



# SWIFT

## September 2025

**SPEECH WORKERS OF IOWA FEATURE THEMSELVES**

# IHSSA + YOU HELLO! HELLO!

### What's in this issue?

- **COACHES CONVENTION**
- **MEMBERSHIP DUES**
- **RIGGLEMAN COACH AWARD**
- **JUDGE SPOTLIGHT**
- **NFHS LEARN COURSES**
- **ADMINISTRATOR AWARD**
- **CONTEST SITES**
- **RISE STUDENT ENSEMBLE**
- **THE GREEN ROOM**
- **+ 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."

# About the IHSSA

The IHSSA philosophy is built upon the belief that no form of activity is any more important than that of learning to communicate effectively. The Iowa Interscholastic Speech Association was organized in November 1943. It was an outgrowth of a desire to expand the splendid work the Iowa High School Declamatory Association had done since 1887. Today, we are the Iowa High School Speech Association + YOU!



## Stacy Hansen Executive Director

Stacy began her IHSSA journey as a student at Exira High School. She received her BA in Speech/Theatre/English Education from ISU and her MA in Directing from Chicago's College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She taught at Clinton High School and then at West Des Moines Valley for a total of 30 years. In 2022, she began her role as the IHSSA Executive Director. Derek, her husband, is an orchestra director. They are joined by two children: Lincoln and Scout.

## Pam Wymer Executive Assistant

Pam is a farmer's daughter from Collins, Iowa. Proud mom of son J.R. and daughter Lacia AND a very proud Grandma! Valley High School was Pam's home for 40 years where she served as the Counseling Secretary for 12 years and Assistant to the Principal for 16 years. Pam also was a ticket seller for all of the athletic events.





# A Lil' Acorn

My dear friend Allison teaches jr. high drama and lives it too!  
She's a mother of four little ones all under the age of seven. Her life's stage is always full!



This fall, her three-year-old daughter Hazel will tiptoe into the world of "Creative Ballet" at DanZarts. It's the same studio where our own daughter's ballet dreams first took flight fifteen years ago. The same floor, the same mirrors, and with the same teacher: Ms. Paula.

Over the weekend, Hazel bought her first dance gear and I felt a sweet echo:  
the memory of Scout and I on that very same errand.

Pink slippers: Check!  
Pink leotard: Got it!  
Pink tights: Sold!  
The color of beginnings.

Too, I remember Scout in those precious hues.  
Every Saturday morning at 9:15 AM.  
Small feet learning to follow music.  
Big heart trusting her teacher.



We could not have known that those first careful pliés with Ms. Paula were the quiet overture to a career. We didn't realize that we were purchasing much more than just shoes. We were investing in a future for our daughter. Those tiny steps with her teacher were the opening lines of a much larger story.

This fall, Scout steps into her first professional dance contract. Her first teacher forever instrumental in her life's journey. The little girl in pink dancing into the woman she was always meant to be.

The circle turns on pointe. The dance goes on. A company of teachers in shared choreography. May your own light spark a child's dream into stages yet unbuilt and spotlights yet to shine!

All my very best to you as you begin a FANTASTIC new school year!  
Stacy S. Hansen, IHSSA Executive Director





*HSSA + YOU*



*embrace  
your  
shine*

*Coaches Convention  
October 10/11, 2025  
Gateway Hotel, AMES*





# *embrace your shine*

The newness of the upcoming school year offers a certain magical “glow” about it. Whether you are a new coach who is bursting with excitement about the possibilities or a veteran coach who has polished their sparkle into a program that just radiates, every coach has a brightness to bring and share at the IHSSA Coaches Convention. **IHSSA + YOU: EMBRACE YOUR SHINE!**

At Convention, there will be a vast array of jewels you’ll get to choose from based on your sparkling preferences. Do you need to be dazzled by a presenter’s knowledge on the different individual events/large group categories? Does the pizzazz of technology pique your interest? You will be inspired by our keynote speaker JJ KAPUR who is a shining IHSSA alumni! Stay to watch the evening banquet room shimmer with all the glitz from the IHSSA Hall of Fame inductees. And of course, prepare to be dazzled by the delicious dessert buffet provided by the Southwest District!

