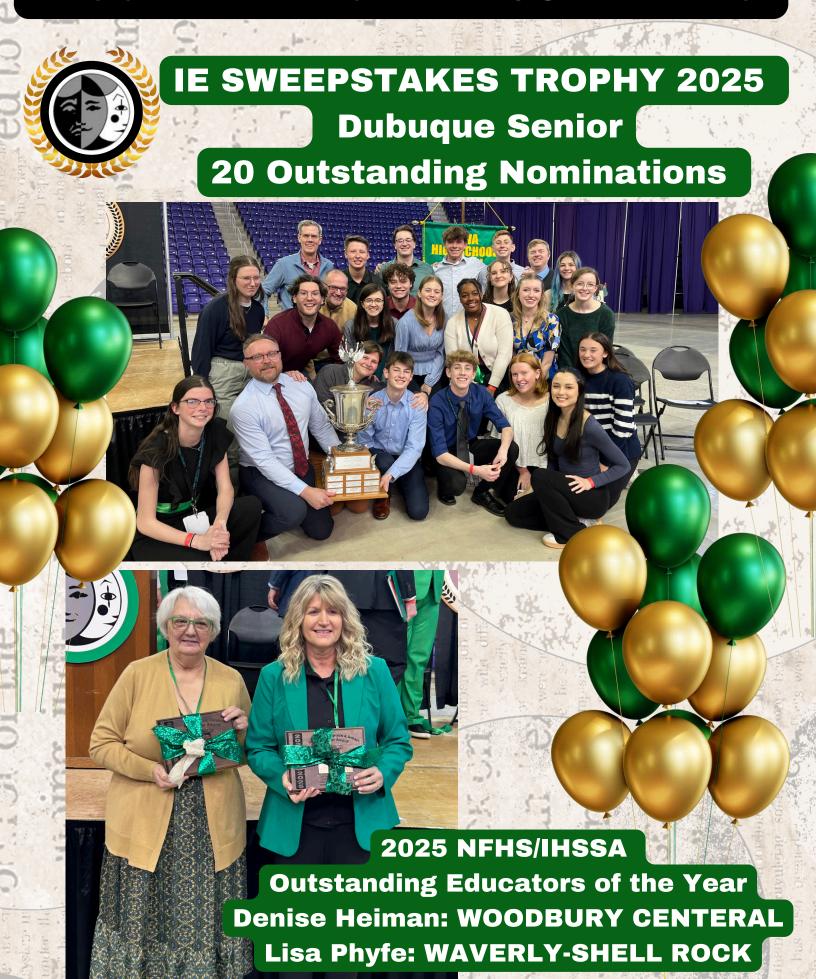


SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES



"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."

IHSSA IE ALL STATE CONGRATS!



Congratulations!



The National High School "Heart of the Arts" Award was conceptualized by the NFHS in 2014 and has since been utilized to honor those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts and represent the core mission of education-based activities. The NFHS Heart of the Arts Selection Committee has selected its Section 4 Award Winner: PAYTON TAYLOR, ADM High School.: Payton is a resilient and determined student overcoming significant personal and family challenges while excelling in academics, athletics and speech. Despite losing her mother at a young age and facing injuries that temporarily sidelined her athletic pursuits, Payton has remained steadfast in her commitment to personal growth and leadership. She has competed in statewide speech and debate tournaments, earning recognition for her public speaking skills. Additionally, she is an advocate for mental health awareness, using her experiences to inspire and support others. Payton's ability to rise above adversity while making meaningful contributions to her school and community highlights her incredible strength and dedication. The IHSSA together with the NFHS extends an abundance of applause to Payton!

IHSSA IE ALL STATE GRATITUDE!

One of the many reasons the IHSSA is so successful is the dedication and gracious service of committee members and speech coaches in Iowa!

SPECIAL THANKS to the IE ALL

STATE COMMITTEE:

DAVID WENDT, Special Assistant

KIM CARLSON, Monticello

KATE ENGELKES/CHUCK RIPLEY, Ames

GABE TWEDT, Decorah

JAKE GUTE, Kuemper Catholic

Thank you to WAUKEE student Anvitha Caddi for providing the Trumpet Fanfare.

