

National Contest 1937



The seventh annual contest of the National Forensic League has gone into history.

What an inspiration it was to hear high school students from all over the United States. Truly, it was a joy to meet these young people, young people with high ideals, appealing personalities, abounding good humor, and unusual platform ability. It was indeed the "cream of the nation" that met in Jacksonville this year.

The Wetmore Declamation Bureau is proud and happy to again know that such a large percentage of our readings and orations were used.

Our Trophy winners from many states were there.

Students and coaches wishing help for their next year's readings will receive most careful attention. Write in your needs.

Catalogs free.

WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU

1631 So. Paxton St.

Sioux City, Iowa

The Rostum



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IN these days, whether we like it or not, power is with him who can speak."—Lord Salisbury



THE ROSTRUM

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BRUNO E. JACOB, *Secretary*

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N.F.L. Announces a Contest

America has gone contest mad. Radio stations, magazines, newspapers, advertising agencies, and what-have-you are conducting contests for this, that, and the other until the easiest way to become rich or famous is no longer to tap a gold mine or become president, but to win a contest in jingles, jig-saws, or jibes. The National Forensic League is no laggard; it, too, is going to conduct a contest with prizes and publicity accruing to the winners thereof. In fact, believing that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well, we are conducting two contests.

Open to NFL-ers only, but open to coaches and students, alike, here are our two contests. Suitable prizes will be awarded winners of first and second places and will be announced in forthcoming issues of *The Rostrum*. These are contests in "introductions"—contest entries must be limited to 300 words and will be judged by the executive council or a committee selected by it. Entries should be sent in as soon as possible and the deadline is Dec. 15.

The first contest is for the best introductory statements to be used by the first affirmative speaker in opening the affirmative case on the current debate topic. Too many first affirmative speeches are too dry and uninteresting—it is hoped this contest will reveal methods of opening the affirmative speech with remarks which will interest the audience and build a background of attention which will intrigue the listeners to want to hear a thorough discussion of the debate proposition. The introduction should either include or lead right up to the statement of the first point in the affirmative case. That's all there is to the rules and contest regulations. Here is a real challenge for speech people to do some constructive work in developing challenging and interesting debate introductions.

The second contest pre-supposes the following situation: YOU have been asked to talk to your Parents-Teachers' Association on the subject, "Whither America?" In not over 300 words, write up the introduction of your speech; it may be serious or humorous or a logical mixture of both fun and facts. Assuming this practical speech situation, what would you say in your introductory remarks? How would

you capture the attention of your audience? How sell yourself to the auditors? How develop the "one-ness" of feeling which should exist between the speaker and his audience? What would you say in your first 300 words to make the listeners want to hear you say more and desire to learn your opinions on the subject?

Send all contest entries to Karl E. Mundt, Madison, S. D., not later than Dec. 15 . . . a 5% bonus on the score will be given all entries received before Nov. 1. Here is a chance to match your wits and wisdom against the best high school speakers in America. Winners will be announced in *The Rostrum* and if their excellence merits it, sample introductions will be published in *The Rostrum*. Young America, what have you to offer?

—Karl E. Mundt.

South Dakota Department American Legion

Suggests 1938 Debate Topic

Another indication of the growing importance of the National Forensic League and the increasing significance of national debate tournaments and their educational aspects, is seen from the fact that at the State Convention of the American Legion in South Dakota a resolution was passed urging the National Forensic League to adopt as its tournament question for 1938, a proposition built on the advisability of securing Congressional ratification of the Legion proposed Universal Service Act. Of course, NFL only coöperates in the selection of the debate question, does not choose it by itself, but the South Dakota Legion urges our organization to use its influence to plump for the Universal Service Act proposition next year.

The Universal Service Act would give Congress the right to conscript factories, farms, mines, railroads, wealth, and all the necessary materials of war just as it has the right to conscript men in time of war. A minimum return would be guaranteed the owners of conscripted property, but under the act, war would become unprofitable for everybody, not merely the soldiers in the trenches.

