

## A NEW THREE-ACT PLAY

### Miss Minerva and William Green Hill

Dramatized by  
PAULINE PHELPS

A comedy in 3 acts. A dramatization of Frances Boyd Calhoun's beloved book. William and his little friends are a number of years older than when we first met them, and a humorous, yet gripping, plot has also been added, but the familiar incidents, the sprightly dialogue, and the charm of our old friends, Billy, Sarah Jane, Miss Minerva and the Major has been kept intact. 5 m. 6 f. 1 interior. It is very probable that no new play will receive such whole-hearted welcome as will this play. Schools that have so ardently hoped that there would be a dramatization made of this book with its interesting characters and delightful humor will be more than satisfied with this dramatization. From the time that William Green Hill comes to live with his spinster aunt, Miss Minerva, to the fall of the curtain, there is humor enough to satisfy any audience. The characters are: William Green Hill; Jimmy Garner, a boy of his own age; the neighbor girls, Frances and Lina; Miss Minerva and the Major (her lifelong admirer); Cecelia Case, the prettiest young woman in the town, and Maurice Richmond, her former sweetheart, and Bert Ravenal, her present one; Mrs. Garner, Jimmie's mother; and Sarah Jane, a fat negress, who furnishes more than her share of the comedy. Royalty, \$10.00. 75c

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### Wetmore Declamation Bureau

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# The Rostrum



Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOL. XIV

NOVEMBER, 1939

NO. 3

Think all you speak; but  
speak not all you think:

Thoughts are your own;  
your words are so no  
more.

—DELAUNE.





## THE ROSTRUM

Official Publication of the National Forensic League

KARL MUNDT, *President and Editor*

*Associate Editors*—Mrs. Elaine Tucker, Classen H.S., Oklahoma City;  
W. Francis English, Carrollton, Mo.; Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville, Wis.

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## Annual Membership Report Is Revealing

The annual report on the membership attainments of the Chapters this year is different. Instead of showing the total enrollments of a chapter since its founding, it lists only the number added last year.

The first part of the report is distinctly gratifying. It shows that a considerable number of chapters last year qualified thirty, forty, fifty and even more members and degrees. Think of the speech training that must have been imparted to those students to reach such an attainment. Not merely routine instruction, but real training was necessary to make them more effective and so earn the credit points for their degrees. Their lives and the communities in which they live will be better for this accomplishment. There is no question about it, these schools gained thrice full value for their NFL membership.

That last part of the report offers a sad contrast. It discloses not only a great disparity in the membership attainments of nominally active chapters, but also a surprisingly long list of chapters with attainments so low that the term 'active' might be questioned.

What is the cause of such a poor showing? It might be curtailment of the speech activity program to a few contests a year; concentration of all speech opportunities in a few students or simply failure to obtain the memberships and degrees for which the students qualified. In the latter case it means that such school used the services of the League, the prestige of holding an NFL charter, and the privilege of participation in NFL tournaments, but did almost nothing to maintain the organization affording these advantages. It enjoyed the perquisites and left the responsibilities to others; rode in the boat but let the really active chapters pull on the oars.

What is expected? That all chapters should equal the best? Of course, not. Simply the elimination of the great disparity now existent so that all chapters will show a substantial program of speech activity with participation extended to a reasonable number of students and membership and degrees obtained for all who qualify for them. Then no chapter need feel ashamed of its place in the 1940 report.

## The Annual Report

Total Number of Members and Degrees Enrolled by Chapters Last Year

### THE HONOR ROLL

#### The Upper 10%

Classen HS., Okla. ....	83
Brownsville, Pa. ....	63
Omaha-Benson, Neb. ....	58
Wooster, Ohio ....	48
Dallas-Sunset, Tex. ....	48
Point Marion, Pa. ....	47
Rock Springs, Wyo. ....	45
Hollywood, Calif. ....	44
Enid, Okla. ....	41
Masillon, Ohio ....	41
Sheboygan-Cen., Wis. ....	37
Shelby, Ohio ....	37
Sheboygan-No., Wis. ....	37
Dallas-North, Texas ....	36
Dayton-Oakwood, Ohio ....	35
Modesto, Calif. ....	35
Bentleyville, Pa. ....	35
Freeport, Ill. ....	34
Aberdeen, S. D. ....	33
Guthrie, Okla. ....	33
Lewiston, Idaho ....	33
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. ....	32
Bakersfield, Calif. ....	32
Joplin, Mo. ....	32
Ponca City, Okla. ....	31
Hornell, N. Y. ....	30
Kenosha, Wis. ....	30
Caldwell, Idaho ....	30
Topeka, Kans. ....	29
Houston, Tex. ....	29
Milwaukee-Wash., Wis. ....	27
Wichita Falls, Tex. ....	27
Niles, Ohio ....	25
Canton, Ohio ....	25
Youngstown-Chaney, O. ....	25
Arlington, N. Y. ....	25
Miami, Okla. ....	25
Longmont, Colo. ....	25
Passaic, N. J. ....	23
Ft. Collins, Colo. ....	23
Virginia, Minn. ....	23
No. Little Rock, Ark. ....	23
Denver-Cathedral, Colo. ....	23

