



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

Journalism state series nears adoption

Through the efforts of Harrisburg adviser and SISPA member Cathy Sullivan, journalism may become the next offering of the IHSA.

Cathy and her principal from Harrisburg High School will present to the IHSA Board in December. If the proposal is accepted, the journalism state series will be in place for the spring of 2005.

The proposal contains the following terms and conditions.

The competition will take place in one class.

The first round will be a sectional competition in eight sectionals to be held on a Saturday in week 43 of the IHSA calendar (April 30 for the 2004-2005 school year).

The eight sections will be North Suburbs, South Suburbs, West Suburbs, City of Chicago, Northwest, West Central, East Central and South.

Locations for these sectionals must be in place before the Board will approve the proposal. If any SISPA member knows of a university or college who would be willing and able to host this event, he or she should contact Cathy.

The state finals will be held at Eastern Illinois University the first year on Saturday in week 44 of the IHSA calendar (May 8 for the 2004-2005 school year). The finals location may be at the University of Illinois on alternate years.

In addition to the IHSA fee

paid by each school, \$5 per entry will be charged with schools limited to two participants per entry.

Students may participate in up to two events with the exception of those entered in the Photography Contest as that is a double-blocked competition.

Judges fees shall be paid as follows: Sectional—\$50 per category and State—\$75 per category.

Judges will be drawn from the professional media, year-book representatives, collegiate journalism staffs, high school journalism staffs and retired journalism teachers.

In all events, at all contests, judges will use a scoring rubric provided by the IHSA that indicates areas of strength and weakness. Contest entries will be identified by identification number only.

Prompts for each category will be provided for students competing in each category. Prompts will be the same at every sectional contests.

Creation of the prompts and engagement of interview subjects will be a joint effort between the Contest Advisory Committee and the IHSA staff.

Winners will be determined in the following fashion:

Sectional: After the judges' ballots have been registered and tabulated, a summation of the rankings of each contestant must be made. The contestant with the most points in each Journalism Contest Event Category is the winner. The contestant with the second highest total is second, and the contestant with the third highest total is third.

State Final: After the judges' ballots have been registered and the three scores for each contestant in each contest have been totaled, a summation of the rankings must be made. The contestant with the most points in each Journalism Contest Event Category is the winner. The contestant with the second highest total is second and the contestant with the third highest total is third.

Team Scoring: At both the sectional and state final, a Team Champion will also be declared. This award shall be determined by awarding a team five points for each first place, three points for each second place and one point for each third place won by a member of the team. The team

with the highest number of points will be declared the champion, the team with the second largest number of points the runner-up and the team with the third largest total receiving third.

Resolution of Ties for Team Awards: Points shall be awarded on the basis of the following scale for each Journalism Contest Event Category: First: 6 points; Second: 5 points; Third: 4 points; Fourth: 3 points; Fifth: 2 points; Sixth: 1 point. The team that earns the most points under the tie-breaker scale wins the award.

Advancement of Winners: The winner of first, second and third places in each Journalism Contest Event Category shall be advanced from the sectional to the state final.

There must be an indication of how many schools would be interesting in participating. Please email Cathy Sullivan at csullivan@hbg.saline.k12.il.us if your school will compete.

Entries will compete in two time blocks following this schedule.

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-11:00 First Competition Block

11:15-12:45 Second Competition Block

12:45-2:00 Lunch/Break

2:00 Awards

YEARBOOK CONTEST

Dec. 5 deadline for Golden Dozen

GOLDEN DOZEN

Entries must be postmarked by **DECEMBER 5, 2003**
ALL entrants must be a member of SISPA.

Name of Yearbook _____

School _____

School Street Address _____

School City/State/Zip _____

School Phone _____

Adviser _____

Editor(s) _____

Is the cover of the 2003 book original design?

yes no

Are the endsheets an original design?

yes no

Send this form along with \$12 fee (checks payable to SISPA) to: John Wells, Mater Dei High School,
 1300 Harmony Way, Evansville, IN 47720

Entries for the Golden Dozen yearbook competition are now being accepted.

A judge who is not affiliated with SISPA will select the top 12 books based on overall quality.

Winners will be announced at the Spring Conference of SISPA.

To enter the Golden Dozen Contest:

- 1) Become a member of SISPA
- 2) Complete the Entry Form
- 3) Send the entry form, book and \$12 entry fee to:

John Wells

**Mater Dei High School
 1300 Harmony Way
 Evansville, IN 47720**

From the Golden Dozen entries, the judge also selects winners in several categories including Theme, Cover, Copy, Photography and others. The winner of each category receives a plaque.

Golden Dozen competition questions should be addressed to John Wells at (812) 426-2258 or jwells@materdei.evansville.net.

Advisers are asked to share the *Editor* with other publication advisers in their district. Some advisers have notified SISPA that they did not receive copies.

Apparently the mailing is given to one adviser who does not share it with the other publication adviser. Please make a copy of the *Editor* for other advisers who may be interested.

If you do have problems with mailing please contact: Karen Waldron at the SIUC School of Journalism at 618/536-3361 or kwaldron@saluki-mail.siu.edu.

DATES

**GOLDEN
 DOZEN**
 Deadline
 Dec. 5, 2003

**SPRING
 CONFERENCE**
 April 19, 2004
**BLUE
 BANNER**
 Deadline
 March 10, 2004

**ADVISER
 OF THE
 YEAR**
 Deadline
 March 24, 2004

**BEST STORY
 CONTEST**
 Deadline
 March 17, 2004

**2004 YB
 CONTEST**
 Deadline
 March 17, 2004

IHSA will offer 15 individual contests

1. Photography

Using a digital camera, students will complete a photo assignment on a given topic. All cameras are to be checked by the judges to insure that no preexisting photos are stored in the memory. After completing their assignment, students will return to the contest site to download and enhance their five best photos for judging. Only cameras that do not require special software for downloading may be used in the contest.

