

CONSTITUTION

BY-LAWS HISTORY



NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE

(September 1, 2010)

2009 - 2010

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ARTICLE I -- Name

The name of this honor society shall be the National Forensic League.

ARTICLE II -- Purpose

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote the interests of interscholastic debate, oratory, and public speaking by encouraging a spirit of fellowship and by conferring upon deserving candidates a worthy badge of distinction.

ARTICLE III -- Members

A. Admission

1. *Eligibility.* Any instructor or student in a school holding a charter or affiliate membership in the National Forensic League, who has participated in high school speech activities to the extent of qualifying for the Degree of Merit, and who, if a student, ranks scholastically in the upper two thirds of his/her class, shall be eligible to become a member of the National Forensic League. A person who has participated in high school speech activities, but has not otherwise qualified, may be elected if the Executive Council concurs.

2. *Election.* The Local Chapter or the faculty shall vote by ballot on each application for membership, and a three-fourths vote shall be necessary to elect.

3. *Certification.* The accepted application, endorsed by the chapter sponsor and principal, shall be forwarded with the membership fee to the National Executive Director who shall issue a certificate of membership.

B. Classes of Membership

1. *Active.* Only high school students and instructors in debate or public speaking shall be eligible for Active Membership.

2. *Alumni.* All active members in good standing become Alumni Members upon graduating or withdrawing from their chapter institutions.

3. *Honorary.* Any Chapter or National Officer may nominate, and the Executive Council may

elect, Honorary and Associate Members who may receive special insignia, but not the right to vote.

4. *General.* The Executive Council may elect members to the General Chapter.

C. Degrees of Membership

1. *Merit.* Eligible persons who have 25 credit points, 10 of which were earned in competitive speaking, shall upon election, receive the Degree of Merit.

2. *Honor.* Members who have the Degree of Merit and a total of 75 credit points shall receive the Degree of Honor.

3. *Excellence.* Members who have a total of 150 credit points shall receive the Degree of Excellence.

4. *Distinction.* Members who have a total of 250 credit points shall receive the Degree of Distinction.

5. *Special Distinction.* Members who have a total of 500 credit points shall receive the Degree of Special Distinction.

6. *Superior Distinction.* Members who have a total of 750 credit points shall receive the Degree of Superior Distinction.

7. *Outstanding Distinction.* Members who have a total of 1000 credit points shall receive the Degree of Outstanding Distinction.

8. *Premier Distinction.* Members who have a total of 1500 credit points shall receive the Degree of Premier Distinction.

D. Seals

The Seal of the Society shall be affixed to all certificates of membership. For the Degree of Merit the Seal shall be white; for the Degree of Honor, bronze; for the Degree of Excellence, silver; for the Degree of Distinction, gold; for the Degree of Special Distinction, rose; for Degree of Superior Distinction, blue; for the Degree of Outstanding Distinction, purple; and for Premier Distinction, black.

ARTICLE IV -- Credit Points

A. Debates

For all interscholastic debates won, a participant shall receive 6 points. For each losing or non-decision interscholastic debate, s/he shall receive 3 points. If teams are rated, the highest rating shall be scored as a debate won. All other ratings shall be scored as debates lost.

B. Contests

1. *Points.* Credit points for interscholastic contests shall be awarded according to the following schedule:

| | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd or A | 4 th or B | 5 th or C | All Others |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Original Speeches | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Interpretation/Reading | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other Contests | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

2. *Small Contests.* If only four schools compete in the contest, or section points shall be reduced by one. If only three schools, by two. No points for a two-school contest.

C. Congress

A participant shall be awarded 1-6 points by an official scorer for each individual speech, hour of presiding or hour of active committee participation at interscholastic Congresses or legislative assemblies, up to a maximum five speeches and 24 points per day. Congress points may only be recorded in the Service/Group Speaking category.

D. Service Speeches and Novice Judging

For speaking to a radio or television audience or to 25 adults, a non-member student shall receive 1 point. A member shall receive 2 points; if holding the Degree of Honor, 3 points; Excellence, 4 points; and **all degrees of Distinction, 5 points.** [*The Degree must be on record in the National Office before advanced points will be awarded.*]

If an interscholastic debate or contest is held before an audience qualifying it as a service speech, the participants shall receive points

under both the interscholastic and service schedules.

A student holding the Degree of Excellence in the national office may receive 2 points for judging novice competition; limit 4 rounds per day.

E. Limits

No student may record more than 750 points for debates; 750 points for contests; or 750 points for service/group speaking; and not more than a total of 1500 points. The NFL district and national tournaments and congresses shall be recorded beyond these limits.

F. Instructors

For every point awarded to a contestant coached by him/her, an instructor shall receive 1/10 of a point; except as noted in By Law 25.

G. Supplementary

The Executive Council may grant additional points for excellence in NFL district or national competition and reduce points for practice tournaments. With the concurrence of the Board of District Chairs, it shall have authority to establish schedules of credit points for speech activities other than those named in this constitution; but such schedules shall expire on June 30th following enactment.

ARTICLE V -- The Local Chapter

A. Establishment

1. *Eligibility.* Any senior high school or academy shall be eligible to apply for a charter from the National Forensic League if it shall have engaged in forensic activity to such an extent that its students would have received during the two years immediately preceding its application 1,000 credit points.

2. *Petition.* The petition for a Charter made on the official form shall be endorsed by an officer of the governing body of the institution and forwarded with a chapter fee to the District Chairman.

3. *Election.* The petition shall be referred to the District Committee in the district in which the petitioning school is located, and be accepted or rejected as such committee shall determine.

ARTICLE VI

The District Organization

4. *Charter.* A charter bearing the seal of the Society and signed by members of the Executive Council shall be granted to each Local Chapter. It shall be valid for a period of three years from the thirtieth of June preceding authorization. On expiration, it may be renewed for three years upon payment of the annual dues for one year and the attainment of the minimum standards prescribed by the Executive Council for charter renewal.

B. Powers

1. *Constitution.* Each Local chapter may adopt a constitution of its own choosing, not inconsistent with the national constitution and the by-laws made thereunder; and elect its own officers, which shall be at least a president and a Executive Director.