West Bend, Wis. ....	23
Kimball, Neb. ....	23
Lexington, Ky. ....	23
Prestonsburg, Ky. ....	23

### Commendable Mention

#### The Next 20%

Chippewa Falls, Wis. ....	22
Casper, Wyo. ....	22
Memphis-Tech., Tenn. ....	22
Joinerville, Texas ....	22
Newburgh, N. Y. ....	22
Eustis, Fla. ....	22
Winnetka, Ill. ....	21
Youngstown-East, O. ....	21
LaPorte, Ind. ....	21
Elgin, Ill. ....	21
Derry, Pa. ....	21
Charleston T. C., Ill. ....	21
Davenport, Iowa ....	21
Atlanta, Texas ....	21
Peru, Ind. ....	21
Kansas City, Kans. ....	20
Marysville, Ohio ....	20
Painesville, Ohio ....	20
Ft. Wayne-No., Ind. ....	19
Wadsworth, Ohio ....	19
Mt. Sterling, Ky. ....	19
Columbia City, Ind. ....	19
Minneapolis-West, Minn. ....	19
Abilene, Tex. ....	19
Dickson, Tenn. ....	19
Chickasha, Okla. ....	19
San Marcos, Texas ....	19
Muscatine, Iowa ....	18
Maine Township, Ill. ....	18
Kent-State, Ohio ....	18
West Allis, Wis. ....	18
Port Clinton, Ohio ....	18
Orlando, Fla. ....	18
Jennings, Mo. ....	18
Cicero, Ill. ....	17
Grossmont, Calif. ....	17
Eau Claire, Wis. ....	17
Winchester, Ky. ....	17



Memphis-Messick, Tenn. ....	17	Paris, Ky. ....	13
San Bernardino, Calif. ....	17	<b>The Median Group</b>	
Terre Haute, Ind. ....	17	Monessen, Pa. ....	12
Wellington, Kans. ....	17	Mpls.-Roosevelt, Minn. ....	12
Youngstown, Rayen, O. ....	17	Fremont, Ohio ....	12
Dalmatia, Pa. ....	17	Omaha-North, Neb. ....	12
Watertown, S. D. ....	16	Sioux City-East, Iowa ....	12
Laconia, N. H. ....	16	Pine Bluff, Ark. ....	12
Catasauqua, Pa. ....	16	Warren, Ohio ....	12
Ft. Wayne-Cent., Ind. ....	16	Omaha-Tech, Neb. ....	12
Bluefield, W. Va. ....	16	Syracuse-Central, N. Y. ....	12
Jacksonville, Ill. ....	16	Hammond-Clark, Ind. ....	12
Independence, Mo. ....	16	Liberty, Mo. ....	12
Chisholm, Minn. ....	16	University City, Mo. ....	12
Two Rivers, Wis. ....	16	South St. Paul, Minn. ....	12
Fall River, Mass. ....	16	Harvey, Ill. ....	12
Lubbock, Tex. ....	16	Highland, N. Y. ....	12
St. John, Wash. ....	16	Corsicana, Tex. ....	12
East Chicago, Ind. ....	16	Lewistown, Pa. ....	12
Slatington, Pa. ....	15	Canisteo, N. Y. ....	12
Salina, Kans. ....	15	Windsor, Vt. ....	12
Aurora-West, Ill. ....	15	Malverne, N. Y. ....	12
Peekskill, N. Y. ....	15	Hanover, Pa. ....	12
East Palestine, O. ....	15	Wichita-East, Kans. ....	11
Lead, S. D. ....	15	Pekin, Ill. ....	11
East Cleveland, O. ....	15	Elkader, Iowa ....	11
Waukesha, Wis. ....	15	Waynesburg, Pa. ....	11
Logansport, Ind. ....	15	Paducah, Ky. ....	11
Shepherdsville, Ky. ....	15	Oldham, S. D. ....	11
Minneapolis-Marshall, Minn. ....	15	Bozeman, Mont. ....	11
Hawarden, Iowa ....	14	Charleroi, Pa. ....	11
California, Pa. ....	14	Sandwich, Ill. ....	11
Sioux Falls, S. D. ....	14	LaGrange, Ill. ....	11
Kingsport, Tenn. ....	14	St. Vincent's, Pa. ....	11
Waterloo-West, Iowa ....	14	Hammond H.S., Ind. ....	11
Mt. Pleasant, Pa. ....	14	Mansfield, Ill. ....	11
Lexington, Mo. ....	14	Superior, Wis. ....	11
Greensburg, Ohio ....	14	Struthers, Ohio ....	11
Fort Smith, Ark. ....	14	Denison, Tex. ....	11
Corbin, Ky. ....	14	Jonesboro, Ark. ....	11
Cloquet, Minn. ....	14	Bristow, Okla. ....	11
Mayville, Wis. ....	13	Knox, Ind. ....	11
Pittsburg, Kans. ....	13	Bessemer, Mich. ....	11
Newton, Iowa ....	13	Columbus, Wis. ....	10
Oconomowoc, Wis. ....	13	Eveleth, Minn. ....	10
Emerson, Neb. ....	13	Foxcroft Acad. Me. ....	10
Lincoln, Ill. ....	13	Hinsdale, Ill. ....	10
Dupo, Ill. ....	13	Bath, Ohio ....	10
Cheyenne, Wyo. ....	13	Marshall, Mo. ....	10
Trenton, N. J. ....	13		