SPECIAL THANKS to ROOM CHAIRS:

AHSTW

Anamosa

CAM

Center Point Urbana

Clinton 🗐

Exira-EHK

Hampton-Dumont-CAL

Manson Northwest Webster

Midland 🛭

Nodaway Valley

OABCIG 🧱

Pella Community

🛾 Perry 🎑

Riceville

Riverside 9th

Sheldon 🌃

Sioux Central

Storm Lake St. Mary's

Vinton-Shellsburg

Waterloo Columbus

Waukee 9th

Wayne 🗐

West Delaware

ADDITIONAL thank you's to our All-State Extra Hands and Hearts: Michele Letzkus, Liz Hansen, Teresa Lawler, Emily Eisenman, Brian Erbe, Jeff and Jodi Grant. Thank you for your tireless work!



GRATITUDE to the UNIVERSITY of NORTHERN IOWA:

Host Marilyn Shaw, Nikki Harken, and the staff at UNI, thank you for your gracious help and support! YOU made the DAY for all of us! Festival is truly something to HONK! HONK! about! We thank UNI for that incredible support over the years!

APPLAUSE TO OUR SPONSORS:

Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union

Iowa Farm Bureau

Cedar Falls Tourism

IHSMTA, Poetry Outloud, Vorland Photography, Fine Designs, Iowa Corn,

University of Iowa, Iowa Economic

Development, National Endowment for

the Humanities, MediaCom

COACHES! TAKE A BIG BOW! YOU did a most supreme job of supporting and affirming all of your students! YOU provided an avenue to make the Festival a true and forever experience for your students! THANK YOU to RISE students and Waterloo West students for their extra help as ticket takers!

176 schools earned OUTSTANDING nominations this year. It is a tremendous testament to the very caring and dedication of students and coaches in our state. We congratulate all those who participated in the 48th Annual IHSSA All-State Individual Events Festival!



OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

all-stater

/awl-ˈstā-tər/ noun



a speech artist recognized for an outstanding performance during the ihssa season; a performer with exceptional talent and admirable dedication; a force of nature; talented, adaptable, inspiring, confident, courageous, and charismatic.





IHSSA DISTRICT OFFICERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our DISTRICT OFFICERS! Thank you for offering your leadership, your care and your guidance. The District Officers attend all contests and often, put the needs of the entire Association above their own teams.

HEIDI ROTTINK, Don Bosco

NE: Vice President

I enjoy being an officer because of the amazing community of people I get to work with. I love meeting all the coaches and making connections.



SAM MAGNER, Hampton-Dumont CAL

NE: President

IHSSA is important because it's a group that is inclusive and doesn't discriminate, and allows students to be themselves. I like my role in IHSSA because I get to watch students perform and gain skills in communication that will help them throughout life.

KYLE WEBER, Waterloo Columbus NE

NE: Secretary

I have enjoyed and look forward to continued opportunities as a District Officer. I am excited to explore and celebrate innovation among our student and coach community.





JARROD ROTH, Storm Lake

NW: Vice President

I enjoy serving as a District Officer because it allows me to grow in my connections. I'm able to step up as a leader and help make it the best for kids across lowa.

DEB BENJAMIN, Emmetsburg NW

NW: President

I I enjoy being a part of the IHSSA because it gives students a place to find their voice and step out of their comfort zones. The IHSSA is a family with shared passions and beliefs that want to help students develop their talents.





ALYSSA RUSK, Sioux Central

NW: Secretary

Networking with other coaches and judges, as well as helping wherever I'm needed at each of our Contests, has given me so much joy and appreciation for what everyone does!



IHSSA DISTRICT OFFICERS

Interested in running for a District Officer?
Here is the **EXPECTATIONS link.**Nominations are submitted at the Spring
Meetings with voting taking place soon after.

BRIANNE MAGILL, Central DeWitt SE: Vice President

I enjoy gaining a greater understanding and appreciation for the IHSSA Constitution, and have loved experiencing the behind-the-scenes action at contests alongside other coaches, judges, and IHSSA VIPs!





DIXIE FORCHT, South Tama SE: President

I am proud to be part of an organization that supports and sustains coaches and students in the pursuit of their passions. IHSSA affirms and appreciates its members while promoting performance activities that allow students to express themselves, feel seen and heard, and celebrate their efforts in doing so.

LAURA TRAVAGIAKIS, CR Xavier

I love being able to support judges, coaches and students to do their best, have fun and be proud of their work in carrying out the philosophy of the IHSSA!



SE: Secretary

SW: President



JON RUSSELL, Ankeny Centennial SW: Vice President

I love serving as an IHSSA officer because I enjoy supporting the students, coaches, and communities that make the IHSSA so fantastic!

LAURA GRANGER, Creston

The IHSSA is an amazing thing that helps students find a place to belong, develop self-confidence, and discover their talents.



SW: Secretary



KELSEY DINKLA, ACGC

TI so enjoy visiting with and supporting the judges, coaches, and students of the SW. Providing safe spaces for adults and students to hone their communication skills is a dream!