Whether your shine is so iridescent that it’s hard to miss or maybe your shine just needs a bit of polishing, the 2025 Coaches Convention has something for everyone. Join us October 10-11 while we let our radiance reflect off one another and truly light up the Gateway Convention Center. Be sure to register right away! There are door prizes for early entries and an array of dazzling prizes available for all who attend that are sure to catch your eye. We all make our programs sparkle in their own way and when we all come together for the Coaches Convention, we leave brighter than ever before. **IHSSA + YOU: EMBRACE YOUR SHINE!**

## **IHSSA CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

**Convention Chair Jacque Seidl (ADM)**

**Robin & Darrin Crow (Cedar Valley Christian)**

**Wendy Buseman & Emileigh Eilderts (Hampton-Dumont-CAL)**

**Lindey Krug (Fort Dodge)**



# IHSSA 53RD ANNUAL SPEECH COACHES CONVENTION

OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

GATEWAY HOTEL, 2100 GREEN HILLS DRIVE, AMES, IA

800.367.2637/515.292.8600

WWW.GATEWAYAMES.COM

## CONVENTION

### REGISTRATION:

ALL CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION IS  
ONLINE AT

[WWW.IHSSA.ORG](http://WWW.IHSSA.ORG).

LINK: [WWW.IHSSA.ORG/DEFAULT.ASPX](http://WWW.IHSSA.ORG/DEFAULT.ASPX)

## HOTEL

### REGISTRATION:

DOUBLE/KING: \$149

EXECUTIVE KING: \$149

JR. SUITE: \$149

800.367.2637/515.292.8600

**DUE: SEPTEMBER 26! AFTER  
SEPTEMBER 26, THESE ROOMS  
WILL BE RELEASED! RESERVE  
YOUR ROOM EARLY!**

ONLINE [GATEWAY HOTEL  
RESERVATIONS LINK HERE](#)

## 5 YEARS OF LESS?

IF YOU ARE COACH OF 5 YEARS  
OR LESS, PLEASE CHECK THE  
IHSSA WEB SITE FOR A  
POSSIBLE FREE CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION! INFO  
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE  
OF SWIFT!

**WOW!**

## 3 GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS!

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EARN 3  
GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS AT  
THE CONVENTION. LOOK FOR  
MORE INFO IN THIS SWIFT AND  
ONLINE AT [WWW.IHSSA.ORG](http://WWW.IHSSA.ORG)

### SCHEDULE LINK:

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 10

PRE-CONVENTION: 9:30 AM

TICKETED LUNCH: 11:15 AM

KEYNOTE: 12:15 PM

SESSIONS: 1:15 PM

DISTRICT MEETINGS: 4:30 PM

FORMAL HALL OF FAME

DINNER: 6:30 PM

BE SURE TO TELL GATEWAY HOTEL YOU ARE  
ATTENDING THE IHSSA CONVENTION.  
GATEWAY WILL HOLD ROOMS UNTIL SEPT. 26.  
THEN, ALL ROOMS WILL BE OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC. RESERVE YOUR ROOMS EARLY.

#### COST:

**\$150**

**LUNCH ADD ON:**

**\$25**

HALL OF FAME  
DINNER IS A TIME  
TO  
DRESS UP A BIT.  
WE SUGGEST  
BUSINESS ATTIRE.

### SCHEDULE LINK:

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 11

BREAKFAST: 7:30 AM

SWIFT SESSIONS: 9:00 AM

SESSIONS: 10:00

JUDGE

CERTIFICATION CLINIC:

12:30 PM



# IHSSA COACHES CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

## GATEWAY

## HOTEL

## REGISTRATION

DOUBLE/KING: \$149

EXECUTIVE KING: \$149

800.367.2637/515.292.8600

**DUE: SEPTEMBER 26! AFTER SEPTEMBER 26, THESE ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED! RESERVE YOUR ROOM EARLY!**