Fresno, Calif. ....	10	New Ulm, Minn. ....	8
Lewistown, Mont. ....	10	Anacortes, Wash. ....	8
Excelsior Springs, Mo. ....	10	Wayland, Ohio ....	8
Lincoln Acad., Me. ....	10	Great Falls, Mont. ....	8
Okla. City-Central ....	10	Glassport, Pa. ....	8
Beverly Hills, Calif. ....	10	Johnson City, Tenn. ....	8
Donelson, Tenn. ....	10	Boulder, Colo. ....	8
Spokane, Wash. ....	10	Ada-Senior, Okla. ....	8
Lyons, Neb. ....	10	Nashville-Litton, Tenn. ....	8
Paris, Tenn. ....	10	Dodge City, Kans. ....	8
Youngstown-Scienceville, O. ....	10	Murdo, S. D. ....	8
Asheville, N. C. ....	10	Auburn, Neb. ....	8
Webster Groves, Mo. ....	9	Henryetta, Okla. ....	8
Shreveport-Byrd, La. ....	9	West View, Pa. ....	8
Menasha, Wis. ....	9	Columbus-North, O. ....	8
San Diego, Calif. ....	9	Buhl, Minn. ....	8
Ossining, N. Y. ....	9	Cheney, Wash. ....	8
Gregory, S. D. ....	9	Breckenridge, Texas ....	8
Sedalia, Mo. ....	9	Webb City, Mo. ....	8
East Pike Run, Pa. ....	9	Port Washington, Wis. ....	8
Glasgow, Mo. ....	9	Munhall, Pa. ....	8
Lock Haven, Pa. ....	9	Biddeford, Me. ....	8
Milwaukee-St. John's ....	9	Huron, S. D. ....	7
Littleton, Colo. ....	9	Shawano, Wis. ....	7
Masontown, Pa. ....	9	Minnehaha, Minn. ....	7
Independence, Ky. ....	9	Hutchinson, Kas. ....	7
Memphis-Humes, Tenn. ....	9	Nampa, Idaho ....	7
Hopkins Acad., Mass. ....	9	Princeton, Ill. ....	7
Brentwood, Mo. ....	9	Omaha-Central, Neb. ....	7
Nashville-Cen., Tenn. ....	9	Perry, Iowa ....	7
Monmouth, Ill. ....	9	Deer River, Minn. ....	7
Dwight School, N. Y. ....	9	Pasadena, Calif. ....	7
Erwin, Tenn. ....	9	Shawnee, Okla. ....	7
Lima-South, Ohio ....	9	Holdrege, Neb. ....	7
San Francisco, Calif. ....	9	Charlton, Mass. ....	7
DeLand, Fla. ....	9	Pinckneyville, Ill. ....	7
<b>Sub-Normal Enrollments</b>		Rockville Center, N. Y. ....	7
<b>The Next 20%</b>		North Platte, Neb. ....	7
Mendota, Ill. ....	8	Casey, Ill. ....	7
Mankato, Minn. ....	8	Ashland, Ohio ....	6
Lebanon, Ind. ....	8	Norwich, N. Y. ....	6
Ravenna, Ohio ....	8	Horicon, Wis. ....	6
Adrian, Mich. ....	8	Centerville, Pa. ....	6
Ripon, Calif. ....	8	Paw Paw, Mich. ....	6
Sulphur, Okla. ....	8	Kankakee, Ill. ....	6
Salisbury, Mo. ....	8	Rome, N. Y. ....	6
Kewanee, Ill. ....	8	Springfield, Mo. ....	6
Portland, Me. ....	8	Muskogee, Okla. ....	6
Brownwood, Tex. ....	8	Carmichaels, Pa. ....	6
		Ft. Scott, Kans. ....	6



