



Newsletter

Information Literacy Workshop

UW-La Crosse, Oct. 4, 2017

Highlights: Rules Changes | Proposals | Film Festival | Special Interest Stories | Fundraising

Professional Development Wrap-Up

Forensic coaches, teachers, and university students have been taking advantage of a variety of professional development opportunities this fall, including the **National Speech & Debate Association's** inaugural Education Conference in August, the **Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education (AWTE)** conference in September, the **WHSFA/UWL/WHC Information Literacy Workshop** and **Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE)** conference in October.

A recurring theme among the various conferences centered on issues of diversity and expression in a time challenged by a lack of tolerance and acceptance of difference.

Participating in professional development helps connect educators to resources, best practices, new trends, and networking with professional learning communities.

This fall, WHSFA teamed up with UW-La Crosse and the Wisconsin Humanities Council (WHC) to offer a workshop centered on information literacy. The WHC provided grant funds, which, among other things, helped fund substitute teacher stipends to offset costs of attending educators. Sessions were focused on application to both classroom activities and interscholastic contests. We hope to replicate this concept in other parts of the state in the future. Individuals interested in hosting such a workshop should contact Executive Director Adam Jacobi.

We also encourage advisors to attend the other conferences when they can. Read more about WCTE on p. 5 of this newsletter. WHSFA will continue pulling together resources and video of workshops to share with our educators on our website. See infoliteracy.whsfa.org for an example.



"The primary goal of learning in the 21st century is dealing with how to create value in an environment of constant change."

- **Stephan Turnipseed**, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for Pitsco Education; Member, Strategic Council, Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21). *Featured speaker at the National Speech & Debate Association Education Conference, 2017 in Denver, CO.*

One-Act Plays and Script Quality

When evaluating one-act plays, adjudicators often remark – directly or indirectly – about quality of the material. By and large, the most successful productions are cut from full-length plays and musicals. Conversely, a number of publishing companies produce brief scenes for classroom performance or contest-length plays that lack depth in character and plot development. While adjudicators are not supposed to take this into account, they are supposed to assess *how* a given script is realized on stage. Many adjudicators have remarked they feel their hands are tied when



a script has such little potential, they are not able to point that out.

The Theatre Advisory Committee is considering script selection as part of evaluation criteria by adjudicators, since choice of play is part of the director's artistic process. As a starting point, the committee drew from the forensic Speech definition of "quality material" as "that which gives insight into human values, motivations, relationships, problems and understandings and is not characterized by sentimentality, violence for its own sake, unmotivated endings or stereotyped characterizations."

State Theatre Showcases

Thursday, 8pm

Noises Off

Presented by Waukesha West

Friday, 4pm & 8pm

Peter and the Starcatcher

Presented by Middleton

We are surveying one-act directors to determine whether we should add this to our evaluation criteria. Additionally, a new essay in the *Theatre Handbook* suggests best practices of script selection.

Thespian Individual Events (IE) Contest Expands

As part of WHSFA's partnership with the Wisconsin Thespians, the State Theatre Festival this year will include the following **Individual Events** (IEs):

- ★ Acting - Monologues
- ★ Acting - Duo
- ★ Acting - Group
- ★ Musical Theatre - Solo
- ★ Musical Theatre - Duet
- ★ Musical Theatre - Group



Every student/group who participates in IEs performs their piece(s) and receives immediate oral from two adjudicators who come from the professional theatre world. Written feedback will be available for pickup after IE events, Saturday. More information and rubrics for each event are available on the [Wisconsin Thespians website](http://WisconsinThespians.org), wisconsinthespians.org.

Registration: Students will need to know which IE they are signing up for, the name(s) of piece(s), name(s) of partner/group (if applicable), as well as provide contact info and teacher's contact info. ANY high school theatre student may participate in IEs at the state level, but students must be inducted Thespians to qualify for the \$250 scholarship and to advance to nationals.

Scheduling: Performance time slots will be scheduled once the state WHSTF conference schedule is set, so one act performance times can be accommodated (meaning students may be in a one act and participate IEs). IEs will be offered on both Friday & Saturday from 9:45-11:15am, 11:30-1pm, and 1:15-2:45pm, for a total of six sessions.

Fee: The \$15 charge per registrant will be collected at state, with checks payable to Wisconsin Thespians. Cash is also acceptable. If an invoice is required in advance, please email withespians@gmail.com.