The suggestion merits your serious consideration. Why not try it out in some class debates and some pre-season inter-school debates? It would provoke widespread interest, certainly. The biggest question seems to be, "Is it debatable?" Are there equally good arguments on both sides? The *Rostrum* will be glad to publish the experiences of schools using this debate proposition in class debates or in inter-school contests. The best proof of the pudding is the eating thereof . . . give this proposed debate question a fair trial and send *The Rostrum* a summary of your reactions.

A proposed working of the proposition might be: "Resolved: that the next Congress should pass legislation putting into effect the provisions of the Universal Service Act." (Briefly defined, "The Act" provides for the conscription of wealth and the forces of production in war time when and if conscription of men is resorted to.)

Advocacy of this war-prevention measure should also make a splendid, modern, topic for original orations.

Jimmie and Topsy
George McCarty South Dakota State College

(Mr. McCarty is immediate past president of Pi Kappa Delta and is one of the leading speech authorities in the middle west.)

"No matter how inadequate you may feel, no matter how uneasy it may make you, never prepare a speech. When the time comes, simply get on your feet, say whatever is in your head. . . . You'll be a better speaker in the long run if you'll force yourself at whatever cost to speak extemporaneously. . . . Begin thinking about your speech while the preceding speakers are talking—not before. . . . Some word of a previous speaker usually gives me a cue for an opening."

That was the advice on speech-making, as given to an interviewer by "Jimmie" Walker, one-time mayor of New York City. The colorful "Jimmie" was popular in those days. The newspapers chronicled in great detail his varied activities. When his top-hat and spats showed up anywhere there was a great stir. And they showed up in many places. Especially at banquets. Quite naturally his official position alone would have placed him prominently at the banquet tables of many distinctive occasions. But Mr. Walker was more than an official decoration at such times. He was a clever after-dinner speaker. For a time his achievement in that art seems to have been more widely known than were his official acts.

Knowing these and some other facts about Mayor Walker, I was not surprised to hear his advice on speech-making quoted here and there, both in and outside of the speech classroom. Knowing some other facts, as an instructor in speech, about prominent public speakers whose reputations in that art had been established by more sound methods of achievement, I was not impressed by the mayor's clandestine counsel.

I wonder if you, as a high school student, interested in personal speech improvement, are impressed by his advice? I am afraid you may be. If you are not, your colleague in debate or that classmate extempore speaker may be. If one does not enjoy working on a speech there is, of course, a tempting suggestion in Mr. Walker's method—if it is a method. Most of those who read this article—are probably members of N.F.L. You will therefore have advanced beyond the stage of those who believe that orators—like poets—are born, not made. You will believe with me that only weeds and debt and certain other undesirable acquisitions grow unaided; that the desirable, admirable condition will develop, if at all, only from the application of intelligent, purposeful effort. That is the history of human progress. If you join me in accepting that principle, you will not accept, without analysis, the Mayor's "recipe" for speech effectiveness as set forth in the opening paragraph of this discussion. Let's reread that paragraph.

Mr. Walker must have been talking about after-dinner speaking. On an occasion of this kind, of course, it is often true that there are a number of speakers. One wonders what would happen to Mr. Walker if he were the only one on the program. Or supposing that there were others on the program, but that he were called on first. In

such instances there would be no "cues." Would his advice be practical in a class-room situation? I suppose he would have no class-room situations. Therefore no N.F.L.

But "Jimmie" was different. He was usually placed, we presume, in a more dramatic position on the program. In such a case he might well follow his own advice, at least in some respects. I seriously doubt, however, that even he went as unprepared as he here suggests. As a matter of fact the reporter of the interview adds the amendment that what Mr. Walker really means by his advice "Don't prepare your speech" is "Know your subject." But how can one know his subject without preparation? This writer further explains that "although Mr. Walker's speech is not prepared, his mind is." By which I suppose he means that Mr. Walker has a fund of information on which he can draw for a great variety of occasions. How did he get that way? Whence this fund of information? How did his mind become prepared? I do not know what Mr. Walker's early efforts in public address were. Lacking this information I am going to believe that somewhere along the way, through his study in or out of books, of facts and folks, he has constantly accumulated usable material. He **has** prepared.

