

Finding Aid to Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository: Institute for Regional Studies

Title: Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota

Identifier: Mss 3053

Date: 1904 -2007

Physical Description: 2.3 Linear Feet (2.3 linear feet.)

Overview

The Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records primarily document the history and activities of the association from its beginnings as the North Dakota Speech and Theater Association from the early 1950s to the 2000s, with the majority of the records ending in the late 1990s.

Access

The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Robert Littlefield, 2009, 2010 (Acc. 2907 & 2945)

Property rights

The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights

Copyrights to this collection is held by the Institute for Regional Studies.

Citation

[Identification of item]. Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records (Mss 3053), Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

History

The origin of the North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association date to the early 1950s and the activities of the North Dakota Association of Speech Teachers. It appears that in 1953 the *Speech and Drama Bulletin* newsletter began publication by members of the Speech Advisory Committee of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. The newsletter became a way to communicate announcements and

information to the teachers in the state who worked with forensic and theatre activities. At the 1952 North Dakota Teachers' Convention Dr. John Penn of the University of North Dakota chaired the Speech Advisory Committee and out of that meeting became the first president of the newly organized North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association.

“Planning programs for the teachers’ convention in the fall and spring meetings; promoting debate, speech, and drama activities; scheduling tournaments; and encouraging forensic and dramatic coaches to participate fully appear to be the main purposes around which the activities of the Association revolved.”

At the 1985 biennial meeting of the NDSTA it was approved to hold an annual convention for teachers and coaches involved with speech communication and theatre arts activities, and the first convention was held in 1986. In 1987 the first annual issue of the association’s *North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre* was published. In 2006-2007 the name of the association was changed to Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota.

History based upon information obtained from: Littlefield, Robert S. *Voices on the Prairie: Bringing Speech and Theatre to North Dakota*. Fargo, N.D.: Institute for Regional Studies, 1998. Robert Littlefield joined the NDSU faculty in 1979 and served as chair of the Department of Mass Communication, Speech Communication and Theatre Art beginning in 1984. For North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association he served as president 1985-1987, historian 1988-2003 and editorial board of its *ND Journal of Speech and Theatre* 1997-2003.

Content Description

The Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records primarily document the history and activities of the association from its beginnings as the North Dakota Speech and Theater Association from the early 1950s to the 2000s, with the majority of the records ending in the late 1990s. The initial records accessioned consist largely of photocopies of documents apparently compiled by Robert Littlefield related to speech and theatre activities in the state and no doubt used in the research for his book *Voices on the Prairie*. There are also incomplete sets of the newsletters, its annual journal, and the annual convention from 1986 to 2007.

The Executive Board Series consists of various documents that are organized chronologically related to the administration of the organization. The initial file stated they were ‘Start of NDSTA 1985 to 1996.’ Files include various documents and examples are correspondence, meeting agenda & minutes, budgets, financial report.

The Constitutions Series consists of copies of the various association’s constitutions, dating 1966, 1986,-1997 and 2007. Included in this original series was a 1990 constitution copy of North Dakota Intercollegiate Speech League with a handwritten note ‘Programs for the NDSTA.’

The Correspondence Series consists primarily of correspondence related to the people listed and mainly for nominations. They are addressed to and written by many people.

The State Conventions Series consist of the formal booklets issued for its conventions and they cover from 1986 to 2007. They include wide variety of information and photographs related to agenda, nominees and awardees.

The Publications Series consists of the organization's journals titled *North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre*. They cover from 1992 to 2007. They are quite extensive regarding its activities.

The Newsletters Series consists of newsletters issued by the organization and cover from 1953 to 2006. The newsletters of 1953-1954 & 1974 have *Speech and Drama Bulletin* as title. Others have *NDSTA Newsletter* or just *Newsletter* as the title together with the name of the organization North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association.