2. *Suspension and Expulsion.* The Local Chapter shall have power to suspend, reinstate, or expel any member by two-thirds vote.

C. Votes

1. *Number.* The number of votes cast by each member shall be: One, if s/he holds the Degree of Merit; Two, if the Degree of Honor; Three, if the Degree of Excellence; Four, if the Degree of Distinction; Five, if the Degree of Special Distinction; Six, if the Degree of Superior Distinction; Seven, if the Degree of Outstanding Distinction and Eight, if the Degree of Premier Distinction. Instructors shall cast one additional vote for each diamond awarded them.

2. *Use.* In any and all votes taken by Local Chapter, District Organization or National Organization (except Executive Council or District Committee); or in any election, referendum, or question whatsoever coming before any body of the National Forensic League, this method of voting shall be employed in good faith, a majority of the votes cast controlling unless otherwise provided in this constitution. No decision shall be valid if otherwise arrived at.

A. Organization

The Chapters of the National Forensic League in each state shall constitute a District, but the Executive Council may divide or consolidate states to create districts of approved size.

B. Function

Each District shall hold an annual tournament and congress of representatives of its Chapters and shall carry into execution such other functions as may hereafter be assigned to it.

ARTICLE VII -- National

A. Executive Council

1. *Members.* The national officers provided for in Section B shall constitute the Executive Council.

2. *Powers.* The Executive Council shall be vested with the supreme legislative and executive power of the National Forensic League and its decisions shall be final unless appeal therefrom is made and sustained by general referendum as hereinafter provided.

3. *Meetings.* The Executive Council shall meet at least once each year at the call of a majority of its members.

B. National Officers

1. *Personnel.* The National Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, six Directors, and one representative from secondary school administrators.

2. *Election.* Eight directors and an alternate director shall be chosen by the active members in even numbered years in such manner as the Executive Council shall prescribe. The Council will elect the President and Vice President. In odd numbered years the Executive Council shall elect a school administrator as a director.

3. *Terms.* In the 1992 election the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected for four year terms. The next four candidates will be elected for two year terms.

The candidate finishing ninth will be alternate for two years.

In 1994 and subsequently the four candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to a four year term. The fifth candidate will be the alternate for two years.

4. *Vacancies.* If a vacancy occurs in an office filled by the votes of the active members the Council alternate shall serve out that term. Additional vacancies shall be filled by alternates according to the order of finish in the last general election. But school administrator vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Council.

5. *Duties*

a. *President.* The President shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of this constitution and all regulations enacted under its authority.

b. *Vice-President.* The Vice-President shall act as President in case of the temporary vacancy of that office or for the unexpired term if that office becomes vacant, and shall perform such other duties as may hereafter be required.

c. *Executive Director.* The Executive Director shall be responsible for all administrative work required by the provisions of this constitution. The Director shall keep a complete record of the standing of each member; file applications for membership; issue charters and certificates of membership; collect charter fees, membership fees, and other sums due the League; pay all legitimate bills of the League from the treasury; and conduct nominations, elections, referenda, and votes of the national organization.

The Director's compensation shall be determined by the Executive Council.

The Executive Director shall not be a member of the Council nor shall the Director have a vote on issues which come before the Council. The Director shall report to and advise the Council as the Council requires. The National Council determines policy; the Executive Director has full responsibility for implementing policy.

C. Fees

1. *Regular.* The charter fee and membership fee shall be established each year.

2. *Special.* Additional or special fees may be levied only by a majority vote of the Active Members.

D. Suspension and Expulsion of Chapters

1. *Suspension.* A permanent charter shall be suspended if its active membership at some time during the school year does not reach five, or fails to pay the annual chapter dues before December 1.

2. *Reinstatement.* Any Chapter which under any provision of this constitution or for due cause by vote of the Executive Council is suspended, shall be reinstated upon removing the cause of suspension.

3. *Expulsion.* Any suspended Chapter failing of reinstatement within three years shall be expelled, or the Executive Council may expel for due cause.

E. Initiative and Referendum

1. *Initiative.* Any question shall, at the request of three members of the Council or 10 per cent of the Chapters, be submitted to a vote of all Active Members. If a majority of all eligible votes is cast in favor of the proposed question and reported to the Executive Director within thirty days from the date of submission, it shall be declared effective as the will of the society.

2. *Referendum.* Any action by a local chapter, District Organization, or National Organization, shall at the request of three members of the Council or 10 per cent of the Chapters, be submitted to a vote of all Active Members. If a majority of all eligible votes is cast in favor of repealing such action, and reported to the Executive Director within thirty days from the date of submission, then such action shall be repealed.

3. *Recall:* For malfeasance or professional misconduct in office an officer or director of the Executive Council may be removed from office for cause upon motion by five (5) members voting.

Recall of officer(s) and/or director(s) may be initiated by the membership at large following the same standards as outlined in initiative and referendum procedures.

[In cases of Initiative and Referendum or Recall:

a. Each chapter petitioning must submit its request by separate letter on school or chapter stationery. It must be signed by the chapter sponsor.

b. When an issue is put up for a vote, a position paper explaining the pros and cons of the proposition must accompany the ballot.]

4. *Limitations.* No action by initiative or referendum shall be valid if it is contrary to any provision of this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII -- The Emblem

A. Description

The official emblem of the National Forensic League shall be a key or pin, duplicates of the originals filed as such with the Executive Director.

The emblem for the student shall be silver; the emblem for the instructor shall be yellow gold.

B. Jeweling

1. *Members.* Emblems may be jeweled to designate the highest degree held by the member: Emerald for the Degree of Honor; Blue Sapphire for the Degree of Excellence; Ruby for the Degree of Distinction; Two Rubies for the degree of Special Distinction; Three Rubies for the Degree of Superior Distinction; Four Rubies for the Degree of Outstanding Distinction; Five Rubies for the Degree of Premier Distinction.

2. *Instructors.* A Diamond-Set key or pin shall be awarded to an instructor attaining 1,500 points; additional diamonds for 3,000, 6,000 and 10,000 points; and an additional diamond for each 3,000 instructor credit points over 10,000. A minimum of five years coaching is required for each diamond.

