



WHSFA

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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Roxi Wakeen, Baldwin-Woodville High School, wins National honor

An active teacher for 32 years, Roxi Wakeen has expanded many programs at Baldwin-Woodville High School in Baldwin, Wisconsin. During her first few years at the school she taught English, speech and one section of drama, as well as directing the all-school play and coaching the forensic team. Shortly after, she had expanded the dramatic arts program to four sections of theatre.

Wakeen has worked closely with the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHSFA) during her career, serving as an advisory committee member, adjudication trainer and been on the board of control where she was elected vice president in 2008. In addition, she is one of eight judges who have been a part of the WHSFA state theatre festival since 1996.

Working with more than 100 students in a student body of 450, Wakeen has won four awards of excellence during state competitions, including students with special needs into her award-winning performances. Along with her contributions to Baldwin-Woodville High School, she also manages the high school Performing Arts Center and has supervised the schools DJ Club since 1981. Congratulations Roxi!



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Excellence in Speech Awards named

Congratulations to:

Baldwin-Woodville High School – Roxi Wakeen and Angie Schmoker, Coaches
Boscobel High School – Jean Salzgeber, Coach
Burlington High School – Carrie Fidler, Coach
Darlington High School – Carmen Rielly, Coach
Eau Claire Regis High School – Judine Brey, Coach
Edgar High School – Kristine Federwitz, Coach
Green Bay Preble High School – Carol Miller and Carol Gruski, Coaches
Kaukauna High School – Keith VandenHeuvel, Coach
Lodi High School – Sharon Easley, Coach
Lomira High School – Seth Larson, Coach
Luther Preparatory High School, Watertown – Matthew Prost, Coach
Luxemburg-Casco High School – Katie Waege, Coach
Madison West High School – John Rademacher and Sarah Taylor, Coaches
Menomonie High School – Tina Denzer, Coach
Monroe High School – Holly Steger, Coach
New Richmond High School – Jeff Ayer, Coach
Prescott High School – Tanya Sponholz, Coach
St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary – Rev. Gary Wegner, Coach
Waterford Union High School – Amy Koszarek, Coach

Adjudication Workshops

This school year WHSFA sponsored 24 Adjudication Workshops. There were 588 adjudicators certified or re-certified this year raising the total number of certified evaluators to 1,666. If your school is in need of a list of certified adjudicators, please notify Linda in the state office.

In late July or early August of this year, we will be mailing renewal notices and recertification tests to everyone who has certification expiring in August 2009.

If you have changed your name or home mailing address since your original certification, please email the state office by the end of

this school year so that our records will be current and the renewal notice will reach you. Last year many notices were returned to our office as “undeliverable – unable to forward”. Also as we verified certifications for Sub-District, District and State Judges this year, we found many who were certified under a name different from their current name which required many emails back and forth between the State Office and Speech Coaches. It will simplify everyone’s life if you take the responsibility for making sure judge names remain current in our database.

Middle Level

The number of students taking part in Middle Level Festivals has gone up. There were 3,476 students who took part in Level I Festivals and 2,855 advancing to Level II. Congratulations to all the coaches who work so hard to make Middle Level Forensics a success.

State Speech Participation

The number of schools participating at the State Speech Festival has risen to 376. Last year only 358 schools participated at the State Festival. However the number of entries has dropped slightly to 4,506 from the 4,923 in 2006. It is also apparent that we saw an all time high number of “no shows” in 2009. The 261 No Shows we hope is a direct result of many schools completing spring break.

Mini District Speech Festivals

The WHSFA Board of Control reminded District Chairs at the Board of Control meeting in May that they should only be hosting one make-up date for District Speech Festivals. It seems the number of District Speech Festival make-up dates has increased to the point where some Districts were hosting as many as three or four.

The Board reminded coaches that starting next year, if you are unable to make your District Speech Festival, you may be asked to travel to a different District’s Speech Festival. If you want to know your District’s Festival date, please consult the web site. The dates are posted on the web site as soon as they are received in the State Office from your District Chair.

Why we do Forensics!

I received the following email this spring and wanted to share it with coaches to remind everyone why we give up our time to coach.

“My involvement in forensics began when our oldest son was in Grade 6. He has participated in forensics throughout all of his middle and senior high years. He has also been fortunate to make it to state three of his four high school years. I am a strong believer in the benefits of being involved in forensics and am so proud of our son for having participated in the program. One of the reasons I pushed for him to be involved was that he was born with a cleft lip and palate which resulted in his being the target of classmates ridicule. It caused him to be very self conscious and shy; the forensics has not changed all aspects of the situation but it certainly helped him gain confidence in his public speaking. I am so grateful for your efforts and those of all coaches.”

WDCA (Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association) Plans fall workshop for those interested in starting a Debate Team.

The WDCA would like to invite ALL WHSFA member-schools to attend the WDCA's annual coaches meeting on September 12th. Beginning at 9 a.m., the morning portion of the meeting will include a new coaches' workshop for all WDCA/WHSFA coaches looking to learn new coaching skills. The annual Fall Business Meeting will be held during the afternoon. All coaches are welcome to attend one or both parts of the meeting!

All coaches, WDCA and WHSFA, are also invited to the WDCA workshop on September 26th. The day divides focus equally between argument understanding and execution. Debaters will spend their morning attending short seminars taught by some of the

WDCA's most knowledgeable debate minds. The day will conclude with instructionally-focused debates adjudicated by coaches and judges from around the state who will be asked to provide detailed feedback in an effort to refine skills at all levels. As in years past, the Workshop will be an extremely effective way to introduce debaters to the new topic and help experienced competitors expand their understanding of debate.

If you have questions about these or any other WDCA activities, contact Nick Bubba, WDCA president. Contact information, and further details about the above mentioned activities are posted at www.wdca.org.

District Scheduling Program

Jeff Ayer, Nancy Herbison, Matt Wenthe, Sam Jonas, Cathy Tritz, and Abbi Wills have been working with Kent Grainger, software designer, to write a program for scheduling our District Speech Festivals. This past spring, the new system was trialed at four district speech festivals. Although the program was a success, it was felt by the study committee that it needed some further development before it is used state wide.

On May 8, 2009, the group met at Wisconsin Dells and discussed changes that would make the scheduling system more user friendly. It will be trialed again during the 2009-2010 school year.

2009-2010 Calendar

Fall Board of Control Meeting – September 16, 2009
Latest Date for District Theatre – October 24, 2009
Latest Date for Sectional Theatre – November 7, 2009
WHSFA State Theatre Festival – November 20-21, 2009,
at U.W. Whitewater
Latest Date for Middle Level – Level I – February 6, 2010
Latest Date for Middle Level – Level II – February 27, 2010
Latest Date for Sub-District Speech – March 6, 2010
Latest Date for District Speech – March 27, 2010
Easter – April 4, 2010
WHSFA State Speech Festival – April 16-17, 2010
Spring Board of Control Meeting – May 13, 2010





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Forensic Association
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“Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”

