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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA BULLETIN

NUMBER 325

SEPTEMBER, 1931

MONTANA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE



ANNOUNCEMENT
1931-1932



MISSOULA, MONTANA
September, 1931

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



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
ELIZAPETH IRELAND, Supt. of Public Instruction.....	Ex-Officio Secretary
W. S. DAVIDSON..... (1932)	WILLIAM MEYER (1934)
S. D. LARGENT..... (1932)	HOWARD TOOLE (1934)
FRANK ELIEL..... (1933)	W. M. JOHNSTON..... (1935)
A. O. GULLIDGE..... (1933)	M. MURRAY (1935)

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 School of Education
The School of Pharmacy	The Summer Session
The School of Forestry	The Biological Station
The School of Journalism	(Flathead Lake)
The School of Music	The Public Service Division
	The Graduate Division

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, and consisting of

Course in Mining Engineering	Course in Metallurgical Engineering
Bureau of Mines and Geology	Course in Geological Engineering

Francis A. Thomson, President

The State Normal College, Dillon

Established February 23, 1893, and consisting of

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

The Eastern Montana Normal School, Billings

Established March 12, 1925, and consisting of

The Two-years Course	The Summer Quarter
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Lynn B. McMullen, President

The Northern Montana College, Havre

Established March 8, 1913, and consisting of

The Two-years Liberal Arts and Pre-professional Courses

G. H. Vande Bogart, President

For publications and detailed information concerning the different schools and colleges address the registrar 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

The..... High School
hereby applies for membership in the MONTANA PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING LEAGUE for the year 1931-
1932.

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 November 1, 1931.

The following are acceptable as debate judges:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Montana Public High School Debating League

PLAN OF OPERATION

Membership: All accredited four-year public high schools are eligible. Applications for membership must be mailed to the President by November 1. The enrollment fee is \$2.50.

Districts and Sections: The high schools are grouped into districts, which in turn are grouped into four sections. The four sectional debate champions will come to Missoula for the finals in May, 1932.

Pairing the Schools: The first pairing will be made by the League President; the later pairings by the district managers, and, for the inter-district debates, by the sectional supervisors. The League President will appoint the managers and supervisors after the entries for the debating year are made.

Final Debate: The final debate will be held at the State University during Interscholastic week. Teams will be paired by lot on the day of the contest and given sides of the question.

Type of Debate: The cross-examination plan of debate shall be used in all League contests, except as the teams concerned mutually consent to a change in the form of debate. For information as to the nature of the cross question system read Art. VI Sec. 6a, and Instructions to Judges.

Expenses of State Championship Debate: The Interscholastic committee of the University will pay the railroad fare to Missoula and return (meals and sleeper not included) for two contestants (whether in declamation, athletics, or debate) from any school whose debate team competes in the final contest at Missoula.

Library Service: The State University Library will be able to lend many books and unbound magazines. A deposit fee of four dollars must accompany request for material. Less postage and any fines, this fee will be refunded.

Constitution: All League activities are subject to the Montana Public High School Debating League Constitution.

Correspondence: All correspondence should be addressed to Professor Darrell Parker, President Debate League, State University, Missoula, Montana.

Prizes and Awards

1. A bronze wall plaque will be awarded each district winner.
2. A souvenir cup, offered by the State University of Montana, will be awarded to the winner of first place in the final debate contest. The high school winning the cup shall hold it for one year, returning it to the University at the time of the next regular contest. Any school winning the cup three times shall become the permanent owner of it.
3. A gold medal, given by Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Joseph M. Dixon, will be awarded to the best debater in the final contest.
4. The State Board of Education grants a scholarship to the best individual debater in the final contest.

League Activities in 1930-31

Fifty schools entered the League. The question debated was:
Resolved, that chain stores are detrimental to the best interests of the American Public.

