1929

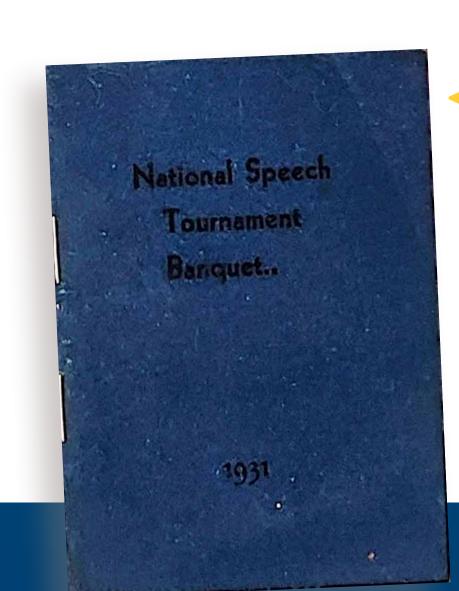
TRYING TIMES

Following the Great
Depression in 1929, the NFL
faced financial uncertainty.
School budgets, teacher
salaries, and transportation
funds were cut. Bruno E.
Jacob kept the organization
afloat by donating part of
his salary as a professor at
Ripon College.



Bruno E. Jacob (front) at work, date unknown

▲ First national debate champions, Miami High School, Oklahoma



✓ Tournament Book, 1931

A collection of

vintage insignia

1930-1931

YEAR OF FIRSTS

Despite the economic turmoil, the NFL held the first national high school debate championship at Ripon College in May, 1931. A total of 49 schools from 17 states competed in Oratorical Declamation (now Original Oratory), Extemporaneous Speaking, and Debate (now Policy Debate). Miami High School in Oklahoma, coached by Mrs. W. S. O'Bannon, took home the first NFL championship title. CBS Radio broadcasted the national championship.

Scan to learn how the National
Tournament has evolved and
expanded over the years





INSIGNIA INTRODUCED

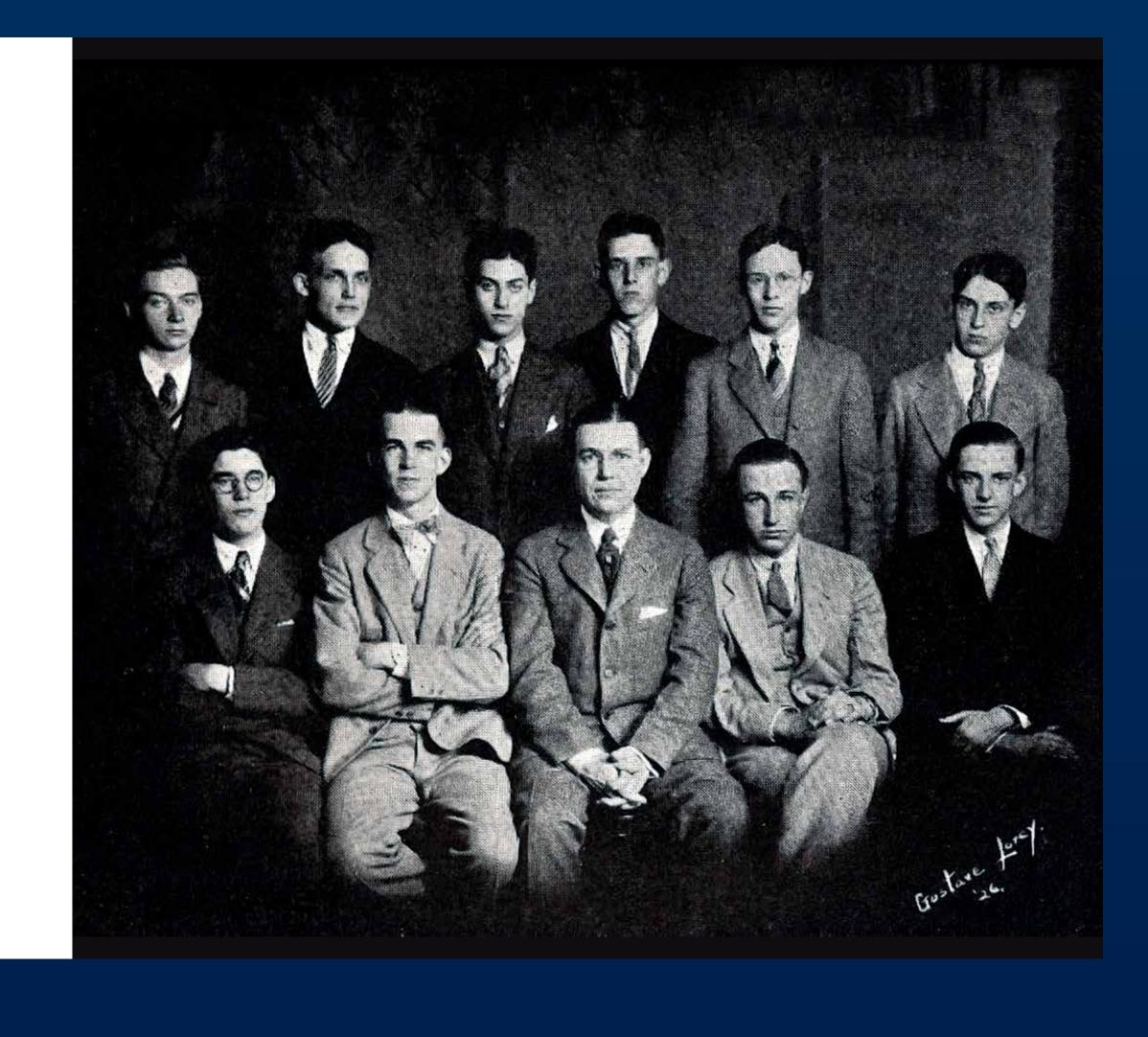
Distinguished Service Awards were authorized. The NFL created insignia to honor students and coaches for their dedication to speech and debate. Jeweled pins were designed to designate degrees and gold insignia were established for coaches.