Speech Rules Changes

1. **Farrago** allows (optionally) for transitionless programs of interwoven material. *This will allow students to splice passages from various selections together, much like the national and collegiate category, Program of Oral Interpretation (POI). Last fall's newsletter had a thorough description.*
2. **Group Interpretive Reading** rules clarify the prohibition of dramatic literature: play for theatre, screen, or radio.
3. **Impromptu Speech** has been added as a permanent category, with hypothetical questions added as a type of prompt.
4. **Moments in History Speech** allows for choosing one of two topics, or speaking on both.
5. **Play Acting** rules require material from one work of drama (play for theatre, screen, or radio).
6. Radio Speaking has been renamed to **Radio News Reporting** to accurately reflect the category and reference News Reporting at the middle level; added a table to show point deductions for time.
7. **Storytelling** rules clarify that contestants should use language and imagery appropriate to the story and intended audience - as named in the introduction.
8. Students in the following speaking categories - **Four Minute, Moments in History, Oratory, and Public Address** - are encouraged to provide a *list of works cited* to furnish to adjudicators or a contest referee committee when requested. See *Speech Handbook*, p. 7, rule 11.a.iii.
9. For **interpretive and acting categories**, rules were clarified to **require coaches to have a copy of source material**, and not (just) contestants [this allows a referee committee to more thoroughly investigate possible rules violations and potential disqualifications]. This rule extends to Poetry Reading and Prose Reading. See p. 7, rule 11.a.ii.
10. Standards for the Excellence in Speech Award have been included in this handbook. Also clarified prohibition against other awards at subdistrict/district festivals. See *Speech Handbook*, p. 7, rule 10.

Impromptu Debut

Contest hosts should provide envelope of prompts for each section (room) with two more prompts than the number of students in that room. All students remain in the room all round; each draws three questions, select one, and returns the other two to the envelope. The State Office provides prompts. See whsfa.org/impromptu.

Speech Topics

These are available online at Speech > Categories & Topics. Please note: there was a typo in Public Address topic 3 when originally released. The topic is **food deserts**, NOT a discussion of sweets!

State Speech Rounds

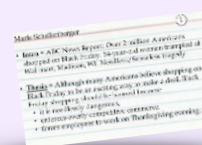
Coaches may **book a time slot** for the State Speech Festival beginning **Wednesday, January 17** at **11 a.m.**

Cooperation Valued

Leadership of the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association (WFCA) has been amenable to bridging the gap between the two organizations to better serve Wisconsin students. This summer, we had our first joint rules proposal in recent history, and both organizations are doing a better job of waiting for the other to take up proposals before taking action. To help clarify differences between WHSFA rules and other organizations, we have posted a document on our website, at Speech > Categories & Topics.

4"x6" Note Card

Why does WHSFA allow for one (1) 4"x6" note card in speech categories? The intention is to limit students to **bullet points**, rather than writing speeches out, word-for-word. This prepares them better for real world speaking engagements. Coaches should discourage students in speech categories from reciting from manuscripts.



Coming to a Cinema Near You

While motion pictures have captivated our imagination since they started, technology has evolved in the past decade to empower more and more people to make their own movies. Many other states have added a high school film festival to their roster of interscholastic contests, so WHSFA felt this would complement our other activities quite nicely. Like our other high school activities, we envision having two levels of qualification, but online for Film. The State-level festival could include hands-on workshops and exciting screenings of work by both students and professionals. Educators interested in serving on our **Film Festival Steering Committee** should contact Executive Director Adam Jacobi. The committee will draft rules and contest structure for proposal to the Board of Control, with implementation as soon as 2018-19!



"Make me a match..."

By Julie Nelson

It would be a stretch to say forensics is the next Match.com, but it would be fair to say that one happily married couple found their life partners through drama.

Judy Wicklund (who may or may not have seen *Fiddler on the Roof* one too many times) is the matchmaker in our story.

Judy was the drama coach at Luck High School and Amanda was her student teacher. Judy and Amanda began working on the set for one of their plays when Judy either recognized they desperately needed help, or saw a plea for help would be a good excuse to get her younger brother, Karl, involved. Whichever version of the story you choose to believe, Karl answered the call to help and quickly hit it off with Amanda, just as Judy had predicted.

Now Judy and Karl are both teaching and coaching forensics at Luck, while Amanda is teaching and coaching at Osceola. All three say there are a lot of advantages to being part of a forensics family. "We'll judge for each other and can tap into other coaches and judges from each other's schools," says Judy. "We share materials and share

ideas." Even the students become part of the extended family. "Our busses meet at Culver's at the same time on the way to the district and state tournaments, so our kids get to know each other," says Amanda.



Amanda, Judy, and Karl Wicklund

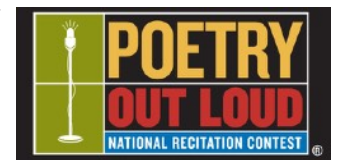
Together, the three of them tell stories about students who got sick or couldn't participate in the state tournament at the last minute, so they had kids from one of the other Wicklund's teams learn the material on the bus on the way to Madison.

