



Newsletter

Issue Highlights

Middle Level Reminders
 Festival Manager Training
 Photocopy Stipend
 Theatre Festival Results
 Hall of Fame Awards
 Debate Contest Results
 Impromptu Pilot
 Adjudication Reminders
 Award Nomination Info



Speech Season

Speech Registration Reminders

(1). Verify SpeechWire account

From **January 3-10, 2017**, coaches should log into their SpeechWire account from last year, to ensure they are **able** to log in. For schools with coaching changes, we will have a form coaches can complete to request to be added to their school's account. Remember, coaches can have up to three web accounts, so it's easy to confuse them:

- SpeechWire
- WHSFA Website (online store)
- Adjudication Courses

(2). Book a Slot for State Speech

Beginning **8am, Wed., Jan. 11**, coaches may log into SpeechWire to book a slot for State Speech. Limited bookings are available for each time slot, given space available on the UW-Madison campus. This allows coaches time to plan their travel for State Speech. Time slots are Fri., April 21 at 5:30 and 7:00 pm, and Sat., April 22 at 9:30 and 11:00 am.

(3). Enter Students in Categories

Starting Jan. 11, coaches can enter students into various categories. This is considered the official registration for each subdistrict festival. We highly recommend entering the initial registration at least three weeks prior to your subdistrict contest, so the State Office has time to prepare materials to send the host, and so the host can plan how many rooms are needed, food to order, etc. All adjudicators you will bring to subdistrict also should be entered. Coaches can log back in and modify entries and adjudicators until data is sent by the office to the host to schedule.

Instructions/login buttons will be available at:
www.whsfa.org/speech/contests

Middle Level

Festival hosts must complete the **Host Information Form** on the *Middle Level Contests webpage*. After you have collected registration, please complete the **Request Festival Materials Form** at least two weeks prior to your festival, so we can send the correct number of materials.

All participating schools' annual WHSFA dues must be paid before the state office will issue reimbursement to host schools. We will help you contact those coaches to remind them.



Options for Festival Materials

For middle level 1 and 2 festivals, as well as high school subdistrict and district festivals, the State Office typically collates and ships copies of evaluation sheets and adjudicator instructions to festivals. This year, individual festival managers can **opt out** of receiving these materials, and may **request a stipend** to offset contest costs, such as printing at their school. **This form must be completed one month prior to the subdistrict/district in question.** See the *Speech Contests* page online for the link:

whsfa.org/speech/contests

The state office **will ship materials** to festivals if **we do not** receive notification telling us otherwise.



Middle Level: Proper Introductions

In Middle Level literary interpretive categories, some students are introducing *themselves*, when they should be introducing the **selection** of literature. The purpose of the introduction is to familiarize the audience (and adju-

dicator) with the tone and theme of the material, as well as its relevance for being heard. Also, while on ballots, it's **okay to list student names**, we remind everyone that **students should not share their school affiliation.**

Managing Your Festival

WHSFA has arranged to provide SpeechWire – **free of charge** – to any official **middle Level 1 or 2;** or **high school subdistrict or district festival.**

All high school subdistrict Speech registrations are collected through SpeechWire. We will email all hosts/managers instructions for accessing their festival management control panel. Subdistrict hosts may use SpeechWire to schedule contestants and adjudicators in rooms, and can even combine multiple categories! All results **must** be reported through SpeechWire, so

using it to schedule your festival will make this run more smoothly.

Middle level L1 or L2 festivals can request SpeechWire by emailing office@whsfa.org, which will allow them to **collect registration, schedule rounds with contestants and adjudicators, and tabulate/record results!**

WHSFA coaches running their own *invitational* contests and/or conference tournaments can contact SpeechWire to inquire about pricing, and to set up their contest.



Festival Manager Training

Last year, WHSFA debuted online courses as part of our Speech Adjudicator Training program. Using the same platform, on **Jan. 18**, we are unveiling our online course to learn particulars of managing Speech festivals, including using SpeechWire. This is an **optional, in-depth tutorial** for anyone interested, and will cost just \$5. In return, participants will gain access

to several lessons on using SpeechWire, as well as other festival preparation tasks, and can earn a professional development certificate documenting time spent on training.

Alternatively, free SpeechWire tutorial videos and PDFs are available from the **Festival Manager Info** page in the *Speech* menu on the WHSFA website.



State Theatre Festival Wrap Up

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point hosted another successful Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival (WHSTF), November 17-19, 2016. More than 1,100 students from 50 high schools across Wisconsin participated in the WHSFA's one-act play contest this year.