SPRING MEETING



You're invited to annual Northeast District Spring Meeting.

* WHEN

Friday, May 2nd 2025 9am-3pm

WHY

*Connect
*Reflect
*Celebrate
*Advance

WHERE

805 Pizza &
Chicken
805 Central Ave W
Hampton, IA

Rule Change Year!
Cost \$25 Checks made
out to Decorah
Community Schools w/
speech in memo line
RSVP:

sjmagner12@gmail.com





EMMETSBURG, IA

9:00-3:00

\$20.00/Person

dbenjamin@e-hawks.org

14 N Lawler St. EMMETSBURG, IA MAY 9, 2025

9:00-3:00

dbenjamin@e-hawk

IHSSA SOUTHEAST DISTRICT SPRING

COACHES MEETING MEETING

All coaches of the Southeast are encouraged to attend!

CONNECT & REFLECT

CELEBRATE & ELEVATE

NOURISH & INSPIRE

(This is a rule-making year.)

REGISTER HERE.



MAY 7, 2025



9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
The Merino Loft

Amana





PLEASE REACH OUT TO A SE DISTRICT OFFICER WITH QUESTIONS:

DIXIE FORCHT—DFORCHT@S—TAMA,K12,IA,US

BRIANNE MAGILL—BRIANNE,MAGILL@CD—CSD,ORG

LAURA TRAVAGIAKIS—LNBC91189@GMAIL,COM

Southwest Spring Meeting

IHSSA

Monday, May 5, 2025

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rule Changes
Celebrations for the Year
Committee Reports



Cost \$25 (Light breakfast and lunch)

LOCATION:

Make check payable to:

Eagles Club

Kelsey Dinkla

300 E. Montgomery St.

Cash/Venmo also accepted.

Creston, IA 50801

RSVP To Laura Granger via email Igranger@crestonschools.org by April 18th

HSSA + YOU



IHSSA
DATES FOR
2025-2026

tentative

AUGUST 16, 2025 - JUDGES / COACHES WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL

OCTOBER 10/11, 2025 - IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION GATEWAY HOTEL, AMES

JANUARY 9/10, 2026 - STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT, DMACC, ANKENY

JANUARY 24, 2026 - DISTRICT LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - STATE LARGE GROUP CONTEST

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - ALL-STATE FESTIVAL LARGE GROUP IOWA STATE CENTER, AMES

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 - DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 14, 2026 - STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MARCH 30, 2026 - 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!

HSSA + Y

WHY HOST? PART 1



Kimberly Cavalier, Janesville, 1st-Time Contest Manager

Our district houses PK-12 in one building. Our staff is small. Our resources are limited. We don't have an auditorium. Still, I knew we had it in us to host. Here's how I knew that our small but mighty school could pull off a great District IE contest, and how yours can too.

- 1. I have a supportive community around me. I was worried that because speech is so new to our school, parents and community members would shy away from volunteering for an event that was unfamiliar to them. In true small town fashion, though, it was all hands on deck. Many of our volunteers and room chairs had never attended a speech contest before, but they were enthusiastic and offered can-do attitudes.
- 2. I knew I could rely on my students to help. By carving out tasks that could be done by students on contest day, I was able to save myself a lot of stress. Students can bring comment sheets to the main office, post scores, organize comment sheets in the tab room, work the concession stand, keep spectators quiet in the halls, and so much more. If you've got a handful of responsible students at your disposal, you're a great candidate to host.
- 3. Our facilities can be flexible. With a little out of the box thinking, I knew the facilities at my school would be sufficient for twelve centers. I reached out to a local coffee shop to set up a small stand and serve coffee. I utilized our whole building, not just the high school wing. I asked our activities director, veteran teachers, and custodians for advice. We ended up having much more space than I originally thought.
- 4. I had other coaches near me to provide counsel. One of the biggest motivators I had to host contest was the knowledge that I had several veteran coaches near me or even if they weren't near me, they were just an email away. I never felt alone in my task; their expertise and unwavering support assured me that I had people to lean on. Lean on your people!
- 5. Above all, I WANTED to host. Perhaps most importantly was my desire to contribute something more to the IHSSA, to get even more involved. My best memories from high school come from speech contests, and now, as a coach, I've seen the power that speech holds in transforming students' lives. For that reason, I wanted to give back to the organization that has given me so very much. Your passion and love for speech is what matters most.