The High School, Colleges & Universities Series consists of photocopies of documents and publication pages related to activities of various North Dakota high schools, colleges and universities, although many not related directly to Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota. They are arranged alphabetically by name of the 14 institution.

The *Grand Forks Herald & Bismarck Tribune* Series consists of photocopies of numerous articles from the *Grand Forks Herald* spanning from 1930 to 1949 related to various high school events and people. Many are related to Grand Forks events but does include others in the region and state. It includes several articles from 1949 in the *Bismarck Tribune* related to the Class B and C high school speech and music festival.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association Series consists of photocopy pages from its 'Official Handbook' for 1955-1979 and 'Official Yearbook' for 1980-1994. They include much details about events, competitions and committees.

The National Forensic League Series consists primarily of publications related to the National Forensic League with titles *Northern Lights Nationals* (1992) and *Rostrum* (1992 & 1993). There is also a file of several letters and printed documents likely related to the organization. There is also a handwritten 6-page listing of "National Forensic League Activity in North Dakota" with dates from 1920s to 1990s.

The North Dakota State Speech and Theatre Association Series consists of various documents related to the activities of the association. They have been organized into a number of files based upon the type of documents. The correspondence is mainly to and from various North Dakota high schools and associations between 1971-1979. The Executive Board file consists of agendas and meeting minutes from 1996 to 2007. There are detailed financial reports for 1996-2000. The garment information consists of recommended and visual images of various garments. The *North Dakota Journal of Speech & Theatre* is one formal issue

published in 1995. Its subtitle is “An Historical Review of Public Speaking Component of the Language Arts Curriculum in North Dakota.” The ‘Officer and Speech Advisory Committee’ file includes many listings of officers organized by date from 1952 to 1995. A number of them are handwritten. The Tournament of Champions includes formal publications and correspondence from 1987 to 1990. The Hall of Fame consist of information issued likely all by Robert Littlefield but many are not dated, although some from 1986 to 2007.

The Subject Files Series contains a wide variety of information related to other North Dakota organizations, individuals and events. Some of the file documents are not dated and consists of many photocopies of other documents. The Awards file consist of various award listings in North Dakota including Elected, Service to the Profession and Teach of the Year awards, but not all are dated. The Dakota Playmakers file include article from *The American Magazine of Arts* (1918) and two lists of ‘Plays as Produced’ dated from 1923 to 1965. The Hall of Fame file is related to NDSTA nominations. There is quite large number of publications and related documents of North Dakota State Speech Association (NDSTA). The General items file includes copy of ‘A Donor’s Guide’ issued by Society of American Archivists and a handwritten note related to donation.

Separation Record

5 photograph albums of snapshots taken likely at the annual conventions of members, banquets and events. (To be processed into the Institute Photograph Collection)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

Collection Inventory

Content

Finding aid

Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Constitutions Series

North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association, 1966-1997

Box 1; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Communication, Speech and theatre Association of North Dakota, 2007

Box 1; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

“North Dakota Intercollegiate Speech League”, 1990

Box 1; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Executive Board Series

1985

Box 1; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

1986

Box 1; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

1987

Box 1; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

1988

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1989

Box 1; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

1990

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1991

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1992

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1993

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1994

Box 1; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)

1995

Box 1; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)

1996

Box 1; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)

1997-2001

Box 1; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)

Correspondence Series

Alfred G. Arvold, 1987

Box 1; Folder 18 (Mixed Materials)

Rhoda J. Hansen, 1987

Box 1; Folder 19 (Mixed Materials)

Colan T. Hanson, 1988

Box 1; Folder 20 (Mixed Materials)

Roger Kalinowski, 1990

Box 1; Folder 21 (Mixed Materials)

Robert S. Littlefield 1930, 1986-1989, 1995-1997

Box 1; Folder 22 (Mixed Materials)

Timothy Sellnow (undated)

Box 1; Folder 23 (Mixed Materials)

Ed Sahlstrom, 1988

Box 1; Folder 24 (Mixed Materials)

