



# Newsletter

Mississippi River bridges, La Crosse



**Highlights:** State Speech Wrap-Up | Coach Awards | Prof. Dev. Opportunities | Speech Survey Info

## State Office Moving

Dear Member Educators,

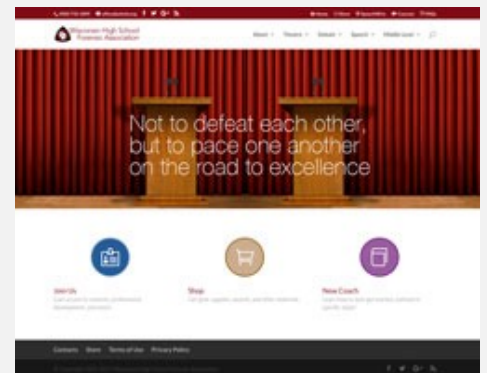
In August 2015, I was married, and my husband subsequently was hired as an Assistant Professor of Educational Studies at UW-La Crosse. In February of 2016, his youngest son moved from Texas to live with us. Over the past year, I have been commuting between Ripon and La Crosse, but the Board of Control felt I should be able to work where my family lives, so they approved moving the office to La Crosse. This will not change how I engage with membership, nor will it decrease contest visits I make.



The new address is:  
**3815 Mormon Coulee Rd, Ste 104**  
**La Crosse, WI 54601-5088**

The new address will take effect **Aug. 1**. Mail will be forwarded from Ripon for a year, and we will notify school bookkeepers to update records.

Thank you,  
*Adam*



### New Website Highlights

- ▶ Faster, simpler, easier to navigate
- ▶ Separate store (shopping cart icon), and separate courses site (for adjudicator certification). While these tools require separate user accounts, they are better tailored to the specific purpose each serves. Unifying user accounts is expensive and glitchy.
- ▶ New advocacy tools and new coach resources

### Adjudicator Training

- ▶ Pending enhancements, courses will be closed until late August.



# State Speech Wrap-Up



Tina Fern-Denzer is flanked by WHSFA Executive Director Adam Jacobi (left) and Board of Control Chair Sam Jonas (right).

The 122nd annual State Speech Festival hosted 4,564 students from 343 high schools across the state of Wisconsin, as well as La Crescent, Minnesota. Eighteen schools earned enough medal points to put them in the top 5%, and were awarded the *Excellence in Speech Awards* (see table, p. 3).

An elite 29 students earned the top individual honor of Critic's Choice (gold) all four years of high school. They are – *Campbellsport HS*: Tanner Zocher; *Darlington HS*: Sydney Brandt, Hope Francis, Bailey McDonald; *Denmark HS*: Bailee Harper; *Drummond HS*: Grace Pendergrass, Abigail Gorton, Alison Ludzack, Madeline Mossutto; *Eau Claire Memorial HS*: Julia Carpenter; *Elmwood HS*: Eva Sundquist; *Fall Creek HS*: Julia Kaeding; *Logan HS-La Crosse*: Killian Harnish; *Oak Creek HS*: Bailey Roche; *Pecatonica HS*: Carly Rindy, Devin Erickson; *Plum City HS*: Kailee Broeckert, Anna Almsted, Wyatt Holt; *Potosi HS*: Kate Nusbaum; *Reedsville HS*: Heidi Propson; *Riverdale HS*: Levi Bird; *Sauk Prairie HS*: Haden Haas; *Sevastopol HS*: Isaiah Spetz; *Seymour HS*: Benjamine Wears; *Superior HS*: Sunmi Famule; *Verona Area HS*: Noa Seward; *Waterford Union HS*: Kristy Fitzgerald; *Wauwaukee HS*: Hannah Nies.

Additionally, two coaching awards were honored.

**Tina Fern-Denzer**, middle & high school coach in the *Baldwin-Woodville School District*, was hon-

ored with the **Lyn Luce Leadership Award**. Eight years ago Fern-Denzer was elected by her peers as a WHSFA district chair, coordinating theatre and speech contests, as well as providing mentorship support to her colleagues. She began her career 15 years ago at Menomonie High School, where she taught for 11 years, building that school's forensic speech team into a thriving, respected program. Fern-Denzer always looks out for what's best for students, including dedicating countless hours to helping revise the WHSFA's evaluation process to be more meaningful and educational for middle and high school students.

**Jennifer Kieran**, coach at *Ellsworth High School*, was honored with the **Ethel Heise New Coach Award**. Kieran started coaching in 2013 to revive a dying program with nine students, which she increased by about ten students each year since. Beyond recruitment, she also emphasizes quality, coaching her students to back-to-back team Excellence in Speech Awards in 2016 and 2017. Kieran says she coaches because she "loves watching students grow," because "public speaking is an essential skill everyone needs," and because "this is an activity that accepts all kinds of students and embraces differences and disabilities and celebrates them."

Learn more about these awards and their amazing namesakes at [whsfa.org/awards](http://whsfa.org/awards).



Tina Fern-Denzer (top, right) stands with Kate Greenfield, daughter of Lyn Luce, and Kate's family. Kate is a teacher in Madison.



Jennifer Kieran is flanked by her husband, Mark (left), and WHSFA E.D. Adam Jacobi.



