## Autumn Leaves are Falling
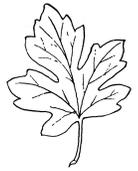
As leaves change color, a few changes are afoot at the WHSFA. With the hiring of new Executive Director Adam Jacobi, we have moved the state office to Ripon. The attached magnet includes new contact information, which also can be found on our website: **www.whsfa.org**.  On the site, you can find a calendar of events for each of our activities, printable Five-Year Calendar, contact information for our regional District and Section Chairs, as well as downloadable forms and links to useful web resources. Throughout this newsletter, you'll find QR codes (works with smart phones and webcams) and links to key webpages. Also, please consider *liking* **our Facebook page**, and telling your students too, as well! Finally, watch your email for future newsletters with updates and news about our activities.

## Bulletins for 2014-15

| Theatre | Debate | Speech |
|---|---|---|
| A **30-second grace period** has been added to the 40-minute, bare stage to bare stage time limit. This is "buffer time" to allow for errors and audience reaction. The State Theatre Festival will be **November 20-22** at Viterbo University in La Crosse. Showcase Productions include Kenosha Bradford HS's musical, *Hello! My Baby,* and Appleton North's play, *Journey to the West.* | Resources have been added to the website, so more schools can try Public Forum, a simpler, 30-minute long debate format. Schools interested in holding a debate contest should contact the state office for resources. The State Debate event will be Saturday, **December 13**, at Ripon College. Schools are encouraged to register entries or bring students to observe and learn. | 2014-15 Topics: whsfa.org/categorytopics

On January 20, schools may request timeslots for State Speech, online. Remember, **April 17-18** falls on an ACT Test weekend.

**Recruit adjudicators *now*,** and have them attend workshops: |

whsfa.org/statetheatre          whsfa.org/statedebate          whsfa.org/workshops

## New Speech Coach Guide

Abbi Wills-Phillips, of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln HS and District 5 Chair, has released a draft version of this guide for coaches to review and contribute to. Email suggestions for future editions to: office@whsfa.org. Download: whsfa.org/speechforms.

## Request State Theatre Timeslot

This year, *schools advancing to sectionals* must complete a form online to rank timeslot choices for State Theatre, noting any special needs. The form opens **8am, Monday, October 27,** and closes **5pm, Thursday, October 30**. The week of Nov. 10, schools advancing to State will be notified of the time and stage to which they have been assigned.  Online form: whsfa.org/theatreslot

# New Middle Level Evaluation Sheets Official

The new *Middle Level Handbook* with revised evaluation sheets is available at whsfa.org/middleforms. These are the official forms sent to all Middle Level festivals for this school year. Remember, Reader's Theatre and Play Acting time limits are 12 minutes.

# Middle Level Festivals

Please contact office@whsfa.org if you are interested in hosting a Middle Level festival this year. Middle Level speech sows the seeds for sustained participation in our high school programs, and empowers our youth at an even younger age!

# Pilot High School Speech Evaluation Sheets

The Speech Advisory Committee has done yeoman's work on revising wording of rules and evaluation sheets to make them clearer, and to facilitate better adjudication. The Board of Control voted to implement these with the 2015-16 school year and will continue piloting them this year, and seeking feedback. Contact your District Chair or the state office for more details.

# State Speech Reminders

Remember if you plan to enter *more than four* groups between Group Interpretation and Play Acting, you **must** book a **Saturday** timeslot for State Speech. Also, remember judging requirements: you must provide <u>one</u> judge for 1-8 entries, <u>two</u> judges for 9-19 entries, and <u>three</u> judges for 20+ entries.

# Meet Your State Office Staff

## Adam Jacobi, *Executive Director*

Adam most recently coordinated coach education and programming for the National Speech & Debate Association (formerly National Forensic League), also serving as Middle School National Tournament Director, and National Congressional Debate Coordinator. He spent the fall 2013 semester teaching debate and public speaking in Changzhou, China, and has been an adjunct instructor in communication at Ripon College. Previously, he taught International Baccalaureate Theatre, as well as courses in acting and public speaking, at Milwaukee Rufus King HS, where he coached the forensics and debate programs since 1997. Adam has been webmaster for the WHSFA since 2001, and an adjudication workshop leader since 2002. His students participated in both festivals and tournaments, and even in competition, his coaching philosophy expected students to consider their own growth through the activity as their top priority. Adam also has served on the boards of directors for Milwaukee Shakespeare Company, Wisconsin Communication Association, and Ripon Rotary Club.

## Samantha Goodwin, *Program Assistant*

Samantha hails from Milwaukee and is a recent graduate of Ripon College with a major in communication. She participated in forensics from sixth grade through college, in both speech and interpretive events, and has returned to Ripon to work for the WHSFA and as an assistant coach for the Ripon College forensics team. Many of her favorite memories from her career as a student involve forensics teammates and trips. She is a passionate advocate for education and training in public speaking and is excited to be able to do just that in her new roles.

# Elected Leadership Changes

Matt Wenthe, District 7 Chair and Board Chair, recently stepped down to assume additional administrative responsibilities in the Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District. Kam-Lin Roswall, coach at Holmen HS, is new District 7 Chair, and Jennifer Rauscher, Ph.D., principal at Plymouth HS, is new District 9 Chair. The Board of Control elected Lancaster HS coach Samuel Jonas as Board Chair.