

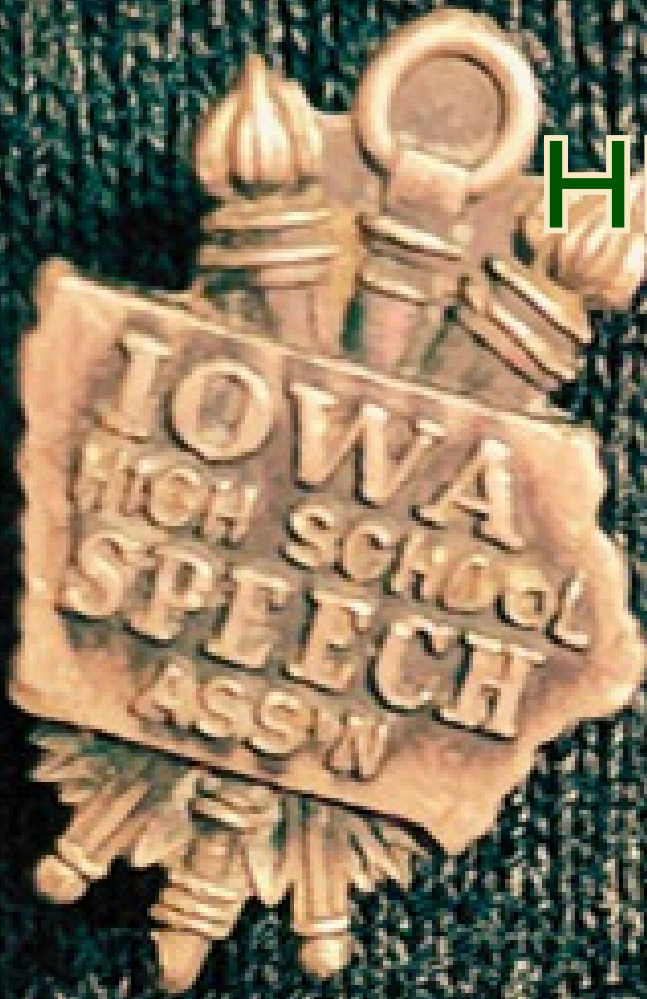


SWIFT

MAY 2026

SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES

IHSSA + YOU HELLO! HELLO!



- **ACADEMIC CONGRATS**
 - **GRATITUDE**
 - **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
 - **RISE APPLICATIONS**
 - **26.27 CALENDAR**
 - **CONTEST SITES**
 - **RIGGLEMAN APP**
 - **ADMIN AWARD APP**
 - **CONVENTION 2026**
- + MORE!**

"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."

A Lil' Acorn

Cassandra Schachtner, IHSSA East Sac Speech Coach, didn't expect a lifelong lesson about speech education to come from her work as a caregiver. But it did, in the quiet, meaningful conversations she shared with a woman named Ruth Elaine Neville from Odebolt.



Ruth lived to be 87 years old. Her voice had softened with time, but her enthusiasm had not. When she learned that Cassandra was a speech coach, something lit up inside her. Every story about students finding their confidence, about performances, about advancing to the next contest brought Ruth joy. The two celebrated each success as if Ruth were still in the room, still part of the team.

Because in a way, she was.

Ruth had been a member of the Fort Dodge High School speech team decades earlier. A student who once stood up, found her voice, and carried that experience with her for the *rest of her life*. Ruth went on to become an elementary teacher and a substitute teacher. These are necessary, important roles rooted in communication, connection, and encouragement. The kind of roles that shape generations and most assuredly save lives.

After Ruth passed, her family found something tucked away. A small speech pin, worn with time, at least 70 years old. They gave it to Cassandra. She cleaned it carefully, revealing not just a piece of metal, but a piece of identity. A symbol of something that had never left Ruth.

That's the power of speech education. It doesn't end when the season is over. It doesn't fade when students graduate. It becomes part of who they are and how they listen, how they speak, how they connect with others. It shows up in classrooms, in careers, in quiet conversations, and in the way someone cheers for the success of others. It shows up when neighbors talk across the fences and when strangers hold the door open for one another. Speech shows up.

