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### Montana Public High School Debating League Announcement, 1927-1928

State University of Montana (Missoula, Mont.). Interscholastic Committee

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# UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA BULLETIN

STATE UNIVERSITY SERIES

NUMBER 292

## MONTANA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE

ANNOUNCEMENT  
1927-1928

MISSOULA, MONTANA  
August, 1927

Published monthly at Missoula, Montana. Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Missoula, Montana, under Act of Congress Aug. 24, 1912.



82-1261

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MELVIN A. BRANNON, Chancellor of the University

The University of Montana is constituted under the provisions of Chapter 92 of the Laws of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly, approved March 14, 1913 (effective July 1, 1913).

The general control and supervision of the University are vested in the State Board of Education. The Chancellor of the University is the chief executive officer. For each of the component institutions there is a local executive board.

### Montana State Board of Education

JOHN E. ERICKSON, Governor.....	Ex-Officio, President
L. A. FOOT, Attorney General.....	Ex-Officio,
MAY TRUMPER, Supt. of Public Instruction.....	Ex-Officio, Secretary
W. B. RHOADES.....(1928)	W. M. BICKFORD.....(1930)
W. S. DAVIDSON.....(1928)	JAMES H. ROWE.....(1930)
JOHN DIETRICH.....(1929)	JOHN HURLEY.....(1931)
FRANK ELIEL.....(1929)	W. M. JOHNSTON.....(1931)

The University comprises the following institutions, schools and departments:

#### The State University, Missoula

Established February 17, 1893, and consisting of

The College of Arts and Sciences	The School of Business Administration
The School of Law	The Summer Session
The School of Pharmacy	The Biological Station (Flathead Lake)
The School of Forestry	The Public Service Division
The School of Journalism	The Graduate Division
The School of Music	

Charles H. Clapp, President

#### The State College, Bozeman

Established February 16, 1893, and consisting of

The College of Agriculture	The School of Music
The College of Engineering	The Secondary School of Agriculture
The College of Applied Science	The Agricultural Experiment Station
The College of Household and Industrial Arts	The Agricultural Extension Service

Alfred Atkinson, President

#### The State School of Mines, Butte

Established February 17, 1893

Course in Mining Engineering	Course in Metallurgical Engineering
Bureau of Mines and Metallurgy	George W. Craven, President

#### The State Normal College, Dillon

Established February 23, 1893, and consisting of

The Two-years Course	The Teachers' Service Division	The Summer Quarter
	Sheldon E. Davis, President	

#### The Eastern Montana Normal School, Billings

Established March 12, 1925

(To be opened September 12, 1927)

For publications and detailed information concerning the different schools and colleges address the president of the particular institution concerned. Communications intended for the Chancellor of the University should be addressed to the State Capitol, Helena, Montana.

Montana Public High School  
Debating League  
**OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK**

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The .....High School  
hereby applies for membership in the MONTANA PUBLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE for the year 1927-  
1928.

Enclosed is { draft  
check for two dollars and fifty cents  
postal order  
(\$2.50) in payment of the membership fee.\*

.....  
Principal.

**Notice—This blank must be mailed before October 15, 1927.**

\*Increase of membership fee was voted by the league at  
the May, 1927, meeting in Missoula.



# Montana Public High School Debating League Summary of Provisions

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

I. All accredited four-year public high schools are eligible for membership in the Montana Public High School Debating League.

II. Applications for membership in the League must be mailed to the President by October 15th. The membership fee is \$2.50.

III. The postcard vote by League members in November, 1921, favored one official question for both district and state contest.

IV. Other matters pertaining to the conduct of the League will be found noted in the Constitution.

## PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL DEBATES

At the annual meeting May 9th, 1924, the office of district director was established to secure more local control. It will be the duty of the district director, with the cooperation of the principals of the schools in his district and, if necessary, of the League president, to arrange all pairings and schedules in his district. The League president will appoint the directors after the entries for the debating year are made.

There will probably be sixteen districts this year. These districts will be grouped by fours into four sections, each under the supervision of a sectional supervisor. His duties will be to arrange the inter-district debates in his section. The four sectional champions will come to Missoula for the finals in May, 1928.

## PROVISIONS FOR THE FINAL DEBATE

(Adopted May 13, 1921, and amended May 9, 1924, and December 28, 1926.)