WHY HOST? PART 2

Jacki Pleggenkuhle, Waukee High School, Veteran Contest Manager

When I was in my second or third year of teaching, my mentor Denis Hildreth called me and said, "It's time for you to host a contest." Of course I objected but after compelling arguments from the Contest Manager Master himself, I reluctantly agreed. I hired judges and planned room/centers and then was pleasantly surprised when the District Officers and other coach friends and mentors came into my office to help on contest day. The event was a huge success! I've hosted 5 District contests and 5 State LG contests. And I LOVE HOSTING.

I thought I'd not know how to begin; however, the systems are set up by the IHSSA State Office. The meetings, the Contest Managers Manual, CAST supports tell me all I need to know about tasks and timelines. Anyone can host, because the processes are already provided. I just have to deal with the logistics and business practices specific to my school district and the rest is easy!

Waukee High School is a large school, but in years when we had lots of extra centers, it has felt like we didn't have enough big rooms! Some years we have spilled over into other nearby school buildings, and in other years we've held the contest all in one place, turning regular classrooms into Readers Theatre centers. It can be done. Schools are told to be prepared to perform in a "normal classroom." We all have space for hosting.

What I LOVE about hosting a contest is the responsibility, experience, and perspectives our students and parents gain when we bring IHSSA guests to our home. Students have to focus not just on their own performances, but on something bigger than all of us. At first I felt some pangs of guilt when my focus shifted a bit from my own team to serving all teams; however, I see that my own team steps up and is even better for having to manage themselves more. My students SHINE when given more responsibilities and more autonomy. Parents quickly learn how contest works. Additionally, the money we make by hosting allows us to have nice things. We use our profits for next year's royalties, costumes, sets, All-State Festival tickets, and more! Hosting every few years funds our team without actual "fundraising," and I love that.

The very best part of hosting is the relationships I have built with other coaches. Greeting coaches coming into the office, problem-solving alongside volunteers, and hanging out with the District Officers and All-State Reps has built friendships that I deeply cherish. I LOVE hosting speech contests!



IHSSA LOGO TRADEMARK

Please rememberthe 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.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Information regarding the Academic Achievement program for the IHSSA is in the online area of the IHSSA web site. Please remember the "AA" award is for the entire Large Group, Debate, and Individual Events entries and not separate individuals or groups. Example: not Readers Theatre only, but all Large Group entries. If you have any questions concerning this award, please call the State Office.

DATE

CONTEST DATES FOR 2025-26

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 2025-2026. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the IHSSA has the tentative calendar set for contest dates through the year 2027. Give us a call for those dates or talk to your Activities Director.

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 April 30, no PO#s will be accepted for an award order. However, you still may order with a check or cash after April 30. 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.



FAMILY WEEK 2025 DATES

The lowa High School Speech Association, Iowa High School Music Association, Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, in response to recommendations from our ad hoc committee, implemented 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 27, 2025 and extend through August 3, 2025. 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.

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 membership fee from the fall or convention. 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!

We are still in need of CONTEST SITES for 2026! Please consider hosting.
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.

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

NE: Friday, May 2, HAMPTON

NW: Friday, May 9, EMMETSBURG

SE: Wednesday, May 7, AMANA SW: Monday, May 5, CRESTON



SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Every year we receive calls at the State Office inquiring which schools have the most entries in the contest series. These are the numbers for the top schools in the IHSSA as to participation in categories. The following schools had entries in every category and every available amount they could take.

LARGE GROUP

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

NORTHEAST

Decorah: 2 shy Decorah

Dubuque Senior: 1 shy Dubuque Senior

Hampton-Dumont-CAL

Waverly-Shell Rock

NORTHWEST

No School Denison-Schleswig

Fort Dodge

Spencer

SOUTHEAST

CR Washington CR \

Mount Vernon: 1 shy

CR Washington

SOUTHWEST

No School Waukee

APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!

Without the care and service of these schools/coaches, the IHSSA contest series would not be able to run as effectively as it does! THANK YOU from all of us! PLEASE write them a NOTE of thanks!

NORTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

LeMars: Jocelyn Hommes Manson NW Webster: Kim Keller Sheldon: Christina Moyer

LARGE GROUP STATE

Spencer: Becky Koenig

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Fort Dodge: Lindey Krug Lawton-Bronson: Emily Klaumann Okoboji: Cole Berkenpas Whiting: Lesley Hubert

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Woodbury Central: Denise Heiman

NORTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Cascade: Angie Manternach Hampton-Dumont-CAL: Emileigh Eilderts Turkey Valley: Michelle Nystel

LARGE GROUP STATE

Decorah: Molly Holkesvik

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Independence: Gina Homan Janesville: Kimberly Cavalier West Hancock: Robin Kudej

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Starmont: Amanda Knox

SOUTHWEST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

ACGC: Kelsey Dinkla
Des Moines East: Ginger Johnson
Clarke Osceola: Don May
Glenwood: Teresa Lawler

LARGE GROUP STATE

Waukee: Jacki Pleggenkuhle

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Ankeny: Caleb Grulke CAM: Manda Thomas Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson: Matt Schmidt

Council Blutts Thomas Jerierson: Matt Schmid

Mount Ayr: Shaun Kniep

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Ames: Chuck Ripley

SOUTHEAST

LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Camanche: Bill Myatt Clear Creek Amana: Christine Berlin

Monticello: Kim Carlson
South Tama: Dixie Forcht

LARGE GROUP STATE

Cedar Rapids Washington: Carrie Tinkham

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Central DeWitt: Brianne Magill Pekin: Staci Wright/Jim Eschenbrenner Pleasantville: Jacob Bruns

West Burlington: Michelle Jeffries

INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

North Scott: Stacie Kintigh/Emily Hintze

If you are interested in hosting a contest in 2026 or 2027, contact the IHSSA State Office. We NEED YOU! YOUR school can...and SHOULD HOST!

2025 HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! APPLY!

Each IHSSA member school is entitled to one applicant for four \$1,000 scholarships offered by the IHSSA's Hall of Fame. The speech coach of a member school should give the application form to a student who best exemplifies a candidate; who, in their estimation would benefit from such a scholarship and meets the stated qualifications.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 1. The applicant must be a senior in good standing.
- 2. The applicant should have participated in various speech/drama activities during high school.
- 3. One applicant per IHSSA school.

This is the application form and must be in the IHSSA State Office no later than *APRIL 4*. No consideration will be given to an application received after *APRIL 4*. The winner will be announced by the IHSSA Hall of Fame.

APPLICATION for THE IHSSA HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP

NAME OF STUDENT APPLICANT		
HOME MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	ZIP CODE	
SCHOOL NAME		
NAME OF IHSSA COACH		

This application must be MAILED to the IHSSA State Office AND received no later than *April 4* to be eligible. When the application is received, Hall of Fame Scholarship materials will then be sent to each applicant from the State Office.

2025 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.

APPLICATION for THE

Thank you - Hall of Fame Jury

IHSSA HALL OF FAME INDUCTION Link: also on website

JUDGE EVALUATION FORM



Your voice is important! After every contest the Judge Certification Committee asks for your insight and assistance in completing the "Judge Evaluation Forms". Here's why ...

Each August, the Judge Certification Committee thoroughly examines each and every individual evaluation form. Judges who have earned superior feedback receive positive affirmation from the State Office. Judges that are in need of support receive extra guidance and clarification. Your assessment makes the whole process circular -- our judges "judge" our students and we "judge" our judges. Also, this is your opportunity to model and exercise "justification". Ultimately this system of giving and receiving constructive feedback is better for the whole community: judges, coaches, and most importantly -- our students. Additionally, your evaluation assists the Judge Certification Committee in collecting information for areas that are in need of training and/or areas that require more clarification. Your feedback aids in the thoughtfulness of continued education to judges on the rules as well as how to properly interpret and justify the IHSSA Constitution.

We kindly ask that you complete a judge evaluation form as close to the end of each contest day as possible. Your thoughts will be fresh in your mind before you encounter your next contest day and your next round of judges. Your Contest Manager will include a reminder and specific instructions for completing the "Judge Evaluation Forms" with your ballots.



- 1. Your Contest Manager will supply you with the LIST of JUDGES at Contest.
- 2. Complete an evaluation for each judge.

April 4-5: Boone, TREASURE ISLAND

April 11-12: Woodbury Central, SPRING ONE-ACTS

April 11-13: Mid-Prairie, DEADLINE

April 24-25: Davis County, FRIDAY NIGHT SPRITES

April 25-27: ACGC, THE SOUND OF MUSIC

April 25-27: Waukee Northwest, ANASTASIA

April 25-27, May 2-4: North Scott, 9-5 THE MUSICAL

May 2-3, Center Point-Urbana: EMMA, THE POP MUSICAL

May 2-4, Lawton-Bronson: TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE

BABY GO BLIND

June 12-15, Clinton: MISS NELSON IS MISSING!

July 1, Sioux City: SIOUX CITY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SPRING MEETING DATES

NE: Friday. May 2. HAMPTON

NW: Friday, May 9, EMMETSBURG

SE: Wednesday, May 7, AMANA

SW: Monday, May 5, CRESTON