**ONLINE GATEWAY HOTEL RESERVATION LINK:**  
[GATEWAY LINK](#)

**BE SURE TO TELL GATEWAY HOTEL YOU ARE ATTENDING THE IHSSA CONVENTION.**

**GATEWAY WILL HOLD ROOMS UNTIL SEPT. 26.**

**THEN, ALL ROOMS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. RESERVE YOUR ROOMS EARLY.**



## THE RADISSON: OVERFLOW

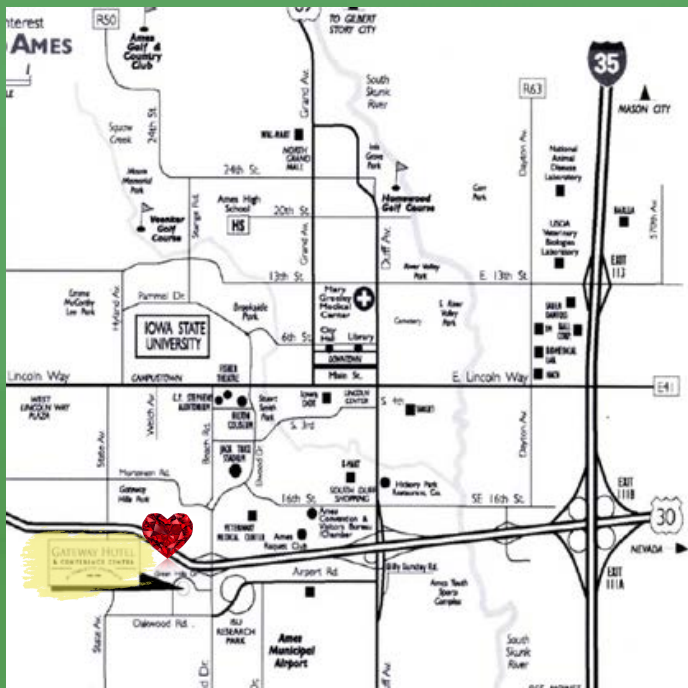
DOUBLE: \$169

515.259.1973

CHOOSE "OPTION 2" TO SPEAK WITH ON-DUTY AGENT. **TELL THEM YOU ARE NEED A ROOM IN THE IHSSA SPEECH BLOCK.**

**DUE: SEPTEMBER 26! AFTER SEPT. 26, THESE ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED! RESERVE YOUR ROOM EARLY!**





## DIRECTIONS to the GATEWAY HOTEL:



Take HWY 30 into Ames.  
Exit at 146 or Elwood Drive.  
Head south on Elwood Drive.  
Turn right (or west) on Green Hills Drive.  
You can see the GATEWAY from the HWY.

## FREE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DRAWING for 5 YEARS or LESS IHSSA COACHES

4 free registrations will be given away to IHSSA coaches who have been coaching 5 years or less!

1 free registration will be given away to a young coach in EACH of the IHSSA districts. Winners will be announced at the breakfast on Saturday morning of the Convention. YOU must be present at breakfast to win! To submit your name (and this is so EASY!):

Write a 50 word or LESS paper on why you feel going to the IHSSA Coaches Convention would help you this coming year.

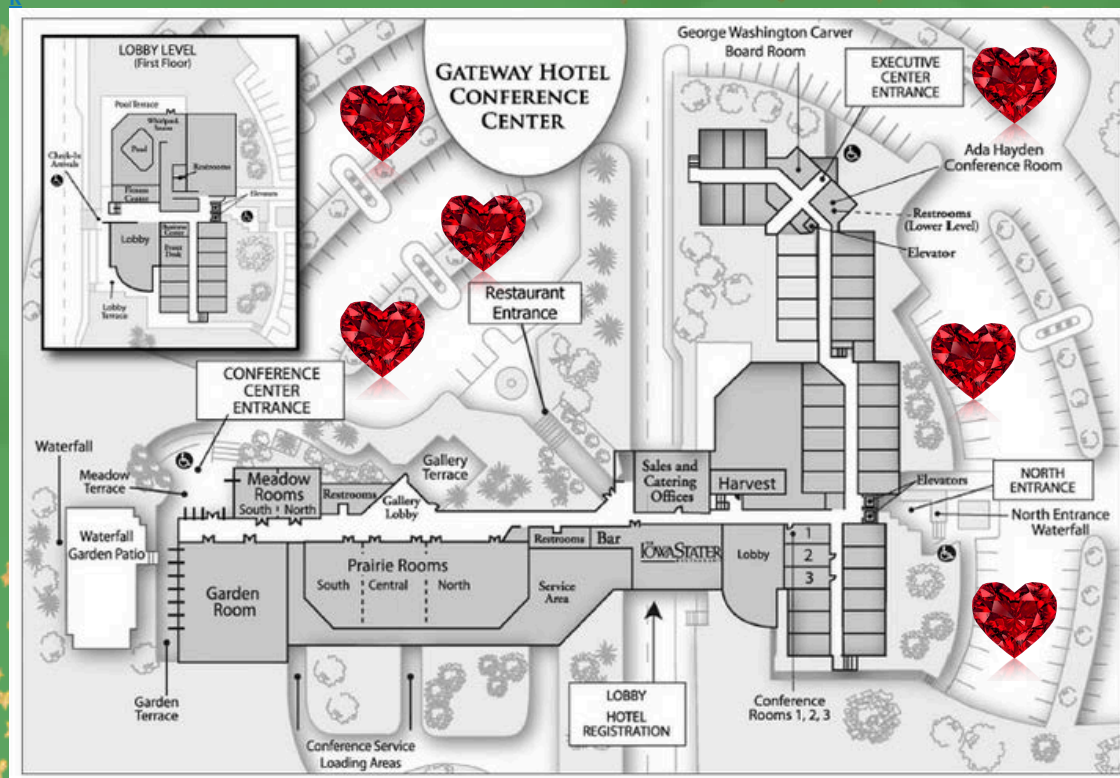
Please send via email to the State Office. If your name is chosen, we will either refund your registration fee to the school (if they paid the registration) or refund the registration fee to you (if you paid) for the Convention fee or apply to Convention 2026.