I. The four winning inter-district teams will be sent to Missoula in Interscholastic week for the final debate. These teams coming to Missoula will consist of two men each. These teams will be paired by lot on the day of the contest and given sides of the question. The debaters are not to confer with their coaches after the pairing off.

II. The four teams will debate in one evening and the judges will select from the four competing teams, the one as winner which does the best debating work as a team, and the individual speaker who ranks highest.

III. Each speaker in the final contest will be limited to ten minutes for constructive debate and six minutes for rebuttal.

IV. The second set of teams shall not hear those that debate before them.

V. The Interscholastic Committee of the University will pay the railroad fare to Missoula and return (meals and sleeper not included) for a total of three contestants (whether in declamation, athletics, or debate) from any school whose debate team having won an inter-district debate, competes in the interscholastic debate at Missoula.

## Prizes and Awards

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Prizes and awards are annually given to the winners in the final state contest.

1. A souvenir cup, offered by the University of Montana, will be awarded to the winner of the first place in the final debate contest. The high school winning the cup shall hold it until the time set for the next regular final contest, at which time the cup shall be returned to the University, so that it may be given to the high school that next wins the state championship. Any school winning the cup three times shall become the permanent owner of it.

2. A gold medal, given by former Governor Joseph M. Dixon, will be awarded to the best debater in the final contest.

3. A gold medal, given by the University, will be awarded for the best essay written by a member of the graduating class of the accredited state high schools.

4. A scholarship in the State University, given by John M. Keith, amounting to \$100, will be awarded to one of the high school debaters participating in the final contest of the High School Debating League, the choice to be made by the president of the University. The scholarship will be paid to the student in two installments, one at the beginning of the first semester, the other at the beginning of the second semester, of the first year of his enrollment in the University.

Applications for the scholarship must be made to the President of the University at the earliest practicable date before June 1 of each year. Each application should be accompanied by credentials showing the amount and quality of the high school work done by the student, and by recommendations showing the applicant's promise of future usefulness. Only members of the graduating classes will be eligible.

# Debating in 1926-1927

## THE STATE DISTRICT CONTESTS

Sixty-eight high schools entered the League in 1926-1927 and were grouped into sixteen districts, which in turn were grouped into four sections. The question debated was: Resolved, that the child labor amendment to the constitution as proposed and rejected by the several states should be adopted.

### Schedule of District Debates.

#### WESTERN SECTION

##### District I

Libby ..... Whitefish  
Columbia Falls ..... Kalispell

##### District II

St. Regis ..... Missoula  
Hamilton ..... Corvallis  
Victor ..... bye

##### District III

Deer Lodge ..... Philipsburg  
Butte ..... Dillon

##### District IV

Helena ..... Townsend  
Whitehall ..... Virginia City

#### SOUTHERN SECTION

##### District V

Belgrade ..... Bozeman  
Big Timber ..... Clyde Park

##### District VI

Columbus ..... Park City  
Ryegate ..... Broadview

##### District VII

Joliet ..... Red Lodge  
Bearcreek ..... Belfry

##### District VIII

Billings ..... Hardin  
Fromberg ..... Edgar

#### NORTH CENTRAL SECTION

##### District IX

Augusta ..... Fort Shaw  
Simms ..... Cascade

##### District X

Belt ..... Moccasin  
Hobson ..... Moore  
Judith Gap ..... bye

##### District XI

Denton ..... Winifred  
Harlowton ..... Lewistown

##### District XII

Harlem ..... Havre  
Chester ..... Shelby  
Conrad ..... bye



## EASTERN SECTION

### District XIII

Saco ..... Hinsdale  
Glasgow ..... Nashua

### District XIV

Plentywood ..... Antelope  
Bainville ..... bye

### District XV

Richey ..... Sidney  
Glendive ..... Wibaux

### District XVI

Forsyth ..... Terry  
Baker ..... Ismay

## SECTIONAL WINNERS

Western—Libby  
Southern—Clyde Park  
North Central—Fergus County  
Eastern—Dawson County

## FINAL STATE CONTEST

The final contest was held at the State University in Missoula on the evening of May 11th.

Clyde Park won the state championship and the right to hold the University cup during 1927-1928.

The individual awards made by the judges were as follows:

To Richard Manning, Fergus County, the Dixon gold medal for the best individual debating in the final contest.

The Keith scholarship has been awarded to Rose Regan, Dawson County.

## REDISTRICTING THE STATE

A committee headed by Supt. A. A. Wood of Libby is working out a more satisfactory system of districting the local debates. Address any suggestion to the chairman of the committee.