Is it not logical to conclude that Mr. Walker either did not mean what he said or that before saying it he did not stop to analyze his thought? I believe that he did not consider several matters. Among them he forgot or ignored the fact that few speakers have had, or will ever have, the varied opportunity for speech experience before public audiences that he has had. Without such opportunity one can not develop effective oral expression; can not build up an adequate vocabulary; would not have the desire to speak. Also, of course, only a very few enjoy the prestige that was Mr. Walker's in his official position. That must help a lot, at least in lending confidence to the speaker.

Is Mayor Walker's advice safe for the beginning speaker even if we can assume that his success was attained under the system which he advocates? What have other successful speakers said? What has been their experience? There is not space here to answer these questions satisfactorily. I will cite only a little evidence in the direction of an answer. The student interested in the matter can easily discover much additional interesting and illuminating evidence. Daniel Webster, for whom perhaps there has been no peer in American oratory, must not have depended for his speech preparation merely upon opening his mouth to have it filled with golden words of wisdom, for he stated on one occasion, "There is no such thing as extemporaneous acquisition." And it should be noted that by the word extemporaneous he meant impromptu as did Mr. Walker. Former Mayor James J. Curley of Boston, an outstanding public speaker, states that he owes his accomplishment to hard work and lifelong preparation. Says Major Curley: "The ability to address an audience is not a natural endowment but an acquisition that requires conscientious and strenuous self-training. To be an orator necessitates fortifying the mind with an inexhaustible fund of information, cultivating a retentive memory; it requires constant reading as well as the

proper voice training. It is extremely difficult. Cardinal O'Connell, Dr. S. Parkes Cadman and Dr. James J. Walsh, three of the most renowned public speakers in this country today, are veritable storehouses of information, and owe it all to hard work." Lincoln's Gettysburg address was only two minutes long but it was not impromptu. Lincoln's addresses were thoroughly prepared; his thought carefully phrased. He did not simply wait until the time came then "get on his feet" and "say whatever was in his head." As a boy studying before his log fire he wrote in a book, "I will prepare and some day my chance will come." Of course, when he wrote this, he was thinking of broad preparation for life, not merely preparation for a speech. But it was this attitude as a student that laid the foundation for his life, out of which thoroughness, came the Gettysburg address and other great utterances.

When a young journalist enthralled by the language and manner of presentation of Henry Ward Beecher, asked that great orator whether his address were impromptu, was informed: "Young man I spent forty years in preparing that address." Apparently Mr. Beecher did not postpone his thinking until "the previous speaker" began to speak—did not wait for his "cue" from some chance statement by a former speaker.

Scrawny little black Topsy of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" fame stated that "nobody didn't raise" her—she "jis growed up." And she admitted that the result was nothing to brag about. Those who are satisfied to "jis grow up" like Topsy may safely follow "Jimmie" Walker's advice on speech-making. But, of course, N.F.L.-ers desire to be somebody. That explains their interest in speech improvement, the goal of the National Forensic League.

Does Your State Have a Webster or a Bryan?

The Rostrum contemplates the publication of a series of thumbnail biographies of the best platform speakers or orators in the current American scene. Has your state an outstanding man or woman speaker? If so, let some student in your school try his or her hand at writing a biographical sketch. In not to exceed 500 words, record the highlights of the speaker's career and the attributes which seem to account for its success. If possible, a glossy photograph should accompany the biographical sketch.

Here is a practical way to utilize knowledge of writing gleaned in English classes and a real opportunity to "break into print" with an article which will be helpful to all speech students. Who will be the first to bring added fame to his state's outstanding speaker and to "crash" The Rostrum with a helpful and inspirational biographical sketch which may prove a stimulating challenge to student speakers?

—NFL—

Elbert Hubbard's Note Book is a veritable store house of valuable information. The following advice, taken from that Note Book, is important to all speech students. "Too much emphasis is no emphasis—raise your voice too loud and no one hears you. Hit too hard and you excite sympathy for your victim. Draw your indictment too sweeping and it becomes suspicious."

Chapter Membership Record

The annual report of the membership attainments of the chapters is presented here in its customary form. The figure in the first column denotes the rank of the chapter with its group. The next figure indicates the change in this rank since last year, up or down as indicated. This marks the achievement of the chapter as compared with other chapters holding membership for the same number of years. The final figure denotes the total number of members and degrees enrolled up to June 30, 1937.