Wyoming, Ohio .....	6	Freeport-Aquin, Ill. ....	4
Coleraine, Minn. ....	6	Leighton, Pa. ....	4
El Centro, Calif. ....	6	Bunker Hill, Ill. ....	4
Ferguson, Mo. ....	6	Worthington, Minn. ....	4
Woonsocket, S. D. ....	6	Clyde, Ohio ....	4
Murfreesboro, Tenn. ....	6	Joliet, Ill. ....	4
Kilgore, Tex. ....	6	Los Gatos, Calif. ....	4
Geddes, S. D. ....	5	Pueblo-Centennial, Colo. ....	4
Granite City, Ill. ....	5	Canton, Kans. ....	4
Fayette, Mo. ....	5	Okla. City-Capitol Hill ....	4
Bluffton, Ohio ....	5	Dyersburg, Tenn. ....	4
Stillwater, Minn. ....	5	Mineola, N. Y. ....	4
El Reno, Okla. ....	5	Concord, Mass. ....	4
Jamestown, N. Y. ....	5	Escanaba, Mich. ....	4
Gloversville, N. Y. ....	5	Phoenix, Ariz. ....	3
Oskaloosa, Iowa ....	5	New Philadelphia, O. ....	3
Nesquehoning, Pa. ....	5	Maryville, Mo. ....	3
Manitowoc, Wis. ....	5	Vivian, S. D. ....	3
Olney, Ill. ....	5	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. ....	3
Carrollton, Mo. ....	5	Oakley, Kans. ....	3
Norfolk, Neb. ....	5	Maplewood, Mo. ....	3
So. Whitehall, Pa. ....	5	Uniontown, Pa. ....	3
Ambridge, Pa. ....	5	Williamsburg, Mass. ....	3
Syracuse-Voc., N. Y. ....	5	No., Kansas City, Mo. ....	3
Plymouth, Wis. ....	5	Ellensburg, Wash. ....	3
Kadoka, S. D. ....	5	Smithville, Mo. ....	3
St. Louis, Mo. ....	5	Dundee, Ill. ....	3
Sisseton, S. D. ....	5	Auburn, Me. ....	3
Bristol, Va. ....	5	Hyannis, Mass. ....	3
Douglas, Wyo. ....	5	Morton, Ill. ....	2
Groton, Mass. ....	5	Troy, Ohio ....	2
Warren, Mass. ....	5	Kingston, N. H. ....	2
Kearny, N. J. ....	5	North Judson, Ind. ....	2
Red Wing, Minn. ....	5	River Rouge, Mich. ....	2
Augusta, Me. ....	5	Buhl, Idaho ....	2
Webster, S. D. ....	5	Muskegon Hgts., Mich. ....	2
South Portland, Me. ....	5	Bellevue, Ky. ....	2
Austin, Tex. ....	5	Bloomington, Ind. ....	2
Emmett, Idaho ....	5	St. Clairsville, O. ....	2
Northampton, Mass. ....	5	Baxter Sem., Tenn. ....	2
<b>Moribund—The Next 20%</b>		Plattsburg, Mo. ....	2
Sterling, Colo. ....	4	Ft. Wayne-Elmhurst, Ind. ....	2
Freehold, N. J. ....	4	Morris, Ill. ....	2
Butte, Mont. ....	4	Ronceverte, W. Va. ....	2
Washington, Ohio ....	4	Memphis-Central, Tenn. ....	2
Aitkin, Minn. ....	4	Jonesboro, Tenn. ....	2
Stoughton, Wis. ....	4	Logan, Utah ....	2
Grand Rapids, Minn. ....	4	Bristol, Tenn. ....	2
Columbia, Mo. ....	4	Albany, N. Y. ....	1
		Burlington, Iowa ....	1

Oconto Falls, Wis. ....	1
Presho, S. D. ....	1
Fairfield, Iowa ....	1
Mauch Chunk, Pa. ....	1
Chicago Eve. Y, Ill. ....	1
Macon, Ill. ....	1
Troy, N. Y. ....	1
West Newton, Pa. ....	1
Peoria, Ill. ....	1
Hermann, Mo. ....	1
Frankfort, Ky. ....	1
Liberty, N. Y. ....	1
Winner, S. D. ....	1
Freeport, N. Y. ....	1
Hobart, Okla. ....	1
Alexandria, La. ....	1
Walsenburg, Colo. ....	1

**Inactive—The Lowest 10%**

Aurora-East, Ill. ....
Eagle Grove, Iowa
Ilion, New York
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
Estherville, Iowa
Madison, S. D.
Ceres, Calif.
East Orange, N. J.
Belle Fourche, S. D.
Plymouth, Mich.
Denver-Manual, Colo.
Ames, Iowa
Gillette, Wyo.
Chicago Day YMCA, Ill.
Gladstone, Mich.
Fort Morgan, Colo.
Clark, S. D.
Blair, Neb.
Dearborn, Mich.
Tomah, Wis.
Marietta, Ohio
Wayne, Neb.
Faulkton, S. D.
Doland, S. D.
Highmore, S. D.
Cherokee, Iowa
Schenectady, N. Y.
Alcester, S. D.
Clarksburg, W. Va.
Evansville, Ind.
Hot Springs, Ark.
Luverne, Minn.

Rapid City, S. D.
Columbus, Ind.
Youngstown-South, O.
Euclid-Shore, Ohio
Altus, Okla.
Dwight, Ill.
Santa Rosa, Calif.
State College, Pa.
Newark, Ohio
Primghar, Iowa
Valley City, N. D.
Amarillo, Tex.
Macomb, Ill.
Dillon, Mont.
Ft. Worth, Tex.
Henning, Ill.
Seminole, Okla.
Lennox, S. D.
New London, Tex.
Crown Point, Ind.
Moscow, Ida.
Sidney, Neb.
Holly Springs, Miss.
Carbondale, Ill.
Hingham, Mass.
Ranger, Tex.
Oshkosh, Neb.