C. Procurement

The emblem shall be procured only on order registered in the national office.

ARTICLE IX -- General

A. Magazine

The National Organization shall publish at stated times a magazine devoted to furthering the

purposes of this society and advancing the interests of interscholastic forensic contests.

The Executive Council shall select the Editor and constitute the Board of Managers.

B. Secrecy

No Chapter of the National Forensic League shall engage in any secret practices or impose any obligation of secrecy upon any of its members.

ARTICLE X -- Amendment

Amendments may be added to this constitution when proposed by five members of the Executive Council and ratified by a majority vote of the Active Members.

Ballots cast on an amendment shall be counted 30 days after submission of the amendment, or as soon thereafter as a majority of the membership has reported its vote.

* * * * *

BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 2

No application for membership shall be accepted by the national office unless it is completely, correctly, and neatly filled out with ink or typewriter.

By-Law No. 5

No certificates of membership and no advanced degrees shall be granted except in consequence of credit points duly reported and recorded.

By-Law No. 6

The procedure in voting by District or National Organization, unless directed otherwise by the Council, shall be as follows:

1. The Executive Director shall mail to each Chapter an official ballot on which its president and sponsor shall certify the vote of that Chapter in the election or question at issue.

2. Each ballot shall count as many votes as the chapter has members and degrees on record on the closing date for voting.

3. In counting ballots in any preferential voting, the Executive Director shall first separate the ballots according to the first choice expressed thereon. The person receiving the lowest number of votes shall be declared defeated and his votes distributed according to the next choice expressed on those ballots. Votes for committee alternate shall not be counted for district chairman.

4. The person who then has the lowest number of votes shall be declared defeated and his votes distributed.

5. This process shall be continued until all have been eliminated except the number to be chosen, and the person or persons remaining shall be declared chosen.

6. The Executive Director shall preserve the original ballots for one year.

7. When a ballot is incorrectly marked, the obvious intentions of the voter, as reasonably construed, shall govern; and the ballot counted accordingly.

By-Law No. 10

The Executive Council shall publish an official publication, *Rostrum*, once a month from September to May. Two copies shall be sent to every Chapter and affiliate Chapter.

By-Law No. 11

1. In each District there shall be a District Committee to pass on charter applications; conduct the District tournament and congress; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.

2. The Chapters in each District shall elect a Chairman and two other members by preferential ballot; the ballot for each Chapter to be counted for as many votes as that Chapter is entitled to cast on May 1st. The term of office shall begin on August 1, and continue for one year.

3. A position shall become vacant upon the death or resignation of the duly elected member or upon his/her transfer to another NFL District. If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the person next in line for the position vacated.

4. The District Chairs from each of the several Districts shall constitute the Board of District Chairs and shall serve as an advisory body to the Executive Council.

5. The District Chairs shall by virtue of their office, be candidates for members of the Executive Council upon filing nomination papers as may be prescribed. Past District Chairs may be candidates for members of the Executive Council upon filing nomination papers. Any coach who has served for at least 5 years may also run.

6. All names submitted for election to the Executive Director shall be placed on the ballot along with incumbents who file for reelection at the regular election of the Executive Council.

By-Law No. 14

1. The National Organization shall grant a Distinguished Service key to any member earning 20 citations according to the following schedule, and a Distinguished Service plaque to any member earning 50 citations:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Recruiting new Affiliate..... | 2 |
| Sponsoring new chapter | 2 |
| Year as District Chairman..... | 1-3 |
| Member District Committee | 1 |
| Year as National Officer | 3 |
| Editor of <i>The Rostrum</i> | 3 |
| Managing District NFL Tournament or Congress | 1-3 |
| Holding Tournament for 10 Schools..... | 1 |
| Directing Tournament for 10 Schools..... | 1 |
| Service at National Tournament | 1-3 |
| Article in <i>The Rostrum</i> | 1-3 |
| Article on NFL in Educational Journal | 1-3 |
| Talk on NFL before Convention..... | 1-3 |
| Other Service requested by Council..... | 1-5 |

2. In cases of variable number of citations to be granted, the Executive Director shall determine the number. Citations approved shall be returned to the chapter and retained until the required number for an award has been attained.

3. Requests for Citations must be filed within **one year** from the date of the service.

By-Law No. 15

Any name on the national records shall be marked "Inactive" if such person has not earned and reported ten credit points during the previous school year.

By-Law No. 16

An instructor may transfer to his record one-tenth the number of credit points earned as a student.

By-Law No. 17

1. A trophy to be known as the *[Pi Kappa Delta/Bruno E. Jacob]* trophy, shall be given at the close of each National Speech Tournament to the participating Chapter which then has the largest number of tournament points as herein provided.

2. One point shall be recorded for each round of participation in individual contest events in the National Tournament and two points for each round of debate participation.

3. The record shall begin with the first National Tournament in 1931 and all points gained by a school shall remain to its credit until it has received the trophy.

4. If more than 50 per cent of the points necessary for the procurement of the award were gained under the direction of one instructor, such instructor shall receive a miniature replica of the trophy in recognition of his/her service in effective speech education.

By-Law No. 18

1. The Executive Council hereby elects to Honorary Membership persons nominated therefore as herein prescribed:

(a) Chapter Honoraries nominated by a Chapter in good standing, not more than one a year nor more than one for each 100 degrees enrolled by that Chapter.

(b) State Honoraries nominated by Chapters casting a majority of the votes in the state at the time of nomination, not more than one a year.

(c) National Honoraries nominated by the Executive Council, but not more than one for each 10,000 degrees enrolled in the National Organization.

2. The insignia for national honorary membership shall be a yellow gold key. Appropriate certificates shall be issued by the Executive Director.

By-Law No. 19

A credit point report sheet shall be entered in the national records only when:

1. It qualifies a student for membership or degree with application and fee submitted.

2. One division of the record form **for a member** is completely filled.

3. The report completes the limit for one category of speaking.

4. The report restores an inactive member to active status by adding 10 points or keeps him/her from becoming inactive.

5. The member graduates or withdraws from school and the report is marked "Final Report."

Each sheet constitutes a separate report and must meet one of these requirements to be recorded.