The compilation does not take into account extra votes granted members for high totals of credit points. Also the membership of a person transferring from one chapter to another is credited to that chapter at which he obtained his membership. If he later obtains advanced degrees these are credited to the chapter thru which they were obtained.

This record of members and degrees constitutes a significant index of the attributes of a good chapter. It marks those active in speech contest work, for without extensive programs they cannot qualify students for membership. Likewise it marks those who take an active interest in the League, in their own chapters, and in the advancement of their members.

The chapters consistently near the top deserve special commendation. They have shown a year-after-year consistency in attainment that is remarkable. They set a brilliant example for others to follow.

The chapters near the bottom should note that some who were near the bottom only two years ago are now among the leaders. And that it is easier to make rapid advance from the bottom than from any other position in the line. The enrollment of even five members and as many degrees each year will send any of the present rear-guard steadily forward. Examine the position of your own chapter and see where it would have ranked had all possible memberships and degrees been obtained last season.

All chapters can improve their positions unless now in first place by three simple steps. Carry out an extensive speech program as opportunities permit. Give as many students a chance to qualify for NFL membership as their abilities warrant. Enroll every deserving student in national membership and obtain all advanced degrees for which they have qualified. With the liberal provisions for free advanced degrees made by the Council last January this should be possible for every chapter without any real financial burden.

You get out of NFL membership just what you put into it and this membership report is a good index of both. Let it speak eloquently for your success next year and to that end keep that objective before the chapter throughout the year.

Up or Rank Down	Members & Degrees	Up or Rank Down	Members & Degrees
15 +1 Rankin, Ill.	40	38 —13 Wessington Spgs., S. D.	26
16 +5 Ambridge, Pa.	38	93 —4 Winchester, Ky.	26
17 —5 Hermann, Mo.	37	40 —2 Potomac, Ill.	26
18 —1 Syracuse-Voc., N. Y.	36	41 —13 Wood River, Ill.	24
19 0 Leighton, Pa.	35	42 —9 Tekoa, Wash.	24
20 +7 Sedalia, Mo.	35	43 +3 Memphis-Tech., Tenn.	22
21 —3 Columbus, Ind.	34	44 —3 Lexington, Mo.	20
22 —9 McPherson, Kans.	33	45 +4 Beaverton, Ore.	18
23 —3 Baxter Sem., Tenn.	33	46 —6 South Union, Pa.	17
24 —1 Ft. Wayne-Elmhurst, Ind.	33	47 —5 Vandalia, Ill.	16
25 +1 Miami, Okla.	30	48 —5 Hammond, Wis.	16
26 —1 Euclid Shore, Ohio	28	49 —3 Chaska, Minn.	16
27 +4 Leavitt Inst., Me.	28	50 +2 Cambridge, Mass.	13
28 +2 Caldwell, Idaho	27	51 — Mpls-University, Minn.	9
29 —5 Berwick Acad., Me.	26	52 —1 Atchison, Kans.	9
30 +2 Plattsburg, Mo.	25		
31 —3 Evansville-Reitz, Ind.	23		
32 —3 Santa Maria, Calif.	22		
33 0 Youngstown-South, O.	20		
34 +1 Kingsport, Tenn.	20		
35 —1 Webster City, Iowa	15		
36 0 Mahanoy City, Pa.	5		