Ruth never stopped being a speech student.

And that is the heart of the IHSSA mission: no other activity is any more important than learning to communicate effectively. Those skills don't just earn medals and pins. They shape lives. They endure across decades. They resurface in the most unexpected, beautiful ways.

Seventy years later, Ruth was still cheering.

Seventy years later, speech still mattered.

And for every student stepping into a practice room, onto a stage, or behind a podium today, the lesson is quite simple.

A student doesn't just participate in speech.

They become a student of it for life.

Here's to our graduating IHSSA seniors! May the skills you have acquired through your participation in speech carry you through your life's journey!



**In the spirit of speech education,
Stacy S. Hansen**



DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

The following schools have achieved a 3.25 or above GPA in their classroom work while actively participating in interscholastic speech activities. These students exemplify the excellence achieved by the young people of today and the future of tomorrow!

CONGRATULATIONS!

AHSTW: Large Group, Individual Events

AHSTW 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events

AGWSR: Large Group

APLINGTON-PARKERSBURG: Large Group, Individual Events

AUDUBON: Large Group, Individual Events

BAXTER: Large Group

BISHOP GARRIGAN: Large Group, Individual Events

CEDAR VALLEY CHRISTIAN: Large Group, Individual Events

CENTERVILLE: Large Group, Individual Events

CHEROKEE WASHINGTON: Large Group, Individual Events

CHEROKEE WASHINGTON 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events

COLLINS-MAXWELL: Large Group, Individual Events

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY: Large Group, Individual Events

COUNCIL BLUFFS THOMAS JEFFERSON: Large Group, Individual Events

COUNCIL BLUFFS THOMAS JEFFERSON 9TH: Individual Events

DAVIS COUNTY: Large Group, Individual Events

DECORAH: Large Group, Individual Events

DECORAH 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events

DENVER: Large Group, Individual Events

DES MOINES HOOVER: Large Group, Individual Events

DES MOINES HOOVER 9TH: Individual Events

DON BOSCO: Large Group, Individual Events

EAST MARSHALL: Large Group, Individual Events

EAST MILLS: Large Group, Individual Events



DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

EAST UNION: Large Group, Individual Events
EMMETSBURG: Large Group, Individual Events
ESSEX: Large Group, Individual Events
FOREST CITY: Large Group, Individual Events
FOREST CITY 9TH: Individual Events
GLADBROOK-REINBECK: Large Group, Individual Events
GLADBROOK-REINBECK 9TH: Individual Events
GLENWOOD: Large Group, Individual Events
GRINNELL-NEWBURG: Debate, Large Group, Individual Events
GRINNELL-NEWBURG 9TH: Individual Events
HAMPTON-DUMONT-CAL: Debate, Large Group, Individual Events
HAMPTON-DUMONT-CAL 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events
HIGHLAND: Large Group, Individual Events
IKM-MANNING: Large Group, Individual Events
IOWA FALLS: Large Group, Individual Events
ISAAC NEWTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: Large Group
KUEMPER CATHOLIC: Large Group, Individual Events
LEMARS GEHLEN: Large Group
LISBON: Large Group, Individual Events
MADRID: Large Group, Individual Events
MAQUOKETA VALLEY: Large Group, Individual Events
MAQUOKETA VALLEY 9TH: Individual Events
MARQUETTE CATHOLIC: Large Group, Individual Events
MEDIAPOLIS: Large Group, Individual Events
MFL MARMAC: Large Group, Individual Events
MFL MARMAC 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events
MID-PRAIRIE: Large Group, Individual Events
MIDLAND: Individual Events



DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

MONTICELLO: Large Group, Individual Events
MONTICELLO 9TH: Large Group, Individual Events
NEWELL-FONDA: Large Group, Individual Events
NEWELL-FONDA 9TH: Large Group
NORTH BUTLER: Large Group, Individual Events
NORTH BUTLER 9TH: Individual Events
NORTH UNION: Individual Events
OSKALOOSA: Large Group, Individual Events
PCM: Large Group, Individual Events
POCAHONTAS AREA: Large Group, Individual Events
POSTVILLE: Large Group, Individual Events
POSTVILLE 9TH: Individual Events
RIDGE VIEW: Large Group, Individual Events
RIDGE VIEW 9TH: Individual Events
SAYDEL: Large Group
SIOUX CENTRAL: Large Group, Individual Events
SIOUX CENTRAL 9TH: Individual Events
SOUTHEAST VALLEY: Large Group, Individual Events
STARMONT: Large Group, Individual Events
STARMONT 9TH: Individual Events
TRINITY CHRISTIAN: Large Group, Individual Events
TURKEY VALLEY: Large Group, Individual Events
VINTON-SHELLSBURG: Large Group, Individual Events
WAUKEE: Large Group
WEST SIOUX: Individual Events
WESTERN DUBUQUE: Large Group, Individual Events
WESTERN DUBUQUE 9TH: Individual Events

*Schools listed are those based
on applications received
by Monday, April 27, 2026.*



IHSSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE! Thank you for offering your generous leadership, your thoughtful guidance, and your continuous vision for excellence to the IHSSA! We are beyond grateful for giving of yourselves so abundantly and passionately! True servant leaders you are!

TIM CRONIN, Superintendent, Decorah, NE

I am honored to serve the students and coaches in the IHSSA. I look forward to helping you in any way, and especially enjoy all of your performances at contest!



TERRY HEMANN, Superintendent, Spencer, NW

Before I was on the Board, I was a parent of speech kids. I observed how confident and competent my kids became through their speech experiences. The activities that we support will build important life skills that these kids will take with them throughout their adult life. What a gift that we can provide to them!



KEVIN SENEY, Superintendent, East Marshall, SE

Iowa's talented speech students and dedicated coaches are amazing - watching their growth, creativity, and confidence come to life through speech is incredibly rewarding!



BILL MESSEROLE, Principal, Creston, SW

The IHSSA has a place for every student. It is the most inclusive activity that celebrates all abilities. Strengthening this program along with expanding opportunities to participate continues to be my focus.



JASON ESLINGER, Executive Vice President, IGHSAU

Participating in speech activities was a significant part of my high school experience—one that I truly loved. Serving on the Executive Committee allows me to witness the incredible talent and genuine joy students bring to IHSSA activities



CARRIE TINKHAM, Coach At Large, CR Washington

I love serving on the Executive Committee because I see the impact the IHSSA has on students all over our state, and I believe wholeheartedly in the IHSSA philosophy.



RISE IHSSA STUDENT ENSEMBLE



RISE

RISE (Rise IHSSA Student Ensemble) is a student group of IHSSA students representing each of the 4 Districts. Members act as a voice of Iowa's student participants and serve as a student sounding board for the associated IHSSA Committees.

In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of speech participation, RISE explores issues around career and vocational training, citizenship and character counts, and student leadership. Members will participate in leadership seminars, awareness projects and will assist with selected contest/festival responsibilities. Members will also facilitate local leadership projects and provide feedback on a multitude of issues directly impacting IHSSA student voices.

Three representatives serve from each of Iowa's four districts (NE, SE, NW, SW). Consideration for selection will include speech/drama/debate participation in school as well as the community and demonstrated leadership skills. Incoming grades 11-12 may apply (grade for 2026-27 school year). Students must show an understanding of the role of IHSSA in a student's life long journey and the value of participation. Participants must be available for scheduled teleconferences and in-person meetings. Junior members will be selected for a two-year term; Seniors 1 year.

To be eligible for consideration for RISE, candidates must:

- **Complete Official Application**
- **Submit Letter of Recommendation from School Administrator (Principal, AD) or Speech Coach**
- **Submit Resume**
- **Submit a 3-4 minute Video Application**
- **Hold a Minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)**

HERE IS THE RISE APPLICATION LINK.