Due DATE: October 4!

Send to: Stacy@ihssa.org

BREAK A LEG!

**FREE  
CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION!**



## PARKING

is  
FREE all  
around the  
hotel. Park in  
the NORTH lot  
for hotel or the  
WEST lot for  
Convention.





## **Richard Rigglesman Young Speech Coach AWARD**

# **APPLY TODAY!**

## **IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator AWARD**

The Richard Rigglesman 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.

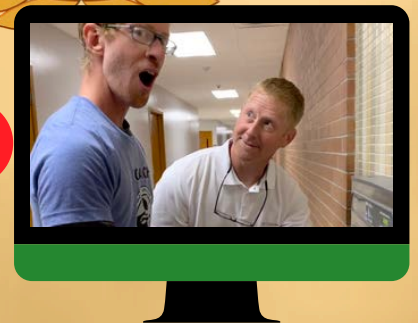
The recipient must be a second/third year teacher as of the start of the 2025-2026 school year and active in IHSSA activities. The award will be presented at the annual IHSSA Speech Coaches Convention. *Those interested may contact the IHSSA State Office for an application.*

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

The profile of the recipient should reflect the following disciplines: (1) must be in a second 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 Rigglesman Award is the first of its kind that has been established with the IHSSA. Mr. Rigglesman was an active IHSSA coach for over 30 years and still remains very active with IHSSA activities as a judge, State Debate Tournament manager, and manager for numerous State and District contests. Richard Rigglesman was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame in 1994.

The IHSSA is extremely grateful to Mr. Rigglesman 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.

Deadline for application is Tuesday, September 24. Letters of recommendation can be sent at this time to the IHSSA State Office.

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!



# SUMMER JUDGES/COACHES WORKSHOP



**THANK YOU, JUDGE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE +!**

**LISA PHYFE (Waverly-Shell Rock), VINCE HRASKY (Tri-County),  
SHAWN STARR (Woodbury Central), DIRK WALLER (CB Lincoln)**



**CARRIE TINKHAM**  
CR Washington



**THANK YOU to all who attended the Summer  
Judges/Coaches Workshop on August 16!  
All 100 + of YOU! Engaging and Educational!**

**An ABUNDANCE of THANKS to our presenters!  
YOU ROCKED! HONK! HONK!**

Kristy Hartsgrrove-Mooers/UI: [JUDGING IMPROV Link](#)

Glen Biermann/KCCI: [JUDGING TV/RADIO/SHORT FILM Link](#)

Liz Hansen/Brad Nesbitt/Carrie Tinkham: [TIPS FOR JUDGING Link](#)

**Materials are also available on the  
ihssa.org website at the [JUDGES LINK](#).**



# the green room

IHSSA



a room for IHSSA coaches  
to  
relax  
reflect  
recharge

**SOUTHEAST: Monday, September 8**  
**SOUTHWEST: Tuesday, September 9**  
**NORTHEAST: Wednesday, September 10**  
**NORTHWEST, Thursday, September 11**

**All get-togethers will take place 4:00 – 5:00 via ZOOM.**  
**Check the website for LOGIN information.**



# IHSSA + YOU



## **IHSSA DATES FOR 2025-2026**

**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!

## **POST FOR ALL!**





# Contest!

## CONTEST NOTES



Rule changes occur every other year. YES! This is a rule change year for the IHSSA. Constitution and By-Laws Revisions have been updated for the 2025-2027 cycle. Please make sure you have the most up-to-date Constitution. The entire Constitution is ONLINE. Please download and print a [CONSTITUTION](#). Please make sure you are up-to-date on your Constitution and rules. The [RULE CHANGES](#) are also listed on the website.