Members 3 Years

1 0 Milwaukee-Wash., Wis.	79
2 +3 Memphis-Messick, Tenn.	60
3 +8 Plymouth, Wis.	48
4 +2 Williamsburg, Mass.	43
5 —2 Hammond-Clark, Ind.	42
6 +15 Denver-Cathedral, Colo.	42
7 —5 Marshall, Mo.	41
8 +1 Port Clinton, Ohio	38
9 +14 Two Rivers, Wis.	36
10 —2 Giassport, Pa.	33
11 —4 So. Fayette, Pa.	31
12 +7 Valley City, N. D.	31
13 —9 Kadoka, S. D.	29
14 +13 Bunker Hill, Ill.	29
15 0 Uniontown, Pa.	27
16 +1 Deer River, Minn.	27
17 +13 Frankfort, Ky.	27
18 +19 Dayton, Ohio	27
19 —6 Morris, Ill.	24
20 —4 Dillon, Mo.	23
21 —3 St. Louis, Mo.	23
22 —12 Bath, Ohio	22
23 —3 Johnson City, Tenn.	22
24 +18 Mansfield, Ill.	22
25 +19 San Bernardino, Calif.	22
26 —14 Macomb, Ill.	21
27 —5 Gothenburg, Neb.	21
28 +7 Lock Haven, Pa.	21
29 —15 Blunt, S. D.	20
30 +9 Struthers, Ohio	20
31 +12 Worthington, Minn.	20
32 —7 Tuscaloosa, Ala.	18
33 —4 Rome, N. Y.	18
34 —6 Ft. Worth-Stripling, Tex.	17
35 —4 Springfield, Mo.	14
36 +5 Boulder, Colo.	14
37 +10 Amarillo, Tex.	14
38 —14 Pringhar, Iowa	13
39 +1 No. Kansas City, Mo.	13
40 —14 Walthill, Neb.	12
41 —9 Sisseton, S. D.	12
42 —9 Henning, Ill.	10
43 —5 Ellensburg, Wash.	10
44 —8 Limon, Colo.	9

Members 4 Years

1 0 Lincoln, Ill.	121
2 +1 Columbia City, Ind.	85
3 —1 St. Vincent's, Pa.	79
4 +15 Dupo, Ill.	71
5 +8 Scottsbluff, Neb.	62
6 +1 Eau Claire, Wis.	60
7 +1 Okla. City, Classen	56
8 —3 Alverton, Pa.	55
9 +3 Portland, Me.	55
10 —4 Dwight, Ill.	53
11 +15 Centerville, Pa.	53
12 +2 Santa Rosa, Cal.	52
13 —9 Hinsdale, Ill.	51
14 —4 Frankfort, Ind.	47
15 —6 Derry, Pa.	45
16 —5 Brownswood, Texas	45
17 0 Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	45
18 +6 Hammond Hs., Ind.	44
19 +15 North Little Rock, Ark.	42
20 +28 Topeka-Catholic, Kans.	42
21 —6 Anacortes, Wash.	41
22 —4 Syracuse-Central, N. Y.	41
23 —1 State College, Pa.	40
24 —4 Paw Paw, Mich.	39
25 —9 Kankakee, Ill.	38
26 +4 New Ulm, Minn.	38
7 +9 Newark, Ohio	34
28 +3 Glasgow, Mo.	31
29 —8 East Pike Run., Pa.	29
30 +10 Point Marion, Pa.	29
31 +14 Wayland, Ohio	29
32 +14 Mpls.-West, Minn.	29
33 —6 DeKalb, Ill.	28
24 +4 Great Falls, Mont.	28
35 —12 Red Lake Falls, Minn.	27
26 —7 Midland, S. D.	27
37 —5 Tulare, S. D.	27

Up or Rank Down	Members & Degrees	Up or Rank Down	Members & Degrees
45 11 Swickley, Pa.	9	58 —34 Hollis, Okla.	13
46 —1 Pasadena, Calif.	9	59 —21 Ft. Scott, Kans.	12

