



Newsletter

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Judine Brey



Amy Koszarek



Jennifer Jackowski

Honors for Students and Coaches, Fun for All

When 4,300 kids who love speech get together, you know something special is in the works. On April 20-21, students from across the state gathered at UW-Madison to give their most polished performances at the 123rd annual State Speech Festival. Kids battled nerves before adjudicators, took selfies, played music and danced in the courtyard, walked up and down State Street and moved just a little closer to adulthood.

While all schools should take pride in their participation, 17 came away with highest honors – the Excellence in Speech Award – while 28 students earned the Four-Year Gold Medallion (see p. 2).

WHSFA also recognized three coaches for their outstanding contributions to students, speech and forensic activities.

Judine Brey, WHSFA District 4 chair, teacher and speech coach at Regis High School in Eau Claire; and **Amy Koszarek**, WHSFA District 12 chair, literacy coach and speech coach at Waukesha West High School, were honored with the **Lyn Luce Leadership Award**; while **Jennifer Jackowski**, teacher and speech coach at Union Grove High School, was honored with the **Ethel Heise New Coach Award**. See the WHSFA website for a news release with details about these outstanding educators!



The new WHSFA banner was a hit with students and coaches who lined up to take pictures in front of it. New Berlin Eisenhower High School entered the social media contest and won a shopping spree at the Merchandise Store.

Excellence in Speech Schools

Adjudicators at the WHSFA State Speech Festival rated each student or performing group and the top five percent of point-earning schools received a plaque for their Excellence in Speech.

Congratulations to the following schools and coaches:

Baldwin-Woodville: Angela Schmoker
 Barneveld: Duane Draper
 Boscobel: Jean Salzgeber
 Burlington: Robbie Twohig & Matt Nie
 Darlington: Carmen Rielly
 DeForest: Tom August
 Ellsworth: Jennifer Kieren
 Fennimore: Carrie Krogman
 Lake Mills: Brenda Morris & Eric Angell
 Lakeside Lutheran: Stephen Lauber
 Lincoln-WI Rapids: Cathy Tritz
 Menomonie: Andrea Smith
 Platteville: Cheryl Schober
 River Valley: Misty Fredrick
 Somerset: Carolyn Spoerl
 Waunakee: Walter Stenz
 Wrightstown: David Winkler

Excellence in Speech awards are based on points given for medal count; for details on how it's calculated, please visit the *WHSFA Speech Handbook*.

Remember: the WHSFA office moved to La Crosse last year; mail is forwarded for one year.

Please ask your bookkeeper to update our address in their system.

WHSFA
3815 Mormon Coulee Rd Ste 104
La Crosse, WI 54601-5088



Speech Four-Year Gold Medalists



Taylor Vesperman (Belleville High School)
 Brody Milz (Black Hawk High School, South Wayne)
 Jason Treuthardt (Black Hawk High School, South Wayne)
 Olivia Grassel (Boscobel High School)
 Grace Boyle (Burlington High School)
 Collin Prill (Chippewa Falls High School)
 Sydney Moore (Columbus High School)
 Gabrielle Steiner (Darlington High School)
 Jackson Hemming (Darlington High School)
 Tiffany Polzin (Denmark High School)
 Olivia Sharp (Ithaca High School, Richland Center)
 Morgan Cerny (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School)
 Kyla Vaughan (Lancaster High School)
 Baylee Nelis (Luxemburg-Casco High School)
 Sophie Voss (Menomonie High School)
 Erin Swope (Milton High School)
 Paolo Lucas (Monroe High School)
 Sarah Stadler (New Holstein High School)
 Jenna Boeck (Omro High School)
 Bella Gonzales (Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee)
 Celena Wirth (Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee)
 Emily Buss (Prescott High School)
 Sterling Kleist (Richland Center High School)
 Abby Mathison (Thorp High School)
 Nadia Storms (Turner High School)
 Adam Jenkinson (Turtle Lake High School)
 Jonah Kahl (Turtle Lake High School)
 Lexi Anunson (Waunakee High School)

Speech Survey Says...

We appreciate the 100+ responses to our State Speech Survey! We offer some explanation in response to some concerns articulated.

Buildings/rooms too far away, or undesirable:

we know – and wish we could do more! UW-Madison offers rooms that work best with *their* schedule, and they have the largest venue in the state! We try our best to schedule as close as possible to headquarters, but with as many as 1,500 students in any given round, we can only do so much. We could potentially require stricter score requirements at District to advance to State (perhaps two scores of 22 or better). Then we would need fewer classrooms.

Rooms for group categories: because groups constitute such a large share of entries, we use rooms that have enough seats, but we will double-check these in the future. Again, we may need to limit how many groups can come to State if there isn't enough capacity on campus.

Adjudicator meeting room: whenever possible, we choose the largest room. Upper level rooms are much smaller.

SpeechWire Re-Registration/Confirmation: We will continue to streamline this process. In 2019, we will advance all entries to State following completion of all festivals for a particular district, and allow coaches to begin this process once results are certified by the chair/contest manager.

Timing of contestant itineraries: With drops, the closer we are to the festival, the better we can schedule and distribute students evenly between rooms. In 2019, we will send them one week prior to the festival.



Adjudicator itineraries: we do not send these ahead of time because all adjudicators must physically report to the meeting to retrieve materials. When adjudicators do not show (because of traffic delays and other issues), we need the flexibility to reassign.

Keeping corridors quiet: we will remind coaches before the festival – and adjudicators at the festival – to ask students to be silent in hallways, until they exit buildings.

Medals: we have ordered three years'-worth of medals, and will continue to keep our inventory robust, so we do not run out.

Results: Coaches may now log in to SpeechWire to see a summary of scores/medals!