RISE IHSSA STUDENT ENSEMBLE

IHSSA + YOU



IHSSA DATES FOR 2026-2027

AUGUST 15, 2026 - JUDGES / COACHES WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL

**OCTOBER 9/10, 2026 - IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION
GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES**

**JANUARY 8/9, 2027 - STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT,
DMACC, ANKENY**

JANUARY 23, 2027 - DISTRICT LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 6, 2027 - STATE LARGE GROUP CONTEST

**FEBRUARY 19, 2027 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL LARGE GROUP
THIS IS NEW! FRIDAY! IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES**

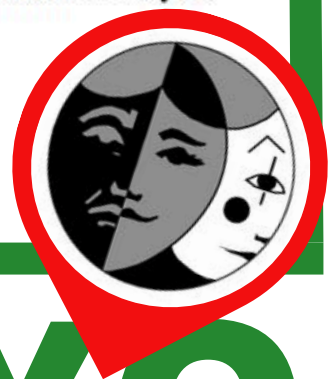
FEBRUARY 27, 2027 - DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 13, 2027 - STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

**APRIL 5, 2027 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS,
UNI, CEDAR FALLS**

Get these dates to your students, parents, and administration so you
can plan for these dates next year!

Approved by the Unified Board
IGHSAU, IHSAA, IHSMA, IHSSA



IHSSA + YOU

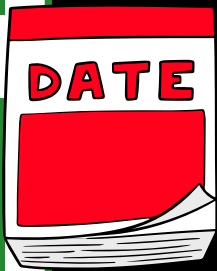


NOTES



IHSSA LOGO TRADEMARK

Please remember the IHSSA Logo is a trademark symbol and cannot be used unless you have permission from the IHSSA State Office. The IHSSA logo may not be used for end of the year awards/certificates/clothing/etc. Permission must be requested for any type of use. The IHSSA is a copyrighted trademark symbol.

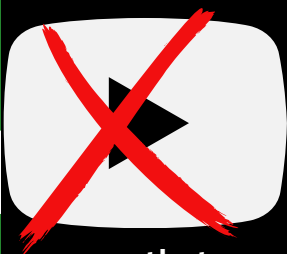
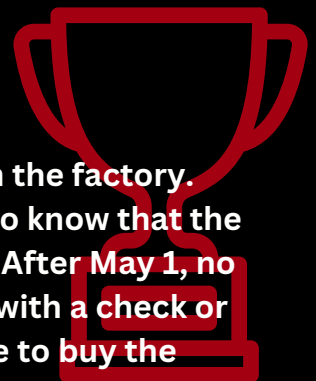


CONTEST DATES FOR 2026-27

Be sure to check the page in this issue of SWIFT that has the dates of IHSSA events. Make copies and give them to your Activities Director, Principal, Superintendent, Counselors, office staff, fellow teaching staff, and, most importantly: YOUR STUDENTS. If we plan for these dates now, there will be less conflict in 2026-2027. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the IHSSA has the tentative calendar set for contest dates through the year 2030. This can be found under [RESOURCES >> UNIFIED CALENDARS](#).

AWARDS

Please remember all awards will be shipped directly to your school from the factory. Therefore, we ask that you allow 2 -3 weeks for delivery. It is important to know that the State Office will NOT have any awards on hand for emergency requests. After May 1, no PO#s will be accepted for an award order. However, you still may order with a check or cash after May 1. Please plan AHEAD for your award ceremonies. Be sure to buy the IHSSA award for the extra official look! You are not allowed to use the IHSSA on your own.



NO POSTING on YOUTUBE

Please remember that the royalty agreement you have for contest does NOT cover your events to be posted on YouTube. If you have students or parents who are posting their events or performances on YouTube, be aware that you are not covered under any type of IHSSA agreement. It is strongly advised that these postings be taken down.

MORE notes

HAVE YOU PAID ALL ENTRY FEES??



