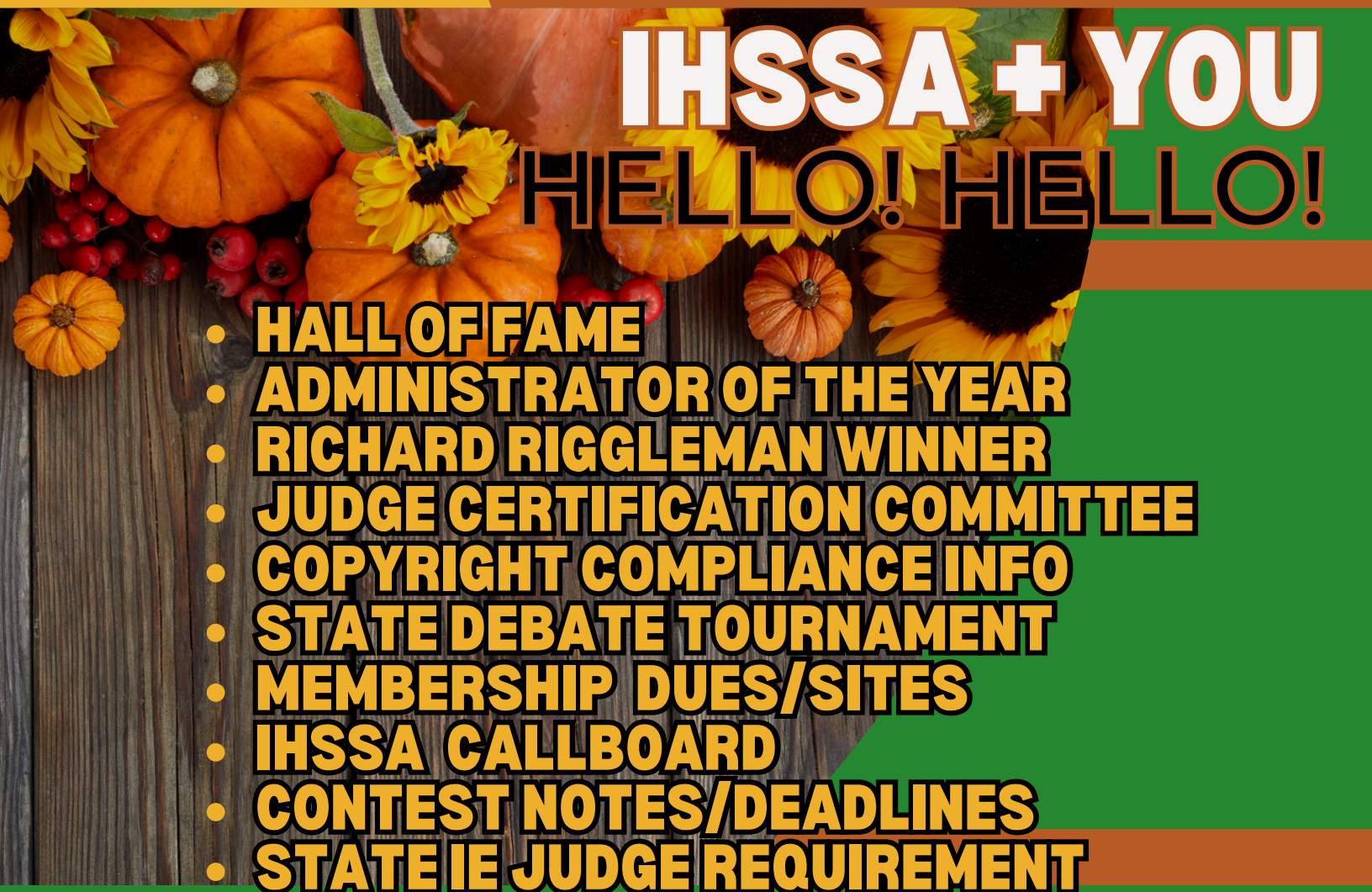
SWIFT

November 2026

SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES



IHSSA + YOU

HELLO! HELLO!