Wayne G. Sanstead, 1986

Box 1; Folder 25 (Mixed Materials)

Winifred B. Stump, 1988-1990

Box 1; Folder 26 (Mixed Materials)

Jean Waldera, 1988-1990

Box 1; Folder 27 (Mixed Materials)

Frederick G. Walsh, 1988

Box 1; Folder 28 (Mixed Materials)

Cheryl A. Watkins, (undated)

Box 1; Folder 29 (Mixed Materials)

State Convention Series

Programs, 1986-1992

Box 1; Folder 30 (Mixed Materials)

Programs, 1993-1999

Box 1; Folder 31 (Mixed Materials)

Programs, 2001-2007

Box 1; Folder 32 (Mixed Materials)

Publications Series

“Communicating Through Learning”, 1997

Box 1; Folder 33 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre, 1987-1991

Box 1; Folder 34 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre, 1992-1995

Box 1; Folder 35 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre, 1996-2000

Box 1; Folder 36 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre, 2001-2007

Box 1; Folder 37 (Mixed Materials)

Journal of the Communication, Speech & Theatre Association of North Dakota, 2007

Box 1; Folder 38 (Mixed Materials)

Newsletters Series

Speech and Drama Bulletin, 1953-1954

Box 1; Folder 39 (Mixed Materials)

Speech and Drama Bulletin, 1974

Box 1; Folder 40 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 1976, 1984, 1986-1988

Box 1; Folder 41 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 1989-1991

Box 1; Folder 42 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 1992-1994

Box 1; Folder 43 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 1995-1997

Box 1; Folder 44 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 1998-1999

Box 2; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 2000-2003

Box 2; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Newsletter, 2004-2006

Box 2; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

High School, Colleges & Universities Series

Bismarck High School, Bismarck, N.D.

Box 2; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Dickinson State University, 1923-1994

Box 2; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Fargo College, 1908-1915

Box 2; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

Fargo High School, 1917-1946

Box 2; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

Grand Forks Public Schools, 1981

Box 2; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)

Jamestown College, 1917-1946

Box 2; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

Mayville State University, 1913-1917, 1926-1949, 1967-1969

Box 2; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)

Minot High School, 1912-1948

Box 2; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)

Minot State University, 1913-1943

Box 2; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota State University, 1925-1939

Box 2; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)

State Normal and Industrial School, Ellendale, N.D., 1912-1942

Box 2; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)

Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, N.D., 1997

Box 2; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)

University of North Dakota, 1904-1910, 1929, 1933-1943, 1957, 1983

Box 2; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)

Valley City State University, 1910-1924, 1990

Box 2; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)

Grand Forks Herald & Bismarck Tribune Series

North Dakota Interscholastic Conference, 1930

Box 2; Folder 18 (Mixed Materials)

Play Day & High School Week, 1931

Box 2; Folder 19 (Mixed Materials)

Junior Playmaker, 1932

Box 2; Folder 20 (Mixed Materials)

Drama Contest, Debate, Thomas Cane Retirement, 1933

Box 2; Folder 21 (Mixed Materials)

Music, Speaking, Spelling Contests, 1934

Box 2; Folder 22 (Mixed Materials)

Playmaker & other High School contests, 1935

Box 2; Folder 23 (Mixed Materials)

Various, 1936

Box 2; Folder 24 (Mixed Materials)

Playmaker, Speech and Music Events, Sweepstakes, High School Week events, 1937

Box 2; Folder 25 (Mixed Materials)

High School Week, music, declamation, debates, 1938

Box 2; Folder 26 (Mixed Materials)

High School Week, music, declamation, debates, industrial arts, 1939

Box 2; Folder 27 (Mixed Materials)

High School Contests, drama, and other events, 1940

Box 2; Folder 28 (Mixed Materials)

High School Contests, and others, 1941

Box 2; Folder 29 (Mixed Materials)

