



Wisconsin High School
Forensic Association
P.O. Box 176
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“Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”

2010-2011 Calendar

Fall Board of Control Meeting – September 15, 2010
Latest Date for District Theatre – October 23, 2010
Latest Date for Sectional Theatre – November 6, 2010
WHSFA State Theatre – November 18-20, 2010, UW Oshkosh
Latest Date for Middle Level I – February 5, 2011
Latest Date for Middle Level II – February 26, 2011
Latest Date for Sub-district Speech Festival – March 5, 2011
Latest Date for District Speech Festival – March 26, 2011
WHSFA State Speech Festival – April 15-16, 2011, UW Madison



WHSFA

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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WHSFA Scheduling System Works Well

The new on-line speech scheduling system worked well for coaches and the State Office. Many coaches were pleased that when they found their school on the list of members and clicked on it the school name and address popped up on the registration form. They also enjoyed receiving an immediate copy of their registration form sent to their email address.

Of course nothing happens without some issues. Some of the coaches called or emailed the State Office having problems registering their teams. Most of the issues were a result of not completing the judge's information correctly. The scheduling program calculates the number of judges required at both the district and state level. The programmer added a button to click if a school wanted to register the name of the judge(s) later. However, some using the system

decided the program was asking for too many judges and would only click the number they believed they needed. Because the program is mechanical, it does not recognize variances in the directions. If not enough judges were provided, the system would not process the registration.

In one case, the coach tried to enter 11 entries between Prose Reading, Poetry Reading and Farrago. The scheduling program knows you can only have 10 entries between those three categories. There was another case where a coach tried to enter too many groups between Group Interpretation and Play Acting and the system would not process the registration.

All in all the new system is helping the State Office and District Chairs provide a more accurate schedule.

Membership Fees See an Adjustment

When membership fees were set in 1995, coaches were told that they would not go up again. No one could have foreseen the great rise in the cost of postage or paper not to mention other cost increases since 1995.

The Board of Control at the fall meeting agreed to increase the cost of senior level membership by \$25 a school for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Board recognized that many school districts are already working with greatly decreasing funds but the cost increase is necessary.



Ethel Heise New Coach Award

The Ethel Heise New Coach Award was created to honor the late Ethel Heise who devoted her career to helping students and coaches in forensics. She was a long time coach at Oshkosh Lourdes High School. Ethel was also one of the first teachers in the Adjudication Training Program.

Nick Sirek, Eau Claire Memorial, was selected to be the first recipient. The applicants needed to submit letters of recommendation, have outstanding participation records, and write a personal essay on “Why I Coach.” One of Nick’s former students wrote the following about him:

“Mr. Sirek doesn’t simply teach his students; he cares about them. For me, personally, my sophomore year of high school was not a particularly happy time. I struggled with some major self-confidence and personal issues. It was also the year Mr. Sirek was my coach in radio speaking, and although he did not know it, he helped me through my depression simply by taking an interest and showing that he cared about me.” What greater tribute can a coach have than the thanks of a grateful student?

Congratulations Nick Sirek on a job well done!

Excellent in Speech Awards

Every year the WHSFA recognize the top 5% award winning schools at The State Speech Festival with the Excellence in Speech Award. These results do not necessarily indicate large enrolment but rather dedicated coaching and dedicated students. This years Excellence in Speech Award winners are:

Baldwin-Woodville High School – Angie Schmoker, Coach
Baraboo High School – Mark Patton, Coach
Burlington High School – Carrie Fidler, Coach
Darlington High School – Carmen Rielly, Coach
Eau Claire Memorial High School – Nick Sirek, Coach
Eau Claire Regis High School – Judine Brey, Coach
Green Bay Preble High School –Carol Gruski, Coach
Jackson Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School – David Deibert
Kaukauna High School – Keith VandenHeuvel, Coach
Lake Mills Lake Lakeside Lutheran High School – Steven Lauber
Lomira High School – Seth Larson, Coach
Menomonie High School – Tina Denzer, Coach
Neenah High School – Beth Plankey, Coach
New Richmond High School – Jeff Ayer, Coach
St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary – Fr. Gary Wegner, Coach
Salem Westosha Central High School – Bernadette Elverman, Coach
Waterford Union High School – Amy Koszarek, Coach

Congratulations to these outstanding coaches and teams!

Middle Level Coaches Recognized

WHSFA presented certificates of merit to Middle Level Coaches this year who have put in many years of coaching at the Middle Level. Many of these coaches do so without financial compensation.

