



Newsletter



Hortonville's State Debate Team at UW-Oshkosh – complete story p. 5

Inside: Rules Reminders | Theatre & Debate Results | Speech Protocols | T-Shirt Contest | Middle Level Reminders

Hortonville Coach Receives National Recognition

The National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) named Hortonville teacher and debate coach Kristine Compton as its 2017 Wisconsin Educator of the Year.

In addition to her work at Hortonville High School, Compton co-founded the 21st Century Debate Association, a regional league of teachers committed to pedagogy and collegiality. The league employs Public Forum, Big Questions, and Compton's own devised "Pop-Up Debates," and is a valued partner of WHSFA.

In nominating Compton for the award, Jacobi said she holds "students to the highest standards of interper-

sonal relations by rejecting materialism of trophies, any kind of intimidation tactics, and comparison between schools and achievement."

To further encourage critical thinking, Compton implemented a system where students cast a share of the vote in final round debates.

While Compton is known for her innovative methods to inspire students, she's also a favorite among coaches. Neil Young, coach at Waupaca High School said she has "created a digital presentation and skill building activities she freely shares with any who ask. The open tab room has become a place for coaches to share best practices with an interest in making all students increase their communication and collaboration skills. The tab room has become a welcoming, exciting professional learning community where teachers share their classroom experiences and knowledge."

Compton is a candidate for the National Educator of the Year Award;



NSDA will announce on **March 2, 2018 – National Speech and Debate Education Day.**



Kristine Compton is recognized for the NSDA State Educator of the Year Award by WHSFA Exec. Dir. Adam Jacobi.

WFCA Radio Rule Change “Keeps it Real”

If you are part of both the WHSFA and Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association (WFCA), you may be aware of a WFCA rule change in Radio.

In essence, the rule requires students to present their newscast in one, professional speaking voice, aside from the commercial, where students may create a “character” for the break.

Muskego coach Joe Meinecke, whose day job is a radio producer, authored the proposal that resulted in the rule change. “As someone who has worked in the broadcast industry for 27 years, I've noticed the Radio category has been starting to sound more and more like a voice acting category and not a professional real world/news broadcast training category. All too often we've heard students speaking in different multiple character voices for news,



weather and sports. I truly believe creativity is being misdirected, and by allowing this we are doing a disservice when it comes to the real world. The creativity should be focused on how to weave together the full presentation; tying stories together with clever transitions. For example, rather than ‘That's news, and now a look at weather,’ encourage the student to bring elements together. ‘While President Trump may have gotten an icy reception at the UN today, things won't be as cold as we head into what looks to be a cool but sunny weekend.’

“We are preparing all of our students for the real world. Making this subtle change to the Radio category will help them develop better writing skills and will truly be helping them advance in future careers in broadcasting and even podcasting.”

Currently the WHSFA does not have this rule, but students participating in both associations may prefer to limit voice changes, so they can better adapt all year.

Storytelling, Indigenous Cultures, and Act 31

Storytelling is an enriching opportunity for students to practice retelling a story in an effective and engaging manner. This year, students are tasked with preparing a story for each of these topics: story about outer space, story from an indigenous culture, story about something lost and/or found, and a nautical story.

Since “indigenous culture” conjures different definitions from different people, following is clarification on what indigenous culture means, drawing upon the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

- ◆ Self-identification as indigenous at individual level and accepted by community as their member;
- ◆ Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- ◆ Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- ◆ Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- ◆ Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- ◆ Form non-dominant groups of society; and
- ◆ Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

Please note: folktales and mythology from *conquering* and *colonizing* cultures like Vikings and Greeks would definitely fall outside the purview of what is intended by indigenous culture, and risk the student being disqualified for a story outside the topic area.

Since Wisconsin's Act 31 law **requires schools to provide instruction on Wisconsin's various indigenous cultures**, this provides an ideal opportunity to engage. One helpful resource can be found online – wisconsinfirstnations.org – and students are encouraged to reach out and perhaps even interview a member of one of Wisconsin's tribes.

Reminder: WHSFA still asks adjudicators to select stories each round, whereas WFCA – at each contest – sets a specific story topic for each round.



Ha'i Mo'olelo, or storyteller, in front of 2100 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, HI. [Wally Gobetz, Flickr]

Awards Galore at State Theatre



This year's State Theatre Festival was electric with excitement. With more awards, inspiring workshops and theme t-shirts, UW-Whitewater was the place to be Nov. 16-18. Of some 1,200 students participating in the festival, 163 received acting awards, smashing the previous record by more than 100 awards earned.



The entire Mosinee High School cast earned acting awards.

"This speaks to the time and effort students have put into their craft," said WHSFA executive director Adam Jacobi of the numerous awards. "I think adjudicators recognized passion students bring to theatre and scored in a way that encourages continued passion and engagement."

In addition to acting awards, 12 schools "swept" with awards in all four areas. Receiving awards for Critic's Choice, Directing, Ensemble and Crew were: Appleton North, Badger (Lake Geneva), Bradford (Kenosha), Dominican (Whitefish Bay), Gibraltar, Homestead, Middleton, Mosinee, Plymouth, Superior, Waterford Union, Waukesha South, and Waukesha West. For a complete list of winners visit (in the One-Act section, right-hand side, "Results/Awards") whsfa.org/wisconsin-high-school-theatre-festival.