**New Chapters Not Organized**

Colfax, Wash.
Ashland, Ky.
Huntington Park, Calif.
Nashville-West, Tenn.
Pueblo-Central, Colo.
Rumford, Me.
Los Angeles H.S., Calif.

**Members for 10 Years**

D. C. Reutter, Mar. 12, 1929,
Huron, S. D.
Mrs. Ferne D. Gaunt, March
30, 1929, at Ames, Iowa, now at
Hinsdale, Ill.
Ruth D. Torpey, May 23, 1929,
student at El Reno, Okla., now in-
structor at El Reno.
Ruth McClung, Sept. 30, 1929,
at Calvert, Tex., now at Atlanta,
Tex.
William A. Black, Nov. 5,
1929, at Uniontown, Kans.



## Who's Who in NFL

Victim of infantile paralysis while in rural school . . . highest scholarship in history of North Judson High School. Rector scholarship at De Pauw univer-



**National Director  
C. C. DIETTERT**

sity, . . . B.A. in 1922 . . . Phi Beta Kappa . . . M.A. in 1923 . . . Theological Seminary . . . School of Education, U. of Mich. . . social science instructor and director of speech at North Judson in the fall of 1923 . . . principal in 1925 . . . such is the history of C. C. Diettert, National Director from North Judson High School, Ind.

With no technical training in speech he has always been interested in practical public speaking and stresses naturalness in delivery. His interest in speech is an avocation and a hobby. He feels that "over-coaching" is detrimental to the development of good speech habits. "All sound develop-

ment must come from within and cannot be superimposed from without."

In 1934 both he and the North Judson Chapter received the Distinguished Service Award. In 1939 at Beverly Hills he was awarded his second distinguished service award in the form of a plaque. He was instrumental in organizing several state speech contests in Indiana and has contributed articles on educational subjects to such magazines as *Elementary School Journal*, *The Nation's Schools*, *High School Teacher*, *The Indiana Teacher*, and *School Activities*. He is active in community activities, principals' organizations, etc., and at present is vice president of the North Judson Chamber of Commerce. He is in demand at local clubs as an acceptable speaker on current topics, and frequently serves as toastmaster of ceremonies at various community functions.

Organizer of NFL Chapter No. 157 . . . Indiana Chairman for 8 years . . . National Director for two terms . . . coach of contestant winning State Discussion Contest in 1934 . . . contestants in three national contests . . . one of whom reached semi-finals in dramatic declamation at Beverly Hills . . . represents a school with an enrollment of 170 students. (Good things come in small packages!)

### New Chapters

The Charter Committee granted charters to four schools during September:

Lowell, Massachusetts  
Springfield, Vermont  
Clearwater, Florida  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

## VIRGINIA ZUERN

A varsity debater as a freshman, Virginia Zuern of Mayville, Wis., has participated in eleven



N. F. L. District debates and has won ten. Last year, as closing speaker of the affirmative, she was picked as the outstanding debater in three tournaments and was a member of the only undefeated team in the Wis. N.F.L. Tournament.

As a sophomore she won third place in extemporaneous speaking in the Wisconsin district tournament and entered the nationals at Wooster. Last year she placed second in the N.F.L. and tied for first in the state tournament.

She has served as secretary, president and vice president of the local NFL chapter and represented it in the first Wisconsin Student Congress as a Senator. She has amassed a total of 456 NFL credit points.

She has sung in the Operetta for three years, and the popular orchestra for two. She is scribe for the Girl Scouts, secretary treasurer for the German club, charter member of the Girls' Athletic association, member of the cast of the first all-school play, and was picked for the prom and homecoming committees because she really does work!

She is seventeen years of age; has brown eyes and hair, freckles, a devastating smile—and at times frowns; in spite of her distaste for academic classroom procedure she is one of the leaders of her class in scholarship.

## ROBERT M. LOEFFLER

Robert M. Loeffler, senior from Bristow, Okla., has "majored" in debate in his high school days. At



least he has compiled a record which should stand for quite a while, even in Oklahoma. The crowning effort of a very successful season last year was, of course, second place in the national tournament.

Previous to that, he and his colleagues had placed first in the Phillips University tournament at Enid, Okla. (65 entries); first at the Coffeerville Junior College tournament (96 entries); first at the Central State Teachers College tournament (54 entries); and first in the Oklahoma State tournament.

He says, "I was born July 21, 1923. The first accomplishment which I can recall was when, while in the first and second grades, I gained renown as the only person in the Bristow School system who could both stutter and lisp at the same time. . . . My interest in debate was first aroused when my brother, David, was debating . . . during that year (sophomore) I gained additional experience by debating my brother upon certain opinions, for each of us contended that each of us had the better colleague

As an extemporaneous speaker he won first place in both the Shawnee and District NFL tournaments last year. This year he hopes to better last year's record in both debate and extemporaneous at the nationals!