Merchandise: this was the first year we made pre-ordering available through SpeechWire, and it was a hit – so much so, we sold out just before the festival (which has never happened before). We will increase number of shirts, but as always, we ask coaches to pre-order and cannot guarantee supply. As a nonprofit organization, we would have to raise fees and prices on things if we are too irresponsible with how much inventory we order.



Planning your school's prom, or reserving buses? The **Five Year Calendar** on our website includes ACT Test dates, state dates, and windows for regional dates (check with your district/sectional chair for specific qualify festival dates). Check it out at: whsfa.org/calendar.

State Theatre Showcase Pilot

There is an ebb and flow to one-acts: in odd-numbered autumns, fewer schools participate, since they are producing full plays and musicals. In even-numbered years, however, we have a surge. Viterbo University in La Crosse is hosting this year's State Festival, as it did in 2014. Based on feedback we had following the festival four years ago, the Theatre Advisory Committee and Board of Control have adopted a special pilot.

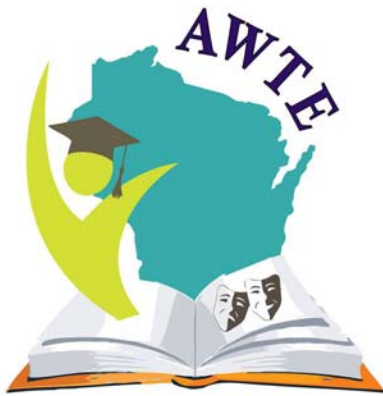
This year, we are accepting nominations from each of the five sections to perform one-acts during times we would otherwise have a full-length musical or play. Directors may nominate their peer schools, or their own school to perform in a showcase time slot. We are hoping this will relieve some of the pressure associated with having more schools at the festival, particularly at a smaller institution like Viterbo.

This is simply a pilot, and we will assess its utility for the future. In fact, UW-Milwaukee is set to host the 2019 festival, so we are looking to partner with professional and community theatre companies in Milwaukee to offer discounted tickets to schools in lieu of a festival-sponsored showcase.

To nominate, visit: whsfa.org/state-theatre/one-act-showcase-nomination.



State Theatre
November 15-17, 2018
whsfa.org/state-theatre



Theatre Educator Conference

The **Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education** is a professional development conference for educators involved in theatre. While directors of one-act plays may not be classroom theatre teachers, they are still involved in exposing young people to educational theatre, and can benefit from a number of the engaging sessions offered at the conference.

Some one-act directors earmark revenue from public performances to cover substitute teachers and mileage to the conference.

This year's conference is **Friday, September 21, 2018** at **Ripon College**. Visit awte.net for more details, and for a letter from the DPI, advocating for attendance and professional development.

Membership/Dues Renewal Moves Online

You asked, we answered! To streamline the membership renewal process, we have moved to an online form, which asks coaches/directors to complete required information and pay dues all in one place. Dues can be paid immediately with credit card, by ACH (electronic check), or by check/purchase order. If you missed the email, please visit: whsfa.org/membership.



NSDA/WHSFA Membership Initiative

The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) was founded in Ripon, WI in 1925, through some guidance and assistance from the WHSFA at the time. Now, NSDA wants to give back to WHSFA, by offering its menu of resources for coaches, along with its honor society for motivating and recognizing students.

When schools renew or join WHSFA, they have the opportunity to “bundle” membership with NSDA, and save on dues for both - a \$50 savings.

Each time students participate in a round of speech or debate; or perform in a play, they earn merit points that document and commemorate their participation and achievement. Many students enjoy the prestige that comes with being a part of this national honorary society for forensic activities.

In addition to school dues, students are welcome to join the NSDA honor society membership as individuals. This makes them eligible for student certificates, and it allows them to purchase and wear insignia keys,

graduation cords, and/or chenille letter jacket patches. In short, the honor society brings national prestige to what speech and debate programs are already doing locally.

To take advantage of this offer, first renew your WHSFA membership, at whsfa.org/membership and select "Yes" under the NSDA Bundle, in the Annual Membership Dues section.

As part of this membership initiative, we have some exciting things planned for this next school year, including a signature joint event March 1, 2019 in Madison for National Speech & Debate Education Day!



DID YOU KNOW...

THE WISCONSIN ENGLISH CONVENTION INCLUDES SESSIONS ON SPEECH/FORENSICS!

You're welcome.

In fact, you could be one of those session presenters. Share your expertise with your colleagues from around the state by presenting at this year's Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English annual convention in Madison on Friday, October 19.

Please contact Kelly Seefeldt (kseefeld@pointschools.net) for more information.

Use this link to submit your proposals:

<https://goo.gl/forms/1AKfNfyTcSa4acm62>

Register [here for the convention](http://www.wcteonline.org/2018-state-convention/registration/): <http://www.wcteonline.org/2018-state-convention/registration/>





RADIANT VOICES

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPEECH AND DEBATE

2018 NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE CONFERENCE

Learn, share, and discuss innovative strategies, best practices, and much more from other speech and debate educators in person!

REGISTER TODAY!



JULY 28-31, 2018



PHOENIX • ARIZONA
POINTE HILTON TAPATIO CLIFFS RESORT

This year's conference will offer a wide-range of professional development sessions to support our theme of RADIANT VOICES: Empowerment through Speech and Debate.

We know resources are limited, and that's why **we've focused on making this conference more affordable than most professional development opportunities.**

WHSFA MEMBER ONLY RATE
Receive the NSDA Member \$299 Registration Fee!
USE CODE WHSFA18 WHEN REGISTERING
Current NSDA members: Visit www.speechanddebate.org/conferences for member pricing.

Register Today:
www.speechanddebate.org/conferences