# Proposition for 1927-1928

Resolved, that interscholastic athletics is detrimental to the high school.

The University Library can lend most of the material listed in the bibliography. Bound magazines cannot be sent out but if articles desired are in magazines which are not bound these can be obtained. A deposit fee of four dollars should be sent to the Librarian with the first request for material. This fee will be refunded, less postage and fines for mutilation or loss of books, when the borrower no longer desires material.

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This bibliography is limited. A more comprehensive bibliography will be sent you on November 1, 1927.

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# Montana Public High School Debating League

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## PRESIDENT

N. B. Beck (University of Montana)

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## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON DEBATE

N. B. Beck

W. E. Maddock

Edmund L. Freeman

---

## COMMITTEE OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

J. G. Ragsdale, Butte

G. E. Kidder, Glendive

K. W. Bergan, Cascade

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# Constitution and By-Laws

A committee, of which Principal B. F. Tanner of Hobson is chairman, is working on a revision of the constitution. The committee will report at the meeting in Helena in December, 1927.

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## PREAMBLE

The object of this league is improvement in debate among the students in the high schools of the state of Montana.

## ARTICLE I

### Name

This organization shall be known as the Montana Public High School Debating League.

## ARTICLE II

### Debating Districts

For the best interest of the contesting high schools of the state they shall be grouped on the basis of convenience and expense. The grouping for any year shall be by the President and the Committee of High School Principals. This grouping shall be final and shall be announced to the several schools prior to November 1.

## ARTICLE III

### Membership

Section 1. Any public high school in Montana which has been accredited by the State University may become a member of this League by applying to the President of the League.

Sec. 2. All schools seeking admission for any particular year must register statement of that fact with the President of the Debating League before October 15 of that year.

## ARTICLE IV

### Contests

Section 1. **Local, State or District Contests.** For local or district contests, the teams representing the high schools shall be paired by the President of the Debating League. The debates for the districts shall occur between the first of November and the first of March. In case more than one series of debates is necessary in any district, the time limit for each series shall be determined by the President and the Committee of High School Principals. (Revision of May 9, 1918.)

Sec. 2. **Local or District Representatives to the State Contest.** The time and method of selecting the local representatives from the winning high school shall be left to the local high school.

Sec. 3. **Final Contest.** The final contest held among representatives of the teams winning in the state local contests shall occur between the fifteenth of April and the Wednesday of Interscholastic week at the State University or at some place in Missoula selected by the President of the League.

Sec. 4. Any school not ready to debate at the time specified in the constitution shall forfeit the debate.

## ARTICLE V

### Officers

Section 1. The officers of the League shall be a president, a League committee of three high school principals, and a University committee on debate.

Sec. 2. There shall be selected by the President a committee of three principals from the League high schools to co-operate with him in matters relative to the work of the League.

Sec. 3. The President shall be a member of the faculty of the State University.

It shall be the duty of the President—

(a) To preside at the annual meeting, and for the final contest, and when necessary, to call meetings of the Committee of High School Principals.

(b) To act as chairman of the University Committee on Debate.

(c) To pair the contesting high school teams on the basis of convenience and expense. If in the pairing of these teams the principals of any two schools should not agree upon the place of meeting within one week after their schools have been paired, the President shall appoint some one to determine the place of meeting by casting lots.

(d) To co-operate with the principals of schools that are to be represented in the final contest in making arrangements for that contest.

(e) To prepare and have printed each year, before October 1 (at the expense of the University), a bulletin containing the latest revision of the constitution and by-laws, the names and addresses of the officers, and such other matters as, in his judgment, may be helpful to the members of the League.

Sec. 4. The University Committee on Debate shall consist of the President of the Debating League and two other members of the faculty to be chosen by the President.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to co-operate with the President in matching the schools of the League in series, upon the basis of convenience and expense whenever called upon to do so.

## ARTICLE VI

### The Debaters

Section 1. The debaters shall be undergraduate students of the schools which they represent, and shall have passing grades to date in at least three full subjects (i. e., subjects that require at least four recitations a week) that they are taking at the time of the contest.

Sec. 2. No student shall be eligible to take part in a League contest who has already debated for four years in the League contests of the state.

Sec. 3. No student shall be eligible to debate in any League contest who was more than twenty-one years of age at the beginning of the semester in which the debate occurs. Two weeks before the first debate the principals of the high schools in the League shall certify to the President as to the eligibility of their debaters.