## Excellence in Speech Winners

School ( <i>alphabetical</i> )	Coach(es)
Boscobel HS	Jean Salzgeber
Burlington HS	Robbie Twohig & Matt Nie
Cedar Grove-Belgium HS	Mary Beth Desens
Darlington HS	Carmen Rielly
DeForest Area HS	Tom August
Eau Claire Memorial HS	Nicholas Sirek
Ellsworth HS	Jennifer Kieren
Fennimore HS	Carrie Krogman
Lakeside Lutheran HS	Stephen Lauber
Lancaster HS	Samuel Jonas
Menomonie HS	Andrea Smith
Northwestern HS - Maple	Pat Luostari & Mike Goodlet
Pius XI Catholic HS	Kelty Chelius
River Falls HS	Alex Miller & Kim Miller
Sauk Prairie HS - Prairie du Sac	Ryan Mussack
Waunakee HS	Walter Stenz
Westosha Central HS - Salem	Jennifer Neumann & Brenda Bursek-Krekling
Wrightstown HS	David Winkler

## Lighting Workshop in June

Join **ETC** at Waterford Union High School for Element Console Training

Level 1: Essentials • **Mon., June 19, 2017**  
9:00-5:00

Level 2: Enhanced Skills • **Tues. June 20, 2017**  
9:00-5:00

Cost is \$99/day. Sign up for one or both days.

Waterford Union High School  
100 Field Drive  
Waterford, Wisconsin 53185

More information at: <https://goo.gl/S91JFC>  
Student discounts available.

Contact [education@etcconnect.com](mailto:education@etcconnect.com).  
608-824-5170



The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is holding its first ever national Education Conference in Denver, CO, **Aug. 24-27, 2017**.

WHSFA is partnering with this conference because we believe it will help spread the power of speech and debate – Executive Director Adam Jacobi is presenting several sessions. The NSDA Education Conference will elevate your teaching, and the teaching of your peers. Between more than 40 sessions from top educators in the field, networking opportunities, and inspiring plenary speeches, the conference is a tremendous opportunity for

you and the coaches in your area. Please use *discount code* "**STATE17**" to get the early bird pricing for conference registration. For the number of meals, speakers, and professional development you'll get in Colorado, this discount code makes the conference a real deal! For more information about the conference and to register, go to <http://speechanddebate.org/conferences>

Not sure if your school will pay for it? The NSDA has put together a great [toolkit to help when "making the case" to your administrator](#) (on same page as link above).

## Speech Survey

We had great response in our post-State Speech survey! We will implement several suggestions made regarding SpeechWire and communicating deadlines/information. The Speech Advisory Committee will review rules and evaluation ideas.



We continue to try to get information out as soon as we can. Due to scheduling issues with UW-Madison this year, we did not want to send misinformation, so we waited until we had confirmation from the university.

We're also planning to video record some Group Interpretive Reading performances, since that is a top request! Speaking of which, every year, we have complaints about the rooms we assign Group Interp. to at State. We assign larger rooms to accommodate guests (because we had a number of complaints about that), but now, we've had complaints regarding performance space. We are at the mercy of the university for rooms we are given. As Group Interp. grows each year in popularity, we are limited as to what we can provide.

We've also had a few requests to shorten the judge meeting at State. Since we do not run a competitive tournament, there is no ceremony to honor colleagues for their incredible work.

## Membership/Dues Renewal

Notices were mailed to each school in early May; renewal materials also may be found at [whsfa.org/membership](http://whsfa.org/membership).

## Herbison Wins National Award

**Nancy Herbison**, retired teacher and forensic coach at Tomahawk High School has been honored as the Wisconsin honoree for the NFHS Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator Award. She is only the fourth Wisconsinite to be honored, since our first honoree in 1990.

One nominee per state is accepted for this award, and the nominee must be endorsed by the state association office. Criteria for evaluation include: organization and continuance of an activity program, significant and ongoing contributions to the field, years of both curricular and co-curricular service, contributions to the profession both in and out of the state.

Nancy Herbison started her career with Tomahawk High School in August 1975 as a counselor and Speech assistant coach. She was promoted to head coach in 1981, took on middle school coaching in 1985, and became the official One-Act Theatre assistant director in 2001. She was elected WHSFA district chair in 1997, serving on the Board of Control, who later elected her secretary. She has been instrumental in developing and improving the certification process for Speech judges, as well as revisions to the rules and evaluation forms for Speech contests.



Herbison was recognized with an Outstanding Directing Award at the 2001 State One-Act Festival, and her team won the Excellence in Speech Award in 2012. In 2013, she was the inaugural honoree for the Lyn Luce Leadership Award for her contributions to stewardship of the WHSFA. She also is a member of the National Speech & Debate Association's Committee on Rural Schools. Herbison continues to pursue her own professional development, attending the Broadway Theatre Teachers' Workshop in New York City in 2013 and 2015, and has audited classes on Coursera in historical fiction, modern poetry, constitutional law, Nordic mythology and Shakespeare in Community.

Herbison has connected thousands of students at Tomahawk High School with amazing scholarships and contests in speaking and communication, and also served in leadership with Wisconsin 4-H to develop its drama and speaking contests.

In short, Nancy Herbison is a renaissance scholar, a consummate educator, and a thoughtful leader, and quite deserving of this award.