- HALL OF FAME
- ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR
- RICHARD RIGGLEMAN WINNER
- JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE
- COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE INFO
- STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT
- MEMBERSHIP DUES/SITES
- IHSSA CALLBOARD
- CONTEST NOTES/DEADLINES
- STATE IE JUDGE REQUIREMENT

"The philosophy of the IHSSA is built upon the belief that no form of activity is any more important than that of learning to communicate effectively."

stacy@ihssa.org
515.401.1834

5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 150
West Des Moines, IA 50266

pam@ihssa.org
515.288.9741

A Lil' Acorn



My parents are 85 and 82, and there is a certain comfort that comes from knowing good people are close by. Irv and Ladonna are those people.

They do what good neighbors are supposed to do. They exchange meals with Mom and Dad. They bring them fresh eggs. They check in. They help, not because they are asked, but because they notice.

When a light switch stopped working, Irv was there that very night to make sure it was fixed. When those pesky raccoons decided my parents' trash was their personal buffet, Irv took care of that, too. And when Mom needed "volunteers" for her new recipe, they whisked over to the house and stayed extra long for a game of dice.

What I am most grateful for is the "knowing." Knowing that if Mom and Dad need something, Irv and Ladonna are there. Knowing that they look out for each other. Knowing there is someone nearby who cares. Their friendship isn't measured by what they do for one another. It is measured by the feeling of trust that comes from yes, simply knowing someone is there. And there is something pretty special about that kind of neighbor.



This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for my family, my IHSSA Family, and my extended family. I am especially grateful for Irv and Ladonna and for being the kind of neighbors who simply show up, lend a hand, and care. Some blessings don't come wrapped in a package or gathered around a Thanksgiving table. Sometimes, they live right next door.

--Stacy Hansen
IHSSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2026 HALL OF FAME



Le Cox and Eric Upmeyer

VINTON-SHELLSBURG



IHSSA HALL OF FAME MEMBERS
Present at Convention 2026

IHSSA CONGRATULATES!



Superintendent BRIAN JAEGER MONTICELLO Fine Arts Administrator of the Year

Each year, the IHSSA recognizes an outstanding Fine Arts Administrator of the Year. It is presented to a distinguished individual of statewide reputation and outstanding accomplishments. This is the highest honor the Iowa High School Speech Association may confer on an administrator. The contribution and service given by the inductee stem from dedication and commitment to the IHSSA and other arts activities in their school beyond normally expected and superlative identification. This year's recipient is Superintendent Dr. Brian Jaeger from Monticello High School. Head Coach Kim Carlson in her nomination letter shares:

"Dr. Jaeger is one of the first people to ask, 'When does speech start?' We can count on seeing Dr. Jaeger in a number of performance centers cheering on all students from our team as well as other schools. He is always present. Too, we host contest every year and Dr. Jaeger has always been supportive and willing to lend a hand. All fine arts programs have benefitted from Dr. Jaeger's support. He promotes a culture that truly champions the arts! He recognized the need to update our auditorium, encouraged us to develop a proposal for a new sound system, and secured funding for a complete update of both our sound and light systems. Dr. Jaeger truly cares about all students in our district. He empowers his staff to make opportunities for students a reality!"

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Brian Jaeger,
the 2026 IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the Year!

IHSSA CONGRATULATES!

AJ BLESKACEK
EARLHAM
Richard Riggleman
New Speech Coach Award



The Richard Riggleman Young Speech Coach Award was established by Richard Riggleman of Deloit, Iowa to reward a second or third year IHSSA speech coach and teacher. Mr. Riggleman was an active IHSSA coach for over 30 years with a special love for debate. Richard Riggleman was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame in 1994. In 1995, Mr. Riggleman gifted an endowment fund of $56,000 to honor a new speech coach and teacher.

This award consists of $1,000 per year, renewable for two consecutive years, for a total of $3,000. The Riggleman Award was the first of its kind to be established with the IHSSA. The profile of the recipient reflects: a commitment and demonstration of excellence in coaching speech, large group events, individual events, and/or debate; and inclusion and past experience in high school or college speech activities.