Sec. 4. The team that shall represent any League high school shall be selected by that school in any manner agreed upon by the principals, teachers, and students of that school.

Sec. 5. At all contests the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

Sec. 6a. At the district and inter-district contests each team shall be composed of two members and the time and order of the speeches shall be as follows:

- 1st speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes (introduction and direct argument).
  - 1st speaker, negative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).
  - 2nd speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).
  - 2nd speaker, negative, 10 minutes (direct argument and refutation).
  - 1st speaker, negative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
  - 1st speaker, affirmative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
  - 2nd speaker, negative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
  - 2nd speaker, affirmative, 5 minutes (rebuttal).
- No new argument allowed in the last four speeches.

The order of the speakers on either side in rebuttal may differ from that in the direct speeches.

Sec. 6b. Debaters shall not read their speeches in either the direct or rebuttal speeches; they may, however, use notes set down on sheets not larger than three by five inches in size.

Sec. 7. In case any two teams shall fail to agree on choice of sides within one week after notification by the director, they shall report to the President of the League, who shall immediately determine choice of sides by lot, and advise the two principals. In the manner of entertainment, alternation shall be the rule.

Sec. 8. Immediately preceding each debate the instructions to judges shall be read by the chairman to the judges and the audience.

## ARTICLE VII

### The Judges

Section 1. At each contest there shall be a board of three judges, who shall be selected on the basis of capability and impartiality to the schools competing in such contests. (Note Amendment 8.)

#### Sec. 2. Selection of Judges—

(a) **Local, State or District Contests.** At the time of filing of the official entry blank of the school for the year, each principal shall send to the President a list of judges. The final date of submission of lists of judges shall be October 15th. This list with those added by the President shall be submitted to the principals for approval on or before November 1st. The approved list, which must be returned on or before November 15th, shall constitute the official list of judges for the year. By mutual agreement schools may select judges not on the official list. (Revision of May 9, 1918.)

The principal of the school at which the debating is to be held shall notify the judges of their appointments and make all arrangements relative to their meeting at the place of debate except for provisions under Article IX of this Constitution.

(b) **Final Contest.** The judges shall be selected by the University Committee on Debate.

#### Sec. 3. Instructions.

- (a) During the debate the judges shall sit apart from one another.
- (b) They shall base their decision on the merits of the individual debaters, not on the merits of the question.
- (c) Each judge, at the conclusion of the contest, without consultation with any other judge, shall rank the speakers. The grading of the speakers by the judges shall fall between 50% and 100%. The judges shall seal their decisions in envelopes and deliver them to the collecting officer.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Meetings and Elections

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held at the University, at the time of the Interscholastic Meet. At this meeting, the President shall be elected to serve for a period of one year, or until his successor is elected. Each League High School shall be entitled to one vote. (Note Amendment 9.)

## ARTICLE IX

### Expenses

Section 1. At the local or district state contests the entertaining high school shall pay—

- (a) The expenses of the judges.
- (b) The hotel bills and railway mileage of the visiting teams (the two debaters) and one other person (chaperon or coach).

If, however, the two teams taking part in the contest shall find it more convenient or less expensive to meet at some half-way point, the

two schools which are represented by these teams shall share proportionately the expense, or make some special arrangements for defraying the expenses for that particular debate.

Sec. 2. At the final contest the University shall pay—

- (a) The expenses of the judges.
- (b) The hotel bills of the contestants.
- (c) The railway mileage of the contestants: provided that a sufficient amount of the entertainment fund of the final contest should remain after paying the expenses of the entertainment, and the incidental expenses incurred by the President during the year.

#### ARTICLE X Amendments

This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any annual meeting of a majority of the league high schools present. But no school shall have more than one vote.

1. Unless the questions shall have been determined at the annual meeting of the State Debating League, the President shall submit to the high school principals, before the publication of the bulletin, a list of six questions for debate. The League president shall select the question, being guided by this postcard vote. The question selected, with bibliography, shall be printed in the bulletin.

2. For local or district contests the statement of the questions for debate may be changed with the consent of the teams concerned. But the team desiring the change must restate the question and secure the consent of the other team.

3. It shall be considered dishonorable for one school to visit the debates of another school when these two schools are likely to meet on the same question.

