Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter

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WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
LOWELL HALL, 610 LANGDON STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
affiliated with
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION

CALENDAR FOR 1973-74

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WIAA State Basketh Easter	'10 Jan 26	Apr 27 others are firm. Mar 16, 1974 Apr 14, 1974
	BOARD OF CONTROL	
Northern Section R. M. Duesterbeck Durand High 604 7th Avenue East Durand 54736 (715) 672-8917	Central Section Fern Stefonik Rhinelander Sr High Coolidge Avenue Rhinelander 54501 (715) 362-6955	Southern Section William Hintz Lake Geneva Badger High South Street Lake Geneva 53147 (414) 248-6243
Eau Claire District Bernard H. Bennett Cornell High 205 South Seventh Cornell 54732 (715) 239-6464	Green Bay District James Trachte East De Pere High 615 South Broadway De Pere 54115 (414) 336-1821	Kenosha District James Highland Union Grove Schools Box 36, Highway 45 Union Grove 53182 (414) 878-2434
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Vice-Chairman of the Advisor in Speech: F	d: Mr. George Buckingham Board: Mr. Frank Cirill Professor Pauline Isaacso ofessor Calvin Quayle, L Larry E. Larmer, 218 Lo	n, Superior on, UW - Stevens Point JW - Eau Claire

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PART 1: THE BOARD OF CONTROL

District/Sectional Chairmen Elections

Later this spring the State Office will be conducting elections for Board members whose terms expire this year. As you know, district chairmen are administrators and sectional chairmen are teachers. Please give some thought to possible candidates for these positions and exercise your vote. Below are listed the Board positions for which elections will be held and an indication of whether or not the incumbent will be a candidate.

Southern Section - Bill Hintz is a candidate

Eau Claire District - Bernard Bernatt is a candidate

La Crosse District - Ed Sievers is a candidate

Milwaukee District - Ray Behnke is a candidate

River Falls District - Merwin Moen is not a candidate

Trachte Resignation

Mr. James Trachte, Chairman of the Green Bay District, has advised the Board of Control and the State Office that he will be unable to continue on the Board of Control beyond the present year. This is unfortunate news; Mr. Trachte is a most effective Board member and has been highly supportive of forensic activities in his district. Under the provisions of the WHSFA Constitution, the Board of Control will appoint a successor. Suggestions from member schools in the Green Bay District will be welcome.

May Board Meeting

The next meeting of the WHSFA Board of Control will be on May 2 and 3 in Madison. Please inform your district or sectional chairman of any topics you would like to have the Board consider.

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PART II: THE STATE OFFICE

Debate Questionnaire

Last fall, the State Office administered a survey seeking to locate problems and attitudes with respect to the WHSFA debate program. The results of the survey are included below.

RESULTS OF DEBATE SURVEY

PART I: NATURE OF YOUR PROGRAM

Number of questionnaires sent: 199

Total number of responses: 95 (48%)

Number of responses per district:

Eau Claire	11	Milwaukee	14	Stevens Point	12
Green Bay	8	0shkosh	7	Superior	3
Kenosha	14	Platteville	3	Whitewater	12
La Crosse	4	River Falls	7		

1. Is your school active in debate this year?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO	8 2	8	14	3 1	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	80 10
??	1				2				1		1	5

2. How many students are participating?

Absolute Number: 1,255 Average Size: 15

3. Did you enter the WHSFA district tournament last year?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO	6	7	8	2	10 4	3	2 1	5 2	5 7	2 1	8 4	58 37

4. If you answered "yes" to #3, how many consecutive years has your school participated in the WHSFA district tournament?

Average Number of Years: 9

5. Do you plan to enter the WHSFA district debate tournament this year?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	P	RF	SP	· \$	W	TOTALS
YES	6	8	9	3	10	4	2	5	7	2	9	65
NO	2 -	Ū	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	1	16
??	3		L		1	2		1	- 1		2	14

6. If the answer to #5 is "no" or "undecided," what factors prevent or might prevent your entering?

Eau Claire

Too expensive plus the competition is too strong. Junior high debaters are not ready to take on the likes of Eau Claire Memorial. Last year was the first year in the last five we did not enter, mainly because our principal was against it.

First year program.

Kenosha

Our debate program cannot compete with competition in our district.

Entire squad is novice.

Students are novices and have absolutely no hope of advancing.

All students involved are in their very first year and quite weak. Funds.

La Crosse

Personally, I have a negative attitude toward debate. I have no background in debate. I must also direct the one-act play. I must also try to aid those people interested in the speaking competition. I have tried to begin debate, but the students do not like the organized routine of a formal debate. Many of our brightest students consider formal debate to be phony.

Milwaukee

All beginning debaters--it would probably be good experience for them but affect the quality of the tournament.

The team consists now of novices and three junior varsity. If the debaters do not show reasonable adeptness, they would be unfair competition against the varsity debaters of the other schools. Inexperience is a factor.

Lack of student participation and enthusiasm.

All novices--debate only "after school club" activity. Program needs firmer structuring to produce quantity and quality.

0shkosh

Lack of time--too many other fall activities.

Lack of experienced debaters.

They are novice debaters, so they will be going against varsity debaters—this is a problem.

Platteville

Belleville, to my knowledge, has never participated in debate. I am the forensic coach, but I don't feel qualified to coach debate. Students have not demonstrated much interest in debate, but this may be because they know very little about it. River Falls

My time is taken building a strong forensics program, excluding debate! Debate is not my strong area, and the district would have to have another person to handle it. I don't believe Webster has ever participated in debate.

Students very weak.

Stevens Point

A speech class alternating years only--extra curricular work in too many other areas.

Attempted to start a team over the past few years. Too much conflict with other activities keeps cutting into team membership.

No one to coach--lack of interest.

The fact that we're a junior high.

Depends on debaters ability and willingness.

Superior

We do not have a debate coach as such. I am not trained to coach debate.

Whitewater

We are starting from scratch here at Portage. The previous coach is no help. I am new at debate with only college course work in directing debate. We started working in early November.

Because we have only a small squad with no previous debate experience. I felt it was best to use this year for preparation.

Student interest. Money.