This year's recipient is AJ BLESKACEK from Earlham High School. AJ is in his second year as a speech/drama/ELA teacher and coaches both large group and individual events. AJ was actively involved in his high school's speech team at West Des Moines Valley High School as well as UNI's speech and theatre programs. He has volunteered to be room chair at the All-State Festival, and was a Convention Presenter for Group Improvisation. AJ believes that "the IHSSA has and will always continue to give students a sense of belonging. A home to be creative, to learn new things, and to be authentically 100% yourself."

Kristin Sheffield, Earlham High School Principal shares that "AJ doesn't just limit support to the speech sphere; I find him outside contract hours supporting students as they compete in athletics and perform in other fine arts events. He even plays the cowbell in the pep band! AJ genuinely believes that public speaking and confidence is important for all students and not just those on the speech team. In his short time here at Earlham, AJ has already made a huge impact on the entire school culture!"

Congratulations to AJ BLESKACEK, Earlham,
2026 Richard Riggleman Award Winner!



2026
Convention
Committee

LOOKING for
Convention Materials?
CLICK LINK HERE

click
here!



Large Group
Contest Managers



Angie
Toomsen



Individual Events
Contest Managers



New Coaches



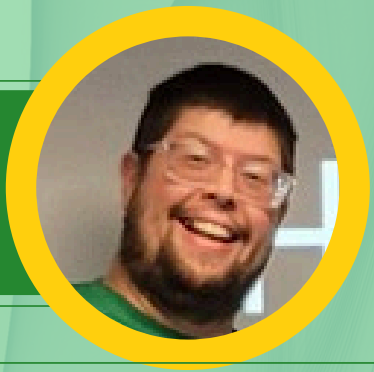
IHSSA
Hall of Fame



2025.26
District Presidents

IHSSA JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The IHSSA Judge Certification Committee develops instruction and certification procedures regarding the implementation of over 800 judges in our IHSSA Family. The Judge Certification Committee is responsible for the direction of 16 judge certification sites and 2 online options. This team also oversees all judge evaluations submitted by IHSSA coaches and provides a summer training clinic to judges and coaches. They meet throughout the year ensuring judges are held to the highest assessment. Their term is an 8-year term. Thank you, JUDGE CERTIFICATION, for offering your best to the IHSSA!



SHAWN STARR — Woodbury Central: NW

I continue to be excited to serve on the Judge Certification team! I enjoy traveling around my district, meeting new and experienced judges and sharing a genuine love of speech education with others! I also enjoy getting to work with coaches and judges from across the state.



KELSEY DINKLA — ACGC: SW

My favorite thing about being on the Judge Certification Committee is training former students to be judges. Watchng their love of the IHSSA come full circle is something very special!



LISA PHYFE — Waverly-Shell Rock: NE

I LOVE serving on the JC Committee because it allows me to work with outstanding IHSSA representatives. I also LOVE to train judges. They are key factors in providing lifelong learning for our speech students.



VINCE HRASKY — Tri County: SE

This is my seventh year on the Judge Certification Committee. Judge Cert is great because it allows me to spend time working with people who are dedicated and passionate about speech and the kids of Iowa.



CARRIE TINKHAM — CR Washington: Coach at Large

Folks on this committee are so lovely to work with! I love digging into the constitution and exploring how we can use it to communicate to judges how to do best by kids and keep them enjoying and coming back each year to participate in the IHSSA!

COPYRIGHT GUIDANCE

Permission to do Material or Music in all IHSSA Events

Please remember you must have permission to do ANY MATERIAL that you use for contest events. We have agreements with many companies to use their materials for IHSSA contest. For example, if you use recorded music for background in Mime or One Act (unless it is BMI music or you have purchased the BMI license) you must have permission to use it. If you are using music for Short Film or TV you must get rights from the copyright holder and get synchronization rights for that song or songs. If you are reading an interp selection from a book you must receive permission to read that selection or cutting at the contest. In Musical Theatre you cannot do cuttings unless you have permission to do so. You can NEVER cut or rearrange material without receiving permission or using material from the companies we have agreements with. Receiving permission to perform at contest is just that. It does not cover performing for other events. Also, NEVER allow contest selections to be placed on YouTube or the internet. YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO DO THAT! It is the responsibility of the local school to secure all performance rights for contest selections. Be sure you have permission to do material before you start a selection for contest. The IHSSA will NOT support any school that does not secure performance rights for selections at contest. Do not put your school district in financial danger by not finding the rights to perform material. Please remember all of your titles are posted on the web and those groups will see what you are doing. Get the proper rights to do material for contest. You as a coach/school must do this! Secure permission.