High School Week, music, declaration, debates, Play Day, 1942

Box 2; Folder 30 (Mixed Materials)

Speech, Music, 1949

Box 2; Folder 31 (Mixed Materials)

“Bismarck Tribune”, 1949

Box 2; Folder 32 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota High School Activities Association Series

Correspondence, 1962-1969

Box 2; Folder 33 (Mixed Materials)

“Official Handbook”, 1955-1969

Box 2; Folder 34 (Mixed Materials)

“Official Handbook”, 1970-1979

Box 2; Folder 35 (Mixed Materials)

“Official Yearbook”, 1980-1989

Box 2; Folder 36 (Mixed Materials)

“Official Yearbook”, 1990-1994

Box 2; Folder 37 (Mixed Materials)

“NDHSAA History”

Box 2; Folder 38 (Mixed Materials)

“Activities Bulletin”, 1962-1967, 1993

Box 2; Folder 39 (Mixed Materials)

NDHSAA, 1950-1968

Box 2; Folder 40 (Mixed Materials)

National Forensic League Series

Correspondence & general items, 1992-1997

Box 2; Folder 41 (Mixed Materials)

“Northern Lights Nationals”, NDSU, Fargo, 1992

Box 2; Folder 42 (Mixed Materials)

“Rostrum”, 1992-1993

Box 2; Folder 43 (Mixed Materials)

North Dakota State Speech and Theatre Association Series

NDSTA Correspondence, 1971-1979

Box 2; Folder 44 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Executive Board, 1995-2007

Box 2; Folder 45 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Financial reports, 1996-2005

Box 2; Folder 46 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA garment information, 1996-1998

Box 2; Folder 47 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Officers and Speech Advisory Committee listings, 1952-1995

Box 2; Folder 48 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Tournament of Champions, 1987-1990

Box 2; Folder 49 (Mixed Materials)

NDSTA Hall of Fame, 1980s

Box 2; Folder 50 (Mixed Materials)

Subject Files Series

“Administrative Manual for North Dakota High Schools,” 1915, 1938, 1944, 1953

Box 3; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

American Forensic Association, 1989

Box 3; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Awards, 1986-2000

Box 3; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Burr, Robert death, 1920

Box 3; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Community Theater and pageants

Box 3; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Dakota Playmakers, 1918

Box 3; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

Downtown Business Association, Fargo, N.D. membership list, 1988

Box 3; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

General items

Box 3; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)

Heiman, Hazel, University of North Dakota, 1973-1975

Box 3; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

High School Festival, 1940

Box 3; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)

Impromptu Speaking Ballot from Robert Littlefield	Box 3; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)
Inspector of High Schools reports, 1908-1932	Box 3; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)
Knox-Johnson, Mary newspaper article, 1988	Box 3; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)
Nominations, 1979-2002	Box 3; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)
North Dakota High School Debating League, 1909-1925	Box 3; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)
North Dakota High School League, 1925-1954	Box 3; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)
North Dakota State Debate, 1930-1997	Box 3; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)
“OnStage North Dakota”, 1991	Box 3; Folder 18 (Mixed Materials)
Photograph requests, 1996	Box 3; Folder 19 (Mixed Materials)
Proposed changes to NDSTA constitution and by-laws, 1993	Box 3; Folder 20 (Mixed Materials)
States Advisory Council, 2003-2006	Box 3; Folder 21 (Mixed Materials)
Student Congress, 1964-1965	Box 3; Folder 22 (Mixed Materials)
Tournament of Champions, NDSTA, 1987-1990	Box 3; Folder 23 (Mixed Materials)
University of North Dakota Departmental Bulletin, 1920-1930	Box 3; Folder 24 (Mixed Materials)
Valley Forensic League Constitution and By-laws	Box 3; Folder 25 (Mixed Materials)

Walsh, Fred

Box 3; Folder 26 (Mixed Materials)