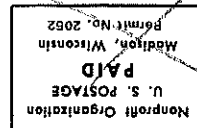


WHSFA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter No. 1
Fall 1979

Sent to
 11/5/79
 by
 [unclear]



Wisconsin High School Forensic Association
 Larry E. Larmer, Secretary-Treasurer
 Lowell Hall
 610 Langdon Street
 Madison, Wisconsin 53706

STORYTELLING COMMITTEE REPORTS

In reference to numerous requests from the membership, the Contest Study Committee established a group consisting of Ron Steinhorst, Pauline Isaacson and Mary Palm to study the "Storytelling" category for the purpose of suggesting possible revisions. The following is a report of the action of that committee:

- The skills involved in becoming a storyteller are not being developed under the current rules.
- Believability of the situation of performance - the telling of children's stories to an adult audience - is incongruous.

In an effort to solve these problem areas, the committee offered the following suggested changes:

- Contestant's "own words" is not definable.
- The choice of material for presentation is often not the quality of children's literature envisioned by the original study committee.

An anthology of stories will be identified previous to the contest year for students to acquaint themselves with story content, and to practice the art of storytelling.

Storytelling would become an extemporaneous performance, with contestants drawing five titles from the anthology one hour before performance and choosing one selection to prepare for presentation.

The anthology could vary from year to year in story type, or a collection of a variety of stories (i.e., children's adventure, mythology, mystery) could be used.

Please vote for your preference on the Storytelling Survey and return to the State Office by January 15, 1980.

Survey of Membership - STORYTELLING (Please check the appropriate blank)

- I approve of the suggested changes.
- I do not approve of the suggested changes.

If you checked number (1) one for approval:

The collection of stories should be:

- All children's
- Variety of types
- Other (Please specify):

If you checked number (2) two for do not approve:

I suggest the following changes:
(Please be specific)

Mail to: WHSFA
Lowell Hall
610 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Control held their fall meeting October 30-31 in Madison. Various items of business affecting WHSFA policies and contest structure were discussed. Included among these items were:

- development of a Hintz award. To acknowledge the active involvement of Bill Hintz in Association activities, the Board voted to extend a plaque to each school earning 12 or more A's at the State Speech Contest,
- division of schools into debate districts, (see story pg. 3)
- acceptance of a debate team with a 3-0 district record being eligible for two-speaker State Debate competition,
- appointment of Dick Duesterbeck of Durand as delegate to the NUEA committee on Discussion and Debate meeting to be held in December in Kansas City,
- acceptance of an energy conservation policy, (see story in this regard)
- asked for items in regard to a category replacement for Public Address and a three-round district proposal be placed on the spring speech coaches meeting agenda,
- placement of a one-year moratorium on all state events' printed programs,
- acceptance of a proposed revision for WHSFA newsletters, (see story in this regard)
- increased mileage for Board and Committee meetings from 15¢ to 20¢ a mile.

An official copy of the Board of Control meeting minutes may be obtained by request from the State Office.

WHSFA NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW FACE (AND A NEW BODY)

Some progress has finally been made in the long-standing effort to revise and hopefully revitalize - the WHSFA newsletter. You have in your hands evidence that this project has at last been taken off the "back burner" now that the State Office is more adequately staffed.

The dreary unattractiveness of the old Newsletter in terms of both content and appearance had long been acknowledged. However, the transformation was delayed until the State Office secured two capable work-study students - Lynn Tofte and Joanne Kinsman - who, under the supervision of Mary Palm have created this new version.

The plans are to issue the revised publication five times during the school year with content more newsworthy and vital to member schools. The historical data which old Newsletters contained will be kept by the State Office. We welcome any reaction you may have.

Of considerable importance to member schools is that the Newsletter henceforth will contain information, and in some cases response forms, which will not be issued in any other mailing.

YOU BETTER READ IT !!!

This issue features:
 +++A report from the committee to revise Storytelling and a survey to be returned.
 +++Information on new qualification procedures for the State Debate Tournament.
 +++Up-dated calendar information.
 +++"Bad-Weather" policy for District Debate.
 +++and more...

WHSFA CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

- Nov. 20 4:30-6:20 p.m.
Session II, ETN course:
Directing Drama, Debate and Forensic Programs
- Nov. 30- State Theatre Festival
- Dec. 1 UW-Stevens Point
- Dec. 8 Spring Speech Workshops
UW-Menomonie
Delavan-Darien High Sch.
- Dec. 12 4:30-6:20 p.m.
Session III, ETN course:
Directing Drama, Debate and Forensic Programs
- Dec. 15 Spring Speech Workshop
Prentice High School

WRITE FOR MATERIALS

The State Office has the following bibliographies prepared by the University-Extension Library.
 Readers Theatre
 Storytelling
 Theatre Arts and Crafts
 Drama Acquisition list, August 1978 to September, 1979.