GREAT IDEA!

FROM FEAR TO FAIR USE

COPYRIGHT SUPPORT MATERIALS

LG. GROUP MUSIC RESOURES

- MTI Information Letter
- MTI Rules for IHSSA Musical Theatre
- MTI Musical Theatre Application Form

The Iowa rep for MTI is Roseanne George:
RoseanneG@MTIShows.com.
Scan your requests to her. BE SURE you are doing the RIGHT thing with copyright and permissions. Do RIGHT! DO WRITE!

- TRW Rules for IHSSA Musical Theatre
- TRW Form

Good for MUSICAL THEATRE

- BMI Music License on behalf of the NFHS

Good for background music in short film or mime. This does not allow you to stream or place on Youtube or change or edit.

NFHS COPYRIGHT GUIDANCE LINK

BEST ADVICE:

- Always get permissions.
- Secure permissions early.
- Make sure you have the correct license.
- Use royalty-free resources for background music.

DEBATE TOPICS & MORE

DEBATE TOPICS can be found at: www.speechanddebate.org (Click link.)
Please remember we use the January PF and LD topics for the State Tournament.

STATE DEBATE ENTRY MATERIALS: State Debate entry materials and info will have a link on the web site. All entries for State Debate will be done via Tabroom on the IHSSA web site. If you have questions or concerns please let us know. That link will be live by December 1. Please watch the IHSSA web site for the link.
Remember: Student Congress intent and at least two bills or resolutions must be in by November 15. Here is the STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT Google FORM LINK. You may request a copy be sent from the State Office via email, too.
Debate rules updates are available on the IHSSA website. The complete rules for all debate categories are available on the IHSSA website. Please make sure you consult the IHSSA Constitution for complete rules.
State Debate will be on the campus of DMACC in Ankeny this year on January 8-9, 2027. Be sure to mark your calendars.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE STATE TOURNAMENT THERE IS SUPPORT. JUST CONTACT THE STATE OFFICE AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN SUPPORT.

A Call for Student Congress

Dear IHSSA Speech Coach,
I would like to share with you a thought about the exciting IHSSA Student Congress event. And, if you believe your time is already limited, you could pass the thought to your English staff, Talented and Gifted, Honors, or Advanced Placement instructors.
Student Congress offers an exciting critical think activity that could easily fit into a classroom project. It develops the key skills of research, writing, speaking and defending one's ideas.
By passing along the IHSSA rules for Student Congress to the other instructors, they could prepare students for a fun learning experience that will not break the department budget.
The students could research, write and submit two bills by November 15 to **Sam Magner** at **sjmagner12@gmail.com** for the January tournament. Then, by December 1, receive the full slate of bills for the tournament, and prepare to join in the congress discussion on January 8-9, 2027 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny. Note you can still attend without submitting any bills.
Should you, or any of your fellow instructors, have any questions as you prepare for the tournament, you can always e-mail **Sam Magner** at **sjmagner12@gmail.com.**
I hope you will consider attending the IHSSA State Debate Tournament Friday and Saturday, January 8-9, 2027 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Sam Magner, Hampton-Dumont CAL

STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM

STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM

Please complete the **GOOGLE INTENT FORM** by November 15 for the State Debate Tournament this year. Please contact the State Office if you have any questions about entering State Debate or would like to try that activity. Let us know! **STUDENT CONGRESS INTENT FORM LINK**

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION + YOU!

IHSSA Student Congress Intent Form 2027

Article XXXI-Section 3: Each school planning on entering Student Congress must fill out an intent form from the State Office.
In addition, please submit bills/resolutions on this form by November 15. Copies of the bills/resolutions will be sent to schools by December 1.