Being a forensics family has clearly brought a lot of love and laughter to Wicklund's homes. Though there is the time Judy got kicked out of a mall due to forensics... but that's another story.

Learning Opportunities & Contests

NHD Moments in History Speech complements the **National History Day** (NHD) contest quite nicely. The 2017 theme is "Conflict & Compromise," which could apply to a topic within either of this year's time periods. For more information, including finding regional contests, visit goo.gl/xJgDKv. The Wisconsin state NHD contest is April 21 at UW-Madison, the same weekend as WHSFA's State Speech Festival.

Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. Poetry Out Loud starts at the classroom level; winners advance to a schoolwide contest, then regional, then State, and ultimately to National finals. The Wisconsin registration deadline for participation is Nov. 22, 2017. See goo.gl/eaEvxj for more information.



Middle Level News 'n Notes



By Ann Yehle, Ph.D., Middle Level Advisor

Aligning middle level extracurricular opportunities to the needs of our young adolescents has been a long-standing mantra of the Association of Middle Level Education (amle.org).

In their seminal position paper, *This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents*, the Association for Middle Level Education reminds us that for our middle schools and their students to be successful, we need to consider their developmental needs and interests, and ensure curriculum, instruction, extracurricular or exploratory activities, etc. are aligned to these needs and interests.

With that, forensics is one example of an extracurricular or exploratory activity that addresses both development needs and interests of middle level learners. More specifically, middle level learners are working towards a sense of purpose. They explore who they are as humans and values that will guide them into the future. Further, issues of fairness and social justice often pique their interest. With forensics, middle level

learners can start to clarify values that are of import to them as they encounter and confront others' values. This allows them to practice respecting others' dissenting opinions.



As stated in *This We Believe...*, middle school is a finding place. A place for young adolescents to embrace their natural curiosity, adven-

Hosting a Middle Level Festival?

Complete the **Host Information Form** on the *Middle Level Contests webpage*.

turous spirit, and engage in activities that will broaden their understanding of the world and themselves. This can be done via forensics.

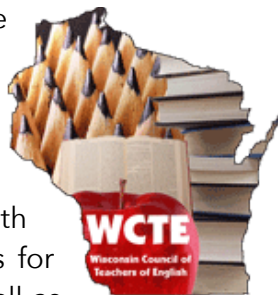
Benefits to participation in forensics are numerous and include affording middle level learners the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills, hone their organizational skills, persuade others, and practice their oral communication skills. In addition to these benefits, the inherent nature of forensics aligns to the developmental needs and interests of the middle level learner.

For additional resources on middle level forensics, browse the resources available on the Middle Level tab at whsfa.org.

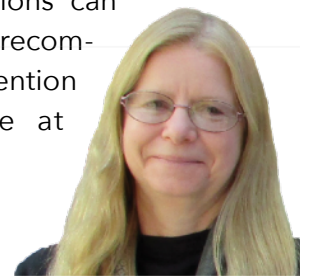
WCTE Conference Engages English Educators

National award-winning middle level educator Sandra Kowalczyk headlined the 57th annual convention of the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE).

The convention was replete with practical and engaging workshops for application to the classroom, as well as extra-curricular realms. Joining WHSFA in regard to the latter were Wisconsin Academic Decathlon and Poetry Out Loud. Several forensic



Speech coaches from across the state are involved in leadership of WCTE, and we're excited to build a closer partnership to promote the resources each of our respective organizations can offer educators. We highly recommend attending their convention next October! Learn more at wcteonline.org.



Featuring Sandra Kowalczyk, Wisconsin Teacher

Fundraiser Teaches Kids to Debate

Tired of selling candy bars, cookie dough or gift cards? The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) and John Templeton Foundation have teamed up to **grant funds to your school** when **high school and middle level** students participate in their Big Questions Debate program. The 2017-18 topic is: **Resolved, Humans are fundamentally different from other animals.**

Schools who hold Big Questions debates are eligible to receive thousands of dollars per event. These debates can be held at a tournament, with your team, or in your classroom. **Expose Speech/Theatre students to debate in a non-threatening way! This is a great way for you to "test the waters" with debate in your school!**

Grades 6-12 (Middle + High)



2017-18 Topic

Resolved: Humans are fundamentally different from other animals.

All you need is for at least **15 students** to debate **3 rounds**. These debates can be held during a class period, added to another contest, or even done internally as part of a club. Each side can be represented by one or two debaters: rounds can be 1 vs. 1, 2 vs. 2, or 1 vs. 2.