Members 2 Years

1 + Bentleyville, Pa.	62	62 —16 Charlton, Mass.	10
2 +2 Milwaukee-St. Johns, Wis.	56	63 —16 Memphis-Humes, Tenn.	10
3 +55 Houston, Texas	56	64 —10 Hopkins Acad., Mass.	10
4 +1 Fresno-Roosevelt, Calif.	53	65 —33 Mellen, Wis.	9
5 +9 West Bend, Wis.	52	66 —33 Cleveland-Adams, O.	9
6 0 Cylde, Ohio	50	67 —28 Lawrence, Kans.	9
7 +5 Ronceverte, W. Va.	45	68 —10 Dyersburg, Tenn.	9
8 +17 Cheyenne, Wyo.	42	69 —11 Okla. City-Capitol Hill	9
9 —2 Douglas, Wyo.	40	70 —34 Berea, Ohio	8
10 +48 Muskogee, Okla.	40	71 —25 Amherst, N. Y.	8
11 —10 Abilene, Texas	39	72 —25 Newton Falls, O.	8
12 +14 Longmont, Colo.	38	73 —25 Dodge City, Kans.	8
13 —11 Lewiston, Mont.	34	74 —24 Emporia, Kans.	7
14 —3 Liberty, N. Y.	34	75 —17 Pierre, S. D.	7
15 —5 Winner, S. D.	32	76 —18 Nashville-Litton, Tenn.	7
16 +18 Shawnee, Okla.	32	77 —19 Selby, S. D.	6
17 +27 Memphis-Central, Tenn.	32	78 —20 West Point, Neb.	6
18 +40 Denison, Texas	32	79 —24 Chicago-Lane, Tech.	5
19 +39 Charleston T. C., Ill.	32	80 —28 Nineveh, Pa.	5
20 +7 Pueblo, Colo.	31	81 —23 Altus, Okla.	4
21 +37 Lennox, S. D.	31	82 —24 Mandan, N. D.	4
22 +15 Joliet, Ill.	30		
23 —20 Mastontown, Pa.	29		
24 —7 Jonesboro, Ark.	29		
25 —3 Los Gatos, Calif.	28		
26 —8 Bristol, Va.	28		
27 +31 Terre Haute, Ind.	29		
28 +25 Dickson, Tenn.	26		
29 +26 Independence, Kans.	26		
30 —11 Freeport, N. Y.	25		
31 —10 Jonesboro, Tenn.	25		
32 +11 Canton, Kans.	25		
35 —26 Seminole, Okla.	21		
34 +24 Independence, Ky.	22		
33 +25 Excelsior Spgs., Mo.	23		
36 —20 Valley Stream, N. Y.	21		
37 —17 Liberty, Mo.	21		
38 —9 Jennings, Mo.	21		
39 +19 Wellington, Kans.	21		
40 —27 Holdrege, Neb.	20		
41 +17 Overton-London, Tex.	20		
42 —27 Sparta, Ill.	19		
43 —15 Crown Point, Ind.	19		
44 —14 Smithville, Mo.	19		
45 —5 Carmichaels, Pa.	19		
46 +5 Ada, Okla.	19		
47 +11 Allentown-Prep., Pa.	18		
48 +10 Virginia, Minn.	18		
49 —14 Littleton, Colo.	17		
50 +8 Groton, Mass.	17		
51 —20 Colman, S. D.	16		
52 —3 E. Cleveland, O.	16		
53 —12 University City, Mo.	15		
54 +4 Lebanon, Kans.	15		
55 —32 So. St. Paul, Minn.	14		
56 —8 Warren, Mass.	14		
57 +1 Lincoln Acad., Me.	14		

Members 1 Year

1 Wyoming, Ohio	51
2 Davenport, Iowa	38
3 Massillon, Ohio	36
4 Beverly Hills, Calif.	34
5 Pinckneyville, Ill.	3
6* Moscow, Idaho	24
7 Greensburg, Ohio	22
8 Highland, N. Y.	22
9 Auburn, Neb.	21
10 Waukesha, Wis.	19
11 Trenton, N. J.	18
12 Marysville, O.	17
13 Murdo, S. D.	17
14 Logan, Utah	17
15 Fort Smith, Ark.	17
16 Kearny, N. J.	13
17 Dundee, Ill.	13
18 Bristol, Tenn.	12
19 Rockville Center, N. Y.	10
20 Oshkosh, Neb.	10
21 Nashville-Central, Tenn.	9
22 Grand Rapids, Minn.	8
23 Corbin, Ky.	8
24 Donelson, Tenn.	7
25 Sidney, Neb.	7
26 Holly Spgs., Miss.	6
27 Portage, Wis.	6
28 Mineola, N. Y.	6
29 Brentwood, Mo.	6
30 Red Wing, Minn.	5
31 Burley, Idaho	5
32 Kimball, Neb.	5
33 Auburn, Me.	4

The Leaders at a Glance

Niles, Ohio (12)	252	Youngstown-Chaney, O. (9)	236
Slatington, Pa. (12)	222	Charleroi, Pa. (7)	247
Webster Groves, Mo. (12)	216	Joplin, Mo. (5)	287
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. (11)	259	Hornell, N. Y. (12)	193
Enid, Okla. (11)	244	Canton, Ohio (12)	190
Granite City, Ill. (10)	201	Wichita-East, Kans. (12)	187
Monessen, Pa. (9)	265		

Hornell and Granite City are the new names on the list this year.

100 Members and Degrees

These Chapters completed enrollment of 100 members and degrees during the past year and accordingly are granted certificates to enter the National Speech Tournament. Those starred are receiving their second such certificate.

*Enid, Okla.	Cherokee, Iowa
North Judson, Ind.	Dallas-North, Texas
Hutchinson, Kans.	Omaha-Benson, Neb.
*Granite City, Ill.	Olney, Ill.
Ames, Iowa	Elgin, Ill.
Fort Wayne-North, Ind.	Ossining, N. Y.
Elkader, Iowa	Omaha-Central, Neb.
Hawarden, Iowa	Lewiston, Idaho
Fremont, Ohio	Sioux Falls, S. D.
Freeport, Ill.	Lincoln, Ill.
DuQuoin, Ill.	

Large Membership Last Year

Some Chapters added so substantially to their membership last year that they deserve the plaudits of their fellow members. This achievement indicates both an extensive speech program and enthusiastic interest in the League and the Local Chapter.

Granite City, Ill.	122	Mayville, Wis.	45
Lincoln, Ill.	57	Dallas-North, Texas	44
Maine Township, Ill.	57	Omaha-Benson, Neb.	43
Houston-San Jacinto	56	Elgin, Ill.	42
Wooster, Ohio	51	Monessen, Pa.	42
Wyoming, Ohio	51	Peekskill, N. Y.	40
Joplin, Mo.	50		

Monessen, Maine Township, Wichita-East, and Omaha-Benson, appeared on this list last year, too. Joplin has been mentioned for high membership in each of its five years with the League.

Rapid Advances

Notable advance in relative standing was achieved by a number of chapters of which these are outstanding:

Shreveport, La.	Muskogee, Okla.
Topeka-Catholic, Kans.	Dupo, Ill.
Wooster, Ohio	Centerville, Pa.
Bakersfield, Calif.	N. Little Rock, Ark.
Granite City, Ill.	Shawano, Wis.
Houston-San Jacinto, Tex.	Morton, Ill.
Aurora-West, Ill.	Estherville, Iowa

Something of This—Something of That

Newton Margulies, remembered to old-time NFL-ers as the young man who won the National Extemporaneous Speaking Championship for Rapid City, S. D., in the Topeka tournament is still making a name for himself in speech circles. Now a student at the University of Minnesota, Newton and his brother, Harold, are being sent by the university to tour Europe with a series of debate engagements. They will speak several times in the British Isles and will then engage in several debates on the continent, with considerable time being spent in the Scandinavian countries. Both of the Margulies boys are seniors in the university. Newton's first forensic victories were all in contests sponsored by the National Forensic League and it is with pleasure that The Rostrum reports his continued success in the speech arts.

—NFL—

The Lebanonian, high school paper of Lebanon, Kans., gives prominent display to all speech news and reports that forensic prospects are very bright in that high school. Many high schools are now sending their high school papers to The Rostrum and it is our policy to pass on as many news items as possible. If your chapter does not have a Chapter Reporter, select one now and have your high school paper sent to the Rostrum. Just address the paper or letters containing news items to The Rostrum, Madison, S. D. We'll do the rest.

—NFL—

This month's cover statement was sent in by Prof. George McCarty, head of the speech department of State College, Brookings, S. D. "Mac" is the author of that fascinating article, "Jimmy and Topsy," appearing in The Rostrum and was formerly national president of Pi Kappa Delta. Do you have a suggestion for a cover statement? Either original or one gleaned from some other source? We are always glad to get suggestions. Many schools clip out these cover statements for use on their speech bulletin boards so we are eager to use only the best. Your suggestions will be welcomed.

—NFL—

Wyoming, Ohio, is one of the outstanding younger chapters of the National Forensic League of which more will be heard as time rolls on. Wyoming engaged in well over 100 debates last year, using twenty-three debaters and eleven different teams. Seventy-five of these debates were won by the Wyoming speakers. John B. Holden is the speech director at Wyoming and both in that school and in his two previous posts he had established an enviable record for turning out successful speech groups. Watch for Wyoming to qualify some participants for the next National Tournament.