Be sure to read Section 11 on Bills and Resolutions for directions on writing bills/resolutions. The bills/resolutions must be typewritten in correct form. **Lines must be numbered and doubled-spaced. The name of the school must be on the bill. You must use the correct format.** If submitting two or more bills, clearly number your first and second choice for placement on the final agenda.

This year there will be four total Student Congress sessions:
Friday PM (two sessions)
Saturday AM

IHSSA + YOU

8th Grade Guidance

Effective for the 2026-2027 season, the IHSSA 9th grade membership will now become the 8th/9th grade membership. Participation in IHSSA for eighth-graders is based upon local school district decisions.

FAQ's for 8th Grade Participation LINK

Dr. Kevin Seney's Convention Presentation
WELCOMING 8th Grade Particpation LINK

Your Mission: 3 Things To Do

1) Find out your district's policy for "activities" regarding 8th Grade Participation

2) Draft a "one-pager" to take to your admin/board regarding benefits of IHSSA participation.

3) Pick a middle school teacher, share some coffee, ask them for three 8th grade participants and begin!

8th 8th 8th

IHSSA CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINES

STATE DEBATE
December 15, 2026
All forms due

DISTRICT LARGE GROUP
January 6, 2027

STATE LARGE GROUP
Immediately after District

LG ALL STATE
Immediately after notification

DISTRICT IE
February 10, 2027

STATE IE
Immediately after District

ALG ALL STATE
Immediately after notification

EARLY is ON TIME.
ON TIME is LATE.
LATE is....OH NO!

Send in payment early. The PO is NOT payment.Communicate EARLY with your bookkeeper.

Please remember these deadline dates. Late entry penalties will be enforced per the IHSSA Constitution. All late entries will be placed at the end of the performance day, as per the Executive Committee. EARLY is ON TIME.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

By direction of the Executive Committee, all special requests must be CALLED INTO THE STATE OFFICE by the dates listed below:

District LG: January 7, 2027
State LG: January 27, 2027
District IE: February 11, 2027
State IE: March 3, 2027

Special requests after these deadlines will only be accepted on an emergency basis. Email requests or phone messages will NOT be honored. COACHES must speak directly to Stacy Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director. Contest Managers will not accept special requests. ACT testing is NOT a special request. Thanks for your compliance.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: IHSSA + YOU!

CURTAINS UP
IHSSA

LOOK for CURTAINS UP! A weekly video message about all things IHSSA on our YOUTUBE channel.

LG GROUP DUE DATES 2027

January 6: LG Districts Registration DUE

January 7: LG Districts Special Requests DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

January 26: LG State Registration DUE

January 27: LG State Special Requests DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

February 9: ALL STATE Registration DUE

IE DUE DATES

February 10: IE Districts Registration DUE

February 11: IE Districts Special Requests DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

March 2: IE State Registration DUE

March 3: IE State Special Requests DUE to Stacy by phone requests only

March 16: IE ALL STATE Registration DUE

WHERE do I go for contest?

LG DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: will be released after DECEMBER 15.
IE DISTRICT SITE ASSIGNMENTS: will be released in JANUARY.

WHEN do I register for contest?

Register AFTER Contest Sites are posted. District sites are released December 15 (LG) and in January (IE).

WHERE will I register for contest?



You will register online at ihssa.org using your secure login/password. Contact the IHSSA Office if you need login info.

Contest Sites 27

NORTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT
Denison
Sibley Ocheyedan
Spencer
LARGE GROUP STATE
Fort Dodge

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT
Coon Rapids-Bayard
Sioux Central
West Lyon
INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST
Sheldon

NORTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT
Decorah
Denver
Mason City
LARGE GROUP STATE
Dubuque Senior

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT
Hampton-Dumont-CAL
Janesville
MFL MarMac
INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST
Starmont

SOUTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT
Ankeny
Des Moines Hoover
Harlan
Riverside
LARGE GROUP STATE
Waukee
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT
Clarke
Gilbert
Shenandoah
Waukee Northwest
INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST
Ames

SOUTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT
Centerville
Grinnell-Newbrug
Monticello
LARGE GROUP STATE
Cedar Rapids Washington

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT
Mount Pleasant
North Scott
Pella Christian
South Tama County
INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST
Cedar Rapids Xavier

STATE DEBATE:
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
IOWA STATE

IE All STATE FESTIVAL:
UNI



ADDRESS BOOK

Here is the
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP
IHSSA Head SPEECH DIRECTORS LINK.
as of October 27, 2026 based upon Membership Forms received.

