



Newsletter

Issue Highlights

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2017 Headquarters: Ingraham Hall

With about 5,000 students participating, WHSFA runs one of the largest state speech contests in the country, and UW-Madison's campus provides space and logistical support that would nearly be impossible to replicate at any other facility in the state. *Last year, a few coaches suggested that we offer a glimpse into the planning process.*

We owe much appreciation to UW's Division of Continuing Studies for endorsing our use of campus. Each year, the Campus Event Services Office works with Curricular Services to secure contest classrooms and other meeting rooms for each round. This isn't always consistent. For example, last year and this year, Bascom Hall's lecture hall rooms were not available.

We are at the university's mercy for buildings, which means they're not always close together. When we're serving so many schools and students, that means it might not always mean convenient proximity.

We attempt to schedule Group Interpretive Reading and Play Acting in larger classrooms, but we cannot always accommodate the large number of spectators some schools bring, and we know that disappoints parents. Please know we do try within the constraints of what we are given.

This year, we are reinstating a **home-room** for schools to have a meeting place while coaches prepare to claim medals. That will be in Ingraham.

Reminders:

- Re-registration is from April 3-7, where coaches confirm entries and judges.
- Information (bus directions, room locations, etc.) will be posted April 7.
- Contestant itineraries and invoices will be sent April 11-14.
- T-shirts/certificates should be pre-ordered by April 14.



Coaches should pre-order **T-shirts** and **certificates** by **Friday, April 14** at whsfa.org/store. After that date, prices increase for shirts, and there will not be guarantees for certificates.



Ballot Turn-In & Medals

This year, we are asking State judges to turn in **ballots** in each building (individual evaluation sheets still will be given directly to contestants). A team of tabulators will enter scores at each building, so by the time coaches arrive at headquarters, most scores should be entered, and fewer will have to be transcribed at the medal distribution room.

Last year, we established a streamlined process for distributing medals, and while there were a few glitches during the 5:30 round, we immediately adapted and the rest of the weekend went quite smoothly!

Improving SpeechWire

We are assembling a list of features to improve in SpeechWire for 2017-18. Among these so far are:

- ▶ Simplifying school/contestant codes. We tried using a uniform code system this year (suggested by District 9), but most districts found it confusing. District 9 will be able to keep their system, but we'll simplify it for other districts unless requested otherwise.
- ▶ Automating process of splitting up entries and merging categories for smaller meets, ensuring students see the same other students much less, and see a variety of other categories. Thank you, District 1, for the suggestion!

Should you have suggestions, please email adam@whsfa.org by **Wednesday, April 19**.

Nominate Leadership Positions

Nominate coaches or school/district administrators (preferably with speech, debate, and/or theatre experience/background) to serve in leadership positions whose terms are up (listed below, with incumbents for reference). Incumbents are eligible for re-election.

District and section chairs serve on the statewide Board of Control, and their term of office is three years. Well-organized, detail-oriented individuals are ideal for these positions. School/district administrator chairs bring pragmatic perspective as well as credibility, and work with

coaches in their areas to help run the respective contests.

District chairs are the most local representative to member schools. They coordinate a qualifying festival in theatre in October, and one in speech in March (as well as serve as a liaison to subdistrict festivals prior to the district speech festival). **Section chairs** coordinate a qualifying festival in theatre. **Advisory committee** members attend a summer meeting to discuss rules and protocols for our respective contests. Each committee's recommendations are forwarded to the Board of

Control at its fall meeting. These members should be active coaches, and their term of office is two years.

Nominees must be affiliated with WHSFA schools in good standing (paid dues).

Please seek agreement by anyone you nominate. Make sure they read this page and understand the commitment and expectations involved.

Visit www.whsfa.org/leadership for information, and to nominate. Please nominate by **April 26, 2017**.