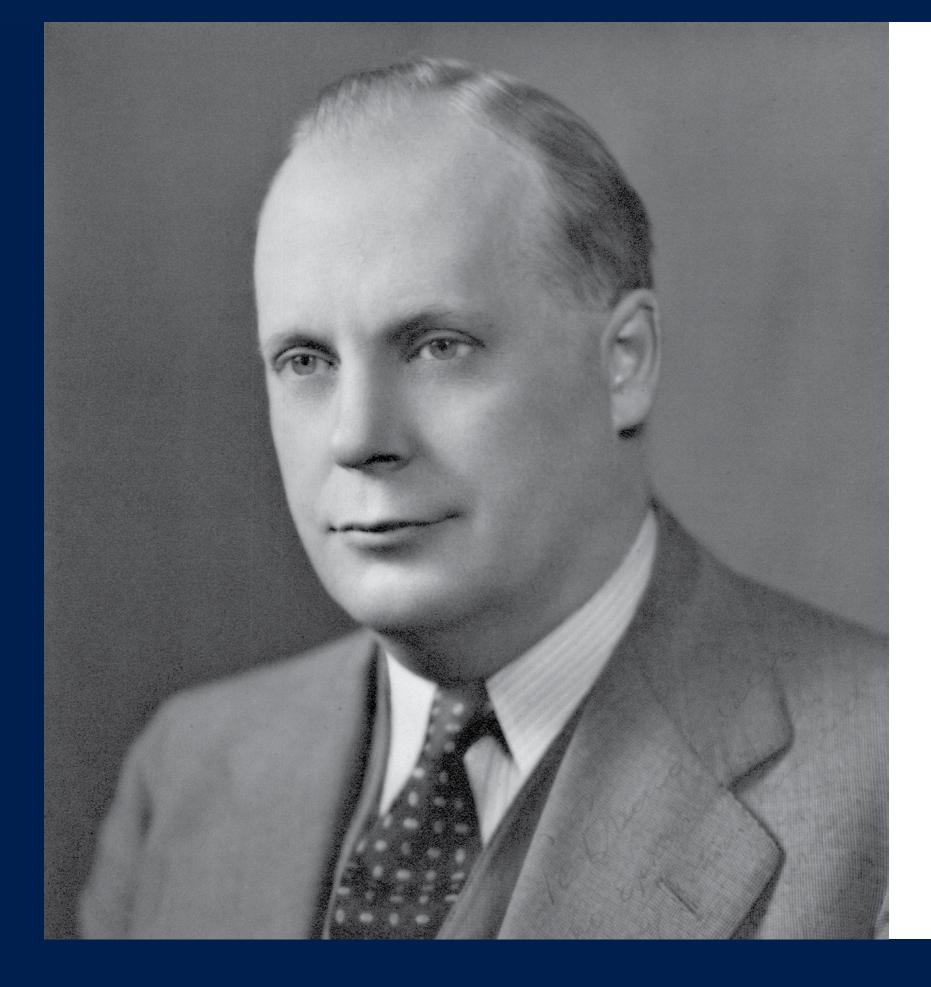


CONTINUED GROWTH

The NFL continued to grow to 400 chapters across the country. The organization began hosting district tournaments for the first time.

Chapter No. 1, Albany, New York





1932-1933

A NEW PRESIDENT

Karl E. Mundt from South Dakota, a fundamental leader in establishing the National Forensic League, was elected NFL Board President.