4. It shall be considered dishonorable for any debater, in any manner, to plagiarize his speech.

5. It shall be considered dishonorable for any teacher or principal to assist debaters in any way except to direct them in the search for material, to train them in effective delivery and assist them in the organization of material.

6. Each high school in the league shall pay an annual fee of \$2.50 for current expenses.

7. Charts, if any are used, shall be removed at the conclusion of the speech which they were intended to supplement. Opponents shall be permitted the use of these charts if they so wish.

8. The schools of any district or any two competing schools may by mutual agreement use one judge instead of three.

9. A second annual meeting of the members of the League shall be held at the time and place of the State Teachers' Association, at which time any business affairs may be discussed and passed upon.

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## Instructions to Judges

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The following sections from the Constitution of the Montana Public High School Debating League sum up the important matters to which judges should attend. A few explanatory notes are added in parenthesis.

VI. 5. At all contests the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.

(It is far easier to deliver a memorized speech than to talk "extemporaneously" from notes. High school debating is valuable largely to the degree that it teaches young people to think and to express their thoughts effectively. Debaters who do "speak from their feet" should be given precedence over those who have merely memorized declamations. "Extemporaneous" speaking does not preclude, of course, the most thorough preparation. Judges will do much toward raising the standards of debating if they will distinguish between declamation and speaking from the floor.)

6a. No new argument is allowed in any of the four last speeches. (New evidence may well be introduced into these rebuttal speeches, but new arguments are forbidden.)



VII. 1. At each contest there shall be three judges who shall be selected on the basis of capability and impartiality.

3a. During the debate the judges shall sit apart from one another.

3b. They shall base their decisions on the merits of the debate, not on the merits of the question.

(This is necessary in the very nature of academic debating. Sides are often assigned by lot. The problem before the judges is not to decide which side is right, but rather which team has presented the truth on its side most effectively and persuasively. The "Suggestions to Judges" given below, are intended as further assistance in the application of this section.)

3c. Each judge at the conclusion of the contest, without consultation with any other judge, shall write on a card the word "affirmative" or "negative," seal it in an envelope, and deliver it to the presiding officer, who shall open the envelope in the sight of the two leaders and announce to the audience the decision.

### SUGGESTIONS TO JUDGES

(To be read before each debate)

The purpose of these suggestions is to make clear to both judges and debaters what is expected from them, and thus to assist the judges in the performance of their task, often difficult and perplexing, and the debaters in their preparation and practice.

The distinction made between "argument" and "presentation" is purely academic, but it is necessary and important. "A debate is not a declamatory contest; neither is it a dry, uninteresting statement of quotations, facts and figures. A good scholastic debate is a strong, effective presentation of a clear and logical thought upon the platform with opponent. A judge should carefully weigh both excellence in thinking and excellence in speaking; he should award his decision to the team which shows the most effective combination of the two in vital give-and-take discussion." Of course, skillful thinking is more important than skillful speaking, and should be so rated.

#### A. Argument

The matter of these pages is largely taken from the bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, "How to Judge a Debate." These pages have not been officially adopted by the Debating League, and schools are free to modify them as they please.

1. Each member of the teams should show general knowledge of both sides of the question.

2. The debaters should confine themselves to a few main issues of the question, avoiding the unimportant, so that the debate falls into a few sharply marked divisions and is not a mere jumble of statements.

3. They should define a clear-cut, intelligent interpretation of the question early in the debate. If each side contends for a different interpretation of the question, the wise judge will agree with the side which upholds the simple intended meaning, the meaning which an intelligent man attempting to arrive at the real issues would give to the question. Far-fetched, technical, quibbling interpretations should be discouraged.

4. Rebuttal should be confined to the main issues and may well be scattered through the debate. A marked difference in the style of the rebuttal speeches and those of direct argument is a sign of poor preparation.

#### B. Presentation

1. A vigorous, aggressive conversational style is best.

2. Grammar and diction should uniformly be good, but occasional slips, often indicative of extemporaneous speaking, should not be penalized.

3. Gestures should be simple and natural. It is better to have none than be artificial.

4. The signals to cease should be scrupulously attended to; every speaker should stop at once, even if in the middle of a sentence.

5. The greatest elements in effective presentation are earnestness and clear thinking; these may even overbalance roughness, awkwardness, and inexperience.

6. Debate is a contest, and the preference should be given to the team which actually meets the arguments of the opponents, which handles its notes with familiarity and command, which shows, in short, that its rebuttal is a matter of present thought and not of memorizing.