## The Financial Statement

An unpleasant fact—a substantial deficit—is the most significant item in the 1939 financial report. Expenditures last year exceeded income by \$700 whereas in the previous year there was a net surplus of \$500. What is the reason?

Several factors contributed to this result. The item largest in amount is a decrease in membership fees amounting to nearly \$900. Raising the membership requirements from 15 points to 20 of course kept a number of students from membership and has delayed membership for others, but this hardly explains a 22% drop. The report on membership enrollments published elsewhere in this issue illuminates an equal if not greater cause.

Another significant item is the loss in degree fees. Receipts for the Degree of Honor dropped \$230, due, of course, to raising the requirements from 20 to 50 points. Removing the fee altogether for the degrees of Excellence and Distinction resulted in loss in revenue of \$270. While these changes were sound policy, the financial effect obviously requires the loss to be made up in some other way.

Expenditures on the whole remained fairly constant, some greater, some less than a year ago. In the aggregate they are \$300 more. Expenditures for clerical help, Rostrum publication, free keys, and participation in the Summer Speech Conclave represent significant increases. Travel costs and printing were both significantly less.

The national tournament again came close to paying out even. In spite of larger income there is still

a nominal deficit of \$40. Payments for judging represent the largest expenditure increase.

Sale of NFL keys netted a gross profit of \$165 or 17c each to cover mailing and handling costs.

The average amount paid by each chapter for its NFL membership last year was \$9.03 as compared with \$11.67 a year ago.

The deficit is not pleasant. It can not occur again without serious consequences. Only the fact that we had a surplus a year ago enabled us to absorb the loss without curtailment of activities. For this year two facts are certain: either income must be returned to normal or services of the League must be trimmed to fit the reduced income.

Looking at it another way the problem is so simple that it seems almost laughable. If in the past year each chapter had enrolled just **one** more member than it did, there would have been no deficit. If it had enrolled just **two** more degrees of honor we would have had a comfortable surplus as we did in 1938.

Let that be your clue to the solution of the present problem. See to it that every qualified student in your chapter actually procures the membership and degrees he has earned. If you do, our financial statement next year will again show a happy surplus and services to the chapters can be continued without curtailment but rather increased in their scope.

### NFL

The 10,000th Degree of Honor in the NFL was granted to Violet Jenkins, Guthrie, Okla.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1939

Receipts	
Charter Fees (135) .....	\$ 675.00
Membership Fees (2,054) .....	3,081.00
Degree Fees (1329) .....	664.50
Annual Dues .....	79.00
Reinstatement Fees .....	17.00
Non-member Fees .....	381.00
Gross on Keys .....	165.90
Vouchers not presented .....	80.25
Rostrum advertising .....	385.63
Total receipts .....	\$5,529.18
Disbursements	
Secretary's Salary .....	\$1,500.00
Clerical Help .....	867.03
Printing .....	552.99
Postage .....	603.85
Travel .....	282.91
Rostrum .....	859.52
Debate Material .....	556.64
Charters, Certificates .....	220.92
Free Keys .....	208.00
Depreciation .....	253.37
Summer Conclave .....	75.00
Bad Check .....	12.00
Tournament Deficit .....	39.44
Miscellaneous .....	208.21
Total disbursements .....	\$6,239.88
Deficit for the year .....	710.70
Previous surplus .....	1,769.48
Present surplus .....	1,058.78

### National Tournament Account

Receipts			
Registration fees .....	\$2,487.50	Judges .....	451.00
Beverly Hills Guarantee .....	1,000.00	Officials .....	607.00
		Trophies .....	560.43
	\$3,487.50	Badges .....	160.05
Tournament deficit .....	39.44	Printing .....	222.54
		Clerical .....	149.50
	\$3,526.94	Miscellaneous .....	59.42
Disbursements			
Rebates to coaches .....	\$1,317.00		\$3,526.94

### Trust Income Account

Receipts		Disbursements	
Previous balance .....	\$ 49.63	Dues for 46 Chapters .....	\$ 46.00
Interest earned .....	105.00	Remitted to Chapters .....	86.05
		Balance on hand .....	22.58
	\$ 154.63		\$ 154.63

### Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash on hand .....	\$1,256.35	Trust Fund Principal .....	\$2,571.00
Investments .....	2,500.00	Trust Income Account .....	22.58
Fixtures .....	1,013.47	Vouchers Outstanding .....	892.00
Keys on hand .....	414.55	Accounts Payable .....	640.01
		Surplus Account .....	1,058.78
	\$5,184.37		\$5,184.37



## Instructions to Judges

### Nebraska Coaches Compile Helpful Guide

*(The debate coaches of Nebraska last year wrote these instructions in an effort to take some of the uncertainties out of debate judging. While ideas were contributed by many, the present form is the work of a committee comprising Prof. Leroy Laase at Hastings College, Harold L. Sickman at Hastings High School, and Gale McGee at Kearney High School. Reprints are available from the NFL office free.—Editor)*

#### A. A decision is not to be based upon:

1. **The merits of the question.** The judge should not be influenced by prejudices in favor of or against the proposition.