Please take a moment to make sure your fees are paid. At this time, we have several coaches schools who still have not paid for their District Large Group, SLG, District IE, SIE, or All-State fees, etc. Your invoices for all contests can be found on your login/password page. Please take a moment and check to see if your fees are paid. Debate, Lg.Group District/State/All State, IE District/State/All State, Membership, Convention, Awards. Please contact the IHSSA office for any questions.



CONTEST SITES + YOU!

THANK YOU to the IHSSA Coaches who have opened many, many doors and even more hearts to their neighboring schools as a contest host for the past season as well as those who are serving in the 2027 Season! Contest Managers are sincerely applauded for their leadership!

Hosting builds comradery and connection within your school community. Hosting is an excellent fund raiser for your IHSSA Family. AND...hosting allows you to be on your "home court!" No yellow hornet rides needed! Please call the State Office if you are interested in hosting in 2028!

SPRING MEETINGS + YOU!

Be sure to attend your respective District meeting. These meetings are essential for a coach to attend. This is NOT a rule change year. Very important items will be discussed and reviewed. This meeting is the place to start the process for the future and gain professional insight!

SPRING MEETING DATES

May 5: SW District Meeting

May 6: NE District Meeting

May 7: SE District Meeting

May 8: NW District Meeting



MORE notes



FAMILY WEEK 2026 DATES

The Iowa High School Speech Association, Iowa High School Music Association, Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, issues a "Family Week" on the Unified Activities Federation Calendar. "Family Week" is a week that prohibits any coach or teacher/student contact and any unified activity event from occurring. That period will include Sunday through Sunday of Week 3 and Week 4 of the calendar. It will begin July 26, 2026 and extend through August 2, 2026. The Iowa High School Speech Association supports "Family Week", and there can be no speech, theatre, or debate activities within the IHSSA member schools during that week. All high school students, including incoming 9th graders, are covered under the rule and are not to have contact (on or off school premises) with teachers nor use school facilities during the eight day period.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU NOTES!

The IHSSA is most grateful to the friendships and support of our partnering organizations and businesses. Please take a moment and send a THANK YOU by email or mail to our following friends. Your thoughtfulness will be greatly received.

IOWA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNION (Year long support)

ATTN: Executive Director Erin Gerlich, erin@ighsau.org
5000 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266

DMACC (State Debate)

ATTN: President Lori Suddick
2006 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA (IE All State Festival)

ATTN: President Dr. Mark Nook, president@uni.edu
ATTN: Dean Mary Black, mary.black@uni.edu
ATTN: Dr. Ryan McGeough, Department Head of Communication/Media,
ryan.mcgeough@uni.edu
1227 W 27th St, Cedar Falls, IA 50614



IHSSA + YOU



+ MORE THANK YOU NOTES!

DISCOVER AMES (LG All State Festival and Fall Convention)

ATTN: Kevin Bourke, kevinb@discoverames.com

Aspen Business Park, 1601 Golden Aspen Dr # 110, Ames, IA 50010

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY CY STEPHENS (LG All State Festival)

ATTN: Executive Director, Tammy Koolbeck, tkool@iastate.edu

Scheman Building, 1805 Center Drive, Ames, IA 50011

IOWA FARM BUREAU (RISE Support)

ATTN: Ronnette K. Vondrak, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

5400 University Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50266

rvondrak@ifbf.org

CEDAR FALLS TOURISM and VISITORS BUREAU (IE All State Festival)

ATTN: Adam Bolander, Adam.Bolander@cedarfalls.com

6510 Hudson Rd, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

POETRY OUTLOUD (Year Long Support)

ATTN: Program Manager Brooke Rogers, Brooke.Rogers@lowaEDA.com

1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50315

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (Year Long Support)

ATTN: Director of Education Karoline Myers, karolinem@dmpa.org

221 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

MEDIACOM /MC22 (Televised Debate, Lg. Group All-State, and IE All-State)

ATTN: Senior Manager Jeff Anderson, jeanderson@mediacomcc.com

Senior Manager | MC22 Operations

6300 Council Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



2026 HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! NOMINATE!

Be sure to take a moment and nominate someone for the IHSSA Hall of Fame. Induction into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame is the highest honor the Speech Association may confer on an individual. It is presented to a distinguished individual of state-wide reputation and outstanding accomplishments. The contribution and service given by the inductee stem from dedication and commitment to the Iowa High School Speech programs *beyond* normally expected and superlative identification. By the model of their lifetime work they have exemplified most clearly and forcefully the ideas and purposes to which high school speech programs and competitions are dedicated.

