



WHSFA

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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Board of Control Welcomes New Members

On September 15, 2009, WHSFA welcomed three new Board of Control Members. Jeff Ayer is replacing Wade Labecki as District 3 Chair. Jeff is a teacher and coach at New Richmond High School. Jeff has been a long time member of the Speech Advisory Committee. Judine Brey is replacing Carolyn Mann as District 4 Chair. Judine is a teacher and coach at Regis High School in Eau Claire. The final new Board member is Mike Close of Wisconsin Rapids West Jr. High School

replacing Dorothy Berg. If you need to contact any of these new Board of Control members, you will find their contact information on our web site – www.whsfa.org

The WHSFA family would like to thank all the Board Members who left the Board at the end of the 2008-2009 school year for their years of service to WHSFA – Dorothy Berg District 5 Chair; Carolyn Mann, District 4 Chair; and Wade Labecki, District 3 Chair.



Board of Control

Chuck Malone, *Executive Director*
Dr. Charles Grover, *Advisor in Theatre*
Dr. Kay Neal, *Advisor in Debate*
Dr. Gregory Olson, *Advisor in Speech*
Dr. Jill Prushiek, *Middle Level Advisor*
Steve High, *District 1 Chair*
Nancy Herbison, *District 2 Chair*
Jeff Ayer, *District 3 Chair*
Judine Brey, *District 4 Chair*
Mike Close, *District 5 Chair*
Pam Belden, *District 6 Chair*
Matt Wenthe, *District 7 Chair*
Charles Krupa, *District 8 Chair*
Rev. Gary Wegner, *District 9 Chair*
Samuel Jonas, *District 10 Chair*
Nancy Domanski, *District 11 Chair*
Sue Luterbach, *District 12/13 Chair*
Michael Seyller, *District 14 Chair*
Roxi Wakeen, *Sect I (1,3,4) Chair*
Gayle Gander, *Sect II (2,5,6) Chair*
Rick Braun, *Sect III (7,8,10) Chair*
Laura Maly, *Sect IV (9,12/13) Chair*
Chris Andacht, *Sect V (11,14) Chair*

Computers to be Trialed in Extemporaneous Prep Room in 2010

The Board of Control at their September 15, 2009 meeting decided to follow the national trend and allow students to use their own lap tops in the Extemp Prep Rooms. The following guidelines have been set up for this trial

Extemporaneous Speaking Rules for Computer Use in Preparation Room

1. There is no use of power plugs in the Extemp Prep Room allowed at all, at any time. The only power for a computer inside the Prep Room is to be from batteries.
2. No connectivity from students' computers of any kind is allowed inside the Extemp Prep Room. For example: no internet, no IM'ing, no outside servers, no cell phone tethers, etc.
3. Students cannot use a computer to prepare speeches. They can use the computers to search and read, but cannot write speech or organize thoughts on computers.
4. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches on the computer prepared prior to their draw time.
5. Any student using a computer must be prepared to show prep room or festival staff what they are accessing at any time. Any student not providing festival staff with the information they request may be disqualified.
6. Students should be aware that they are subject to extensive monitoring of their computer use.
7. Students cannot access audio, video, or other multi-media files during preparation time.
8. Students cannot use their computers from the time they leave the Extemp Prep Room until they have completed their speech. Students may take their computers with them to their assigned speaking room, or to lunch, but cannot use the computers outside the Prep Room until after their speech is completed. Any student using the computer in the hallways or classrooms prior to their speech may be disqualified.
9. WHSFA may put stickers and/or tape on computers to ensure they are not used, or to ensure appropriate owners take their own machines.
10. WHSFA does not assume any liability for computers. Students, parents and coaches should be aware that the students are bringing and using the computers at their own risk. The WHSFA is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken computers.

Ethel Heise New Coach Award

One coach will be selected each year and will be presented with a plaque by the Executive Director of WHSFA at a local school board meeting.

DEFINITION OF A NEW COACH

A "new" coach is defined as someone who has completed one to five years of coaching.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

A forensic coach who is doing exceptional work as exemplified by:

1. Number of students involved in forensic program as juxtaposed with the size of the school.
2. The quality of the student performances at the WHSFA State Speech Festival as indicated by the number of students receiving gold, silver and bronze.

WHO CAN NOMINATE

1. Fellow coaches
2. Current and/or former students
3. Parents of current and/or former students

4. Administrators and/or Supervisors
5. WHSFA District and Sectional Chairs

CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING

1. Three Letters of Recommendation: one letter must be from a current and/or former student or a parent of a current/former student. The other two letters can be from fellow coaches, administrators, supervisors, colleagues, WHSFA District Chair or WHSFA Sectional Chair.
2. An Essay: "Why Do I Coach?" The essay would be in a 12 font, with 1" top and bottom margin, 1.25 left and right margins and not exceed two (2) pages.

APPLICATION SENT TO:

Chuck Malone, Executive Director
Wisconsin High School Forensic Association
P.O. Box 176
Waukesha, WI 53187-0176

DEADLINE: March 31, 2010

Speech Changes for 2009-2010

MOMENTS IN HISTORY:

The Decade of the 1980's.