**SUBMIT**

### **Membership Dues Paid?**

Have you paid your 25-26 Membership Dues? Membership forms were sent from IHSSA Office mid August. These are due NOVEMBER 15, 2025: [MEMBERSHIP FORM LINK](#)

### **USERNAMES**

The usernames/passwords for on-line forms are the same as last year. If you need a refresh, call the State Office. Keep it handy; you'll be using it several times.

### **SAT Conflicts**

There IS a conflict with SAT testing. SAT tests are March 14. This is the same date as STATE INDIVIDUAL. NO SPECIAL REQUESTS will be accepted for STATE TESTING.

### **POLICY DEBATE**

Topics are posted at the following link:  
[www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics)

## **MENTORING**

### **PROGRAM**

1st year Coach?  
NEED extra Support?  
Please call IHSSA  
OFFICE!  
WE GOT YOU!

## **NEW**

### **COACHES**

Contact PAM in  
State Office for IMPORTANT  
INFO! [PAM@ihssa.org](mailto:PAM@ihssa.org)  
She's got YOU!

## **REMINDER**

When making payments please put on the check what event that check is for. This will assist Pam AND it will help YOUR bookkeeper and their work.



# IHSSA Hall of Fame Scholarships

The 2025 IHSSA Hall of Fame Scholarships were awarded in June. All students were involved in many aspects of IHSSA participating in Large Group, Individual Events, and Debate as well as demonstrating community service. All four individuals were selected from many entries across the state after lengthy deliberations by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. The Hall of Fame members would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's scholarship process. All applicants are applauded for their fine work in the IHSSA Family.



**MIA HUNTINGTON**

Dike-New Hartford  
Coach Charis Crozier

Pictured with HoF Member Marilyn Shaw

**ISABELLA LUJAN**

Washington

Coach Alex Siron

Pictured with HoF Member Dennis Doyle



**ISABELL OLASKY**

Southeast Warren

Coach Megan Schneider

**RILEY PETERSON**

Le Mars Community

Coach Jocelyn Hommes

Pictured with HoF Members BJ & Julie Schuller







# NFHS: FREE Courses!

The National Federation of State High School Associations provided FREE learning opportunities. You are strongly encouraged to educate yourself regarding **COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE** and **THEATRE SAFETY**. These online courses are FREE and are provided as a courtesy by the [NFHS Learning Center](#).

[COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE](#)  
[COURSE Link](#)

[THEATRE SAFETY COURSE](#)  
[Link](#)



**FREE!**

## Contest Sites 26

### NORTHWEST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Manson NW Webster  
Spencer  
Storm Lake

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Cherokee Washington

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Kuemper Catholic  
Newell-Fonda  
Sioux City North

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Denison

### NORTHEAST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Cedar Falls  
Dubuque Senior  
Mason City

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Waterloo West

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Decorah  
Forest City  
Postville

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Maquoketa Valley

### SOUTHWEST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Creston  
Des Moines Hoover  
Lewis Central  
Mount Ayr

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

West Des Moines Valley

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Atlantic  
Bondurant-Farrar  
East Union  
Johnston

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson

### SOUTHEAST

#### LARGE GROUP DISTRICT

Centerville  
Monticello  
Pella  
Wapello

#### LARGE GROUP STATE

Clear Creek Amana

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS DISTRICT

Fairfield  
Lisbon  
Montezuma  
PCM

#### INDIVIDUAL STATE CONTEST

Vinton-Shellsburg

STATE DEBATE:  
ANKENY DMACC CAMPUS

LG.GROUP ALL STATE FESTIVAL:  
IOWA STATE

IE ALL STATE FESTIVAL:  
UNI



# JUDGING CERTIFICATION SITES

## NORTHWEST

Wednesday, September 3  
Cherokee Washington High School, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, September 10  
Denison High School, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, September 17  
Manson NW Webster High School, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, September 24  
Northwestern College, 6:00 PM