To update any head contacts, please contact pam@ihssa.org
(This document lists only the HEAD DIRECTORS as of 10/27/26.)

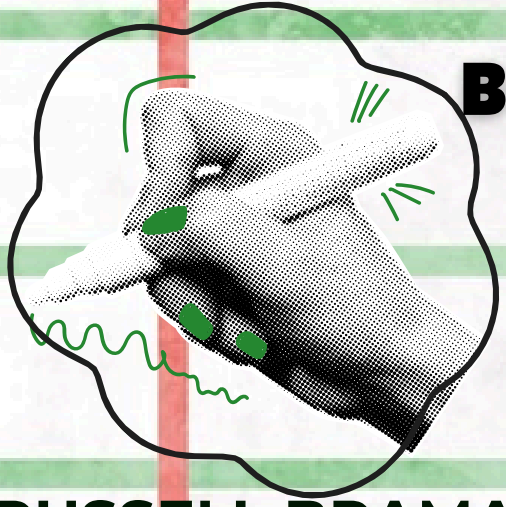
LARGE GROUP: SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: VIDEOCASTING, REVIEW, EXPOSITORY

As per the IHSSA Constitution, you must provide your own media formatted presentation. The contest site will have a backup just in case something happens to your projector or computer; however, it is your responsibility to bring your own equipment. Each individual school is responsible for bringing their own AV equipment in SHORT FILM, TV NEWSCASTING, RADIO BROADCASTING and IE VIDEOCASTING. Do not rely on the contest manager supplying this for you. Do not rely on the contest school's WIFI.



BRING TO CONTEST: Your own projector
Your own multiple copies of your Short Film/TV/Radio
Your own extension chords
Your own extra speakers
Your own extra cart (if you wish to bring)

If you bring your own equipment, you will have no problems showing these events. What each site will have is a cart to set up your equipment in the hallway before each presentation. When your event is then ready to go, you wheel the cart in and your presentation will be set. There will be no setting up equipment in the room. This should help those events run more smoothly. If you are using music for short film, tv news, radio broadcasting, videocasting you must get rights from the copyright holder and get synchronization rights for that music. DO NOT USE MUSIC WITHOUT THOSE RIGHTS! ***Best advice: use royalty-free music!
****NOTE on timing of the Short Film: Credits ARE a part of the time. If you show credits, yes, they do count as part of the time.**



Behind the Comment Sheet: IHSSA JUDGE SPOTLIGHT

The IHSSA Judge Certification Committee meets throughout the year to assist in policies for certification procedures. They also aid in judge evaluations and plan workshops as well as clinics. The JC Committee would like to offer special recognition to these superior judges!

RUSSELL BRAMAN



RUSSELL BRAMAN brings a competitor's perspective and a teacher's heart to every IHSSA room. A former Texas high school competitor in Lincoln-Douglas debate, original oratory, and foreign extemporaneous speaking, Russell began judging tournaments in college and was thrilled to discover IHSSA after moving to Iowa.

What he enjoys most is seeing students' creativity and passion come to life as well as helping them fine-tune the argumentation and communication skills they are developing. His message to students is simple and encouraging. "Everyone in the room is rooting for you. Do your best, trust your preparation, and leave it all in the performance room."

Outside of speech, Russell is an avid reader and (unapologetically) a passionate Texas Longhorns fan. And yes, he once competed in a poetry interpretation piece he admits was "really bad". This is proof that even great judges have been students finding their way!