2. Review Writing

Contestants will either hear a musical selection or view a short videotape and write a review suitable for publication in their high school newspaper. Advisers will be notified of the genre of the material to be reviewed at the sectional meeting.

3. Advertising

Contestants will be given three business sheets from which they will design ads to fit certain sizes. Students may bring rulers, pens, pencils or black felt-tipped pens. They will not be allowed to use color. All art work in the ad must be original. Entries will be judged based on originality, readability and the use of a dominant element that grabs attention and sells the product or service.

4. Headline/Caption Writing

Contestants will be required to write captions for ten photos with provided information blocks and headlines for three stories that will be provided. Captions are to tell a complete story, but must not exceed 40 words in length. Headlines must meet the given criteria.

5. Copy Editing

Contestants will be provided a newspaper story that they will edit for AP style, accuracy, attribution, correct paragraphing, grammar, spelling and redundancy. Students will be asked to

locate and correct all errors. Students may use an AP Stylebook for this contest.

6. Editorial Writing

Contestants will be given information on a topic of general interest. After reading the material, students will write an editorial on the topic using their ideas to support or oppose the proposition. Entries will be judged on the quality of the arguments and writing, organization and proper style and mechanics.

7. Editorial Cartooning

Contestants will be given the same information as those in the editorial writing contest. After reading the material, they will be asked to design an editorial cartoon supporting or opposing the proposition. Judges will look at simple and clear editorial statement as well as evidence of artistic ability and a creative approach. Students may bring rulers, pens, pencils or black felt-tip pens, but final entries must be submitted in black ink and all artwork must be original.

8. Yearbook Layout: Double Page Spread

Contestant will create a layout for a double-page spread using elements supplied at the contest site. Entries will be judged on good use of and variety of sizes and shapes of all elements, a design that is appropriate for the theme and audience, use of dominant element and readability of text. Information regarding the platform and available programs will be distributed at the Sectional Entry Meetings.

9. Feature Writing

Contestants will interview a person selected by IHSA and then write a story based on the interview. In addition to well-written and organized articles, judges will look for the use of an interesting lead, accurate details about the information provided

by the subject and proper style and mechanics.

10. News Writing

Contestants will interview a person selected by IHSA and then write a story based on the interview. Stories will be judged on leads, clarity and accuracy of details, and proper style and mechanics in addition to writing and organization.

11. Newspaper Design

Contestants will design a front and inside page of a five column, 16-inch tabloid newspaper from elements provided at the contest site. Entries will be judged on a well-balanced design that is appealing to the eye and incorporates basic design rules such as multiple points of entry and good use of headline size. Stories chosen should reflect good news judgment. Information regarding the platform and available programs will be distributed at Sectional Entry Meetings.

12. Newspaper Sports Writing

Students who compete in the sports writing contest will interview a person who is involved in sports selected by the IHSA and then write a story based on the interview. In addition to well-written and organized articles, judges will be looking for the use of an interesting lead that pulls the reader into the story, accurate details about the information given by the subject and proper style and mechanics.

13. Yearbook Theme Development

Students will be given a theme provided at the contest site from which they will develop a cover and title page with graphics for a high school yearbook. Information regarding the platform and available programs will be distributed at the Sectional Entry Meetings. Entries will be judged based on basic design principles

and creativity.

14. Yearbook Copy Writing

Contestants will be provided a fact sheet from which they will write a copy block suitable for a high school yearbook. In addition to well-written and organized copy, judges will look for accurate details, and proper style and mechanics.

15. Computer Generated Graphics

Contestants will be required to create a graphic to illustrate a given set of statistics for a story that will be provided to them. Entries will be judged on originality, readability, clarity and adherence to aesthetic control principles. Information regarding the platform and available programs will be distributed at Sectional Entry meetings.

Email your questions or concerns about the proposal to **Cathy Sullivan**, csullivan@hbg.saline.k12.il.us, **Herman Albers**, albers@htc.net, or **Laurie Bielong**, lbielong@stclair.k12.il.us.

JOIN

Joining the Southern Illinois School Press Association is so easy that anyone can do it. Two minutes to fill out the membership form and one little check is all it

takes.

As a special bonus, one membership fee covers the cost of both newspaper and yearbook membership. The fee is only \$15 for the year.

Membership is open to any school and is required for participating in the Spring Confer-

ence.

SISPA offers newspaper and yearbook competition in several categories.

Along with these competitive events, on-site writing contests and a senior interview contest are offered in the spring.

SISPA is run by area advisers

to promote high school journalism.

The organization is under the auspices of the Department of Journalism of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

SISPA will continue to operate as long as advisers are willing to help.

2003-2004 SISPA Membership Form

School Name _____

School Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

School Phone _____ Enrollment _____

Newspaper Name _____

Adviser _____ email _____

Yearbook Name _____

Adviser _____ email _____

Send this form with \$15 membership dues per school to:

Laurie Bielong, Belleville West High School, 4063 Frank Scott Pkwy West, Belleville, IL 62223

Questions: 618 • 222-7623 or lbielong@stclair.k12.il.us

SISPA

Southern Illinois School Press Association

School of Journalism

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Carbondale, IL 62901-6601

Herman Albers and Judy Vidakovich

Coulterville High School

Box 386

Coulterville, IL 62237

• PLEASE FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE PUBLICATION ADVISER •