STATE CHAMPIONS

Whitehall High School

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS

Western—Whitehall
Eastern—Richey

Southern—Bozeman
Northern—Lewistown

DISTRICT WINNERS

Libby High School
Missoula County High School
Whitehall High School
Gallatin County High School
Reed Point High School

Baker High School
Richey High School
Outlook High School
Chouteau County High School
Fergus County High School

FINAL CONTESTS

In the semi-finals Katherine Lawrence and Hazel Pomeroy, representing Richey, met Peggy Marshall and Bessie Harrison, representing Lewistown. Professor G. D. Shallenberger, acting as critic judge, decided in favor of Lewistown.

Ben Law and Rachel Egbert of Bozeman met Jack Pace and Carol Speck of Whitehall. Professor Edmund L. Freeman decided in favor of Whitehall.

In the final contest the Whitehall team received two of the judge's votes with the third going to Lewistown.

Whitehall won the state championship and the possession of the University cup for the year 1931-1932.

Jack Pace, Whitehall, was awarded the Dixon gold medal for the best individual debater.

Peggy Marshall, Lewistown, was chosen second best speaker.

Proposition for 1931-32

Resolved, that the several states should enact legislation providing for compulsory unemployment insurance.

The University library can lend some of the material listed below. Bound magazines cannot be sent out, but certain books and unbound magazines are available. A deposit fee of four dollars should be sent with the first request for material. This fee, less postage and fines will be refunded at the end of the year.

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Montana Public High School Debating League

PRESIDENT

Darrell Parker (University of Montana)

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON DEBATE

Darrell Parker

Edmund Freeman

W. E. Maddock

COMMITTEE OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Payne Templeton, Kalispell

K. W. Bergan, Cascade

C. I. Anderson, Richey

Constitution and By-Laws

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.

Section 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).

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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) and that they are taking at the time of the contest.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

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

Section 6a. A team shall be composed of two members, and the time and order of the speeches shall be as follows:

1st speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes for main speech. Cross examined for 6 minutes by 2nd negative.

1st speaker, negative, 10 minutes for main speech. Cross examined for 6 minutes by 1st affirmative.

2nd speaker, affirmative, 10 minutes for main speech. Cross examined for 6 minutes by 1st negative.

2nd speaker, negative, 10 minutes for main speech. Cross examined for 6 minutes by 2nd affirmative.

Negative, five minutes for summary and rebuttal.

Affirmative, five minutes for summary and rebuttal.

Either speaker may give the rebuttal.

During the cross examination period, both speakers stand to the front of the platform. Both question and answers should be concise and clear. The questioner is in charge and is privileged to draw conclusions and make brief comments as the questioning proceeds. At least fifty per cent of the questions asked should bear directly upon the speech just made by the one being cross examined.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.)

Section 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. 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.

Section 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

5

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 Interscholastic committee will pay railway fare to Missoula and return (meals and sleeper not included) for two contestants (whether in declamation, debate, or athletics) from any school whose debate team competes in the final contest.

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 question 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.

10. In inter-district debates, the home school shall pay one-third of the traveling expense of the visitors, unless the debate is held at a half-way point between the schools.

Instructions to Judges and Suggestions to Debaters

1. It is desirable to develop a form of speaking directly adaptable to the needs of professional, social, and business life, not one peculiar to debating contests. Strong, vigorous, thoughtful, and thought provoking speech should be our aim, not a declamatory, nor a formalistic type of expression.

2. It is the purpose of the cross examination period to provide an opportunity for direct clash of opinion, an opportunity for humor, and for spontaneity. Questions and answers should be concise and clear. At least one-half the questions should bear directly upon the speech just given.

3. A debate is a contest in effective thinking and organization, and it is also a contest in effective and interesting presentation. Excellence in thinking is of course more important than skillful speaking and should be so rated. A team should meet the arguments of its opponent, not ignore them.

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

5. No new arguments will be allowed in the concluding speeches. (New evidence is permitted but new arguments are forbidden.)

6. During the debate the judges shall sit apart from one another.

7. They shall lay aside personal opinions and base their decisions on the merits of the debate, not on the merits of the question. (Sides are often assigned by lot, and the problem for the judge to answer is: Which team has presented the truth of its side most effectively and has more clearly met the arguments of the opponents?)

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

