



WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

A program of UW-Madison Continuing Education in the Arts

NEWSLETTER

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NO. 2

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- William Ott was reelected WHSFA Board Chair and Robert Scott was reelected Vice Chair.
- New members of the Board were introduced, including Nancy Hendrickson, Superintendent, Pecatonica Area Schools, District 10; Marty Hoskins, Principal, Greenfield Whitnall High School, District 14; Stan Ore, Principal, Appleton East High School, District 6; Gerald Trochinski, Principal West Salem High School, District 7; and Martin Tadlock, UW-Platteville, Junior Division Advisor.
- Committee members were appointed by Chair Ott:
 - Eligibility-Review - Chair Shaw; Members, Kay Neal and Tom Kaye
 - Personnel - Chair, Mike Price; Members, Kay Neal, Tom Goltry, Martin Tadlock and Bill Ott
 - Nominations - Chair Ron Steinhorst; Members, Peg Doering, David Miskulin, plus one yet to be appointed
 - Finance - Chair, Klug; Members, William Ott, J. Peter Shaw
- Junior Division, Theatre, Debate and Speech Advisory Committee reports were presented. **(See separate stories regarding each of these committees deliberations and resulting Board action.)**
- Torgeson reported for the Task Force, which had been commissioned by the Board and Chair Ott at the May 4-5, 1990 meeting. All Advisory Committees met to address the areas of "Where are we," "Where do we want to go," and "How do we get there." Their separate conclusions were mailed the Task Force members. A summary was also developed to be reviewed by this group at their meeting held August 14. The results of those deliberations was presented to the full Board. Enactment of suggested proposals will be dependant on financial structure as it evolves by the 1993 deadline established by Chair Ott at the time of the original challenge. Further study by all involved will be necessary to make specific determinations regarding enactment of suggestions.
- La Crescent, MN school District has fulfilled all requirements for membership and will once again be participating with Wisconsin schools in the Speech series.
- Speech Adjudication Orientation sessions are being held with more being planned for 1990-91. Schools are to be reminded that by 1993, each team must provide a certified adjudicator. **(See separate story in this issue.)**

STATEWIDE INFORMATION BLITZ TO BEGIN

The Task Force, composed of WHSFA Board members as well as Advisory Committee members and State Office personnel, went on record favoring a strong informational program sent to Principals, District Administrators, School Boards and the general public about the history/philosophy of the Association as well as dealing with the quality of what this Association is providing.

It is the intention of such an information providing vehicle via the printed word as well as face to face presentations will inform our school systems of the need to hire well-qualified individuals to provide leadership for these important educational activities. The need to stress the learning experience as the most important aspect of WHSFA membership was felt to be a significant issue of concern. The materials in all areas of WHSFA participation have been developed by and continue to be reviewed by professionals in their respective fields. The ability to maintain this high level of materials is, in part, dependant on how they are used as well as by whom.

As an organization of schools, who in turn, determine what programming they wish to support, it is important that an understanding of who, what and why we exist is made clear.

MISSION STATEMENT DEVELOPED BY TASK FORCE

The following statement was written by the WHSFA Task Force and adopted by the Board of Control:

The mission of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association is to provide support and coordination for quality communication and theatre education in Wisconsin middle and secondary schools (both private and public), through curricular and co-curricular activities in Speech, Debate and Theatre, by offering:

- a quality program of adjudicated contests and festivals
- publications
- in-service programs, workshops and certification programs

All changes or variations in current programming or in the development of new programming will follow this Mission Statement.

NEWSLETTER
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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

DEBATE ASSIGNMENTS - 1991

NORTHWEST/CENTRAL

Host:
 Site:

Chippewa Falls Middle	Rhineland
Chippewa Falls Senior	St. Croix Falls
Durand	SPASH
Eau Claire Memorial	Wausau East
Hudson	Wausau West
La Crosse Aquinas	Wis Rapids Assumption
La Crosse Central	Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln
Merrill	De Soto

NORTHEAST

Host:
 Site:

Appleton East	Neenah Shattuck
Appleton West	Neenah Senior
Green Bay East	New London
Kaukauna	Plymouth
Little Chute	Sheboygan South

SOUTH CENTRAL

Host: J. Peter Shaw
 Site:

DeForest	Madison West
Janesville Craig	McFarland
Madison La Follette	Middleton
Madison Memorial	Monona Grove

MILWAUKEE NORTHEAST

Host: John Washbush
 Site:

Brookfield Central	Slinger
Brookfield East	Sussex Hamilton
Cedarburg	Waukesha North
Glendale Nicolet	Waukesha South
Juneau Dodgeand	Wauwatosa East
Mukwonago	West Bend East
Oconomowoc	West Bend West
Port Washington	

MILWAUKEE SOUTHEAST

Host:
 Site:

Milwaukee HS of the Arts	Milwaukee Tech
Milwaukee Marquette	South Milwaukee
Milwaukee Marshall	West Allis Central
Milwaukee Riverside	West Allis Nathan Hale
Milwaukee Rufus King	Whitefish Bay

If you have not notified the State Office of your "Intent to Participate" in the District Tournament, please do so immediately. An accurate count is necessary for both the State Office to send adequate materials and for the host to acquire adequate facilities and hire appropriate judges. Call, please, both the State Office and your host school.