2. **Partiality.** The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of or partiality for or against either of the competing teams, their school, or coach.

3. **Preconceived notions on arguments.** The judge should not allow his idea of what the best affirmative or negative arguments or cases may be to influence his decision.

4. **Personal preferences on debating style.** A judge should not penalize a team if its style, either in case construction or delivery, differs from that which he personally prefers, but should evaluate all styles on basis of effectiveness in winning conviction.

#### B. A decision should be based on:

1. **Skill in analysis.** This includes not only the analysis of the proposition, but also analysis of the debate as it progresses.

2. **Use of evidence.** This includes the use of sufficient evidence and proper reference to source.

3. **Validity of argument.** This includes reasoning and conclusions drawn from the evidence presented.

4. **Clarity of organization.** This includes clear outlining of constructive arguments and easily followed handling of refutation.

5. **Adequacy of rebuttal.** This includes both the defense of the case presented and the attack of the opponent's case.

6. **Effectiveness of delivery.** This includes all matters pertaining to oral presentation with special emphasis upon extempore abilities.

#### C. A team should be penalized for:

1. **An unfair interpretation.** If the interpretation is disputed by the negative, it shall rest with the judge whether or not the affirmative is supporting a tenable position.

2. **Discourtesy toward opponents.** Discourtesy should be penalized according to the seriousness of the offense.

3. **Falsification of evidence.** If a team falsifies evidence in support of a point, they shall lose the point, and if the falsification is obviously deliberate, the judge shall impose an additional penalty according to the seriousness of the falsification.

4. **Misconstruing an opponent's arguments.** A speaker who misconstrues an argument unintentionally should not be penalized more than the time wasted; if it is intentional, the team shall in addition forfeit the argument.

5. **Introducing new arguments into rebuttal.** The judge shall disregard new arguments introduced in rebuttal, this does not exclude the introduction of new evidence in support of points already advanced or the answering of arguments introduced by opponents.

6. **Speaking overtime.** When a speaker's time is up the judge shall disregard anything beyond a closing statement.

#### D. It is generally agreed among debate coaches, regarding:

1. **Interpretation:** Judges should regard no interpretation of the question as official, unless the National Wording Committee issues an official interpretation and labels it as such.

2. **Technicalities:** The teams shall debate the basic principles underlying the proposition, too much emphasis should not be placed upon a technicality.

3. **Burden of Proof:** The affirmative carries the burden of proof for the proposition; the negative carries the burden of proof for a counter-proposal; both teams carry the burden of rebuttal.

4. **Affirmative burden:** An affirmative team need not destroy all negative arguments; it need only show that the preponderance of argument and evidence rests on its side. This holds true equally for the negative team.

5. **Questions:** A team need answer questions only when they are shown to be pertinent and consequential to the debate.

6. **Irrelevant arguments:** Arguments as to whether the proposition is constitutional, or whether it will be adopted are irrelevant.

7. **Direct Clash:** The negative team is primarily responsible for

a direct clash providing the affirmative team is not evading the proposition; the affirmative team is responsible for a clash on arguments advanced by the negative as evils in the proposition.

8. **Delayed Replies:** An argument introduced in constructive cases should be replied to by the opponents in time to give the team which advanced the argument an opportunity to reply.

9. **Adaptation:** A high premium should be placed upon adaptive extempore debating; this should not excuse a team for lack of clarity in organization or for errors in the use of English.

10. **Persuasion:** A premium should be placed upon the ability of the debaters to utilize human interest and accepted premises. Fallacies committed in an attempt to gain persuasive power should be treated the same as other fallacies.

11. **Fallacies.** A judge should not discredit an argument as fallacious, unless the fallacy is exposed by the opposition, except in the closing affirmative rebuttal, when the judge shall discredit it upon discovering the fallacy.

12. **Constructive Solution:** Credit should be given to the team which most nearly approximates a constructive solution to the problem.

13. **Point of Order:** The negative team shall not be denied the right to rise to a point of order after the closing affirmative rebuttal. However, if they argue the point instead of stating the point, they shall be heavily penalized on the point. In this contingency, final disposition of the matter shall rest entirely with the judge. In general, this practice is to be discouraged.



## From the Secretary's Desk

### District Changes

A number of important changes in district alignment have been made by the Executive Council.

Ohio with 38 chapters has been divided into Eastern and Western districts. Fourteen Ohio chapters and four in southeastern Michigan comprise the Western Ohio District: Ashland, Bluffton, Clyde, Columbus-North, Dayton-Oakwood, Fremont, Lima-South, Marysville, Newark, Port Clinton, Shelby, Troy, Washington, Wyoming, Ohio; Adrian, Dearborn, Plymouth and River Rouge, Michigan. Eastern Ohio has 24 chapters, all but one being in a compact area in the northeastern corner of the state.

Muskegon Heights and Paw Paw, Mich., are attached to the Indiana District. Bessemer, Escanaba, Gladstone and Sault Ste. Marie in the Northern Peninsula are added to Wisconsin.