7. Do you participate in invitational tournaments?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	P	RF	SP	5	W	TOTALS
YES NO	9	7	14 0	3	13 1	6 1	2 1	6 1	8 4	1	1	81 14
										Uı	ndecia	ded II

8. If the answer to #7 is "yes," approximately how many invitationals do you attend each year (average by district)?

EC	GB	К	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	`s	W	TOTAL
7	7	8	9	11	8	4	13	8	6	8	89

9. Do you host an invitational tournament?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO												25 70

10. If the answer to #9 is "no," would you ever consider hosting an invitational tournament?

	EC	GB	К	L	М	0	Ρ	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
МО	4	0	2	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	20 20 31

11. Do you belong to the Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	P	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO	3	3	12	2	13	5	2	4	8	1	11	64 31

12. If the answer to #11 is "no," why not?

Eau Claire

School doesn't wish to join.

Was not familiar with the organization.

I've never been contacted by representatives of the association, nor has any information ever been sent to me.

Because our program is rather limited anyway on a junior high level.

There is no debate interest by students.

I did not see a necessity for doing so.

Green Bay

Can't see the reason.

Never heard of it.

"Milwaukee power structure" controls the organization.

Cost.

I see no reason for joining--not many in our district have joined.

Kenosha

This is my first year as debate coach. What are the advantages?

la Crosse

This will probably be my only year as debate coach--didn't know there was one until last month.

Milwaukee

We belong but only to enable us to get invited to several tournaments a year. I see very little value other than that.

I'm just starting to get involved -- will depend on students.

River Falls

I have never received any information on the subject.

First year as a coach, very unskilled and hope to pass the job along to someone else next year. $\,$

Stevens Point

Would like to join but no one sends me entry information. This year I wrote to the president of the WDCA--received no reply.

Not enough participation in debate.

Just getting program started--might later.

Superior

Don't know what I have to do to join.

I have no background in debate.

13. Does your school offer extra pay or other compensation for coaching debate?

	EC	GB	К	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO NO REPL	0 1				14				10 2	2 0 1	12	82 8 5

PART II: THE WHSFA CONTEST SURVEY

- 1. In general, how do you like cross-exam debate?
 - 62 like it very much
 - 20 like it but have some reservations
 - 3 no opinion
 - 3 it is OK but prefer standard debate
 - 2 do not like it at all
- Listed below are categories of people frequently used as judges at debate tournaments. Please rank the categories in the order in which you prefer them as judges in the WHSFA contest (l = most preferred).

<u>1</u>	2	<u>3</u>	4	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	TOTALS-RAW SCORE
Undergrads With Debate 3 Experience	12	28	25	5	6 =	272
Grad Students With 22 Debate Experience	35	19	4		=	165
Lay Adults	2	5	L,	42	30 =	425
High School Teachers 30 W/O Teams Involved						
College and Univ Prof 34 of Speech Comm	18	16	13	2	3 =	198

3. Would you like the opportunity to recommend specific persons to serve as judges in WHSFA debate tournaments?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
NO	Ī	4 2 2	7	0	4	2	0	2	3	1	ì	
OPIN		2	2.	,	7	יכ	ر	2	,	2	2	77

4. Would you like the opportunity for switch-side debating in WHSFA contests if it were not required?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES NO NOT SURE	2 3 6	2 3 3	5	0	3	1	1	0	5 4 3	0	6 1 5	39 21 35

5. Do you think WHSFA district and sectional tournaments ought to be four rounds?

	EC	GB	K	<u> L </u>	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES	1	2	2	1	6	1	1	3	3	2	2	24
NO	7	3	11	Ì	5	L_{\sharp}	1	3	2	0	6	43
NOT SURE		3	1	2	3	2	1	1	7	1	4	28

6. Would you favor a system which would insure more teams at the state tournament?

	EC	GB	K	L	М	0	Р	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
NO	1 6	4 3 1	3	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	3	48 18 29

7. If the answer to #6 is "yes," can you offer any suggestions?

Eau Claire

Don't require a sectional tournament in the Northern Section; too few teams and they eliminate each other.

Three-3 record rather than 4-2 in district and other tournaments.

Use a per cent approach--example:

- Insure that at least 20% from each section ultimately get to state finals.
- Fifty per cent from each district and/or all 4-2's would advance to sectional.
- Twenty per cent would be based on original number entering district.

Example:

District A - 10 teams - advance 5 District B - 7 teams - advance 4 District C - 15 teams - advance 8

17 at sectional

32 in the 3 districts--thus 6 teams eligible for state (or 7 if one went to next highest number)

Thus, this hypothetical sectional would qualify at least 6 for state finals.

Green Bay

More teams should be encouraged to enter on the district level.

Lower qualification standards.

Kenosha

Arrange the contest so that schools with only one team have a chance to compete with some hope of success.

Devise a system to pair teams on the basis of debate program size and involvement.

Three wins to advance through district.

Teams from sectionals with a 3-3 record who lose a tie ballot should be allowed to enter or if a ballot is "questionable" (i.e., comments like nice voice, etc.--no real justification for a loss).

Possibly all of the 4-2 and winners, but maybe each district could be given 2 or 3 "at large" bids, similar to college--teams that have consistently done well all year but go to district or sectionals and have a bad day, etc.

Teams with win records above 70% could be given a chance at state.

La Crosse

"To gain experience"--go back to the old contest method of 3 years ago.

A novice category at state--more categories in general.

Milwaukee

Encourage involvement through correspondence.

Change topics and wording of resolution.

Offer different levels.

Use two-man teams and allow each school to enter 3 teams starting at the district level.

Break-up the power schools in the Milwaukee District/Southern Sectional by realining the state's districts.

Set up a state tournament only system where any school could enter one team--a four-day tournament, single elimination.

Eliminate the district tournament. Hold 3 sectionals (more in south) where any school could enter and eliminate (two-man/four-man, either could work) down to the octa final point--16 teams surviving. Could use power pairing. Would work with two-man, switch sides cross exam-power paired.

River Falls

Send on 3-3 teams or have a certain percentage qualify.

Three-3 record at district. Four-2 record at sectional.

Stevens Point

Let schools with less than a 4-2 record go to fill up the available spots.

How about an A division and a B or C division?

If district and sectional had four rounds, require a 5-3 record to advance. Laws of probability indicate it is likely more teams would have a 5-3 or better record in a four-round tournament than would have a 4-2 or better record in a three-round tournament.

Three-3 record to advance.

I believe that some sectionals are "loaded" in regard to the number of teams that actively participate in the invitationals. The Stevens Point is an example of this--some area teams cannot afford to compete in the large number of invitationals now held. Because of this, they will not enter the district feeling they are too inexperienced to advance with a 4-2 record. Fortunately, we are not in such a situation, but in my talking with other area schools I have found that the 4-2 record deters many schools from entering into a debate program.