By-Law No. 20

1. A trophy shall be awarded at the close of each National Student Congress to the participating school which then has the largest number of congress points as herein provided.

2. One point shall be recorded for each legislative day of participation by a member; five points for Most Outstanding award; four points for Outstanding; two points for Superior; and two points for Presiding Officer.

3. The record shall begin with the first National Student Congress in 1938. A chapter receiving the trophy shall thereupon begin a new record.

By-Law No. 21

1. The members and degrees enrolled by each school shall be carried on a cumulative record at the national office.

2. The school having the largest totals on record on July 1 in each district shall receive a National Award for Excellence in speech. Not more than one award may be given in a district each year. Thereupon, new cumulative records shall be opened for such chapters.

3. An award shall be presented to the leading chapter in each district. No school shall receive this award in less than five years.

By-Law No. 23

1. No credit points shall be awarded for an interscholastic contest if the actual speaking time for a participant is less than two-thirds of the prevailing time for each event: Specifically less than ten minutes for a debater, seven minutes for Oratory or Interpretation, five minutes for Extemp or Reading, forty minutes for Discussion, two minutes for Impromptu, or five minutes for other contests.

2. No points for interscholastic debates or contests shall be awarded for events held during the normal summer vacation. National tournament and congress are excepted. Boys' and Girls' Nation Conventions are allowed.

3. No service speaking points shall be awarded for announcing over a public address system in the high school. No points shall be awarded for any service speaking less than four minutes in duration.

By-Law No. 24

1. A Chapter not having paid the annual chapter fee on December 1 shall be suspended. It shall (1) be recorded as having no voting power in determining district standing, (2) receive only one copy of *The Rostrum*, (3) be ineligible to participate in the district tournament or student congress, and (4) receive no credit point recording service.

2. All rights shall be restored on payment of chapter fee; but if the chapter becomes delinquent for a second year, its charter shall be revoked.

By-Law No. 25

An instructor shall receive no credit points for a report sheet which requires correction by the national office or is filed after October 15 for work during the previous school year by a graduated student.

By-Law No. 26

During May and June the national office shall give priority to recording credit point reports for

seniors and for schools needing enrollments to qualify for charter renewal; laying aside reports for other students until time permits recording them.

By-Law No. 27

1. Ninth grade students in a junior high school may be elected to membership by the NFL chapter at the senior high school they expect to attend.

2. Ninth grade students may, if local rules permit, participate as members of the senior high school team at interscholastic tournaments.

3. No credit points shall be recorded for debates or contests between senior high schools and junior high schools, or between junior high schools; unless they occur as part of a senior high school tournament.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE

by Bruno E. Jacob

"In October, 1924, Ray Cecil Carter, head of the department of English at Albany, N.Y., wrote to the Pi Kappa Delta chapter at Ripon College, asking, 'Do you know of any association of debaters in which high school debaters are welcome to membership?' The letter came to my attention and brought this reply: 'As far as we know there is at present no organization for high school debaters... we would be willing to go to considerable effort to sponsor such an enterprise.'

"These letters mark the beginning of the National Forensic League. During the next several weeks, I outlined the proposal to a selected list of debate coaches. Fifty-five responded with enthusiasm, especially Supt. Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota.

"The salient features of a constitution were put together and sent out for criticism. The replies revealed the points in dispute. These were reduced to definite propositions and submitted to the interested schools.

"An Anglican name was favored over Greek letters by a close vote. The suggested fees ranged from 25c to \$15, but the average was: Charter fee, \$6.00; membership, \$1.64; and degree, 94c. The vote between key or pin for insignia was so even that both were authorized. The referendum limited the cost to \$3.60.

"On March 28, 1925, the constitution was submitted for ratification, and Albany telegraphed acceptance April 1. Chippewa Falls was second and on May 25, Florence, Kansas, completed the twentieth school and put the organization into formal existence. These schools represented 15 states from coast to coast."

Expansion: 1926-30

One hundred schools were chartered in 1926: In 1927, a monthly *Bulletin*, forerunner of *The Rostrum*, made its appearance. The first chapter manual was published in 1928. Jeweled pins to designate degrees and gold insignia for instructors were authorized in 1930.

National Tournament Era 1930-31

In August, the Executive Director proposed to the Council that it sponsor a national speech tournament. It was held at Ripon College, May 7 to 9, with 49 schools from 17 states competing. Miami, Oklahoma, won the first national championship in high school debate. With only minor changes, the rules for that tournament are still in effect. District NFL tournaments were held for the first time.

1931-32

Distinguished service awards were authorized and the national championship debate was broadcast by the Columbia network.

1932-33

Growth continued in spite of the economic depression and reached 400 chapters. Karl E. Mundt was elected president. All national tournament winners appeared on an NBC network program, and CBS again carried the championship debate.

1933-34

The distribution of free debate materials to the chapters was begun. The Pacific coast was represented in the national tournament for the first time.

1934-35

The national office was moved to the University of Denver where the Executive Director engaged in graduate study. The first meeting of all Council members took place. Ten amendments to the constitution were proposed to adapt League rules to its growth and to the rapidly increasing number of debate and speech tournaments. *The Rostrum* replaced the earlier *Bulletin*.

1935-36

In the largest national tournament Topeka won the first Tau Kappa Alpha trophy. The limit of 500 chapters set by the Council was reached and a waiting list was set up.

1936-37

The League office was returned to Ripon College. In the national tournament teams were rated instead of given win-loss decisions in the first five rounds.

1937-38

The first national student congress was held in conjunction with the national tournament. Poetry Reading under the personal direction of Ted Malone was instituted as a consolation event and three major networks carried programs of NFL winners.

1938-39

The constitution was again amended to increase requirements for membership and degrees, to reduce points for contests, and to abolish fees for all degrees except honor. The student congress idea was extended to the districts. The presidency of NFL moved to Washington with the election of Karl E. Mundt as Congressman.

1939-40

Cross-questioning in debate was first used in the national tournament. Presidential nominating conventions were added.

1940-41

A loose-leaf system of keeping credit point records was supplied to every chapter.