The Colorado District comprising the chapters in that state and Wyoming will be designated the Rocky Mountain District, but no change is made in the number of chapters at this time.

Chapters in Virginia, W. Virginia and North Carolina are detached from the Kentucky district and together with the chapters in Florida and those in eastern Tennessee become the Appalachian District.

The chapters in Arkansas are transferred from the Texas District and added to Tennessee.

Monmouth, Morton, Pekin and Peoria are transferred from Northern to Southern Illinois

### Charters Renewed

The charters for 56 chapters

which expired on June 30, were renewed by the Charter Committee. Renewal was approved also for 35 additional chapters upon payment of charter fee.

The committee declined to renew the charters for 29 chapters with low membership attainments and four others suspended for inactivity. Eight approved for renewal last year failed to do so; ten were expelled for failing to remove suspensions, and one for failing to make good a bad check.

The net result leaves the league with 462 chapters at the beginning of the year, or 38 vacancies in our chapter roll limited to 500 schools. Four charters have been granted and 20 petitions were pending before the committee at the beginning of the month.

### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MAR. 3, 1933.

Of The Rostrum, published monthly at Ripon, Wisconsin for October, 1939.

State of Wisconsin, County of Fond du Lac, ss.  
Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Bruno E. Jacob, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the business manager of The Rostrum and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations.

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, National Forensic League, Ripon College, Ripon, Wis.; editor, Karl Mundt, Washington, D. C.; business manager, Bruno E. Jacob, 615 Ransom St., Ripon, Wis.

2. That the owner is: The National Forensic League, an unincorporated association of 475 high schools: Karl Mundt, Washington, D. C., president; T. C. Bond, Niles, Ohio, vice president; Bruno E. Jacob, Ripon, Wis., secretary; L. D. Schreiber, Charleroi, Pa., and C. C. Dietert, North Judson, Ind., directors.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

BRUNO E. JACOB, Business Mgr.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of October, 1939. Addie W. Horner, notary public. (My commission expires June 22, 1942)

## District Standings

Rank.	Change.	Dist.	New Chapters	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members and Degrees
1.	0	Eastern Ohio	1	18.7	Wooster	78
2.	+3	Pennsylvania		17.4	Bentleyville	50
3.	-1	Texas	2	15.9	North Dallas	58
4.	0	No. Illinois		14.4	Maine Township	55
5.	-2	Wisconsin		14.1	Mayville	50
6.	0	Oklahoma		14.1	Classen HS.	58
7.	0	So. Illinois		12.5	DuQuoin	54
8.	0	Western Ohio		12.5	Dayton-Oakwood	46
9.	+2	New York	1	11.9	Poughkeepsie	74
10.	+3	Kansas	1	11.0	Wellington	29
11.	-1	Rocky Mtn.		10.8	Casper, Wyo.	42
12.	-3	Indiana	1	10.7	Ft. Wayne-North	34
13.	+7	Iowa	1	10.3	Hawarden	64
14.	0	Nebraska		9.8	Omaha-Benson	40
15.	-3	Kentucky	1	9.0	Lexington	27
16.	-1	Missouri		9.0	Jennings	37
17.	0	Western	2	7.4	Lewiston, Idaho	36
18.	-2	Minnesota		7.1	Minneapolis-West	20
19.	-1	South Dakota		6.9	Watertown	45
20.	-1	California	2	6.3	Bakersfield	22
21.	+2	Tennessee		6.0	Dickson	26
22.	-1	Appalachian	1	5.4	Bluefield, W. Va.	15
23.	-1	New Jersey		5.4	Passaic	18
24.	0	New England	3	5.0	Portland, Maine	19
		National	16	10.7	Wooster, Ohio	78

### Our Decalet of Leaders—The Second Ten

#### Coaches

S. Stanley Knapp, N. Dallas, Tex.	451
C. E. Grady, Classen HS, Okla.	445
J. Arthur Nelson, Omaha-Ben.	444
Mary Blackburn, Gran. City, Ill.	432
Loy C. Laney, Ft. Wayne-N. Ind.	395
Paul K. Crawford, Freeport, Ill.	372
C. M. Schindler, Canton, O.	361
Albert L. Swank, Peekskill, N.Y.	360
Thos. D. Reed, Hammond HS,	353
C. J. Nebergall, Aurora-West, Ill.	352

#### Students

John Clark, Jacksonville, Ill.	348
Junior Shrimpton, Kimball, Neb.	347
Paul Larson, Lincoln, Ill.	347
Jane Forester, DuQuoin, Ill.	346
Loren Hotz, Shawano, Wis.	342
Cyclone Covey, Bristow, Okla.	339
Elizabeth Kreitner, Cen'ville, Pa.	337
Jane Crowe, Massillon, Ohio	310
Marjorie Hunt, El Reno, Okla.	310
Violetta Weems, Dickson, Tenn.	310

### Going Up

	New	Total
Chapters	16	478
Members	91	22,191
Keys	24	11,199
Reports of Contests	182	89,302
Degrees of Honor	40	10,403
Degrees of Excellence	20	5,920
Degrees of Distinction	16	3,280