If you are aware of a speech coach, administrator, or judge who fulfills the above criteria, please send the IHSSA a letter for recommendation. Your nomination will be held in strict confidence and forwarded to the Hall of Fame Jury for their consideration.

Please include a paragraph or two in which you justify why you believe this individual is worthy of being inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame.

Thank you - Hall of Fame Jury

APPLICATION for THE

IHSSA HALL OF FAME INDUCTION Link: also on website

APPLY TODAY!

**Richard Riggleman
New Speech Coach
AWARD
Fall 2026**

**IHSSA Fine Arts
Administrator
AWARD
Fall 2026**

The Richard Riggleman Speech Coach Award was established to recognize young IHSSA Speech Coaches. The award consists of 1,000 per year, renewable for two consecutive years, for a total of \$3,000.

The recipient must be a SECOND/THIRD YEAR TEACHER as of the start of the 2026-2027 school year and active in IHSSA activities. The award will be presented at the annual IHSSA Speech Coaches Convention. *Those interested may contact the IHSSA State Office for an application.*

[HERE is the RICHARD RIGGLEMAN APPLICATION LINK.](#)



The profile of the recipient should reflect the following disciplines: (1) must be in a second or third year residence of teaching at an Iowa School participating in the IHSSA; (2) show a commitment to coaching speech, large group events, individual events, and/or debate; (3) demonstrate excellence in the coaching of speech; (4) have past experience competing in high school or college speech; and (5) present a scholastic record with an emphasis in speech courses.

The Riggleman Award is the first of its kind that has been established with the IHSSA. Mr. Riggleman was an active IHSSA coach for over 30 years and was very active with IHSSA activities as a judge, State Debate Tournament manager, and manager for numerous State and District contests. Richard Riggleman was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame in 1994. The IHSSA is extremely grateful to Mr. Riggleman for his generous and continued support of the Iowa High School Speech Association.

This award will be given to one Administrator at the Fall Convention. The award was developed by the IHSSA Executive Committee to recognize those administrators in Iowa who go above and beyond the call of duty for IHSSA.

To receive this award an administrator must be nominated by their IHSSA coach. This nomination should be in letter form no longer than 2 pages and not less than 1. In the letter, each coach should state the reasons why this administrator should be recognized as the IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the year.

This person can be any administrator in your district. For example, Supt., Principal, AD, Assistant Principal, etc. They also must be an active administrator at this time. Be sure to include details such as their position in your school district and examples of their work to make the IHSSA better in your school district.

Letters of recommendation can be sent at this time to the IHSSA State Office. Summer time is a fantastic time to recommend a worthy Administrator!

Please indicate on the outside of the envelope that it is a nomination for IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the year. Be sure to honor those who have made your life better through their support!



MISSA + YOU



cracking the code



**COACHES CONVENTION
OCTOBER 9-10, 2026
GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES**

FREE COACHES/JUDGES + YOU WORKSHOP AUGUST 15, 2026

**SAVE
THE DATE**

SCHEDULE for AUGUST 15 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

10:00: Welcome
10:05: GOING from GOOD to GREAT
10:55: Judging VIDEOCASTING
11:45: Judging CHORAL READING



JUDGE CERTIFICATION for
Intermediate/Experience Judges

Contest Sites 26

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

TBA

NORTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Decorah
Denver
Mason City

LARGE GROUP STATE

Dubuque Senior

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Janesville
Hampton-Dumont-CAL

TBA

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
Daville
Grinnell-Newbrug
Monticello

LARGE GROUP STATE

Cedar Rapids Washington

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Anamosa
Pella Christian
North Scott