Any or all of these will be sent to you upon request.

THEATRE FESTIVAL JUDGES HIRED

The State Theatre Festival judges for 1979 bring to this event a diversity of background to accommodate the variety of theatrical experience which will be presented on November 30 and December 1 at the Warren Jenkins Theatre on the UW-Stevens Point campus. The five people who will share the evaluation responsibilities are:

- Tom Goltry - UW-Platteville, Professor in Theatre Art and WHSFA Advisor in Drama and a regular on state judging staff.
- Bob Klassen, Marquette University, Professor in Speech and Theatre Arts, who is frequently employed as a state judge.
- Nancy Scobie, Graduate of UW-Eau Claire, MA in Speech Theatre, former teacher and director, now in her second year as a State Theatre evaluator.
- Fred Urbanski, Brookfield Academy, teacher of Speech and Theatre, new to the state judging staff.
- Karen Knudsen, President of Village Theatre, Inc., Chicago; Actress with Des Plaines Theatre Guild and Playwright Center in Chicago, and Elk Grove Masque Theatre; former teacher and director of high school speech and theatre. This will be her first year as a Theatre Festival judge.

All of these people bring to the State Festival a wealth of experience in directing and evaluating secondary school theatre performances. They also share an enthusiasm for this assignment and look forward to viewing the shows and talking with students and directors.

STATE THEATRE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The State Festival is more than plays being performed. It is a learning experience for every student and director who chooses to take part in the variety of activities being conducted.

This year, three different groups will be presenting workshops and presentations for everyone in attendance.

The Stevens Point Players will be conducting workshops on such topics as *Stage Combat*, *Construction of Portable Scenery*, *Scenery Construction with Styrofoam*, and

Special Effects on Stage. In addition, rehearsals of madrigal singing and an upcoming production of *The Good Doctor* will be a part of the schedule.

Wisconsin Secondary School Theatre Association is also planning workshops to be a part of these two days.

The Guthrie Theatre outreach group will also be in attendance and will be filling out the workshop schedule.

You are invited to attend these two days and to take part in as many of the activities as you wish. There is no charge for any of the workshops or for viewing the plays being presented.

Come and join us at Point!

GUIDELINES FOR THEATRE FESTIVAL EVALUATORS RECOMMENDED

One of the changes effective this year in the old "Drama Contest" was to eliminate the "A", "B", and "C" grade assignments. Rather, at District and Sectional levels, individual performances will be invited or not invited to advance to the next contest level. In order to clarify what qualifies a play to receive an invitation to advance, the Board of Control approved the following instructions to evaluators:

A. There should be a clear and unequivocal affirmative answer to critique items 1 and 2.

1. does the production indicate understanding of the purpose and nature of the particular theatrical work chosen.
2. are acting and production types suitable for this play choice.

B. If in addition to saying YES to critique items 1 and 2, you feel sufficient potential exists in response to critique items 3, 4 and 5 to warrant additional time and preparation, you should "Advance" the play to the next level.

3. are theatrical skills, such as character analysis, believability and consistency as well as voice (including singing) and movement, (including dancing), well executed by the individuals.
4. does the ensemble exhibit group teamwork and interaction.
5. is the total production clearly effective?

C. Please address your written evaluation to all critique items. This will enable the director and cast to understand the reasons for your decision.

THEATRE FESTIVAL TEE SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Following the pattern established in 1978-79, tee shirts will again be sold to commemorate participation in each of the state contests.

This year, the shirts are a polyester/cotton blend, navy blue in color with a light blue emblem. The Theatre Festival shirt features a circular design of letters identifying the event with the masques of comedy and tragedy in the center.

The shirts will be on sale for \$3.00 each at Stevens Point during the festival days. You may also order them from the State Office. Be certain to state the number desired in each size - (Adult, M, L and XL) and include 25 cents additional per shirt to cover postage and handling.

ETN UPDATE

The ETN course *Directing Drama, Debate and Forensics Programs*, has 55 participants representing 22 schools from throughout the state.

Session I, dealing with the new rules and critique items for the Theatre Festival, was held October 16. Session II, slated for November 20 will discuss primarily debate issues, as will Session III on December 12.