Perhaps a 3-3 record would correct this. Also, perhaps a Class A-Class B tournament would encourage an increased interest in debate.

Whitewater

Smaller schools are skeptical about the high degree of competition in the Milwaukee area sectional—NO CHANCE. Why can't Platteville and Whitewater go north? Why should the Platteville and Whitewater districts be shoved into the already crowded Milwaukee tourny? As a result of this setup we have a predominantly Milwaukee state tournament.

Teams that tie a good top team in speaker points should be allowed to go if they have a 3 and 2 record and the loss will eliminate them.

8. Do you think there should be four preliminary rounds at the State Debate Tournament?

	EC	GB	К	L	М	0	P	RF	SP	S	W	TOTALS
YES	2	2	2	1	8	1	1	3	5	0	1	26
		1										
NOT SURE	7	5	6	3	4	6	1	3	7	3	10	55

9. What do you think the WHSFA can do to increase the breadth of participation in Wisconsin high school debate?

Eau Claire

Cut down on some of the expenses. If possible, have a few more after school such as Durand rather than on Saturdays.

Better topic.

Maybe hold debate tournaments and contests during the week.

Get a sugar daddy to subsidize state tournament and sectional/district tournaments.

Develop attitude of having community debates. More after-school tournaments.

We need coaches, actual speech majors in coaching of debate. The money involved is also prohibitive in many cases. With all this talk about equal educational opportunity, the goal is sorely unrealized in debate that has large schools and small schools competing against each other.

Green Bay

More publicity of district, sectional, and state tournaments in the various local newspapers. Possibly TV news coverage of the tournaments. Let more people know about debate--the athletic events certainly get a lot of coverage from both TV and newspapers. Also, some sort of training program for coaches who need help.

Have separate divisions for students who have debate as a class in high school and those who have it as an extra-curricular activity.

Have a low-tuition clinic for coaches and judges.

I cannot interest faculty in working with ninth grade or my students because they are not skilled in debate. Maybe ideas for "how to prepare teams" would help new coaches.

Sell idea to administration. Pay equal salary to debate coaches in relationship to sports. Make it financially desirable to be a debate coach. Example, here the head football coach gets three and one-half times as much money in salary for a season approximately half as long.

Develop a system to get research materials to schools thus making the job of new coaches easier.

Kenosha

Pick better debate topics--those that will attract student interest. The topic often "turns off" potential debaters.

Sponsor training sessions for coaches.

More publicity--more scholarships.

Release the topic in September! Many of the major tournaments in the southeast have had only 8-11 varsity teams. The varsity division is sick and needs change. Why can't high schools field a varsity debate team? Schools are not plagued with the same problem in athletics. After talking with coaches from "lesser" schools, it is obvious that money and institutes are buying victories. The majority of schools cannot afford varsity competition. Release the topic in September and more schools will have a chance to succeed and more schools will be encouraged to field a debate team. Too many new coaches get thoroughly discouraged because of inequities and simply drop their programs. When we start getting 25 schools attending a tournament and 25 varsity teams, we'll know that we have achieved breadth of participation—at present, it is a disgrace to an intelligent mind to believe that we have any breadth of participation at all.

Debate the national topic rather than a variation. Provide a special junior high division for debate.

Promote debate by such areas as TV and radio.

Make debate fun again--go back to the theme that the aim of debate is to convince.

More tournaments--i.e., the weekend of December 1 there is no varsity four-man tournament or division within 80 miles of Milwaukee. Many tournaments are filled early. Waiver of fees for teams travelling over 75 miles. More awards at tournaments and more variety in competition--last year we met Greenfield every week for two months!

It is necessary to make debate a more attractive activity. Students should be shown that debating can add much to their personal growth and maturity.

La Crosse

There is a lack of publicity and lack of relevance for public. Sponsor public debates on current issues--show off our debaters.

See that local university WHSFA officials want their particular job and go about it with some enthusiasm.

Milwaukee

I believe that at present the entire Wisconsin debate series or program is too tense, too formidable. I feel this tension discourages participation. The "high power" debating is not realistic, but it is frightening to the "nonskilled" debater.

Use the school conferences as a funder for district contests. This would force more schools to take part at the local level and encourage greater participation.

I don't believe that WHSFA can do anything that will increase participation.

The situation needs to be more realistic and open to student support. More audience debating would help. Use of student judges might be fun. A debate might be judged by a coach and two students from two different schools.

There is a great turnover in coaches in Wisconsin. After awhile every Saturday gets to be a bit tiring. Perhaps to encourage a shorter season before the state competition.

Encourage spectator contact debates and offer scholarships.

- Convince school boards and principals that speech is as important as athletics.
- Send out teams of coaches to various parts of the state to run workshops/coaching, seminars/judging, seminars/demonstrations.

Push for inclusion of debate and forensics in regular curriculum.

Oshkosh

Greater publicity, scholarships, awards. Use prominent public officials in final round competition; use educational TV for regular coverage.

I feel the WHSFA has done a lot to promote debate!

Contact principals of schools without a program. Invite them and interested teachers in their system to WDCA workshop and/or tournaments. WHSFA could help these schools set up programs.

Platteville

A workshop for both students and teachers might help other schools like ours. Students might become interested if they had experience watching debate, while teachers could learn enough to feel a little more confident about starting a program.

We need publicity badly. Teachers need training in teaching debate. I have found that very few teachers in small schools really know anything about debate and for that reason they are afraid to try coaching a team. I believe more schools would enter debate if they had the money to provide the entry fees and transportation. Would it be possible to have one set fee for all WHSFA activities instead

of paying separate fees for district, sectional, and state contests in one-acts, debate, and spring forensics? Then, too, money for transportation is a real problem. In many areas of the state (especially the southwest) the teams must travel long distances for tournaments.

River Falls

Advertise the program more; get noted people to back the program in the high schools.

Make schools pay district dues (\$40) with forensic association dues in fall so that every participating school goes to district.

Good job being done.

I'm not sure, but we need more involvement in the northern part of the state. Perhaps inservice programs to involve schools and create interest.

Stevens Point

Shorten actual debating season.

Help smaller schools begin programs. Automatically program teams into the district similar to the way they automatically put schools in athletics into a tournament schedule. Have the membership fee help, in part, defray the cost of district participation (raise membership fee).