The War Years

1941-42

The national tournament was suspended. The student congress met in the Wisconsin State Capitol and received a letter of commendation from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1942-43

A war emergency schedule of credit points for service speeches to school and community audiences was established. Associate membership for intramural speaking was authorized. A diamond-set key was authorized for coaches attaining 1,000 credit points.

1943-44

The Leading Chapter Award was instituted. The constitution was amended to add a principal and a superintendent to the Executive Council and to expand the office of district chairman to a three-member district committee with power to grant charters.

1944-45

A schedule of points for community service speeches was written into the constitution. The national student congress was suspended in compliance with a ban on conventions. A national contest in extemporaneous speaking was held instead at Northwestern University, preceded by regional contests at Denver, Iowa City, Nashville, and Washington, PA

1945-46

The National Association of Secondary School Principals assumed control of national contests and restricted entry to one student from a state in each event. The national contests for the five

speech events were held at Northwestern University following four regional contests.

Post-War Recovery

1946-47

A single national speech tournament was again held with 96 contestants from 22 states. To discourage marathon speaking in quest of points, the Council limited award of points to three rounds a day.

1947-48

In the national tournament, Kenosha, Wisconsin, set a new school record by winning first in two contests, second in another, and third in the other two.

1948-49

At its annual meeting the Council made all members of the district committee elective by the chapters. NFL President Karl E. Mundt was elected to the United States Senate.

1949-50

Debate was restored to the national tournament by dropping two interpretation events. This action was necessary to secure tournament sanction from the principals' contest committee.

1950-51

The League published a comprehensive 25th Anniversary book to record the achievements of its members. President Harry S. Truman was elected honorary member. Leading chapter awards were presented by the Executive Director at assembly programs in twenty schools. The membership fee was raised to \$2.

The Second Quarter Century

1951-52

Student Congresses were restored to the national program, one session held in Faneuil Hall, Boston. Interpretation was dropped. Diploma seals for advanced degree graduates were authorized.

1952-53

President Eisenhower sent greetings to the Student Congress convening in Denver. The League was incorporated and received two gifts from Houston totaling \$5,000.

1953-54

Robert W. Scott was engaged as full-time Assistant Executive Director to help serve the 600 chapters. Entry to the national tournament was restricted by eliminating alternates. Four members of the National Student Congress appeared on a CBS television network program, "Youth Takes a Stand."

1954-55

An annual trophy for cumulative achievement in the National Student Congress was established and won by Wooster, Ohio, host to the first such congress. Dramatic Interpretation was restored as a National Tournament event.

1955-56

Membership and degree requirements were raised. Award of diamond keys restricted to one for each 1,000 members and degrees was added, and chapter limit raised to 700. Chapters voted to raise the charter fee to \$10.

1956-57

The 100,000th NFL membership was recorded in December.

1957-58

NFL received a grant from the Ford Foundation and a gift from Nelson A. Rockefeller.

1958-59

League offices were moved into larger quarters in the Ripon College Administration Building.

1959-60

Charter requirements were raised and the chapters limited to 1,000. Charter fee was set at \$10 a year. A double ruby was authorized for both students and coaches, and the leading chapter award restricted to one for each 1,000 new members and degrees.

1960-61

District tournament rules were changed to apportion entries according to chapter size, the limit of 1,000 chapters having been reached. Affiliate membership for schools awaiting a charter vacancy was established. Supt. L.J. Smith of Massillon, Ohio, retired after 18 years on the Executive Council.

1961-63

National tournament entry fees were abolished. A minimum of five years of NFL coaching was required for each diamond awarded an instructor. Hawaii entered the national tournament.

1963-64

President Lyndon B. Johnson accepted honorary membership. Impromptu replaced Poetry as a national tournament consolation event.

1964-65

Charter Limit was raised to 1,200 and the number of charters granted to private schools was moderately restricted to maintain a balance between public and private schools.

1965-66

A second assistant Executive Director was employed. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, who had earned NFL membership as a student, was elected national honorary member. The national student congress was limited to a senate to stay within the attendance limits prescribed for the national tournament.

1966-67

A new schedule of points for contests was established and requirement for diamond key award set at 1,500 points and five years of coaching. The degree fee was abolished and membership fee raised to \$3.00. NFL sponsorship of district student congresses was limited to one a year in each district. Rules for entry in the national tournament were revised to hold down its size.

Now with 1,100 Chapters and over 900 Affiliates, the League faced the challenge of growth -- serving the larger number of schools and still retaining the features which made it

grow. It could look back on 42 years of service to 260,000 young Americans and forward to continuing opportunities for developing articulate young leaders for the American Way of Life.

Bruno E. Jacob

1967-68

The League received from *Reader's Digest* \$7,500 to defray expenses of the 1968 national tournament at Macalester College, and \$15,000 to send thirteen students and three adults on a tour of Europe. DeWitt Wallace, founder of *Reader's Digest*, was elected a national honorary member.

1968-69

President Richard Nixon accepted national honorary membership. \$10,000 was received from *Reader's Digest* to defray expenses of the 1969 national tournament at Washington, D.C. Bruno E. Jacob retired as Executive Director and was presented with a gift of a new automobile and funds for world travel from NFL chapters and affiliates. Bruno E. Jacob was elected Executive Director Emeritus. The 300,000 NFL membership was recorded in March.

1969-70

The Reader's Digest Foundation granted \$8,000 for the next three years to help defray national tournament expenses. Lester M. Tucker was elected Executive Director. NFL expanded to 44 districts. Mr. Glenn E. Burnett, Principal of Topeka High School and Executive Council director, was elected to national honorary membership. Affiliate school fees were increased to \$15.

1970-71

Executive Council was increased by two members. Chapter dues were increased to \$25.00.

1971-72

Senator Karl E. Mundt retired as President. James F. Hawker, Lafayette, Indiana, was elected President. Seals for special distinction were authorized.

Marquette High School broke a national tournament record by winning two contests,

placing second in debate and winning both sweepstakes.

1972-73

A Chapter award was presented to the leading school in each of the forty-four districts. An award was authorized for the leading affiliate school in the nation.

