



May 2007

Each spring the Wisconsin High School Speech Festival sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association awards the top schools with the Excellence in Speech Award. This year there were 4,544 on the campus of the University of Wisconsin Madison competing in 15 speech categories. The schools winning this award represent the top 5% of those participating. This year 394 schools participated and twenty of them were awarded the prestigious "Excellence in Speech Award." The school with the most points this year is Darlington. The other winners are the following: Baraboo, Burlington, DeForest, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire Regis, Edgar, Green Bay Preble, Kiel, Lancaster, Lodi, Lomira, Luxemburg Casco, Mount Calvary's St. Lawrence Seminary, Monroe, New Holstein, New Richmond, River Falls, St. Croix Falls, and Westosh Central. Congratulations to each school, coach, and all participants for excellent work in speech communication.

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Madison, May 3 was the place and date of our most recent WHSFA Board of Control meeting where various topics were discussed and items acted upon that would be of interest to you before you close out the school year.

\* A four-year calendar of events was presented and passed. Our state festival has been moved to the following week, which is the third weekend in April. This means we will have no conflict with ACT tests, State FBLA, or campus placement tests, which have evicted us from our former headquarters in Bascum Hall. However, this date is also the weekend of a very important horse show in Madison and the hotels fill up very quickly. If your school still has a travel budget that allows you to stay over night in Madison, you may want to make your room reservations now before the school year ends. It is our understanding that the Madison rooms fill up very fast. You may have to consider staying in other communities on your route to Madison. Hopefully this "heads up" will make your next year more pleasant.

\* State Speech scheduling was discussed at great length. This past year the electronic ER forms made automated data entry a reality. By putting a few more "ER Checks" into place, the accuracy of the data coming in to the state office for scheduling will be improved in the future. It was a learning year. With

the help of our web-master, we hope to make the ER form and judge registration forms easier to submit and will include a reply. Meanwhile, our developers are working on automating the actual scheduling process itself involving entries, rooms, buildings, and judges. This should cut down on the amount of time needed to schedule state and that translates into receiving school schedules earlier than in the past two years.

\* The use of email as a primary source of information will continue to grow within the organization. Therefore, to stay in the communication loop, the state office must have accurate email addresses. Many schools did not receive our general communications during State Speech because the address on their ER form was incorrect. As you fill out your registration cards, be very accurate when writing the contact email address.

\* Our state Certified Judges List will be 100% accurate and up to date with the 2007-08 school year. We are hoping to have the list of certified judges password protected on our Website. You will be given the password to check this list to see that your judges are all certified. If your judges' names do not appear on the list, be sure to start early in September to get them certified. Our web-master has assured us that the list can be updated as new judges become certified. We are working on integrating the judge name and/or school into the scheduling program, which may mean your judges will have to carry their certification cards with them to the various festivals. There will be more coming about this topic as our programmers work out the new system.

\* Not only will email be a vital tie to the state office, but also so will the WHSFA website. Frequently check [www.whsfa.org](http://www.whsfa.org) for breaking information. Again, our web-master will be updating information frequently. Since the cost of postage continues to escalate, the use of email and the website for information appears to be one big step in holding expenses down.

### **\* WHSFA Four-Year Calendar**

#### **2007-2008**

##### Theatre

Latest District Date – October 20, 2007

Latest Sectional Date – November 3, 2007

State – November 16 and 17, 2007 at U.W. Stevens Point

##### Debate

State – December 7 and 8, 2007 (not official)

##### Middle Level

Latest Level I Date – February 9, 2008

Latest Level II Date – March 1, 2008

##### Speech

Latest Sub-district Date – March 8, 2008

Latest District Date – March 29, 2008

State – April 18 and 19, 2008

**2008-2009**

Theatre

- Latest District Date – October 25, 2008
- Latest Sectional Date – November 8, 2008
- State – November 21 and 22, 2008 at U.W. LaCrosse

Debate

- State – December 12 and 13, 2008 (not official)

Middle Level

- Latest Level I Date – February 7, 2009
- Latest Level II Date – February 28, 2009

Speech

- Latest Sub-district Date – March 7, 2009
- Latest District Date – March 28, 2009
- State – April 17-18, 2009

**2009-2010**

Theatre

- Latest District Date – October 24, 2009
- Latest Sectional Date – November 7, 2009
- State – November 20 and 21, 2009 at U.W. Whitewater

Debate

- State – December 11 and 12, 2009 (not official)

Middle Level

- Latest Level I Date – February 6, 2010
- Latest Level II Date – February 27, 2010

Speech

- Latest Sub-district Date – March 6, 2010
- Latest District Date – March 27, 2010
- State – April 16 and 17, 2010

**2010-2011**

Theatre

- Latest District Date – October 23, 2010
- Latest Sectional Date – November 6, 2010
- State – November 19 and 20, 2010

Debate

- State – December 10 and 11, 2010 (not official)

Middle Level

- Latest Level I Date – February 5, 2011
- Latest Level II Date – February 26, 2011

Speech

- Latest Sub-District Date – March 5, 2011
- Latest District Date – March 26, 2011
- State – April 15 and 16, 2011

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As you close out your school year, be sure to include communicating with your Advisory Committee representative to express any concerns you have about the association, categories, topic, etc. Each Advisory Committee will be meeting this summer to discuss your concerns and bring them along with suggestions for action to the Fall Board of Control meeting, which will meet in early September. Have a good summer and return to school recharged and ready for a successful year.

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