Earning the esteemed *Critic's Choice* award were the following 19 schools: Adams Friendship, Appleton North, Badger (Lake Geneva), Catholic Memorial (Waukesha), DeForest, Dominican (Whitefish Bay), Homestead (Mequon), Indian Trail HS/Academy (Kenosha), Luxemburg-Casco, Middleton, Plymouth, Pulaski, Reagan IB (Milwaukee), Tremper (Kenosha), Waterford Union, Waukesha West, Waunakee, Whitefish Bay, and Wrightstown.

Twenty one schools earned Directing awards, 28 earned Ensemble awards, 14 earned Technical Crew awards, and an incredible 79 students earned Outstanding Acting awards! Complete results are available on the *Theatre Contests* page, whsfa.org/theatre/contests#State

Special awards were presented at the festival to three amazing individuals. **Sue Luterbach** (pictured at right, top), retired from St. Joan Antida HS in Milwaukee, was recognized with the *Lyn Luce Leadership Award*. Ms. Luterbach served for many years as the WHSFA District 12/13 Chair, as a member of the Theatre Advisory Committee, and was a key festival staff member at both the State The-

atre and State Speech Festivals. She also has served as president of the Wisconsin Communication Association, Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association, and as treasurer of the Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education. In 2005, she was recognized by the distinguished Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship. Ms. Luterbach was close friends with Lyn Luce, and is a fitting tribute to the memory of this consummate educator, leader, and tireless advocate for forensic arts.

Patricia Luostari (pictured at right, middle), director at Northwestern HS in Maple, was recognized with the inaugural *Excellence in Forensic Education* award as a member of the WHSFA Hall of Fame. Ms. Luostari's career in Theatre and Speech has spanned more than five decades, with a tenacity and spirit that has inspired thousands of students! When a new school was built, the theatre was named for her – a testament to the impact she has had.

Andrew Damos (pictured at right, bottom, to the right of WHSFA Executive Director Adam Jacobi), alum of Northland Pines HS in Eagle River, was inducted into WHSFA's Acting Hall of Fame, for earning more than one Outstanding Acting Award. In 1998 he played Chanfalla in *The Marvelous Playbill*; and in 1999 he played Will O'Wisp in *Two Horns and a Tale*. He credits his time in theatre as preparing him well for his professional career as a better public speaker and to think faster on his feet.



State Debate Contest Results



Resolved: In order to better respond to international conflicts, the United States should significantly increase its military spending.

That's the what about two dozen students debated at Ripon College on December 10, 2016.

In the final round, Waupaca HS's Robert Durfee and Dakota Marlega upheld their 2015 title as well the Con side of the issue, capturing the minds and hearts of their judging panel, as well as

observing debaters in the room, who preferred them to runners-up from Waunakee HS: Andre Hall and Andrew Tietz. It's worth noting that the Waunakee pair were new to debate, and happy to make it to finals!

Dakota Marlega deserves a special shout-out for not just earning two back-to-back debate championships, but earning two back-to-back Outstanding Acting awards in Theatre! Well done!!

Impromptu Resources Coming

Have students potentially interested in trying Impromptu? Visit our resource page at whsfa.org/impromptu. There, we will have guides (video and PDF) for anyone interested in learning this spontaneous, fun and useful category. We'll also have materials for invitational hosts, sub-district hosts/managers, and district chairs interested in implementing it at their contests.

Adjudication Training

Remind Speech adjudicators to renew their certification (if they're due), or recruit new ones and encourage them to enroll in our training program. Visit whsfa.org/adjudicators, where you'll also find a roster of certification status. **New coaches are strongly encouraged to obtain certification.**

Award Nominations

The work forensic educators do to inspire and build confidence in young people to maximize their potential is nothing short of magnificent. While our work is often unsung, the WHSFA exists as a professional organization for and by coaches, and we offer awards to celebrate the good works and leadership demonstrated by our colleagues. Here is a brief overview of some of those awards.

Lyn Luce Leadership Award: as alluded to earlier in this newsletter, this individual should have demonstrated success in a variety of WHSFA activities, shows leadership on multiple levels, has strong community involvement, and is a willing mentor.

Ethel Heise New Coach Award: recognizes a Speech coach within the first five (5) years of coaching, who has quickly built a robust, active, and successful program at their school.

Outstanding Speech, Theatre, and/or Debate Educator Award: sponsored by the NFHS, this award recognizes an individual whose accomplishments and contributions to one or more forensic activities is truly representative of excellence.

Please visit whsfa.org/awards for more details, and to **nominate candidates for these awards.**

All nominations for these awards are **due by March 15, 2017.**