Saturday, September 27  
Woodbury Central High School, 9:00 AM

## NORTHEAST

Wednesday, September 17  
Maquoketa Valley High School, 6:30 PM

Saturday, September 20  
Hampton-Dumont-CAL High School, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, October 1  
UNI, Lang Hall, Room 308, 3:00 PM

Tuesday, October 7  
Waverly-Shell Rock High School, 6:30 PM

## SOUTHWEST

Saturday, September 20  
Riverside High School, 10:00 AM

Saturday, September 27  
WDM Valley High School, 10:00 AM

Saturday, October 4  
East Union High School, 10:00 AM

Thursday, October 16  
Council Bluffs TJ High School, 6:30 PM

## SOUTHEAST

Wednesday, September 6  
Central DeWitt High School, 9:00 AM

Saturday, September 20  
Clear Creek-Amara High School, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, September 24  
Vinton-Shellsburg High School, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 1  
Washington High School (Washington, IA), 6:30 PM

## VIRTUAL

Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 PM  
Intermediate and Experienced Judges Only  
Email [Stacy@ihssa.org](mailto:Stacy@ihssa.org) for link by Oct. 24

## CONVENTION

Saturday, October 11  
Gateway Hotel, Ames, 12:30 PM



# IHSSA JUDGES + YOU!

Judge Certification sessions last for 1 1/2 hour. Please arrive 10 minutes EARLY! If you are unable to attend a session please contact [stacy@ihssa.org](mailto:stacy@ihssa.org). If you are a certified judge a letter will be sent to you with more info about certification. Please bring \$10 certification fee for the year and a writing utensil. ONLINE PAYMENT Is now available at [THIS BOUND LINK](#). Or use the QR code. Here is the [BOUND HELP ME GUIDE LINK](#).

[SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: IHSSA + YOU!](#)



## NEED A MENTOR? BE A MENTOR?

[MENTEE/MENTOR SIGN UP Link!](#) The IHSSA together with the IOWA ARTS ALLIANCE wants to connect new IHSSA teachers/coaches with experienced teachers/coaches. If you are in NEED of a MENTOR, please complete. If you can be a MENTOR, please complete.

For those individuals enlisting in the program that are also full-time speech/drama/debate/language arts teachers, **opportunities exist for a small stipend \$-\$--both for the MENTEE as well as the MENTOR.**



# JUNE ANNUAL MEETING



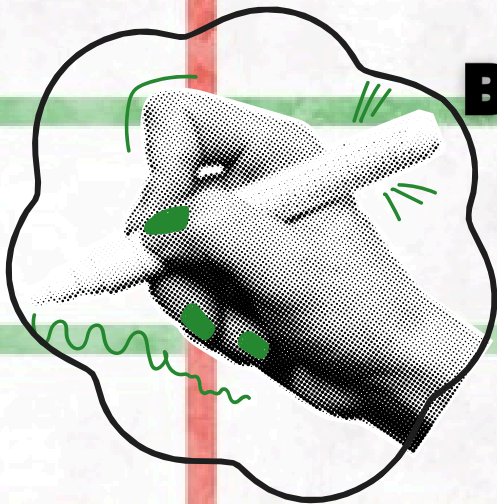
Thank you to the Executive Committee, District Officers, Judge Certification Committee as well as designated committee reps that make up the IHSSA Advisory Council. This year's June meeting was held at the Savory Hotel in Des Moines. District Officers and reps shared reports. In addition, the season contest summary was discussed. Participants also voted upon new Constitutional Changes for 2025-2027.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

NW EXECUTIVE Committee: Superintendent Terry Hemann, Spencer  
NW LG ALL STATE Committee: Alex Halverson, Spencer  
DEBATE Committee: Sam Juhl, Des Moines East







# 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!

## JAN BEAR

Jan shares with all that "No matter what rating you receive, you are always the winner! The fact that you had the courage to speak before an audience, no matter how scared or stressed you are, helped you gain the experience and confidence to improve your communication skills, vital for a more fulfilling life." Originally from Turkey Valley, Jan performed in Public Speaking, Storytelling, and Book Review.

She reminds all judges to smile at the performers and put them at ease! When giving comments, always present a positive first, an area to improve, and another positive to encourage continual student participation. Jan is grateful for having the opportunity to help our youth improve their communication skills during her 30+ years judging. She has met so many wonderful people through speech that contests are always a "reunion" for her.