Make it a class for credit with some class time off for debates.

Class A-Class B tournaments. Three-3 record to advance.

I believe the WHSFA should become actively involved in helping to schedule, supervise, and set rules for invitational tournaments. At present, the WDCA, a very <u>narrowly</u> based group, assumes some of this function. I sincerely believe the WHSFA is much more representative of all Wisconsin schools and their students than a narrowly based coaches association.

Perhaps use public or commercial television throughout the state at the beginning of the season to explain debate and show what it is like.

Cost is the main factor--distances travelled are often extreme--more local tournaments. Monopoly of large schools or heavily competitive nature of some coaches in state discourage many smaller schools with less experienced coaches. WDCA has made this situation more extreme for it puts the coaches with large budgets and powerful systems in control. The WHSFA needs to assert itself in the control of competitive debate in the state.

Superio

Have a demonstration/lecture program for those schools without teams. Publish suggestions for running a team on a moderate budget.

Make the debate questions more interesting to high school students. Teenagers debate all the time, but not about unemployment, school finance, etc. They are interested in and talk about God, love, war, art, etc.

Whitewater

Break the Milwaukee District into more districts, and they should have their own sectional!

- 1. Offer more clinics at the beginning of the school year for teachers interested in starting debate programs.
- Send out information and invitations to these clinics to school principals.
- 3. Try to establish and gain approval for debate classes.

Make it more appealing to more high school students. They feel it is archaic--new approach.

Encourage high schools to offer letters for debate, classes in debate, some of the recognition athletic teams get from their schools. Because debaters leave at 7:00 o'clock in the morning, the press is not interested in photographing at that hour. At freshmen orientation day debate should be emphasized. A short debate given on parents' night at the high school netted our best turn out. Both parents and students got to see and hear one another.

Public relations work on value of debate with administrators and school boards.

Work out a system so more teams could get at least ribbons or certificates, if not trophies, as incentive to schools that don't have real strong teams.

Avoid only three trophies per level in introductory invitational tournaments.

10. What do you think the WHSFA can do to improve the quality of Wisconsin high school debate?

Eau Claire

Encourage debate institutes for coaches and students in the summer.

Provide more help to those beginning debate. Example: November tournaments with many awards.

Promote more two-man, switch-side debate.

I feel that we now have high quality debate in the state.

Cheaper summer clinics.

Be more strict at tournaments where coaches are entering second-year debaters in the novice divisions, or three-year people in junior varsity. Improve quality of judges. Perhaps a clinic or two would be in order.

Change your ballot.

Hire better debate coaches to run seminars for less-experienced coaches in various parts of the state. Example: Jim Copeland of Marquette; Bill O'Brien of Janesville; R. M. Duesterbeck of Durand.

Print sample debates on the topic and juxtapose judge's comments-students could read this and possibly benefit.

Qualify coaches as being only those who are trained in speech/debate.

Haven't had enough experience in the field to know.

Stress more of the educational value of debate. In some areas of the state it is becoming too competitive. Winning is the only thing that counts. I have noticed this attitude at the sectional and state tournaments especially.

Kenosha

More requirements on coaching. It is nice to see people try, but sometimes they can ruin a program in a year because they get stuck with something they don't want or can't handle. Also, we need an improvement in judges. This year seems to have an overabundance of ding-a-lings-people who can't fill out ballots, etc. Debate does little for someone who is evaluated poorly or not at all. Also, more four-round tournaments. Encourage more observation at tournaments, especially for the new people.

Run a state champion series in novice as in New York and Michigan.

With CX we seem to be getting picky. Quantify and qualify. We don't seem to put much evidence weight or reasoning and argumentation. We seem to be stressing picky points. Too much emphasis on rules. Maybe this is the result of the successful teams attending evidence factories in summer.

Release the topic in September to diminish the use of prepared debate cards and institute handouts. Let the debaters return to the library.

Certify judges who are used in debate.

Lobby for better pay for forensic coaches.

Recommend that schools either instigate courses in debate or offer credit for participation in it.

La Crosse

Encourage by person, if necessary, every high school to continue their programs and hire qualified people to interest them.

Provide debate classes in the high school or at least some mini courses, guest speakers to teams--more handouts from WHSFA (i.e., the examination of CX was the best I had seen).

Milwaukee

Push forensics into curriculums and provide course curriculums for accuracy and uniformity relative to sound debating.

Develop a series of workshops for debaters across the state (i.e., \mbox{WDCA} idea in miniature).

Improve quality of judging by clinics. Bring in college or international debaters for presentations and analysis.

More summer programs at universities.

Enforce ethical and procedural regulations--if we had a uniform code of ethics, we could sort out the incompetent people.

Improve the quality of coaching. Eliminate the direct conflict between sports and debate schedules--especially swimming and wrestling so we can get those students into debate, too.

Host debate coaches' meetings, workshops for debaters, etc. Get greater input from debate coaches, principals, and others.

Place emphasis on debate's practical value rather than on its competitive value. Reward the thinking debater as well as the mechanical one.

Platteville

Semester classes could be offered for credit in high school.

Force all judges to take a one-day institute offered at various times and places. Without that, a judge would be ineligible.

River Falls

To play down the win/loss and play up speaker points.

Make the state tournaments larger so it isn't so difficult to reach state.

Stevens Point

Encourage local tournaments and clinics not necessarily associated with universities or WDCA--on the order of sub-districts in forensics. If possible, encourage conferences to conduct debate clinics and invitationals for their members. Cut down on travel and encourage competition between schools of like size. Size of school is important as evidenced in athletic movements to divisions in football, track, and basketball.

The measures it seems to be taking at present seem helpful.

Make more materials available earlier.

I think coaches should be able to watch their teams debate in some tournaments. In sports, a coach is allowed to watch his team. Obviously the analogy is not very good, but I cannot always help my team on the basis of the critique sheet.

I believe we have quality now. In fact, the quality of some of the schools keeps other schools from participating as much as they should. Budgets suffer when a school always loses. Quality does not have to be instant. There should be a place in debate for the average student as well as the brilliant one. Quality is a relative thing which has to be applied to each individual student.

Narrow limits of the resolution.

Superior

Have a travelling team who is willing to spend a couple days with coaches and kids.

Whitewater

Media promotion and business.

Run summer clinics.

Have quality control on judges.

Better qualification of judges.