TRACY KOCH



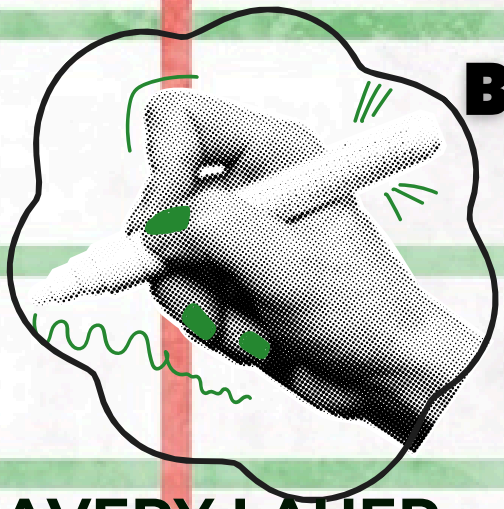
Ask **TRACY KOCH** what he loves about being an IHSSA judge, and he will tell you it is the people and the incredible performances he gets to experience from one of the best seats in the room. He is continually impressed by the intelligence, talent, kindness, and confidence of Iowa's student speakers.

Tracy discovered IHSSA through his own children, who participated in speech contests. Seeing how much they gained from the activity inspired him to stay involved and give back. With a background in business, Tracy understands firsthand how valuable strong communication skills are, and he enjoys helping students build both those skills and their confidence.

His advice to competitors goes beyond ratings and results. "Choose something you care about, have fun, keep growing, and be proud when your audience learns something or enjoys what you have shared." He reminds students that judges are always in their corner.

Perhaps what says the most about Tracy as a judge is what he notices on speech days: students, coaches, organizers, volunteers, audiences, and fellow judges all working together to create something positive. And he is grateful to be part of it.

Away from speech, Tracy enjoys family time, running, Disney, reality TV, and playing drums with his church worship team. He also has a long-time connection to Drum Corps International, including marching in a drum and bugle corps as a teenager.



Behind the Comment Sheet: IHSSA JUDGE SPOTLIGHT

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AVERY LAUER



AVERY LAUER brings a simple but meaningful perspective to the IHSSA judging community. He genuinely enjoys seeing what young people are interested in. For Avery, judging is an opportunity to listen to students explore ideas, share their perspectives, and continue developing their communication skills.

Avery knows the experience from the competitor's side, having participated in Choral Reading, Prose, Reviewing, and a few other events during his high school speech career. His own coaches, Laura Oliver and Rebecca Perryman, made a lasting impression on him, and he credits their dedication to refining both performance and communication as an important part of his speech experience.

His advice to competitors is refreshingly practical, "Read your category's rules." Preparation matters to Avery, and understanding the expectations of an event gives students the best opportunity to showcase what they can do.

When Avery isn't in an IHSSA room, his time is happily occupied taking care of his baby, Mary. The IHSSA appreciates that, despite a busy calendar and a full life outside of speech, Avery continues to make time to support Iowa students and the activity he once enjoyed himself.

LEON LEUCK



For **LEON LEUCK,** judging is about much more than evaluating a performance. It is about witnessing the courage, dedication, and enthusiasm that young performers bring into the room. With experience as both a high school theatre director and a professional actor, Leon understands the work that happens long before a student ever steps in front of a judge. "Thank you, coaches, for your tireless and enthusiastic dedication!"

His own performance journey began as a high school student at St. Boniface High School in New Vienna, IA where he performed Dramatic Acting in 1965. That experience has stayed with him, and today he brings that perspective to students as a judge and coach. His favorite piece of performance advice is one every actor should remember. "90% of acting is reacting."

Leon continues to give generously to young performers, coaching Optimist Speech at Franklin and Harding Middle Schools in Cedar Rapids. Away from speech and theatre, his interests are wonderfully varied from maintaining Franklin's extensive art collection and teaching Architectural Kitchen Design through Coe College for Kids to building furniture and cabinetry for his Prairie Style home and tending his Japanese-style garden.

FREE!

NFHS: FREE Courses!

DIRECTING PLAYS Link

COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE COURSE Link

THEATRE SAFETY COURSE Link

COACHING SPEECH AND DEBATE COURSE Link

THE COLLAPSED STUDENT COURSE Link

POSITIVE PARENTING WITHIN SCHOOL PROGRAMS Link

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS COURSE Link

NFHS: Teacher Satisfaction RESULTS

We need your help. 15 minutes. YOUR voice is IMPORTANT and NEEDED NATIONALLY! Please take the NFHS Teacher Satisfaction Survey. Thank you for completing the NFHS Teacher Satisfaction Survey. Results are below. This information are used to create recruitment efforts for younger generations to become teachers and advocacy efforts to help support current coaches in the future. Please help us out with your voice and lens.