SPECIAL OCCASION:

1. Eulogy: A Eulogy for a pet. (WFCA will simply say "Eulogy")
2. Public Statement: Present a public statement for a family crisis. May include but not limited to: a victim of a natural disaster, crime victim, illness, loss of home, etc. (Same for both organizations.)
3. Trial: An original summation of an actual or fictitious trial. (Same for both organizations.)
4. Tribute: A tribute to a teacher. (WFCA will simply say "Tribute")

STORYTELLING:

1. Arabian Nights Story
2. Childhood Story
3. Animal Story
4. A Story about Teamwork

PUBLIC ADDRESS:

1. Same-Sex Marriage: To what extent, if any, should state and federal government recognize same sex marriage and/or civil unions?
2. Vegetarian/Vegan Diet: What are the benefits, if any, to a vegetarian and/or vegan diet?
3. Obama Presidency: To what extent, if any, has the first year of the Obama Presidency been a success or failure?
4. Social Networking: To what extent, if any, will social networking shape the future?
5. Drinking: What, if anything, should be done to discourage the drinking culture in Wisconsin?

In addition to the topic changes, the Board of Control has decided that all speech ballots under Criteria for Evaluation contain the following statement: "Researched material must be verbally attributed to a source(s)."

During the 2010-2011 school year Special Occasion will become a six (6) minute category.



Speech

New Speech Handbook due out this fall. . .

The Speech Advisory has been working on a new handbook. Our registered Speech Coaches will receive one this fall. Any one who would like an additional copy can request one from the WHSFA State Office. The cost of each additional handbook is \$5.

The handbook is also available on the web site.

Theatre

2009 Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival

The 2009 Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival will be at U.W. Whitewater – November 19-21, 2009, so make your plans now.

2009 Showcase Performances Announced

Beloit Memorial High School will present Dark of the Moon on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. On Friday, there will be two performances of *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Jefferson High School at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Middle Level news . . .

PLAYACTING AND READERS THEATRE SOURCES

New coaches or coaches who have been working for a number of years find themselves looking for new material for playacting and readers theatre. The Middle Level Advisory might be a place to turn when searching for new ideas of sources. At the meeting this summer the Middle Level Advisory agreed to serve as a resource for coaches. You can find their email addresses on the web site – www.whsfa.org Why not send them an email soon?

NEW CATEGORIES WANTED FOR MIDDLE LEVEL

Middle Level Advisory is looking for ideas for new categories. The Advisory threw around the idea of perhaps adding a new group category that would involve a “news team” approach. The students would be issued a packet of information containing articles on sports, weather, local and international news and an advertisement. The students would be allowed a half an hour of prep time to put a newscast together dividing up the announcing.

What are your ideas about new categories that would appeal to the middle level student? Send your ideas to Dr. Jill Prushiek at her email address: prushijt@uwec.edu before the summer of 2010.

EXCELLENCE IN MIDDLE LEVEL COACHING AWARD

WHSFA would like to recognize those coaches who have given 10 and 20 years of time to coaching Middle Level Forensics. During this school year, we will be sending out certificates of appreciation to coaches who have been helping students grow through their involvement in Middle Level Forensics for 10 or 20 years. Please let the state office know the names of those coaches.

Tackling the Teaser for Prose and Poetry Reading

By Shauna Wessely, Milton High School Forensics Coach

“My eccentric forensics coach sweeps about the room, humming loudly, while checking my teammates’ progress. I glance from the corner of my eye at my play-acting partner, and sense that she is just as nervous to see Coach approaching as I am. If only we’d listened to her when she told us we needed more practice...”

Of course, the aforementioned scene captured through the eyes of a student is a little too familiar. Even as a coach, it seems that the forensics season just has this way of creeping up on me before I’m ready to help students choose pieces, practice, or compete at their first tournament. And while it is inevitable that this season too will most likely catch me before I’m one hundred percent ready for it, I did not write the previous paragraph to launch into a discussion about my procrastination.

Instead, I wrote the first paragraph to serve as an example of what is often referred to as a “teaser.” A teaser is like a narrative hook in writing, in that it is used to grab the attention of the audience. It introduces just a taste of what is to come and then leaves you hanging, wanting more. However, instead of being embedded within a speech or text, a student uses a teaser by performing a small excerpt, usually no more than one minute in length, of an interpretive selection (ie. prose, poetry, etc.) before delivering their introduction. The introduction is then delivered, and the performer continues with their presentation.

Many competitors enjoy implementing the teaser into performances, as it allows them to be in-character from the moment they



set foot in front of the audience. Certainly, competitors still understand the value of the introduction, and the opportunity it provides to recognize the author of the chosen selection. However, delivery tends to be more natural when students use teasers. Furthermore, the tone established for the audience tends to be more exciting when using

a teaser. Audience members tend to feel more connected to the performer because there is a degree of mystery in using a teaser, as it leaves the audience wanting to know how the excerpt will pertain to the remainder of the selection.

Finally, the reason I address the use of the teaser is that it is currently an integral part of performing interpretive events on the collegiate forensics circuit, and I am now seeing this trend entering the high school circuit as well. I feel that to most Wisconsin high school forensics competitors, their coaches and judges, the teaser is relatively unexplored territory at this time. However, given a few years, I believe it is a trend that will truly take hold. Thus, I encourage coaches to inform students and judges about teasers so that everyone can feel just that little bit more ready for the season at hand.



Wisconsin High School
Forensic Association
P.O. Box 176
Waukesha, WI
53187-0176

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

One Act Directors. . .

October 1, 2009 is the registration deadline for entering the One Act Theatre Festival. All one act plays must be registered with your District Chair or will not be considered for competition. The registration form can be found on the web site – www.whsfa.org under the Theatre Tab.

Adjudicator Certification Renewals

In early August we mailed renewal notices and recertification tests to everyone who has certification expiring August of 2009.

If you have changed your name or home mailing address since your original certification, please email the state office as soon as possible. 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 past 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.