Karl E. Mundt, South Dakota

(left to right) John F. Schmidt, Bruno E. Jacob, Karl E. Mundt, J. C. Bond, R. F. Gehner, Sioux City, 1932

1934

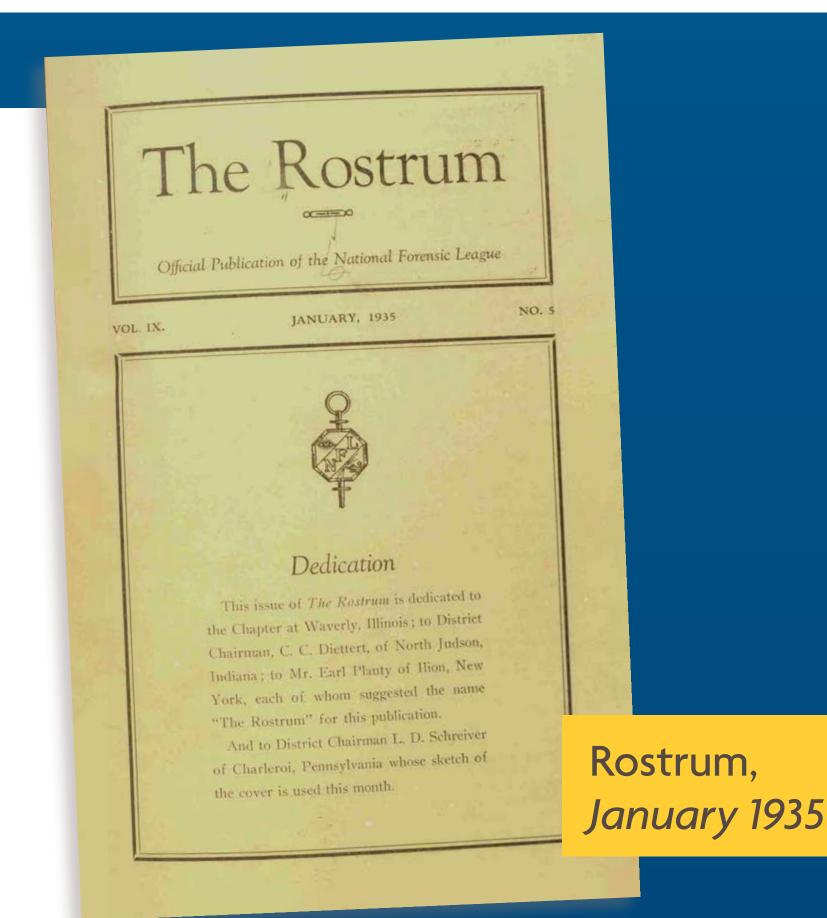
GROWTH PLAN
ESTABLISHED

At its first meeting, the Board of Directors proposed 10 constitutional amendments to support membership growth and the rising number of tournaments.

1935

ROSTRUM MAGAZINE

Rostrum magazine officially replaced the original monthly publication called the Bulletin. For 90 years, Rostrum has remained the official publication of the National Speech & Debate Association. Every school year, the magazine provides the speech and debate community with news, scholarly articles, and national updates. It is distributed to all member schools throughout the year.



Scan to access the Rostrum archive dating back to 1926



Published by the lournalism Students of Peekskill High School P. H. S. WELCOMES HOME ITS NATIONAL SPEECH CHAMPION VICTOR TELIS OF EXPERIENCES IN SPECH CONTEST Interview with Caleb Peterson For Robert and Competition Tired and worn from a long trip back from Collaboration, city, Colled Peterson, the local colled and the local colled to be interviewed. "Please command in where he was developed on the interviewed. "Please command where he was developed on the interviewed. "Please command in the Barrior shiften as a same of the schoolmans, was mention at large and the schoolmans, was ment by the interviewed. "Please command in the Barrior shiften as a same of the schoolmans, was mention at large and the schoolmans, was mention as a large and the schoolmans, was mention as a large and the schoolmans, was mention and the schoolmans, was mention as a large and the schoolmans, was mentioned by a characterial and the schoolmans, was mentioned by a characterial and the schoolmans, was mentioned as a large and the schoolmans, was mentioned as a large and the schoolmans, was mentioned as a large and the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoolmans and the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoolmans and the schoolmans, was mentioned by a schoolmans and the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoolmans and the school and the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoolmans, was mentioned by the schoo

1935-1936

INTEGRATED TOURNAMENTS

Years before the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision marked the legal end of segregation in schools, a Black student from Peekskill High School in New York won a national title at the National Speech & Debate Tournament. Caleb Peterson won Dramatic Declamation after successfully challenging a decision to segregate him from white competitors during competition.