Beginning January 9, the spring speech events will be the focus of the sessions which will continue on February 11, March 20 and April 9.

Continuing Education credits [CEU's] are being awarded on the basis of the number of sessions you attend. The cost of \$22.00 per school covers the registration fee for as many people as wish to participate from that school.

Should you still wish to be a part of the remaining sessions, you may do so by sending your registration to:

ETN Registration Office
432 North Lake Street
Room 101
Madison, WI 53706

ENERGY POLICY PASSED

The following energy policy was proposed to the Board of Control at the fall meeting. They accepted its provisions and also asked that Wisconsin Forensic Coaches and Wisconsin Debate Coaches Associations develop similar guidelines for tournament participation.

The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association acknowledges a responsibility to encourage a reduction in the gasoline consumption of persons travelling in connection with WHSFA activities. Accordingly, the Association shall:

1. Promote the joint travel or use of public transportation, wherever possible, of Board members, State Office personnel, and others in travelling to Association functions.
2. Encourage member schools to travel jointly or utilize public transportation, wherever possible, in attending WHSFA functions. Toward that end, preference in honoring special scheduling requests at state-level events shall be extended to schools travelling in such manner.
3. Encourage judges to travel jointly to WHSFA state events by altering the mileage reimbursement rate in the following manner:
 - a. One judge, one car--15¢/mile
 - b. Two judges, one car--20¢/mile
 - c. Three or more judges, one car--25¢/mile

DISTRICT DEBATE BAD WEATHER GUIDELINES ACCEPTED

At the request of debate coaches, a District "bad weather policy" was presented to the Board for their consideration. The following guidelines were accepted.

1. The date for District Debate Tournaments on the WHSFA calendar is a "latest date." Therefore, the "latest date" could become a make-up day if the tournament were scheduled for an earlier date.
2. Should there be threatening weather on the date of the tournament--regardless of whether the date in question

is the latest date or an earlier one--a determination shall be made by the tournament director, no later than three hours prior to the announced starting time, whether or not seven schools or a majority of those scheduled to attend, whichever is greater, shall be able to attend.

3. If fewer than seven schools or a majority of those scheduled to attend, whichever is greater, are able to attend, the District Chair shall postpone the tournament for a time at which the appropriate number of schools could attend. In such an eventuality, it would be permissible to exceed the "latest date" provision by 72 hours.

STATE DEBATE QUALIFICATION CHANGED

Beginning this year, schools with an undefeated half of their District debate team may send those two debaters to the State Tournament even though the other two debaters lost all their debates.

Previously, only a school record of four wins and two losses, or better, would enable a school to advance to the State Tournament. If a school had three wins and three losses, with all the wins coming from the same two debaters, those debaters could not advance to State in spite of their undefeated status. The new regulation is intended to be more equitable and instrumental in program building.

Schools qualifying for State with only two undefeated District debaters must enter the two-speaker, switch-sides division. In the event there should be an uneven number of teams in this division, teams qualifying via the new route will not receive a bye in their schedules.

Entry regulations for schools garnering four wins and two losses, or better, at District remain the same. Schools so qualifying may enter either the four-speaker or may put two teams in the two-speaker, switch-side division.

DEBATE DISTRICTS TO BE DETERMINED

A questionnaire regarding participation in the District Debate Tournament has been mailed to Forensic Directors and Debate coaches in Platteville, La Crosse, Eau Claire, River Falls and Superior Districts.

Under WHSFA structure, there must be at least seven schools participating in a District Debate Tournament. Because some districts do not have seven schools participating in the Debate series, it has been necessary for them to join with other districts in order to compete for possible State Debate qualification.

A problem has occurred in that we do not have a clear indication early enough to enable us to make the best decision regarding which districts will combine and where the tournament should be held.

Prompt return of the questionnaire will allow the State Office to align schools in the best interests of all involved.

You will be notified of your district assignment during December.

SPRING SPEECH WORKSHOPS SET

WHSFA will sponsor four workshops during December and January for students and teachers interested in learning more about the spring speech events.

December 8 - UW Menomonie
Delavan-Darien High School

December 15 - Prentice High School
January 12 - UW-Platteville

Information regarding registration for these dates is in the mail. If you do not receive an invitation, please contact the State Office.

STATE DEBATE REFEREES COMMITTEE CHOSEN

Robert Scott of Delavan-Darien High School, Edsel Vergin, Principal of Mosinee High School, and Ray Behnke, Principal of Cedarburg High School will serve on the debate referee committee at the State Debate Tournament on January 24, 25 and 26 at Stevens Point.