If your school originally indicated a desire to participate, but have now changed your plans, it is also necessary to inform both the State Office and the Host.

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REVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAM

All of the Advisory Committees expressed common concerns regarding WHSFA programs.

All committees confirmed their belief in the importance and significance of WHSFA as an educational institution. Therefore, none felt that any of the existing programs could or should be discontinued.

Reviewing current programs as they impact on all areas resulted in the following necessary list of services now provided by State Office professional and support staff (not prioritized):

1. Maintenance of State Office as hub or service center providing phone service, correspondence, development of program materials, mailings.
2. Maintenance of relationships with other state high school programs and the National Forensic component.
3. Serve as management of record keeping for money/budget, membership, forms, event registrations, program statistics.
4. Coordination of District meetings and support services for schools.
5. Coordination of Advisory Committee meetings, Board of Control meetings and other groups as appointed by the Board.
6. Development and implementation of ETN programs and workshops for teachers and students.
7. Management of State events in all areas including space, materials and awards arrangements.
8. Publication of Handbooks, Guides, Newsletters.
9. Promotion of membership through contact with school Administrators.
10. Development of Adjudicator Orientation programs.

DEBATE ADVISORS DELIBERATE

A variety of program changes were discussed. They included the following:

1. A clear definition of what you get for your money must be provided school officials and coaches.
2. Have qualifying tournaments sanctioned by the State Office held two weekends in December for a school to qualify by attending either a two or a four speaker formatted event. To qualify, a school must achieve a 4-2 or better record. Rules and procedures for running these tournaments would be set by WHSFA and would have someone from the State Office or Advisory Committee in attendance.
3. Hold the State Tournaments the second weekend in January, including L/D debate. Scheduling details are still to be determined, but the most likely scenario would have L/D Thursday am, Four Speaker Thursday pm and Friday am, and Two Speaker Friday pm and Saturday. School provided judges would be used for preliminary rounds 1-4 in each tournament.
4. No rule changes should be allowed at the State Tournament. The State Office is to enforce the established, published procedures.
5. Suggested changes can still be made at the State Tournament Coaches meetings, but they must go to Advisory Committee and receive Board approval before being implemented.

6. Two Speaker should be power matched with round 5 based on first four, and 6 based on 5. with full recognition that this will slow the tournaments completion.

The Board requested that Items 2 & 3 should be submitted to the membership for their review and vote. A survey will be mailed schools registered for WHSFA in early February. **PLEASE VOTE!**

THEATRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The summer meeting of the Theatre Advisory Committee resulted in the following recommendations for change:

1. Need to bolster services now offered; i.e., classes, both credit and noncredit for faculty, directors, technicians, students.
2. Importance of offering workshops for nonfaculty individuals.
3. Increasing community relations through news releases.
4. Keeping WHSFA up front, so everyone knows who we are and what services we provide. "What is WHSFA. What does it do for the education of your students?"
5. Create an understanding that this is more than the "one act" play contest, and rather embrace all theatre activities within our schools.
6. Possible development of a Secondary Theatre Education Coaches Association.
7. Possible expansion to development of a middle/junior high theatre program.
8. Expansion of current State Theatre Festival to include nonparticipants as well as showcased productions in workshops of wide diversity. Luterbach will be seeking out firms which may wish to have displays at the Festival such as Midwest and Mainstage.
9. Maintain and increase contact with such organizations as WAASP and WASB with purpose of increasing support for theatre programs in our schools.

Other matters discussed included:

1. Ted Moskonas was directed to review the rules for possible revisions to be considered at our next meeting.
2. Goltry asked that the membership seriously consider changing the current calendar of last weekend in October to first weekend in December to mid October to mid November.
3. Discussion was held regarding the possible development of a middle/junior high program.
4. Discussion was held regarding the State Office assigning judges to Sectional Festivals.
5. Discussion held about the possibility of making choices of script a critiqueable item.
6. No decisions were reached on items 2-5. They will be discussed again at the next Theatre Advisory Committee meeting.