Certificates of Appreciation for Middle Level Coaching went to:

Catherine Anderson	Jan Betts
Mimi Dahlby	Becky George
Nancy Herbison	Jerry Ann Lauterbach
Becky Pokrandt	Roger Skifstad
Debbie Stone	Kathie Trezecinski
Pat Zeinert	Stacie Zeman
Sam Zuehis	

If you know of someone who should receive recognition for their coaching please let the State Office know.

WHSFA Recognizes Student Earning Fourth Gold

This year out of the 4,651 students who participated at the State Speech Festival four students received their fourth straight gold medal.

- Crystal Abing of Lancaster High School won her fourth gold medal for Farragao.
- Jason Boll of Darlington High School won two gold medals in Farrago his freshman and sophomore years, gold in Poetry Reading his junior year and as a senior a gold medal in Play Acting.
- Danielle Dyksterhouse of Kohler High School won her fourth gold medal for Storytelling.
- Kaitlyn Gentry of Elva Strum High School won her fourth gold medal for Four Minute Speech.

Congratulations to these students and to their coaches.

State T-shirts and Bags Still Available

If you would still like to order a State Theatre or State Speech T-shirt, we still have some left. We also have string backpacks with the WHSFA logo on them for sale. T-shirts are \$20 and String backpacks are \$10.

2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 122

April 7, 2010

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin is fortunate to have three active interscholastic speech associations: the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches Association (WFCA), the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA), and the National Forensic League (NFL); and

Whereas, the WFCA, WHSFA, and NFL aim to develop and provide learning opportunities that foster enhanced communication skills and strong values, which are critical for effective participation in our society; and

Whereas, the WFCA celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2010; and

Whereas, the WHSFA, the oldest organization of its kind in the United States, celebrates its 115th anniversary in 2010; and

Whereas, the NFL, founded and headquartered in Ripon, serves as the preeminent national organization for interscholastic speech at the secondary level and celebrates its 85th anniversary in 2010; and

Whereas, all three organizations further the interests of Wisconsin interscholastic speech by promoting the activity, serving as a resource to member schools, and sponsoring tournaments during winter and spring; and

Whereas, forensic students develop strong working relationships with their teammates, fellow competitors, and coaches, and learn valuable lessons about commitment, work ethic, professionalism, and humility, all of which serve students well as they enter adulthood; and

Whereas, the WFCA season culminates with its state tournament on April 17, 2010, in which over 20,000 students have competed since its inception; and

Whereas, the WHSFA also hosts its state tournament on April 16 and 17, 2010, in which nearly 6,000 student competed at the initial sub-district level in 2010; and

Whereas, the NFL has more than 1.3 million alumni in all 50 states, with more than 112,000 current competitors and 7,000 advisors, and hosts its national tournament qualifying competitions for the northern and southern Wisconsin districts in April; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin state legislature hereby commend the WFCA, WHSFA, and NFL and all forensic coaches in Wisconsin on their outstanding commitment to the education and development of young people in our state; and, be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Wisconsin state legislature hereby recognize the extraordinary contributions made by the WFCA, WHSFA, and NFL by declaring April as Forensic Month in Wisconsin; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches Association, the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association and the National Forensic League.

WFCA Celebrates 40 Years

The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association would like to congratulate the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches Association on reaching their 40th Anniversary.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have organizations like the WFCA providing educational opportunities for Wisconsin high school students.

Congratulations on forty years of helping Wisconsin high school students reach toward public speaking excellence.

Thank You to Outgoing Board of Control Members

WHSFA is losing three outstanding Board of Control Members at the end of this fiscal year.

Steve High, District 1 Chair, is stepping down after serving one term on the Board of Control. Steve is Principal at Northwestern High School in Maple Wisconsin.

Nancy Domanski, District 11 Chair, is moving to the east coast to join her husband. Nancy has been serving WHSFA for two terms. Nancy has been the Middleton High School forensic coach.

Sue Luterbach, District 12/13 Chair, is leaving education after being involved with WHSFA for 30 years as a coach and District Chair. Sue has been the forensic coach for St. Joan Antida High School in Milwaukee.

Boot Camp for Directors

WHSFA along with the University of Wisconsin – Madison Continuing Studies in the Arts is offering “Boot Camp for Directors” this summer. The aim of the course is to help high school directors improve their skills in directing, set design, costume design, editing, etc.

Giving leadership to the class are: Chris Andacht, Catholic Memorial High School; Roxi Wakeen, WHSFA State Theatre Judge; Holly Stanfield, Kenosha’s Mary Bradford High School; Rick Braun, Waunakee High School; Chuck Malone, WHSFA Executive Director.

For more information contact Chuck Malone at the WHSFA State Office.