TELEPHONE LAYOUT?

It pays to have a "check-up" on your car.

It pays, too, for business men to have their telephone layout

You may be losing business provided business a result.

Why not let us send a send a send a send to have their telephone layout

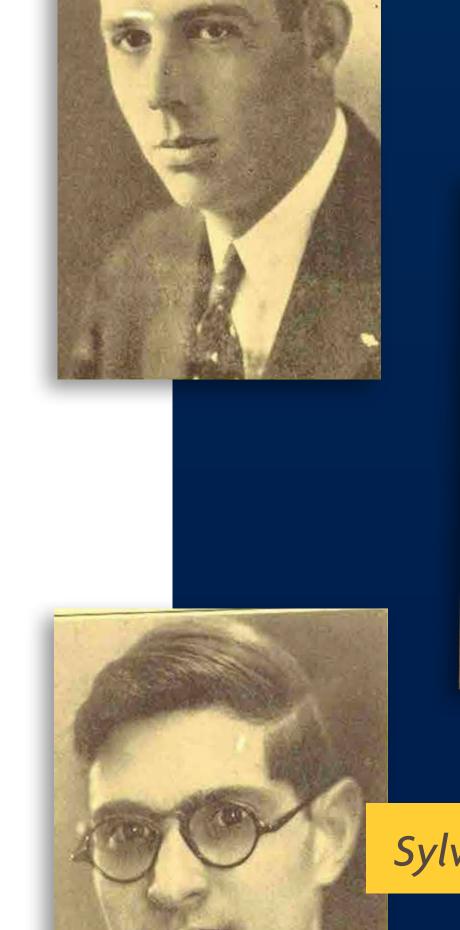
There is a beclittely no cost.

935-1936

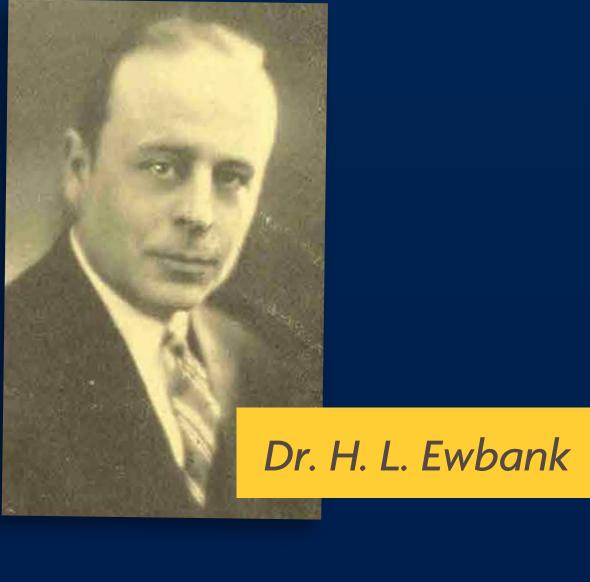
HONORARY MEMBERS

The NFL inducted the first class of national honorary members in 1936. Four community members—Ted Beaird, Dr. H. L. Ewbank, Sylvester Toussaint, and Dean Ralph Dennis—received honorary degrees for their support and advancement of speech and debate. They each received a gold key at the sixth National Tournament in Oklahoma City.

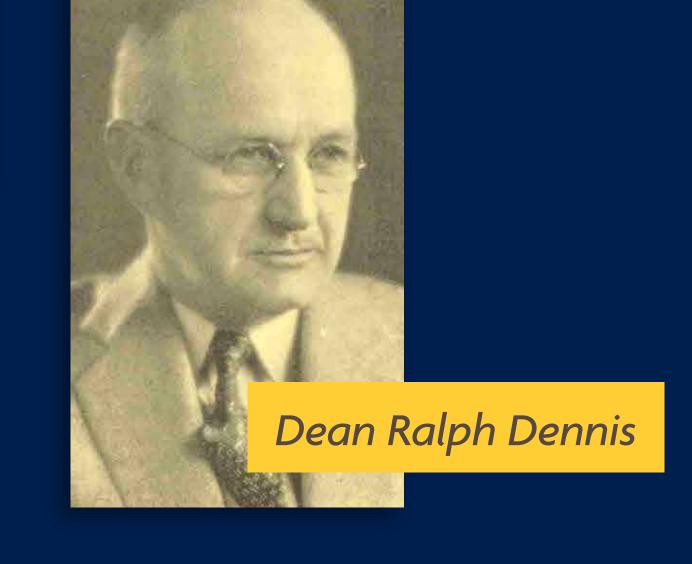
The Board set a new limit of 500 charter chapters. A waiting list of schools was established.



Ted Beaird



Sylvester Toussaint



NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION

WYEARS 100 YEARS

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION