

CATEGORY COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 16, 2007
FRATELLO'S ITALIAN CAFE - OSHKOSH

Members Attending: David Loos, Bev Kingma, Ron Steinhorst, Deb Weiher-Traas, Adam Jacobi, John Rademacher, Lynda Luce, Mary Wacker, WFCB WEB Master Mike Traas, and WFCB President Bonni Knight. The Executive Secretary of the WFSFA, Chuck Malone, was in attendance.

Members Not Attending: Katie Grasley, Sue Luterbach, Doris Sexton, Steve Sexton

Business Conducted:

A. Report on the WFSFA Speech Advisory Committee meeting held on June 7, 2007 at U.W. Oshkosh attended by David Loos and Bonni Knight.

1. Date of the WFSFA State Festival April 18 and 19, 2008

2. Concerns and statements expressed by Chuck Malone and WFSFA members to the WFSFA Speech Advisory Committee:

a. There was a rise in the number of no shows at the State Festival but the number has not had a serious impact upon the Festival at this point.

b. Due to lack of entries in Extemporaneous Speaking and their poor quality it was proposed to drop the category and substitute a new speech category. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

c. Coaches want more entries in Play Acting and Group Interpretative Reading so the committee voted to recommend a total of six but not to exceed 25 total entries.

d. Coaches want more entries in Solo Acting Humorous and Solo Acting Serious. A motion to increase the total from four to eight, but not to exceed 25 total entries failed to pass.

e. A discussion took place concerning movement in Group Interpretation. Many coaches throughout the state would like to see a limitation of movement. The Speech Advisory Committee decided to send it out to the membership next year for discussion and input. The membership could decide to leave the category as it is or change the language to be similar to Prose Reading and Poetry Reading, limiting movement to the introduction and transitions

f. A task committee was appointed to study a new speech award that would help smaller teams at the State Festival.

2. Action taken in connection with WFCB comments

a. The committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of WFCB proposed language for Demonstration Speech which reads, "The category prohibits the use of properties or equipment endangering the health or safety of the participant, audience or judge. This includes but is not limited to, firearms, and sharp knives (real or toy) dangerous chemicals and animals."

- b. WFCFA stated that in Storytelling the five stories must be five distinct stories.
- c. When informed that the WFCFA voted to change the time in Group Interpretive Reading and Play Acting to 10 minutes the WHSFA strongly objected and will not consider such a change. The majority of Play Acting groups in WHSFA have five members and the extra time is required to enhance character development.
- d. The committee voted to recommend that the grace period in all categories where it applies be reduced from 30 seconds to 15 seconds. This is in accordance with policy accepted by the WFCFA.
- e. Last year the WFCFA requested that the WHSFA reinstate the category of Group Discussion. A sub committee was created to study the issue and report to the Advisory Committee at this meeting. The sub committee did not meet so no action was taken.

3. New topics in Moments in History, Public Address, Special Occasion, and Storytelling were selected with input from WFCFA.

- a. Moments in History

The decade of the 1920's

- b. Public Address

- Working Teens:** What impact, if any, does teen employment during the school year have on academic performance and co-curricular participation?
- Poverty:** To what extent, if any, should industrialized nations help alleviate poverty in third world countries?
- Cheating:** To what extent, if any, is cheating a problem in our nation's schools?
- Downloading Music and MP3 File Sharing:** To what extent, if any, should consumers be able to download and engage in MP3 file sharing without compensating the recording artists and record companies?

- c. Special Occasion

- A Sermon or Philosophy Lecture**
- A Speech to Motivate or Encourage**
- A Graduation Speech**
- A Tough Love Speech**

- d. Storytelling

- A Native American Story**
- Fractured Fairy Tale**
- A Scary Story**
- A True Story**
- A Story of Rivalry**

B. Action taken by the WFCFA Category Committee for the speech categories

1. Demonstration Speech: The committee was concerned about the inclusion of the phrase “real or toy” especially as it applies to knives and therefore on a 7 – 2 vote recommends that we maintain the present language and if the membership wishes to institute a change they may.
2. Extemporaneous Speaking: A committee member suggested that judges give time signals to the contestants. The language already exists that contestants may keep their own time and use a stop watch. This rule should be brought to the attention of the judges. It was felt by some members that being concerned with keeping time and giving time signals distracts from the judges ability to concentrate on the speech itself.
3. Four Minute Speech: No changes
4. Group Discussion: Ron Steinhorst and Bonni Knight will prepare a set of questions which they will submit to the chair who will send them to committee members for scrutiny. The first set of questions will be for the months of January and February and will be prepared by the fall business meeting. They will prepare a set of questions for March and April when the season starts in January.
5. Impromptu Speech: No changes.
6. Moments in History: The committee voted to accept the time frame suggested by the WHSFA Speech Advisory Committee of, “**The decade of the 1920’s**”
7. Oratory: No changes
8. Public Address: Due to the fact that two of the questions proposed by the WHSFA were repeats from years when present competitors were still in school the committee recommend the acceptance of the following questions:
 - Working Teens:** What impact, if any, does teen employment during the school year have on academic performance and co-curricular participation?
 - NASA:** To what extent, if any, should the federal government continue to fund NASA?
 - Presidency:** What qualities should the American people expect in a Presidential candidate?
 - Downloading Music and MP3 File Sharing:** To what extent, if any, should consumers be able to download and engage in MP3 file sharing without compensating the recording artists and record companies?

9. Radio Announcing No changes
10. Special Occasion Speech: Due to the fact that two of the topics proposed by the WHSFA were repeats from years when present competitors were still in school, and that there were two different events in one topic the committee recommend the acceptance of the following topics:

A Sermon
A Protest Speech
A Graduation Speech
A Speech to a Group at Risk

C. Action Taken by the WFCA Category Committee for the Interpretive Events

1. Duo Interpretation: The present rules for Duo are lengthy and Mary Wacker agreed to go over them and submit a new rule sheet before the fall meeting.
2. Farrago: No change
3. Group Interpretive Reading: A motion was made and seconded to ask the membership to rescind action taken at last falls membership meeting which changed the maximum time to 10 minutes. The motion was made with the knowledge that the WHSFA will not consider such a change as it is not in the interests of the majority of its members and the committee does not want to promote any action which would increase the differences in our two organizations. The vote last fall was based on the idea of waiting to see what the WHSFA would do. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Interpretation of Poetry: No changes
5. Interpretation of Prose: No changes
6. Oral Interpretation of Literature: No changes
7. Play Acting: A motion was made and seconded to ask the membership to rescind action taken at last falls membership meeting which changed the maximum time to 10 minutes. The motion was made with the knowledge that the WHSFA will not consider such a change as it is not in the interests of the majority of its members and the committee does not want to promote any action which would increase the differences in our two

organizations. The vote last fall was based on the idea of waiting to see what the WHSFA would do. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Solo-Acting:

The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the membership to accept separate critique sheets for Solo Humorous and Solo Serious. Mary Wacker will present finalized sheets for the members to view.

9. Storytelling:

The committee after some discussion voted to accept the WHSFA story topics. The committee recommended changing the language in the rules to include “five distinct stories”.

D .Reviewed Student Congress:

No major changes were recommended. There was a concern that student representatives from one school questioned the judging favoring one region of the state. After a brief discussion and statement by the State Congress director this did not appear to be a problem.

E. Other Considerations:

The Chair submitted a document containing rules for all categories which would be more uniform for the judges. This document was presented last year to the committee. After discussion that the rules were too lengthy and should be abbreviated Mary Wacker agreed to try to streamline them for action at the Spring Meeting. Another thought expressed by several members was that as an organization we overreact to create a rule because of isolated incidents.

One committee member strongly expressed the need for an improved student critique sheet which would include a place for, “reason for the rank” at the bottom of the critique. Two models had been presented at the Spring Meeting and Bonni agreed to come up with one revised critique sheet to present to the membership at the Fall Meeting.

There was a proposal to form an ad hoc committee to study entrance level categories for the State Tournament. The discussion centered on the need for new young coaches to become active in the organization and to develop a long range strategic plan for the organization. It was pointed out that the President had the power to create ad hoc committees and Bonni will determine what action to take.

I finally found a copy of the original topics selected for Special Occasion

Special Occasion

Rather than create specific topic situations we have created sixteen general topic areas creating a rotating system of four each year. This allows the contestant greater freedom in creating a specific speech.

1. Presentation of a Gift or Award
2. Acceptance of a Gift or Award
3. Speech to Gain Good Will
4. Speech of Farewell or Retirement
5. Speech of Welcome
6. Anniversary Speech
7. Nominating Speech
8. Acceptance of a Nomination or Office
9. Graduation Speech
10. Emotional Speech
11. Sales Presentation
12. Introduction Speech
13. After Dinner Speech or Speech to Entertain
14. Eulogy
15. Patriotic Speech
16. Dedication Speech