One of the best benefits of the theatre festival is the opportunity for students to interact with other theatre kids and to see shows. Conversation in the building atrium buzzed continually throughout the weekend, and it was not at all uncommon to hear kids singing show tunes, including numbers from *Dear Evan Hanson*, the inspiration for this year's t-shirt and sticker design.

Limited numbers of t-shirts and stickers remain in the online store for anyone who would still like a souvenir: store.whsfa.org.

WHSFA to Run Entire Theatre Festival

UW-Madison's Division of Continuing studies partnered with WHSFA more than 25 years ago, to enhance programming at the State Theatre Festival, so it would be more than just the one-act contest. Today, workshops, Tech Olympics, Individual Events, and showcases offer a comprehensive experience for young people and educators. Due to restructuring and staffing changes, WHSFA is assuming full operational management of the festival. No significant changes in festival operations are planned, and WHSFA has updated the website to reflect next year's festival in La Crosse at Viterbo: whsfa.org/wisconsin-high-school-theatre-festival.

State Speech Rounds

Coaches may **book a State Speech time slot** beginning **11 a.m., Wednesday, January 17**. See p. 5 for further details.

Special Occasion

Great question:

Q: Should the Hall of Fame **induction speech** topic be delivered from the perspective of the honoree, or from someone introducing the honoree?

A: Either. Wording is deliberately vague to allow students the opportunity to address multiple perspectives.

Topic Areas or Creative Freedom?

Next summer, the Speech Advisory Committee – as well as WFCA – will consider a proposal to discontinue defining specific topics for Special Occasion each year. Instead, students would be allowed to determine their own situation, audience, and topic.

By eliminating the need to conform to specific details of an occasion, students would have the freedom to be more creative. Here's an example: "a speech to a veteran's organization" was used to recognize veterans from the Battle of Hogwarts.

With a wealth of past topic areas as examples, students could brainstorm ideas using those as a starting point.

Families Who 'Play' Together, Stay Together

By Julie Nelson

Adrenaline was putting Andrew Stoltenberg on edge as *The Last Illusion* was introduced at the State Theatre Festival in Whitewater. Everyone was well rehearsed; lines were learned and movements were well choreographed. But this is live theatre and anything could happen. No matter how it unfolded, Andrew knew he had the support of his dad.

Herb Stoltenberg was sitting in the audience that November day when Badger High School stage took the stage. Nothing unusual about a parent coming to see his son in action, except Andrew is no student actor, Herb is no typical parent and theatre at the Stoltenberg household is far from a part time hobby.

Andrew grew up in Plymouth, Wisconsin, where his dad was the high school's theater coach and director for nearly 50 years. Cast as the child in *The King and I* in one of his dad's productions, Andrew got his start at age two. "I really liked the feel of being with all the cast," says Andrew of the experience that bit him with the theatre bug. "It felt like a place where everybody is on the same side."

Now Andrew is walking in his father's footsteps as the forensic theatre coach and director in Lake Geneva. "He's really creative," Herb says of his son with pride. "The kids love and respect him."

Theatre seems to be in the blood at the Stoltenberg household. Mrs. Stoltenberg still occasionally directs community theatre, the oldest son is in New York



Herb and Andrew Stoltenberg at the State Theatre at UW-Whitewater

building and installing sets on Broadway, and the youngest son is a gainfully employed actor. What's the lure? "The opportunity to be creative," says Herb, "and the energy you get from the people around you." Sounds like a winning tradition.

Footnote: The Last Illusion was a hit with the judges, earning Critic's Choice, Directing, Ensemble and Crew awards. Plymouth's The Canterbury Tales also earned Critic's Choice, Directing, Ensemble, and Crew awards.

Submit Ideas for T-Shirt Concepts, Then Vote for Favorite

Always popular with speech and theatre students, festival t-shirts allow students to almost literally wear their sport on their sleeves. Shirts allow them to take pride in their craft, bond with other event participants, and enjoy memories of a rewarding weekend.

WHSFA is **looking for ideas** for the next t-shirt designs. If you, your students, your art teacher or even your best friend has an idea for the next speech and/or theatre t-shirt, we'd like to hear about it!



Submit ideas to whsfa.org/shirt-themes. References to movies, television shows, books, and plays are always popular, but new ideas are welcome too. **Speech concepts for 2018 are due Feb. 1.**

After ideas are submitted and reviewed, we will post concepts with the best potential, and ask schools to vote for their favorite. The winning concept will be featured as the t-shirt design, and the person who submitted it will receive a free shirt and other swag from WHSFA!

Protocol for Students Attending Different Speech Festivals

WHSFA prides itself on flexibility, particularly when it comes to facilitating evaluation of Speech contestants who can't present with the rest of their team at the subdistrict or district level. **All of the following guidelines must be followed, or disqualifications will be imposed.**

(1). The coach must **seek permission of the district chair and host** of the festival to which they wish to send contestants.