The Board took action on number 2, requesting that the State Office poll the membership regarding possible change of Festival dates.

Watch your mail for this survey which will be mailed in January and make your voice heard!

Advisory comments from you will be requested on the other items for referral to the Committee.

ATTENTION THEATRE PARTICIPANTS!

It was brought to the attention of the State Office that schools are not aware of rule 13f, page 73 in your general Theatre Handbook regarding payment of fees which states:

"Upon submitting an Eligibility-Registration form for any WHSFA festival, the member school becomes obligated to pay the registration fees whether or not the school actually attended the festival."

Planning for the festival, hiring of judges, providing facilities and other services related to the hosting of these events requires a specific budget. Schools cancelling after registering cause problems with this process. Please keep this in mind for future use.

SPEECH ADVISORY CONTEMPLATES CHANGES

The results of the Speech categories survey were reviewed and the following recommendations were made and accepted by the Board for implementation in the 1991-92 school year:

The committee recommended that any decision regarding the category **Moments in History** be tabled. Because of the interest shown from the survey, the committee will continue to work through the category and make its recommendation to the board at a future meeting. The current goal is to make such a decision by the board's spring meeting.

Regarding the category of **Radio Speaking**, Walter Daumler moved and Clare McCain seconded the motion to incorporate the category Radio Speaking into the WHSFA speech categories for the 1991-92 forensic season. The committee voted 4 in favor, 2 opposed. The motion carried. The reason for inclusion were several and included the benefits and skills that students can obtain from the event, the extensive pilot study the event has gone through the positive response from those surveyed and the enthusiasm of the students who have participated in the category.

The committee also tabled incorporating the suggested changes into the **Storytelling** Event. It cited the need to study the survey's written comments completely before reaching a recommendation. The majority appear to like the changes; however, there is a great deal of work to be done with these story lines and other aspects of the event before presenting a recommendation to the Board of Control.

The committee recognized that the survey respondents had some interest in the former category of **Significant Speech**. However, the committee believes the benefits and skills learned in the significant speech event can be achieved through a refined and developed **Moments in History** category.

The Board also accepted the following changes in the State Awards hardware. The size of the silver and gold medals will be increased to 1 1/2" and 1 3/4" respectively. The bronze medal will remain the same.

The State Office is currently investigating the development of a WHSFA Chenille patch for District performers chosen to participate in the State Contest. These awards would be given at District expense.

Finally, an adult award for teachers who have served WHSFA for 25 or more years is also being developed.

PLANS MADE FOR 1991-93 SPEECH ADJUDICATOR SESSIONS

To meet the goal of 1993 State Adjudicators being certified individuals, the State Office is embarking on a plan to provide sessions in all geographic areas of the state during the summer of 1991-92, as well as during the next two school years.

A notice is being mailed to all District Chairs, asking them to determine site and time for this programming. Districts which have not already hosted this program will receive first priority, but all will be responded to before the 1993 deadline.

Programs offered to date have included:

September 21, 1989 - Wisconsin Dells (planning session)
January 13, 1990 - Baldwin-Woodville (pilot program)
February 17, 1990 - West Salem (pilot program)

September 10-October 1, 1990 - ETN
October 8-29, 1990 - ETN
October 11 - Eau Claire - NWEA
November 13 - Rice Lake

Two sessions remain during the 1990-91 school year for individuals to attend and become certified speech adjudicators for the WHSFA program.

On December 8, Ripon High School will host the 3 1/2 hour session designed to acquaint new and experienced coaches and judges with WHSFA philosophy and practices as well as specific guidelines for judges to follow along with a review of rules and critiqueable items. Invitations are being sent to members of District 8; however, should you chose to attend this session, but are not a District 8 school, please send a request to the State Office. Cost is \$25.00, which includes all materials.

On February 16, the host for this same series will be Marquette University. The alumni association will be notifying their membership of this opportunity to become certified. You may also attend by notifying the State Office. Cost is \$25.00, which includes all materials.

Watch for further information regarding the possible inclusion of this program in the WCA Spring Convention to be held on May 1-3 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Friday morning would be the target time for this offering.

JUNIOR UPDATE

A Special thanks to Dr. Larry Weiss who served as the first WHSFA Junior Division Advisor. WHSFA has accepted Larry's resignation from his Advisory position and we wish him well in his new position as Curriculum Coordinator for the Hartford School District.

Welcome to our new Junior Advisor, Dr. Martin Tadlock, who is also the new Director of the Center for Education of the Young Adolescent at UW-Platteville. WHSFA is delighted to have such fine representation for our middle level programs on the Board of Control.

Reminder: If you have not sent in your Junior Division registration for this year, please do!