1973-74

The Phillips Petroleum Company granted funds to help underwrite the national speech tournament. Students were allowed to earn 600 points. Four new districts were created.

1974-75

The Golden Anniversary (1925-1975) was observed. Senator Karl E. Mundt died. One new district was created.

1975-76

NFL acquired its own building after 50 years on the campus of Ripon College. Three new districts were created.

1976-77

The Karl E. Mundt Foundation gave funds to the NFL to help underwrite Congress. Humorous Interpretation was added as a main event for the district and national tournaments. Dennis Winfield was elected President.

1977-78

Lester M. Tucker retired as Executive Director and Dennis Winfield was elected to that position. Carmendale Fernandes became President. NFL had 1315 chapters and 694 Affiliates. Mr. G. C. Meese, of Phillips Petroleum Company, was elected a national honorary member.

The Hall of Fame was established and Bruno Jacob named the first 11 inductees. Mr. Jacob was named by acclamation.

1978-79

H.B. Mitchell Debate Trophy established. Mr. Mitchell's debate teams won 3 national championships and two seconds.

1979-80

L/D Debate established as an NFL event. Phyllis Barton and Donus Roberts elected to National Council.

1980-81

Chapters responded to need and raised student membership to \$5.00. First increase in 7 years.

1981-82

National debate winners awarded a \$2,000.00 scholarship from Who's Who Among American High School Students.

1982-83

Video taping of National Final Rounds initiated. United States and Foreign extemp established.

1983-84

James Copeland elected President. Qualifiers to the National Tournament to come from NFL districts.

1984-85

Congress points increased from 12 to 24 per day. Conference on the State of Debate held in Kansas City. Principal Ronald Last resigns. Brother Rene Sterner FSC appointed administrative representative. Harold Keller elected by district chairs to fill vacancy.

1985-86

Frank Sferra elected President. Dennis Winfield resigns. James Copeland appointed Acting Executive Director. Phyllis Barton elected V.P., Richard Sodikow and L. D. Naegelin elected to Executive Council.

1986-87

Second tournament held at Cincinnati Princeton High School. Speaker of the House James Wright addresses nationals.

1987-88

NFL chapters number almost 1700. Affiliates over 600. NACDL sponsors Constitutional U.S. Extemp. James Copeland selected as Executive Director. Billy Tate and Don Crabtree elected to the Executive Council. Ted Turner elected

national honorary member. Donus Roberts conducts NFL Goals 2000 Conference. Largest tournament held in Nashville.

1988-89

Point system expanded to include new degrees at 750 and 1000. Point limits raised to 500 per category and 1000 overall. Membership fee raised to \$10. National tournament restructured. Largest National Tournament held at Colorado School of Mines. "California Plan" for conducting speech events adopted.

1989-90

Frank Sferra re-elected President, Donus Roberts elected Vice-President. H.B. Mitchell dies. Largest National Tournament held at San Jose State University. Phillips Petroleum Foundation, Inc. offers NFL a \$25,000 challenge grant each year for three years. New districts added in Colorado, Florida and Kansas.

1990-91

Phyllis Barton dies. Phyllis Barton trophy and scholarship established for debate top speaker at Nationals. District Chairs elect Ted Belch to the Council. Six guaranteed rounds for all events at Nationals. New districts in Arkansas, Virginia and Kansas. Largest Nationals at Glenbrook-South, Illinois. Ralph E. Carey dies and leaves NFL a major bequest. Judge John L. Coffey named honorary member. The Bradley Foundation of Milwaukee grants NFL money for a video education project.

1991-92

The Phillips Petroleum Company makes a major gift to NFL to promote speech education in urban and rural areas and sponsor the National Tournament. Carmendale Fernandes leaves the Executive Council after service in 4 decades. Donus Roberts chairs a major NFL Conference in Denver. David Johnson elected to the Council.

1992-93

Albert Odom retires from the NFL Office after 25 years of service. Ben Davis HS (IN) hosts nationals a second time. Phillips Petroleum CEO C.J. "Pete" Silas named national honorary member.

1993-94

Largest National Tournament held at K.C. Park Hill (MO) HS -- the second Park Hill nationals. Summer Council Retreat planned NFL's future. Donus Roberts elected President, Billy Tate, Vice President. Glenda Ferguson and Cat Bennett elected to the Council.

1994-95

Largest Nationals hosted at Nova H. S. Florida. Lincoln Life sponsors L/D Debate. Stennis Center sponsors Congress. Phillips CEO C. W. Allen and Lincoln Life CEO John Boscia appear at Nationals. Sandra Silvers dies and leaves NFL a large bequest.

1995-96

Cat Bennett resigns from the Council, replaced by alternate Ted Belch. Roger Brannan becomes alternate. A National Junior Forensic League founded for junior and middle schools. Duo Interpretation added as a national event. Largest Nationals hosted at Southview High School (NC). The 900,000 member was recorded. Marilyn Hageman retires after more than 30 years of service in the NFL office. All time coach point leader, Tedd Woods, dies.

1996-97

L. D. Naegelin elected President, Billy Tate Vice President. Largest National Tournament, Star of the North, hosted in Minneapolis.

1997-98

President L. D. Naegelin dies. Vice President Billy Tate becomes NFL President. Alternate Roger Brannan becomes Councilor. Largest National Tournament hosted in St. Louis. Barbara Jordan Youth Debates on Health are sponsored for urban debaters by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

1998-99

The Lincoln Financial Group becomes the sponsor of the National Forensic League and the National Tournament. The Kaiser Family Foundation sponsors policy debate. Past VP Vernon Metz dies. Billy Tate elected President; Frank Sferra Vice President.

Phoenix is host to the "Desert Sun" National Tournament. Past National Champion, movie star Shelley Long and Lincoln Financial Group CEO Jon Boscia are special guests.

1999 - 00

Portland, Oregon hosts the 2000 National Tournament.

2000 - 01

Ted W. Belch elected Vice President. Schwan's becomes an NFL sponsor. Joan Keston named first woman NFL Honorary Member.

2001 - 02

Largest nationals at Charlotte, North Carolina. Ted Turner guest at nationals.