From the Secretary's Desk

Charters Renewed

The charters of the following Chapters have been renewed by the charter committee for a period of three years extending to June 30, 1940.

Hot Sprinks, Ark.	North Kansas City, Mo.
Pine Bluff, Ark.	Springfield, Mo.
Pasadena Academy, Calif.	St. Louis-Cleveland, Mo.
Boulder, Colo.	Columbia, Mo.
Denver-Cathedral, Colo.	Omaha-Benson, Neb.
Lewiston, Idaho	Peekskill, N. Y.
Bunker Hill, Ill.	Ossining, N. Y.
Elgin, Ill.	Valley City, N. D.
Freeport-Aquin, Ill.	Bath, Ohio
Kewanee, Ill.	East Palestine, Ohio
La Grange, Ill.	Struthers, Ohio
Mansfield, Ill.	Lock Haven, Pa.
Morris, Ill.	Glassport, Pa.
Olney, Ill.	Gregory, S. D.
Bloomington, Ind.	Sisseton, S. D.
Evansville-Bosse, Ind.	Kadoka, S. D.
Hammond-Clark, Ind.	Memphis-Messic, Tenn.
Perry, Iowa	Dallas-North, Texas
Frankfort, Ky.	Ellensburg, Wash.
Williamsburg, Mass.	Horicon, Wis.
Eveleth, Minn.	Clarksburg, W. Va.
Deer River, Minn.	Plymouth, Wis.
Worthington, Minn.	Rapid City, S. D.
Chisholm, Minn.	Milwaukee-Washington, Wis.
Luverne, Minn.	Oconomowoc, Wis.
Carrollton, Mo.	Lead, S. D.
Marshall, Mo.	Port Clinton, Ohio

New Chapters

The following charters were granted in June, bringing the national chapter roll up to 500, the maximum established by the Executive Council.

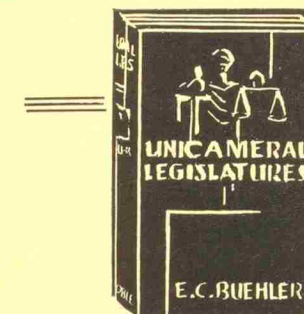
Wichita Falls, Tex.	West Mineral, Kans.
Wichita-North H.S., Kans.	Burlington, Iowa
Augusta, Maine	

Fourteen petitions were held over until fall awaiting consideration by the committee as soon as charter vacancies occurred. Twenty chapters were dropped on June 30th and these places now remain to be filled this year.

	At the End of the Year	New	Total
Chapters		46	480
Members		2,489	17,430
Emblems Ordered		899	9,207
Reports of Contests		9,821	65,742
Degrees of Honor		1,518	7,238
Degrees of Excellence		926	3,975
Degrees of Distinction		548	2,150

District Chairmen for 1937-8

California—L. A. Smith, Grossmont.
Colorado—James A. Tracy, Fort Collins.
Northern Illinois—To be chosen.
Southern Illinois—R. P. Hibbs, DuQuoin.
Indiana—Thomas D. Reed, Hammond.
Iowa—A. E. Keiber, Davenport.
Kansas—To be chosen.
Kentucky—W. K. Harding, Mt. Sterling.
Michigan—James E. Latture, Plymouth.
Minnesota—Lester R. Breniman, Eveleth.
Missouri—W. L. Welden, Maplewood.
Nebraska—Elmer B. Mortensen, Omaha Central H.S.
New England—Wm. T. Mahony, Laconia, N. H.
New York—Marion A. Wallace, Ossining.
Ohio—E. J. Diller, Chaney H.S. Youngstown.
Oklahoma—E. E. Bradley, Panhandle A. & M. College, Goodwell.
Eastern Pennsylvania—To be chosen.
Western Pennsylvania—E. Marjorie Harvey, Monessen.
South Dakota—To be chosen.
Tennessee—John R. Hovious, Nashville Central H.S.
Texas—S. Stanley Knapp, North Dallas.
Washington—To be chosen.
Wisconsin—Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville.



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