TBA

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Cedar Rapids Xavier

STATE DEBATE:
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
IOWA STATE

IE ALL STATE FESTIVAL:
UNI

ELECTIONS: Executive Committee

SW District Exec. Committee ELECTIONS

Elections will be held this coming fall for the position on the Ex. Committee for the SW District. Ballots will be sent out after Labor Day. If you have an Administrator (Superintendent or Principal) who is interested in serving on this Committee, please have them contact the IHSSA State Office. We will be glad to give them details and the responsibilities needed for this position. This is a 4-year term, with the option to run for a consecutive term. Bill Messerole is the current SW Executive Committee Member.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

NE: IE ALL-STATE

Kimberly Cavalier, Janesville

SE: LG GROUP ALL-STATE

Scott Davidson and Laura Travagiakis, CR Xavier

SW: JUDGE CERTIFICATION

Kelsey Dinkla, ACGC

DEBATE

Todd Crites, Grinnell-Newburg



IHSSA JUDGES + YOU!

If you are interested in hosting a Judges Certification meeting at your school next year please contact the State Office or your district's representative on the Judges Certification Committee. All you have to do is provide a place for the meeting. A Judges Certification Committee member will run the meeting. It is important that we all work together in recruiting individuals who would be great judges and keeping those who are superior. We need your help in finding that new great judge from your community.

NE: Lisa Phyfe, Waverly-Shell Rock, lisa.phyfe@wsr.k12.ia.us

NW: Shawn Starr, Woodbury Central, [sstarr@wcwildcats.org](mailto:ssstarr@wcwildcats.org)

SE: Vince Hrasky, Tri County, vince.hrasky@tri-countyschools.com

SW: Kelsey Dinkla, ACGC, kdinkla@acgcschools.org

HELP WANTED

Submit team and contest photos and videos for the Judge Training video!



<https://tinyurl.com/IHSSAphotos>

CALLBOARD

Summer



May 28: Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards Showcase,
Des Moines Civic Center

June 14 - 19: NSDA National Tournament, Richmond, Virginia

June 21 - 26: International Thespian Festival,
Indiana University Bloomington

July 26 - August 2: Unified Federation:
IGHSAU/IHSAA/IHSMA/IHSSA Family Week

August 16: IHSSA Coaches/Judges Summer Workshop,
Virtual



NFHS
FREE COURSES!

NFHS Summer
Camp ADVICE

Congrats!



The NFHS/IHSSA is proud to announce that former IHSSA Executive Director Craig Ihnen will be inducted into the NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) Hall of Fame this summer in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Craig served as the Executive Director of the IHSSA from 1994 to 2022, leading the organization for nearly three decades with vision, integrity, and a deep belief in the power of student activities to shape young lives. During his tenure, he helped elevate Iowa's speech programs to national prominence, building opportunities that allowed thousands of students to find their voices, their confidence, and their place in their communities.

Colleagues and educators across the country know Craig not only for his leadership but for the genuine care he shows to students, schools, and communities. His work consistently centered on the idea that speech and performing arts education provides a vital space for young people to grow as communicators, leaders, and compassionate citizens. Under his guidance, Iowa became widely recognized as a national leader in speech education and student-centered programming.

Even after his retirement in 2022, Ihnen's dedication has never slowed. He remains an active judge at speech contests throughout Iowa and neighboring states. His presence in contest rooms and auditoriums across the region is a reminder of the lasting culture of encouragement, excellence, and opportunity he built.

The IHSSA and NFHS celebrate this well-deserved honor and extend heartfelt congratulations to Craig Ihnen. His legacy is woven into the fabric of Iowa's speech community, and his influence will continue to inspire students, coaches, and judges forever.

Read the full [NFHS PRESS RELEASE LINK](#).

2026 IHSSA All-State Individual Events

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE



T-SHIRTS • HOODIES • PERFORMANCE APPAREL

SHOP NOW



AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT OR PURCHASE ONLINE !!!

FINE DESIGNS LINK