(2). If permission has been granted, the coach must **enter a request in SpeechWire** for the entry(ies) to attend a different festival.

(3). The coach must **note an adult chaperone** who is an *employee of the school, or a background checked, vetted volunteer of the school*. Parents will not suffice, unless they meet one of the require-

ments above. Preferably, this adult should be a certified adjudicator, because it is inconsiderate to add entries to a festival without covering the need for adjudicators. The state office will not approve requests without an adult, and contests should refuse students who do not come with an adult who can furnish documentation from the school they are representing. **This is a legal, liability issue** (laws require all adults who are in contact with minors in school events to be vetted by schools), **and school administrators will be notified when there are violations**. Most school districts also have rules regarding approval of **transportation** to interscholastic contests.

Under no circumstances are coaches to run their own "make-up" rounds within their school.

State Debate Results

The WHSFA partnered with the 21st Century Debate Association for the fifth year to host a culminating State Debate contest, at UW-Oshkosh, December 9, 2017.

The final round featured two teams from Hortonville High School, so this year, all the students in the room cast their vote for the team who upheld their side more strongly. Carissa DeLain and Sam Roubal earned a handful more votes than their teammates, Trevor Sabourin and Colton Toutant.

Waunakee High School made a strong showing, with two of its teams

advancing to semifinals: Lexi Anunson and Alana Hyman, as well as Andrew Hall and Andrew Tietz. Both teams are pictured with coach Kristi Compton on the cover of this issue.

In a time of political turmoil in the United States, it is an important time for young people to engage in discussions on important issues. If your school is already doing debate as a classroom-based or club activity, consider encouraging the teacher to bring students to a debate contest. Since WHSFA is working to promote and build debate, there is no qualification process, so registering is easy.

Speech Checklist



- ✓ Jan. 2-15: Log into your SpeechWire account to make sure it's active. You may **update your roster** of students (these are just the students you could *potentially enter* in contests).
- ✓ Wed., Jan. 17 (11am): In SpeechWire, **book a time slot for State Speech** in Madison. Also begin **entering students in categories**. This is considered the official registration for each subdistrict.
- ✓ Be sure you **have enough certified adjudicators** for the season: generally 1 per 5 entries, *or fraction thereof* (7 entries= 2 adjudicators). Enter adjudicators with your registration.
- ✓ **Communicate all rules changes** (p. 2, *Speech Handbook*) to adjudicators.
- ✓ You will login to **confirm registration** before **District** and before **State**.

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

Lights, Camera...

WHSFA is poised to capture student interest in movie making by creating a new contest series for film production.

If you would like to be a part of the new Film Festival Steering Committee, contact office@whsfa.org.



Middle Level SpeechWire

Attending a festival using SpeechWire to collect registration, schedule rounds, and tabulate results? **Coaches of both middle and high school programs should use the same email address/account** in SpeechWire for both. Simply input middle school students' *high school graduation year* in your overall team roster.

Hosting a Middle Level Festival?

Reserve a Date on the *Middle Level Contests* webpage. About two weeks prior to your festival, **Request Materials** (if you're using SpeechWire, this can easily be done within your contest management area).



The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) invites

Wisconsin students to take part in

My Reason Why, a national campaign to promote

secondary school interscholastic activities. Students simply need to post a short video explaining the impact Speech, Theatre and/or Debate has had on them, including the hashtag **#MyReasonWhy**. Wisconsin has very few testimonials, and there are few for Speech, Debate, and Theatre, overall. Learn more about the campaign at MyReasonWhy.com.

When Old News is Good News

Maybe you're new and missed the previous issue of this newsletter. Perhaps you never got around to reading the October issue. Maybe you remember reading an article you want to revisit. Whatever the reason, you can find back issues of the WHSFA newsletter at: whsfa.org/news.

TOP 6 REASONS TO JOIN THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

- 1. State Convention**
Our annual workshops and conventions bring nationally known speakers to inform, inspire and provide sessions to share teaching ideas and strategies. Next year the convention will be in Madison on Oct. 18-19.
- 2. Wisconsin English Journal**
This scholarly publication is an outstanding, peer-reviewed journal with articles of interest to all English teachers both in our state and across the nation.
- 3. WCTE Update**
Our award-winning newsletter keeps you informed. Articles feature ideas for your classroom, opportunities for professional development and features by Wisconsin teachers.

- 4. WCTE Awards**
You are eligible to apply for or nominate others for WCTE awards. What a great way to acknowledge our colleagues who are gifted teachers and give them recognition.
- 5. Strength in Numbers**
The Council serves as the "voice" of our profession in the state, taking positions on issues that affect us as teachers and the ways in which we work with students. The stronger our membership base, the stronger will be the voice with which we can speak.
- 6. WCTEonline.org**
The website has links to teaching resources and full information about all WCTE awards and events, including professional development.



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF TEACHERS

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS. JOIN US.

We extend a warm invitation to be part of the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, serving English teachers in middle schools, high schools and colleges.

Our Mission: WCTE strengthens the teaching of English through mentoring, scholarship, advocacy and collegiality. Join NOW at our website, WCTEonline.org.