How to earn money:

First 15 students = \$500 award (**15 students minimum required**)
Additional participants = \$25/each

Get started:

1. Apply at NSDABigQuestions.org to host your event. Apply early; grant funds are first come, first served.
2. Promote, hold your event, and complete a brief form after your event to learn how much money you've earned.
3. Explore resources at <https://goo.gl/uLf7wb>

Debate Round Format (similar to Public Forum Debate)

Affirmative Constructive - 5 minutes

Negative Constructive - 5 minutes

Question Segment - 3 minutes (aff. asks first question; free-flow after)

Affirmative Rebuttal - 4 minutes

Negative Rebuttal - 4 minutes

Question Segment - 3 minutes (same format as above)

Affirmative Consolidation - 3 minutes

Negative Consolidation - 3 minutes

Affirmative Rationale - 3 minutes

Negative Rationale - 3 minutes

Prep Time - 3 minutes / side





State Office
Collins CPA Building, La Crosse

Welcome, Julie Nelson!

A number of changes have been part of the WHSFA office move to La Crosse, including the need for a new staff person. Enter Julie Nelson as the Association’s new administrative assistant.

Most recently, Julie has been working in public relations for a variety of local non-profits and has gotten an insight to the daily demands on teachers as a substitute teaching assistant in the public school district.



Julie began her career in television news, serving as an anchor and reporter for KEYC-TV in Mankato, MN and for WKBT-TV in La Crosse. No

surprise here- Julie participated in forensics in high school, earning an A at State in Public Address. She is excited to be playing a role in making forensics available to students. “Almost everyone at some point in their lives will need to speak in public, whether they run for office, give a toast at a wedding or pitch an idea for the next great thing to their boss. Forensics is a great way for kids to gain experience - and

confidence - speaking in front of people.”

We are pleased to welcome Julie to WHSFA.

New Office:

**3815 Mormon Coulee Rd.,
Ste. 104
La Crosse, WI 54601-5088**

State Debate



Any interested school can register entries to participate in the State Debate contest, Saturday, December 9 at UW-Oshkosh. Teachers interested in learning more about debate should visit the **Learn to Debate** page on our website, which includes video demonstration debates. Our state contest could be a nice way to reward students in your school for great performance in in-class debates.


Speech Adjudicator Training & Workshops

WHSFA requires all high school Speech adjudicators to be certified, by enrolling in a 2-hour online course, followed by attending a 3-hour in-person workshop, where adjudicators will get hands-on practice with evaluating presentations. Certifications are good for 3 years, at which time, an adjudicator enrolls in a 30-

minute refresher course and evaluates a video performance online as their assessment. See the Speech > Judge Training page on the website for more details. Our training program also is a great way for new(er) coaches to access professional development and coaching tips.

National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA): This forensic honorary society, founded in Wisconsin as the "National Forensic League," has a number of resources and professional development initiatives to offer. To learn more, visit speechanddebate.org.



Consider attending their [Education Conference](#) next July 



SAVE THE DATE!

2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 28 – 31, 2018

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
POINTE HILTON TAPATIO CLIFFS RESORT

Try New Activities at State Speech



Photo Booth Concept

WHSFA's state-level festivals are culminating, signature events for each of our activities. State Theatre involves full showcase productions and workshops with professionals, as well as a vending fair with

college recruiters. State Debate includes a showcase final round, where all participating students watching the round may cast a ballot for which team upheld their side better. Unfortunately, State Speech is more of a transient experience for students, where they arrive on campus, perform, and leave. We'd like the kids to linger a bit more, interact with their peers from across the state, and forge even more meaningful memories from the experience. This year, we will try adding a few new features, and really hope coaches will try to spend a little more time on campus with their students. This could entail arriving a bit earlier, or staying a bit later. Watch for further details in an upcoming newsletter.

Insurance/NFHS Membership



The National Federation of State High School Associations offers professional membership to theatre directors, speech/debate coaches, and/or adjudicators, which covers \$1 million in general liability insurance coverage, as well as \$50,000 in accident insurance while participating in and traveling to/from interscholastic contests. The \$20 individual membership also includes publications and other online resources. Some school administrators and/or activity/athletic directors will cover this from their budget. More information: goo.gl/9DjiDA

State Theatre T-Shirts

With this smashing design inspired by a Tony Award-winning Broadway sensation, YOU WILL BE FOUND by fellow fans of the musical! Directors are encouraged to **pre-order merchandise** at store.whsfa.org/ to pick up in person at the contest, or pay to have items shipped.

New this year: stickers!