HELP!

THEATRE DASHBOARD: Survey

SPEECH/DEBATE DASHBOARD: Survey

CALLBOARD

November 5 - 7: Fort Dodge, CACTUS PASS
November 5 - 7: Sioux City North, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
November 5 - 7: South Tama County, SWEENEY TODD: DEMON BARBER OF THE BARBARY COAST
November 6 - 7: Bondurant-Farrar, RADIUM GIRLS
November 6 - 7: Center Point-Urbana, THE ELECTION
November 6 - 7: Garner-Hayfield-Ventura , THE ELECTION
November 6 - 7: MFL MarMac, MATILDA THE MUSICAL
November 6 - 7: Moravia, ALICE IN WONDERLAND
November 6 - 7: North Cedar, BRIGHT STAR
November 6 - 7: Oskaloosa, THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
November 6 - 8: Anamosa, MEAN GIRLS
November 6 - 8: Des Moines Hoover, GIRLS IN THE BOAT
November 6 - 8: Don Bosco, SHAKESPEARE GOES TO GRAVEL GULCH
November 6 - 8: West Des Moines Valley, PRIDE & PREJUDICE
November 7 - 8: Earlham, TUCK EVERLASTING
November 7 - 15: Montezuma, NEWSIES
November 12 - 13: Boyden-Hull, WHO POISONED HIS MEATBALL?
November 12 - 13: Janesville, HADESTOWN
November 12 - 15: Carroll , GREASE
November 12 - 15: Sioux Central, CLUE: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
November 13 - 14: Iowa Thespian Festival, UNI
November 13 - 14: Cedar Rapids Prairie, RADIUM GIRLS
November 13 - 14: Clarke Community, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
November 13 - 14: East Union, MILLION DOLLAR MEATBALLS
November 13 - 14: Sheldon, SEUSSICAL
November 13 - 15: Columbus Catholic, ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD
November 13 - 15: North Fayette Valley, ASHTON TOWERS (An Austin Powers Parody)
November 13 - 15: Gilbert, SHREK THE MUSICAL
November 13 - 15: Spencer, HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING
November 14 - 15: Forest City, NEWSIES
November 19 - 21: Western Dubuque, LEAVING IOWA
November 20 - 21: Hampton-Dumont-CAL, BULLDOG SPEECH & DEBATE RUMBLE
November 21 - 22: Bedford , THE SOUND OF MURDER





Want YOUR EVENTS published?
SUBMIT YOUR SPEECH/THEATRE/DEBATE
DATES for our IHSSA Callboard at this LINK:
IHSSA CALLBOARD DATES (CLICK LINK)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS

POETRY OUT LOUD

Freedom 250

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

Humanities Iowa

IOWA Office of Community Engagement

Poetry Out Loud *Iowa*

Bringing poetry to life for high school students for more than 20 years



Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that inspires students in grades 9–12 to engage with poetry through memorization and recitation. Each year, thousands of students across the country participate, beginning in classrooms and schools before advancing through regional and state competitions. Iowa's state champion earns the opportunity to represent the state at the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Poetry Out Loud helps students:

- **Develop confidence in public speaking**
- **Build communication skills**
- **Improve reading comprehension and literary**
- **analysis Strengthen memorization and critical**
- **thinking skills Experience poetry in an engaging, interactive way**

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program is open to Iowa students in grades 9–12 attending public, private, charter, tribal, or home schools. Eligible community organizations, libraries, and after-school programs may also participate.

HOW IT WORKS

Students select and memorize poems from the Poetry Out Loud anthology before participating in a contest at the classroom, school, or local level. Winners of these contests advance to the Iowa State Finals.

FREE RESOURCES

Participating schools receive access to:

- **A curated online poetry anthology**
- **Teacher resources and program**
- **guidance Registration support throughout the year**

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for registration, resources, important dates, and more:

QUESTIONS?

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