



Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association

~Winter 2023 Newsletter~

2023 Calendar

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

"This year, the WFCA is test running ways to better serve our association in terms of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. President-Elect Malysa Gabrielson is chairing an ad-hoc committee this year focused on bringing advocacy methods to our in-person tournaments.

Coaches, students, judges, and observers will be able to access a form to report things like microaggressions, ableism, homophobia, and other interactions to then be addressed by Malysa via in-person intervention. The goal of this is to have a safe space for people to have their concerns heard and a way to address those concerns in a swift and appropriate manner.

Malysa took a seminar through the National Speech and Debate Association to be a certified Belonging and Inclusion Advocate in their organization. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to her at malysagabe@gmail.com or stop her at a tournament this year. She will be available throughout the competition day to answer questions and welcomes conversations about DEIB and how the committee can make changes to better serve the association."

Submitted by Malysa Gabrielson —President Elect, WFCA

JUDGING RESOURCES:

- [WFCA Judge Handbook](#)

TRAINING RESOURCES:

- [Presentation](#)
Judge Training
- [Form](#)
Judge Awareness

WELCOME TO THE 2023 SEASON!

Well, here we are again, at the beginning of yet another forensics season. Or maybe you're a new coach and this is the first of many seasons for you. Whatever the case may be, we all have one thing in common: we're already exhausted.

For some reason, though, we're doing this. We're using our precious free time to work with students on their performances. We're getting on cold buses early on a Saturday morning with students who are awake in only the most literal sense. We're making sure our students are where they need to be and doing what they're supposed to during each tournament. And we're there with the students after each competition, keeping both tears and egos in check as necessary. All of this takes time and energy, and it's cold and dark out, and a one-day weekend isn't quite enough to get us ready for the upcoming work week.

So why on earth are we doing it? You know why, but I'll give you this reminder anyway. We're doing it because we are present (and often instrumental) when that young person accomplishes something they've never done before: whether it's getting through that speech without a notecard, standing still instead of rocking back and forth during their performance, or advancing to final rounds for the first time ever. We're doing it because these kids are learning respectful communication, nuanced rhetoric, and empathy in a world that seems to be lacking all three. We're doing it because it's hard as hell to be a kid in 2023, and we want to be a part of something that brings a little more joy into their lives.

I know it's trite, but the truth is that you're making a positive difference, and when, years later, kids look back on how they made it through 2023, they'll think of forensics, and they'll think of you, and they'll realize, on some level, how important you have been to their lives. We do this for all of these reasons. And also the donuts. So many donuts.

Submitted by Jon Balcerak —President, WFCA

HAVE INFORMATION, HIGHLIGHTS, OR QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERSHIP?

Feel free to reach out to the Communications Committee for items you'd like to add to our periodic newsletters/social media: communications@wfcaforensics.org. You can also search for the WFCA Coaches Forum (group) on Facebook.

AMAZON ANNOUNCES THE END OF AMAZON SMILE

The WFCA has used Amazon Smile as a way to fundraise based on purchases made by other individuals that selected WFCA as their organization of choice. This program is being discontinued after February 20th.

Jon Balcerak President	Shelly Uttke Treasurer Fundraising Committee	Ben Kroll Category Committee State Tournament Director	Tim Scheffler State Congress Director
Malysa Gabrielson President-Elect Advocacy Committee	Anna-Lisa Dahlgren Secretary	Cole Pankratz Communications Committee	Scott Peterson Webmaster
Michael Traas Past-President	John Rademacher TPP Committee	Kim & Alex Miller Program Assistance Committee	Mike Wagner State Tournament Site Director