More publicity.

11. Additional comments about the WHSFA program.

Eau Claire

Topics are many times very complicated for my kids, but we have a junior high program and most kids are from the senior high. But I am not sure the topics are all that great even for senior high people. How about getting them down to our level?

Green Bay

Try to avoid putting two districts together for a district tournament, and if this has to be done, advance notice should be given to all schools competing in that particular tournament.

Same old problems: (1) Judge qualifications, (2) tournament procedure, (3) excessive emphasis on winning not as a learning experience, (4) vast money behind some programs allows them to participate at a much higher level. This makes the state finals unfair to schools with more limited financial programs. (5) Class system? How can we logically say that schools with less than 1,000 students to select from are equal to schools of 1500-2000-2500 and up?

We have a difficult time going to invitationals because they are so far away. I do not feel qualified to run a tournament and apparently most in our area feel the same way. Also, I direct the play-contest entry and those invitationals I could get to seem to coincide with the Saturday play contest.

Kenosha

More schools from out of state should be invited and encouraged to attend Wisconsin tournaments. It makes the competition more exciting and helps the students learn new ideas and techniques.

The information I have received has helped me set up my program with little difficulty. Thanks! I feel Wisconsin has a top-notch debate program largely due to the WHSFA!

State tournaments should be before Christmas. The first debate should be in September and end by Christmas.

Debate participation and competition has become polarized between the super powers of debate and the rest of us. True competition is being stifled by announcing debate topic in the spring, summer institutes, commercial companies publishing extensive handbooks, note cards, etc. The amount of money that can be pushed into a program has become a major factor in determining how successful a school is going to be. Some schools have virtually completed their research in September while most of us are just beginning. In athletic competition everyone starts at the same time--should schools where debate is a year round thing, coaches demand exclusive attention to debate, and extensive money is available have the kind of advantage that spring announcement of the topic area and proposition give?

La Crosse

I have never seen judging at its lowest. There seems to be a lack of concern by many individual coaches/judges as far as how to make a correct decision.

Milwaukee

I think more coaches should get a chance to meet and meet with the WHSFA Board of Control. We need to know these men, and they need to know us, the coaches. They might have a much better understanding of their job if they met more than their own local coach, and we, the coaches, would perhaps understand and cooperate better if we knew just who they were who are "running the show." Set up and run school daytime meetings in each district—get the principals to let all coaches out to run a workshop/gripe/answer session. This would clear up questions and encourage new and old coaches to get their programs moving. Run judging seminars at various locations in the state to educate judges.

Open up the district, sectional, and state tournaments to audiences. Students and parents could give a lot of support and do a lot of PR for debate.

I suppose it is the same in all areas of endeavor, but small schools with minimal budgets for debate do not have much of a chance to compete against the high budget schools and do so successfully. When you have the depth and finances and can debate all over the country every weekend, you are bound to do better than the team that takes in one or two tournaments a year. Greater participation has to take place at the local level. Many schools completely abandon local competition in favor of tournaments where an abundance of hardware is available. Is debate strictly a performance activity? Can there be a happy medium between the performance/showmanship angle and the learning angle? Where do the schools who do not have a debate program get help in starting one? The WDCA talks a good game but little else. Again, conference schools helping each other would be a good place to begin.

I believe that the program as it now exists encourages the coaches to compete more through the student debaters. We must encourage students to think critically rather than encourage them to select the best "pat" canned case to meet the situation. Where in life do we apply what is presented in "top level" debates? I suggest that coaches come to tournaments with punch cards, ready to program computers which will judge the competing cases.

Platteville

Add more tournaments. Divide state into quarters or sixths and have one touring in each section each week from October through January.

Stevens Point

Continue the judging clinics--good idea!

Movement away from university personnel for judging WHSFA events must continue. We have been judged by sophomores in college at the district level, by a chemistry professor, and by a multitude of graduate students. All may have been qualified to judge a debate, but none work daily with high school kids and know how to handle them. I believe this is much more important than a technical understanding of debate.

The movement to CX and now towards switch sides has been promoted mostly by the very experienced coaches and those with debate classes and large coaching staffs capable of teaching and coaching this approach. We in Stevens Point conduct an invitational which draws heavily from an area of small schools with "marginal debate" programs, and I offer these comments as a reflection of what I hear from the coaches in these schools. We may have been guilty of this one upmanship in Stevens Point over the years, but we are trying to correct it. I would hope that the WHSFA might be able to modify this attitude throughout the state.

Whitewater

I wish I would get some order blanks for ballots and other supplies. I wish the Association would adopt one short judging uniform criteria for judges to apply in each round and require tournaments to provide judges with new judging information.

PART III: SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT University of Wisconsin-Madison

RESOLVED: That the Federal Government should provide a program to employ all employable United States citizens living

in poverty.

In 1973-74, as in previous years, the State Debate Tournament included three qualifying rounds for all schools entered, plus an eight-team elimination bracket for schools with a record of 4 wins and 2 losses, or better, in the qualifying competition. A consolation series was also held. All schools which did not qualify for the elimination bracket participated in two additional rounds of debate. The win-loss record for the three qualifying rounds plus the two extra rounds determined the winner of the consolation series.

> MILWAUKEE MARQUETTE First Place Coach: James Copeland

Affirmative Bruce Arnold Tom Mc Carthy Alternate James Fliessner

Negative Patrick Mayer James Jansen Alternate Craig Mullen

EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL Second Place Coach: Art Mc Million

Affirmative Rich Mayne Ned Wahl Alternate Lynn Englesby

Negative Gregg Haug Brad Berg AlternateCurt Vaillette

DURAND Third Place Coach: R. M. Duesterbeck

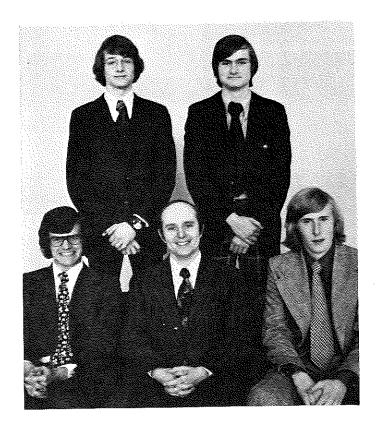
Affirmative Linda Spindler Ruth Brenner Alternate Cindy Hulverson

Negative Tom Bowman Barb Simpson AlternateBetty King

OCONOMOWOE SENIOR Third Place Coach: Nancy L. Johnson

Affirmative Peter Cahill Sarah Frank AlternateScott Manske

Negative Mark Huber Ann Pulkownik AlternateGretchen Weix



Marquette High School debaters and their coach display the first place plaque they were awarded at the 1974 State Debate Tournament. Marquette has placed first in the tournament two consecutive years. Pictured above are: top row (left to right), Tom Mc Carthy and Bruce Arnold; bottom row (left to right), Pat Mayer, James Copeland (coach), and Jim Jansen.

