so that each of the proposals recently sent you were the products of good labor, organization, analysis, and talent.

One of the easiest of the problem areas submitted, easiest to reduce into discussion and debate topics, was that of the national political group. Out of this area came the question of government spending and government taxes. Which to Choose? Taxes seemed to be in order. What kind of taxes? State? Federal? Was it a question of tariff? No--income taxes. Was the word fiscal too broad? Yes. Should the resolution declare for an expansion or restriction in government power? Obviously restriction, for what affirmative could uphold an expansion in that matter? What kind of restriction, and how much? And so on.

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Thus, the meetings went on, orderly, intense, thorough. These men making up the wording committee do a good job. They represent us honestly, efficiently, and democratically.

But as Mr. Schacht asked me if I would have any suggestions to make after attending these meetings, I said I would put down what I thought. I do have one good and important suggestion. Effective action of the NUFA Committee depends upon the problem areas we coaches send in each fall. I know it takes time and effort on our part to sit down and really give this matter its due attention. But it has to be done. Participation--or the lack of it--is the strength--or weakness--of any democratic method. Our participation in suggesting topics forms the very basis of the committee's work and of the choice of discussion-debate topics.

I went to Chicago to criticize and oppose. I came home realizing the importance of the role of each debate coach in suggesting problem areas and in voting on the three which are finally proposed. I would also urge every coach to attend and participate in these sessions of the NUFA Committee whenever the Speech Association meets in Chicago. It's a real experience.

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### Extemporaneous Reading

This year only the Reader's Digest is to be used for extemporaneous reading. Otherwise, the procedure is the same as last year. Complete rules are given in the September News Letter.

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Each school is responsible for securing the magazines from which the topics for extemporaneous speaking will be taken. Every school should subscribe to two or more of the magazines. Periodicals from which topics will be taken are given in the September News Letter as well as the addresses of the publishers and the subscription rates. If you have not already placed your subscription, you should do so at once. The Bureau of Information and Program Services, nor the State Traveling Library can not lend these periodicals to schools for this contest. The demand would greatly exceed the supply.

### Certificates of Merit

A post card for ordering Certificates of Merit for students having participated in one or more interschool contests is included with this News Letter.

### Four-Minute Cuttings From Wisconsin History

Stories of life in early Wisconsin. Useful as speech training material or for social studies. 50¢ each or three books (40 cuttings in each book) for \$1. Order from

Bureau of Information and Program Services  
1327 University Avenue, Madison 5, Wis.

Note: Especially recommended for junior high schools.

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### Conference for Speech Teachers and Coaches July 22-24, 1952

This second conference for speech teachers and coaches is sponsored jointly by the Department of Speech, the Department of Education, the University Extension Division and the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. Its purpose this year is to provide teachers and coaches of debate, group discussion, interpretative reading, and declamation with instruction designed to promote greater understanding of and teaching effectiveness in these areas of speech. Instruction includes lectures by visiting authorities and resident faculty members; group discussions will provide opportunity for all to participate in the consideration of common problems. Although the Conference should be of benefit to teachers and coaches on both high school and college levels, particular emphasis will be placed upon helping those working in the high schools.

For additional information, address Winston L. Brembeck, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

### Debating Holds Its Own in Wisconsin

A recent survey of the number of Wisconsin high schools participating in our various contests indicates that debating is holding its own. While a large number of schools indicate an interest in debating, receive free materials, participate in referenda on debate questions, and often get as far as some local interschool competition, the number of schools listed below actually participated in contest competition in the years indicated

1948	89
1949	78
1950	83
1951	73
1952	

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### Mimeographed Articles Available from WHSFA

The Role of Discussion and Debate, by James McBurney,  
School of Speech, Northwestern University.  
The Role of the Discussion Leader. Twenty-two sug-  
gestions to help a discussion leader.

Aims, Purposes, and Definitions of WHSFA Contests.  
Prepared by H. H. Brockhaus, Assistant Professor of  
Speech, University of Wisconsin. This was compiled  
as a result of action taken at the Annual Meeting of  
the Association last November. Copies have been sent  
to the district and sectional chairmen. District  
chairmen are instructed to distribute them to persons  
in charge of league contests. Persons responsible  
for contests are to be sure that judges

receive, read, understand, and subscribe to  
the Aims, Purposes, and Definitions and

give a critique after each section and before  
announcing any ratings.

One copy of it was mailed to all member schools with  
the November News Letter. Extra copies are available  
upon request.

### We Suggest You Read

1. A thought-provoking article by Ivan Putnam Jr.,  
entitled "The Speech Teacher and Copyright" in  
the December 1950 Quarterly Journal of Speech.  
It raises and answers many questions about some  
common practices.
2. A convincing case for high-school dramatics  
entitled "Laboratory in Human Behavior" by  
Dr. Dina Rees Evans in the NFA Journal for  
September, 1951.

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### You Should Know About-

Recommended New Oral Readings. This is the  
title of a mimeographed catalog of 54 annotated  
readings intended primarily for high school reading  
contests and speech festivals. These readings have  
been chosen and cut by Marceline Erickson, Associate  
Professor of Speech, Mankato State Teachers College,  
Mankato, Minnesota, and Louise W. Hanley, Instructor  
in English, Wausau University Extension Center, Wis.  
A free copy of the catalog may be obtained from  
Mrs. Hanley, at the above address. \*\*

Play List for Rural Life Groups. (1951-52)  
describes 88 plays which have been successfully  
tried in 4-H Club work and have the recommendation  
of the State 4-H Club Office. 11 pp. Single copies  
free from Wisconsin Idea Theatre, Stadium, Univer-  
sity of Wisconsin, Madison. \*\*

Rural Drama Handbook. Especially prepared for  
rural drama directors and actors by Nathalia Handler,  
of the staff of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre. 12 pp.  
Mimeographed. Single copies free while supply lasts.  
From Wisconsin Idea Theatre, address above. \*\*

Developing Discussion in School and Community is  
the latest publication of the Junior Town Meeting  
League. Excellent material on Discussion in American  
Life, on planning a Discussion Program, Locales of  
Discussion Activity, Factors Conditioning Discussion,  
and Discussion Leaders and their Training. For  
adult or youth, school or club. 32 pp. Available  
from the Junior Town Meeting League, 400 South Front  
Street, Columbus 15, Ohio. \*\*

\*These materials are not available from WHSFA. Please  
note source given after each article.