## DEB DAWSON

Deb enjoys hearing what students choose to share. A former IHSSA participant herself, Deb's favorite category was storytelling. She values the heart and the soul students put into their work. Deb was encouraged to become a judge by her daughter who is a speech teacher and coach. It is a joy for Deb to be a part of each contest day and she always meets new friends. Deb resides in Cedar Rapids. She shares her best advice for confronting nerves: Do what you need to do to be as comfortable as you can be under the circumstances. Take a calming breath and give it your best. Deb plays violin with several groups and enjoys quilting.



## SHAREE HOEGERL

Sharee shares that "these young people are the future of our communities and our country. Events like Spontaneous Speaking and Original Oratory allow them to express their views, their hopes, their dreams. The students give me hope for our future!"

"We have but a few moments in the life of these students, so we need to make it as positive as possible. A simple smile or comment that 'you have potential' may well pave a path that leads to a lifetime of confidence in presenting themselves in both formal and informal speaking situations! Whether they become a well known trainer/motivational speaker, a politician or simply a church member or parent who stands up to voice their opinion at a public meeting -- WE have the opportunity to give them confidence to speak up!"







# CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025.26 **RISE** members!

Carson Beer, SW, Creston  
Brigid Bonner, NW, Denison  
Alexis Brown, SE, Wapello  
Delaney Hayworth, SW, Des Moines East  
Zachary Jordan, SW, Winterset  
Reed Masters, NE, Hampton-Dumont-CAL  
Saiya Noborikawa, NW, Fort Dodge  
James Peng, NE, Cedar Falls  
Sarai Sanchez, SE, Mt. Pleasant  
Peyton Stevenson, SE, Grinnell-Newburg  
Caity Todd, NW, OABCIG  
Claire Vandersee, NE, Waterloo West

RISE (Rise IHSSA Student Ensemble) is a student group acting as a voice of Iowa's student participants.

# RISE

Support provided by the  
**IOWA FARM BUREAU.**







**CARSON**



**BRIGID**



**ALEXIS**



**DELANEY**



**ZACHARY**



**REED**



**SAIYA**



**JAMES**



**SARAI**



**PEYTON**



**CAITY**



**CLAIRE**





# IOWA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Dear Iowa Fine Arts Educators,

On behalf of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education Executive Board, Advisory Board, and our burgeoning membership, we invite you to become a member today! Membership in the Alliance increased by over 40% last school year, and its work in advocacy, mentorship, and professional development for all fine arts educators in Iowa continues to expand.

By joining the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education (IAAE), you're not just adding your name to a list; you're stepping into a statewide network of passionate educators who believe that the arts matter in every school, for every student.

**Your Alliance membership will help fund:**

\* Tools and information to advocate for fine arts education at local, grassroots levels. \* A professional lobbyist at the Iowa Statehouse to fight for well-supported and rich arts programs in our schools. \* A biennial Leadership Institute, Fine Arts Education Summit, and an annual Fall Symposium for beginning fine arts teachers \*The "Model of Excellence Mentorship Program." The Alliance, with the organizational help of seven Iowa Fine Arts Associations, funds hundreds of mentoring visits to first and second-year teachers, and annual scholarships \* Assistance in navigating fine arts education policies and programs for all fine arts teachers with the cooperation of the Iowa Department of Education.\* A voice in the room. The Alliance meets regularly with the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa's professional arts organizations, Arts Midwest, the Creative States Coalition, Americans for the Arts, and public officials and legislators.

As you renew your professional memberships this school year, please add [Joining the IAAE](#) to the list.  
**Membership is just \$35/year.**

Thank you for all that you do to keep the arts alive in your classroom. Let's work together to keep them strong across Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon Kuehner".

Leon Kuehner  
IAAE Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayson Gerth".

Jayson Gerth IAAE  
Executive Board Chair

# NOTHING OUTPERFORMS INCLUSION!

While we all want our students to succeed today, what's also valuable is ensuring that inclusion is always center stage. When a diverse group of students share one common pursuit, they develop compassion and empathy for their teammates and competitors.

**That's the best possible  
outcome in performing  
arts—because every team  
and every student wins!**

**PLAY.  
PERFORM.  
COMPETE.  
TOGETHER.**



[PlayPerformCompeteTogether.com](http://PlayPerformCompeteTogether.com)