MILWAUKEE NICOLET Coach: Ronald Ernst

Affirmative
Andy Muchin
Jeff Wagner
Alternate
Steve Wichman

Negative
John Uelmen
Dan Chudnow
Alternate
Robert Looper

SHEBOYGAN NORTH Coach: Dale Brown

Affirmative
Carol Brown
Ron Vander Weele
Alternate
Karen Steck

Negative
Marc Bassewitz
Pattie Freye
Alternate
Joe Steiber

WAUWATOSA EAST Consolation First Place Coach: Robert E. Bearden

Affirmative
Steve Glamm
Jane Prescott

Negative John Huston Eric Hansen

AMERY Consolation Second Place Coach: Gregory Olson

Affirmative
John Knutson
Mark Gilbertson
Alternate
Debbie Korsbon

Negative
Jackie Caudy
Loel York
Alternate
Julie Gay

BROOKFIELD CENTRAL Consolation Third Place Coach: Drucilla Munson

Affirmative Andy Frank Ann Heyrmann

Negative
Brian Skromme
Arlene Hill
Alternate
Bob Gleason

MILWAUKEE PIUS XI Coach: Thomas Sullivan

Affirmative
Ralph Biernat
Peggy Quinn
Alternate
David De Nomie

Negative Dan Murphy Steve Conlon



Pictured above are the Eau Claire Memorial debaters and their coach. The Memorial squad achieved second-place honors at the 1974 State Debate Tournament. Top row (left to right), Richard Mayne, Art Mc Million (coach), and Brad Berg. Bottom row (left to right), Ned Wahl and Gregg Haug.

GREEN BAY ASHWAUBENON Coach: Ronald Marler

Affirmative
Sharon Ferrier
Dan Roarty

Negative
Tony Ledvina
Steve L'Heureux
Alternate
Jeff Steeno

GREENDALE Coach: Jan Settle

Affirmative
Karen Porter
Mary Jo Witkowski
Alternate
Tom Kulaga

Negative
Russ Wolff
Terre Borkovec
Alternate
Tom Kulaga

OCONTO FALLS Coach: Don A. Rex

Affirmative
Carol Hardtke
Teresa Cribb
Alternate
Lyn Schefdore

Negative
Ann Marie Cyr
Ken Saffran
Alternate
Patti Piper

ONALASKA

Coach: Robert C. Baudhuin

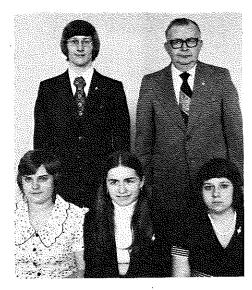
Affirmative
Pam Solberg
Charles Bailey
Alternate
Kirk Davidson

Negative
Mike Cantwell
Mike Stoker
Alternate
Terry Halverson

OSHKOSH WEST Coach: Ron La Point

Affirmative Round 1 Karen Messner Dale Edmonds Alternate Joan Underwood Round 2 Jill Zentner Dale Edmonds Alternate Karen Messner Round 3 Karen Messner Dale Edmonds Alternate Joan Underwood

Negative Round 1 Debbie Wegner Joanne Swartzberg AlternateJeff Stearns Round 2 Jeff Stearns Steve Smits AlternateDebbie Wegner Round 3 Debbie Wegner Joanne Swartzberg AlternateSteve Smits



Durand High School tied for third place at the 1974 State Debate Tournament. Standing are Tom Bowman and R. M. Duesterbeck (coach). Seated are Barb Simpson, Ruth Brenner, and Linda Spindler.



Oconomowoc High School tied for third place in the 1974 State Debate Tournament. Standing are Peter Cahill, Stan Johnson (coach), and Mark Huber. Seated are Sarah Frank and Ann Pulkownik.

RIVER FALLS Coach: Margaret Kitze

Affirmative Round 1 Gwen Nelson Eric Rishel Alternate	<i>Negative</i> Round l Joleen Klug Jeff Larson <i>Alternate</i>
Peter Larson	Dean Ammerman
Round 2	Round 2
Gwen Nelson	Joleen Klug
Eric Rishel	Jeff Larson
Alternate	Alternate
Peter Larson	Dean Ammerman
Round 3	Round 3
Dean Ammerman	Joleen Klug
Eric Rishel	Jeff Larson
Alternate	Alternate
Gwen Nelson	Peter Larson

WISCONSIN RAPIDS ASSUMPTION Coach: John Swendrowski

Affirmative	Negative
Mary Porter	Diane Dassow
Bruce Haas	Joan Quinn
Alternate	Alternate
Jane Kirschling	Tom Judge

SUMMARY OF STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT 1973-74

Qualifying Rounds

	Won	Lost		Won	Lost
Eau Claire Memorial	6	0	Wauwatosa East	3	3
Milwaukee Marquette	5	1	Oconto Falls	2	ú
Milwaukee Nicolet	5	1	Milwaukee Pius XI	2	4
Sheboygan North	5	1	River Falls	2	Ĺ.
Durand	4	2	Wisconsin Rapids Assumption	2	Ĺ
Oconomowoc Senior	4	2	Greendale	1	5
Amery	3	3	Oshkosh West	i	ź
Brookfield Central	3	3	Green Bay Ashwaubenon	ò	6
Onalaska	3	3		_	-

Quarter-	Final Round									
Eau Claire Memorial Durand (AFF) vs Milwaukee Milwaukee Nicolet (NEG)	<u>Won By</u> Eau Claire Memorial Du rand	<u>Decis</u> BY 2								
Sheboygan North (AFF) vs Oconomowoc Senior (NEG)	Oconomowoc Senior	2	1							
Milwaukee Marquette	Milwaukee Marquette	ВУ	E							
Semi Fi	Semi Final Round									
Eau Claire Memorial (AFF) vs Durand (NEG)	Eau Claire Memorial	2	1							
Oconomowoc Senior (AFF) vs Milwaukee Marquette (NEG)	Milwaukee Marquette	3	0							
Fina	Round									
Eau Claire Memorial (AFF) vs Milwaukee Marquette (NEG)	Milwaukee Marquette	9	4							

Consolation Series

(Win-Loss record includes qualifying rounds plus two additional rounds)

Wauwatosa East was declared winner of the Consolation Series. Amery was awarded second and Brookfield Central was named Third. The tie between the two schools was broken on the strength of opponent's record.