2002-03

James Copeland retires as Executive Director. Don Crabtree elected Vice President. New event, Ted Turner Debate, is created. J. Scott Wunn elected Executive Director. National Tournament held in Atlanta, Georgia.

2003-04

Largest National Tournament hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah by David Smith and Frank Langheinrich. Ted Turner Public Forum Debate becomes an official event at nationals. Albert Odom dies. NFL hosts 32 students from 8 countries in first international competitions of Ted Turner Public Forum and legislative debate.

2004-05

William W. Tate is elected to his 4th term as President of the NFL. Frank Sferra and Donus Roberts retires from the Executive Council. Pam Wycoff (MN) and Tommie Lindsey, Jr. (CA) are elected. NFL celebrates its 80th birthday in Philadelphia, PA at the 2005 National Speech Tournament. Lincoln Financial Group CEO, Jon Boscia is named the 26th Honorary Member of the National Forensic League.

2005-06

Ted Turner attends the NFL National Tournament in Colleyville/Grapevine, TX which is the largest in tournament history. Betty Whitlock of Georgia receives the inaugural NFL Humanitarian Award. NFL National Office holds a summer leadership retreat for all District Chairs in Ripon, WI. NFL hosts students from South Korea as part of its Guest Country program. The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service establishes the Harold C. Keller Public Service Award.

2006-07

Pam McComas of Kansas is elected as a member of the Executive Council. Timothy Sheaff of Iowa becomes an alternate to the Council. Run-off rounds in debate are discontinued and laptop computers are allowed in Policy Debate at the NFL National Tournament.

2007-08

The Executive Council approves the official NFL Honor Code. NFL presents the inaugural National Student of the Year Award to Kyle Ackerman of Downers Grove South High School in Illinois. Pam Wycoff, Billy Tate, Tommie Lindsey, Jr., and Kandi King are re-elected to seats on the Executive Council. The Ted W. Belch Policy Debate Coach Award was created to recognize the coach of the national champion team in policy debate. David Huston, coach of Colleyville Heritage High School in Texas was awarded the inaugural honors. 2008 National Tournament was held in Las Vegas, NV.

Past Presidents

Ray Cecil Carter, Albany, New York
Senator Karl E. Mundt, Madison, South Dakota
James F. Hawker, Lafayette, Indiana
Dennis D. Winfield, Waterloo, Iowa
Carmendale Fernandes, Sunnyvale, California
James M. Copeland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Frank Sferra, Denver, Colorado
Donus D. Roberts, Watertown, South Dakota
L. D. Naegelin, San Antonio, Texas

Past Vice-Presidents

Karl E. Mundt, Madison, South Dakota
T.C. Bond, McKinley HS, Niles, Ohio
J. Edmund Mayer, Alhambra, California

James F. Hawker, Lafayette, Indiana
Vernon Metz, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Carmendale Fernandes, Sunnyvale, California
C. Edwin Brower, Dallas, Texas
James M. Copeland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Frank Sferra, Denver, Colorado
Phyllis Barton, Cincinnati, Ohio
Donus Roberts, Watertown, South Dakota
William Woods Tate, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee
Ted W. Belch, Northbrook, Illinois

Past Executive Directors

Bruno E. Jacob, Ripon, Wisconsin
Lester M. Tucker, Howe, Indiana
Dennis D. Winfield, Waterloo, Iowa
James M. Copeland, Sun City, Arizona

Past Directors

Henry Christoffersen, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
Harvey Pinney, New Richmond, Wisconsin
Donald Stannard, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Fred C. Scribner, Portland-Deering, Maine
Shirley E. Greene, Laconia, New Hampshire
Merwin W. Murphy, Phoenix, Arizona
R. N. Thompson, Brown Military Academy, California
Donald P. Doane, Lucas, Kansas
J.C. Aldrich, Webster Groves, Missouri
Hubert Teitelbaum, Charleroi, Pennsylvania
Walter Oelschlaeger, Monessen, Pennsylvania
L. D. Schreiber, Charleroi, Pennsylvania
C.C. Diettert, North Judson, Indiana
R.S. Cartwright, Elgin, Illinois
N.W. Williams, Lexington, Kentucky
Supt. L.J. Smith, Massillon, Ohio
Prin. R.B. Miller, Hammond Clark, Indiana
Carl E. Mugnani, West View, Pennsylvania
C.M. Schindler, Canton McKinley, Ohio
Albert L. O'Connor, Monessen, Pennsylvania
E.J. Diller, Youngstown Chaney, Ohio
Helen C. Malseed, McKeesport, Pennsylvania
L.D. Hanks, Los Angeles--Marshall, California
Prin. Donald F. Piper, Laconia, New Hampshire
Prin. Glenn E. Burnette, Topeka, Kansas
Prin. Allen W. Meyers, Lafayette, Louisiana
Prin. Ralph McGee, New Trier, Illinois
Dennis D. Winfield, Waterloo, Iowa
C. Edwin Brower, Dallas, Texas
Vernon Metz, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
James F. Hawker, Lafayette, Indiana
Prin. Ronald Last, Provo, Utah
James Copeland, Sun City, Arizona
H.B. Mitchell, Seminole, Oklahoma
Phyllis Barton, Cincinnati, Ohio

Past Directors (continued)

Carmendale Fernandes, San Jose, California
 Richard B. Sodikow, Bronx, New York
 David Johnson, Houston--Bellaire, Texas
 Cat Horner Bennett, Taos, New Mexico
 L. D. Naegelin, San Antonio, Texas
 Donus D. Roberts, Watertown, South Dakota
 Frank Sferra, Denver, Colorado
 Ted W. Belch, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Glenda Ferguson, Coppell, Texas

NFL HALL OF FAME

1978

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Bruno E. Jacob | Wisconsin |
| Karl E. Mundt | South Dakota |
| J. Edmund Mayer | California |
| John Davies | Wisconsin |
| R. P. Hibbs | Illinois |
| Albert James | Colorado |
| Vernon W. Metz | Pennsylvania |
| L. Day Hanks | California |
| H. B. Mitchell | Oklahoma |
| James F. Hawker | Indiana |
| Carmendale Fernandes | California |
| James M. Copeland | Wisconsin |