Wauwatosa East Amery Brookfield Central Milwaukee Pius XI Greendale	Won 1 7 6 6 6 5	3 4 4	Green Bay Ashwaubenon Oconto Falls River Falls Wisconsin Rapids Assumption Oshkosh West	3 2 2	7 8 8 8 9
Onalaska	4	6	OSINOSII NESC	ı	9

SUMMARY OF SECTIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENTS 1973-74

Northern Section at Eau Claire Memorial

Eau Claire Memorial Durand Amery River Falls	Won 6 5 5 4	Lost 0 1 1 2	Eau Claire Regis Superior Senior Rice Lake Chippewa Falls Senior	Won 2 1 1 0	Lost 4 5 5 6	
<u>Central</u>	Sect	ion a	t UW-Stevens Point			
Green Bay Ashwaubenon Sheboygan North Oconto Falls Onalaska Oshkosh West Wisconsin Rapids Assumption Appleton West	6 6 4 4 4 4 3	0 0 2 2 2 2 2	Kimberly Senior Stevens Point Appleton East Merrill Sheboygan South La Crosse Aquinas New London Green Bay West	3 3 2 2 2 1 1 0	3 3 4 4 5 5 6	
Southern	Sect	on at	Lake Geneva Badger			
Brookfield Central Milwaukee Marquette Milwaukee Nicolet Greendale Milwaukee Pius XI Oconomowoc Senior Wauwatosa East	6 5 5 4 4 4 4 3	0 1 1 2 2 2 2	Platteville Delavan-Darien Elkhorn Janesville Craig Madison West Hartford Union Watertown Senior	3 2 2 2 2 1	34444556	
Middleton	3	3	Madison La Follette	0	Ō	

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT DEBATE TOURNAMENTS 1973-74

Eau Claire District at Eau Claire Memorial

			······································		
	Won	Lost		Won	Lost
Eau Claire Memorial	6	0	Eau Claire North	2	4
Eau Claire Regis	5	ì	Altoona	1	5 5
Chippewa Falls Senior	4	2	Barron	1	5
Rice Lake	L	2	Chippewa Falls Mc Donell	1	5
RICE Lake	7	_	Central		-
			Contrar		
Green	Bay	Distr	ict at Kimberly		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				_	ı.
Green Bay Ashwaubenon	6	0	Green Bay Preble	2	4; 4;
Kimberly Senior	5	1	Peshtigo	2	
Oconto Falls	5	1	Seymour	2	4
Appleton East	4	2	Shawano	2	4
Appleton West	4	2	Luxemburg-Casco Senior	1	5 5 6
Green Bay West Senior	4	2	Marinette	1	5
New London Senior	4	2	Green Bay East	0	6
Clintonville Senior	3	3	•		
<u>Kenosha Di</u>	str	ict at	Milwaukee Marquette		
Milwaukee Marquette	6	0	Kenosha Tremper	2	4
Greendale		1	Union Grove	2	4
Milwaukee Pius XI	5 5 3	1	West Allis Central	2	4
Muskego	3	3	Burlington Senior	1	5
Waukesha South Campus	3	3 .	Milwaukee Juneau	1	5
waukesna south campus	ر	,	ni i waakee ouncas	•	,
La Cross	se D	istric	t at UW-La Crosse		
			C:112	2	4
Onalaska	6	0	Cassville	2	4
La Crosse Aquinas	5	1	La Crosse Central	0	6
Platteville	4	2	Seneca	U	O
Black River Falls	2	4			
Senior					
Milwaukee	Dist	rict a	it Brookfield Central		
				7	2
Brookfield Central	5	1	West Bend East	3 3 2	2
Milwaukee Nicolet	5 5	1	Whitefish Bay	3	3
Wauwatosa East	5	1	Slinger Semior	2	4
Hartford Union	4	2	Brookfield East	1	3 4 5 6
Oconomowoc Senior	Lį.	2	Pewaukee	}	5
Mequon Homestead	3	3	Cedarburg	0	6
Milwaukee James	3	3			
Madison					
0-21	ch r	lictria	ct at UW-Oshk <u>osh</u>		
USNKO	211 L	136116	L at ON OSHROSH		
Sheboygan North	6	0	Mount Calvary St. Lawrence	2	4
0shkosh	4	2	Seminary		
Sheboygan South	4	2	Ripon	2	4
Neenah Armstrong	3	3	Winneconne	0	6
aconan Armstrong	ر	,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	-	-

River Falls District at UW-River Falls

	Won L	ost		Won	Lost
Durand	6	0	St. Croix Falls	3	3
Amery	5	1	Osceola	2	4
River Falls	5	1	Baldwin-Woodville	ſ	5
Superior Senior	4	2	Minocqua Lakeland	1	5
Hayward	3	3	Hudson	0	6

Stevens Point District at UW-Stevens Point

Merrill Senior Wisconsin Rapids Assumption	6 6	0 0	Wausau West Schofield D. C. Everest Antigo	3 2 1	3 4 5
Stevens Point Senior	4	2	Waupaca	i	5
Rhinelander	3	3	Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln	í	5
Wausau East	3	3	Senior	•	_
Wausau Newman	3	3			

Whitewater District at Fort Atkinson

Janesville Craig Madison La Follette Middleton	5 5 · 5	1 ! 1	Janesville Parker Mc Farland Monona Grove	2 2 2	4 4
Watertown Senior Delavan-Darien	5 4	i 2	Monroe Lake Geneva Badger	2	4 5
Elkhorn Madison West	4 4	2 2	Whitewater Fort Atkinson	. 0	5

Platteville District did not hold a debate tournament. Platteville and Cassville entered the La Crosse District Tournament and Monroe entered the Whitewater District Tournament.