1979

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|------------------|-----------|
| Charline Burton | Oklahoma |
| Zazalle Gifford | Oklahoma |
| Ruby Krider | Tennessee |
| Etta Scarborough | Florida |

1980

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Esther Kalmbach | Ohio |
| Helen Malseed | Pennsylvania |
| Rev. John Miday | Ohio |
| Margaret L. Meredith | Missouri |
| Dennis D. Winfield | Wisconsin |

1981

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| Novalyn P. Ellis | Louisiana |
| Lenabell Sloan Martin | Colorado |
| Lester M. Tucker | Wisconsin |

1982

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Mary Blackburn | Illinois |
| Leah Funck | Ohio |
| C. Edwin Brower | Texas |

1983

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|-----------------|----------|
| Louis Banker | Missouri |
| Jean Boles | Texas |
| Bill Henderson | Iowa |
| J. W. Patterson | Kentucky |
| Maurice Swanson | Kansas |

1984

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Mable Hale | Missouri |
| Anne D. White | Tennessee |
| Albert Odom | Wisconsin |

1985

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Frances F. Ferris | Wyoming |
| Lois Sackman | Wyoming |
| Ronald Shafer | Missouri |

1986

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|---------------|---------|
| Cecil Pickett | Texas |
| Ronald Last | Utah |
| Karl Boyle | Ohio |
| Ralph Carey | Florida |

1987

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|-------------------|--------------|
| Frank Sferra | Colorado |
| Phyllis Barton | Ohio |
| David Kanellis | Iowa |
| Bro. Rene Sterner | Maryland |
| Donus Roberts | South Dakota |
| Arlene Akerman | Ohio |
| Glenn Pelham | Georgia |

1988

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Donovan Cummings | California |
| Jane Eldridge | Tennessee |
| Art McMillion | Wisconsin |
| L. D. Naegelin | Texas |
| Marilyn Hageman | Wisconsin |

1989

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|---------------|------------|
| Ralph Bender | Ohio |
| Bob Bilyeu | Missouri |
| Rex Fleming | Texas |
| Natalie Weber | California |

1990

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|--------------------|-----------|
| Roger Brannan | Kansas |
| Opal Hall | Texas |
| Harold Carl Keller | Iowa |
| Grace Walsh | Wisconsin |

1991

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|-----------------|------------|
| David Dansky | California |
| Larry Highbaugh | Indiana |
| Misao Kubota | Hawaii |
| Tedd D. Woods | California |

1992

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| David Johnson | Texas |
| Ron Underwood | California |
| Richard Young | Kansas |
| Joseph Wycoff | Indiana |

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|------|---------------------------|----------------|------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1993 | Ray Cecil Carter | New York | 2001 | Ron Carr | Florida |
| | Peggy Ann Madden | Pennsylvania | | Randall McCutcheon | New Mexico |
| | Dale McCall | Florida | | B. J. Naegelin | Texas |
| | Donald Lee Smith | Utah | | Bro. George Zehnle, S.M. | New York |
| | Virginia Sutherland | North Carolina | | | |
| 1994 | Wayne Brown | Missouri | 2002 | Francine Berger | Florida |
| | A. C. Eley | Kansas | | Gary Harmon | Kansas |
| | William Hicks | Indiana | | Randy Pierce | Missouri |
| | "Louie" Mattachione | Ohio | | Sr. Mary Raimonde FDC | New York |
| | Sandra Silvers | Georgia | | Margaret Riley | New York |
| 1995 | Helen Engstrom | Indiana | 2003 | David Baker | Texas |
| | Dr. Richard Hunsacker | Illinois | | Tom Montgomery | California |
| | Edwin Kelly | Pennsylvania | | John Sexton | New York |
| | Richard B. Sodikow | New York | | Deborah Simon | Massachusetts |
| | | | | Dan Tyree | Indiana |
| 1996 | Charles E. "Pop" Grady | Oklahoma | 2004 | Marilee Dukes | Alabama |
| | Shirley Keller-Firestone | California | | Ronald Steinhorst | Wisconsin |
| | Karen Miyakado | Hawaii | | Anne M. Sullivan | Montana |
| | Lowell Sharp | Colorado | | Pamela K. McComas | Kansas |
| | Larry Smith | California | | | |
| 1997 | Ted W. Belch | Illinois | 2005 | Tim Averill | Massachusetts |
| | Sr. Isabella Glenn | Colorado | | Dr. Kenny Barfield | Alabama |
| | Richard Rice | Missouri | | Glenda Ferguson | Texas |
| | Emerson Turner | Texas | | Gloria Robinson | Texas |
| 1998 | Patricia Bailey | Alabama | 2006 | Michael E. Starks | Wyoming |
| | Don Crabtree | Missouri | | Aaron Timmons | Texas |
| | M. Donna Ross | Missouri | | Sr. Mary Patricia Plumb | Florida |
| | Greg Varley | New York | | Gay Brasher | California |
| 1999 | Lawrence (Larry) C. Brown | Kansas | 2007 | Lydia Esslinger | New York |
| | Glenn Cavanaugh | Pennsylvania | | Tony Figliola | Pennsylvania |
| | Steven Davis | North Carolina | | Mel Olson | Minnesota |
| | Mildred Peveto | Texas | | Betty Whitlock | Georgia |
| | Mary Ritter | California | | Pam Cady Wycoff | Minnesota |
| | Carol Zanto | NFL, Ripon | | | |
| 2000 | Robert Brittain | Indiana | 2008 | Chuck Ballingall | California |
| | Maybelle Conger | Oklahoma | | Elly Kantorowicz | Wisconsin |
| | John Hires | Illinois | | Robert Kelly | Indiana |
| | William Woods Tate, Jr. | Tennessee | | Kandi King | Texas |
| | Kenneth Thames | Wisconsin | | Ron Krikac | Wyoming |

2009

Michele Coody
Eric DiMichele
Jan Heiteen
J. E. Masters,

Alabama
New York
Illinois
Texas

2010

Cat Horner-Bennett
Rosella Blunk
Pauline Carochi
Dale DeLetis
Cathy Wood

New Mexico
South Dakota
Colorado
Massachusetts
Kansas