Superior District did not hold a debate tournament. Superior Senior, Hayward, and Minocqua Lakeland entered the River Falls District Tournament.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE TOURNAMENTS 1973-74

	SUITINAN I OF	- PARTICITATION IN	DEDATE TOOKHTISEITTO	3/3 / .
-AUC.	Eau Claire Dis Local 15 Schools 225 Students	Bistrict 8 Schools 120 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 1 4-2 2	Section 4 Schools 60 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 0 4-2 0	14 Member Schools State 1 School 6 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 0 4-2 0
	Green Bay Dis Local 25 Schools 375 Students	District 15 Schools 225 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 2 4-2 4	Section 7 Schools 105 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 0 4-2 1	52 Member Schools State 2 Schools 11 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0
	Kenosha Distr Local 28 Schools 420 Students	District 10 Schools 150 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 2 4-2 0	Section 3 Schools 45 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 1 4-2 2	Al Member Schools State 3 Schools 16 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 1 4-2 0
	Local 11 Schools 165 Students	District 5 Schools 75 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 1 4-2 0	30 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 1	State 1 School 6 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0
	Milwaukee Dis Local 29 Schools 435 Students	District 13 Schools 195 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 3 4-2 2	Section 5 Schools 75 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 1 4-2 2	43 Member Schools State 4 Schools 21 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 1 4-2 1
	Oshkosh Distr Local 19 Schools 285 Students	District 7 Schools 105 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 0 4-2 2	Section 3 Schools 45 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 1 School 5-1 0 4-2 1	State 2 Schools 14 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 1 4-2 0

Platteville D Local 10 Schools 150 Students	District 3 Schools	Section 1 School 15 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0	39 Member Schools State 0 Schools 0 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0	
River Falls D Local 10 Schools 150 Students	District	Section 3 Schools 45 Students	28 Member Schools State 3 Schools 18 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 1	
Stevens Point Local 23 Schools 345 Students	District	Section 3 Schools 45 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 1	54 Member Schools State I School 6 Students Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0	
Superior Dist Local 6 Schools 90 Students	District	Section 1 School 15 Students	23 Member Schools State 0 Schools 0 Students Win-loss Record	
	6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 1	Win-Loss Record 6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0	6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 0	
Whitewater Di Local 24 Schools 360 Students	6-0 0 Schools 5-1 0 4-2 1 strict	5-1 0 4-2 0	5-1 0	

National Debate Topic Area for 1974-75

The State Office has received word from the NUEA Committee on Discussion and Debate that the national problem area for 1974-75 is:

"How can the federal political system best be improved?"

Wisconsin debate schools are currently voting to select one of the following debate resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the United States should adopt a parliamentary

system of government.

RESOLVED: That the United States should significantly change the

method of selecting presidential and vice-presidential

candidates.

RESOLVED: That campaign funds for all federal elective offices

should be provided exclusively by the federal government.

PART IV: CALENDAR INFORMATION

June 17-28

Forensic workshop for high school students.

Sponsored by WHSFA, University of WisconsinExtension, and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

A two-week workshop in WHSFA spring speech
categories. For further information, write to
Larry E. Larmer, 218 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon
Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

June 24-July 5 High school debate workshop. Sponsored by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Two weeks of intensive instruction on debate principles and next year's proposition. For further information, write to Professor Fred Kauffeld, Department of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.

PART V: PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

MCFARLAND BUILDS DEBATE

Introducing a new product to an already crowded market is always a challenge. When debate is the product and the market of extracurricular activities includes such favorites as football, basketball, pep club, newspaper staff, and marching band, the magnitude of the challenge can seem overwhelming.

The suburban community of McFarland actively supports its high school of 387 students ranging from grades nine to twelve. Last year nearly the whole town turned out to greet its Class B championship basketball team. The students are involved in girls' and boys' physical education programs, National Honor Society, art, music, Backpacker Club, and are very successful in dramatics having earned A's in nine consecutive years of the WHSFA drama contests.

For the past four years a very small number of students and a single faculty member have tried to muster up support for the art of debate without much success. This past season, however, under the direction of part-time teacher, full-time debate coach, Sharon Weise, a solid program has been initiated. According to Ms. Weise, the major problems in organizing a new or revitalizing a deteriorating program fall into two major areas: 1) obtaining and maintaining a core of interested students, and 2) scheduling practices at times when all students and the coach are available. Ms. Weise spoke with students individually to rally excitement for the idea of debate and then counted on these students to spread the word to others. She suggests that to begin a debate program successfully one should start with no less than five serious participants. To handle the scheduling problem, she set up a one-night per-week session and then met with the debaters at convenient hours after school and during lunch hours. "It always seems to start slowly," she comments. "since everyone has a tendency to put things off until the first tournament is in sight."

Since training in debate is not part of the McFarland speech curriculum, many of the students had no previous exposure to the procedure. In early September, a neighboring high school was invited to stage a debate for the McFarland group thus generating quite a stir of amazement and excitement. Two weeks later, Ms. Weise organized a workshop/clinic for her students and novice debaters from six other high schools in the area. A panel of four coaches and a WHSFA representative introduced terms and spoke of research sources, ideas and background for the year's topic, and fielded an informal question and answer session. Again at this workshop, a debate was staged while at the same time one of the coaches diagrammed a flow chart on an overhead projector to help the novice audience. Ms. Weise states that the workshop was a valuable experience for all of the students involved. From then on time was spent collecting research from the public library in Madison and from some purchased debate handbooks. Some joint practices were arranged with a high school in the area to prepare for actual competition. Ms. Weise smiles as she recalls the week of the first

invitational tournament late in October. "They had a bad case of cold feet," she says and adds, "The secret is to let them get their feet wet. The only way to learn is to do it. You just can't wait until they think they're ready."

With new enthusiasm and motivation, the team came out of the tournament with a respectable 3-3 record. Continuing in the novice class for three more tournaments, their record improved until they won a second-place trophy. While Ms. Weise realized that the team was not quite ready for sub-varsity competition, she registered them in this category for the rest of the season to prepare them for the challenge of the district rounds.

Things are always tight financially, and McFarland, as well as many other schools, must share the same fund for debate and spring speech contests. To help alleviate expenses, the travelling team shared buses with other teams in the area. McFarland is very lucky to have both a superintendent and a principal who have been co-operative with schedules, transportation, and other details. They have been very supportive of the efforts of the debate team.

"All in all the season was quite successful and the students are excited to begin preparing for next year," Ms. Weise concludes. "The major change for the coming year will be to start work collecting evidence much earlier. Hopefully, we can be well underway shortly after the resolution is announced in the spring."

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