

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED.

The new oratorical league to be composed of the state universities of Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska has adopted a constitution and will hold its first annual contest during the coming spring.

The constitution is as follows:

Article I. Section 1. This organization shall be known as the interstate university oratorical league, and shall consist exclusively of the university associations of Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, and such other state universities as shall be hereafter admitted.

Article II. Section 1. The object of this league shall be to develop practical oratory by holding oratorical contests at such times and places as shall be decided upon by the league at its annual convention.

Section 2. In the contests of this league each state university shall be represented by the successful contestant at its annual contest, provided that each local university contest be open to the free competition of any and all regular matriculated students in that university.

Article III. Section 1. The officers of this league shall consist of a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, who shall constitute the executive committee, which shall have general executive power to act for the league until a new constitution is adopted and new officers elected.

Section 2. The local university association receiving the highest vote before February 10 for the right of selecting the president of the league shall be entitled to elect a president from its local association, who shall act as president of the league until a new president is elected. The university at which the first contest shall be held as hereafter provided shall be entitled to elect the secretary-treasurer from its local association. The vice president for the first term shall be chosen in the same manner as the president.

Article IV. Section 1. The first oratorical contest shall take place at the University of South Dakota, at such time before July 1, 1900, as the officers elected shall determine.

Section 2. The first contest of this league shall be under the direct control of the executive committee.

Article V. Section 1. Six persons shall be chosen by the executive committee to act as judges of the first contest, and each local association shall be notified of their appointment at least six weeks before the contest.

Section 2. The judges shall not in any way be connected with the institutions represented in the contest, nor shall any two judges be from the same state; nor shall any judge on delivery be selected from the state in which the contest is held, except in case of extreme emergency.

Section 3. Any judge shall be removed upon the protest of any state association, made in writing, within thirty days after his appointment, the reason for such protest being given in writing, provided no state shall be allowed more than two protests.

Section 4. The judges selected shall be divided into two equal sections, A and B, the judges of section A to grade on merits of thought and composition, and the judges of section B to grade on delivery, without consultation, each judge giving one grade, which shall be on the scale of 100.

Section 5. The secretary of the league, at least two weeks before the contest, shall forward a copy of each oration to each of the judges of section A, who shall grade them and send sealed copies of their grades to the vice president and secretary of the league,

so as to reach them at least two days before the contest, such marks to remain sealed until after delivery to the secretary of the marks of the judges of section B; but neither the names of the authors of the orations nor the institutions represented shall be known by the judges of section A.

Section 6. At the close of the contest the president and secretary shall take the grades of all the judges for each contestant. The grades of each judge shall be ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The orator ranked first by four or more of the judges shall be awarded first prize. In case of a tie the orator receiving the highest grade average shall receive the first prize. The first prize having been awarded, the grades of the remaining orators shall be again ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., and the second prize awarded in the same manner as the first. The president shall then announce the result. The markings of the judges shall be published in at least one daily paper.

Article VI. Section 1. In the contests of this league no oration shall contain more than 2,500 words, and it shall be the duty of the secretary to construe this article strictly to the letter and to return any oration exceeding the above limit to the secretary of the state association from which such oration is sent.

Section 2. The several contestants shall send twenty printed copies of their orations to the secretary of this league so they will reach the secretary at least three weeks before the contest. One copy shall be kept on file by the secretary. One copy shall be sent to each of the judges in section A as directed in article five, section five, of this constitution, and one copy shall be sent to each of the secretaries of the different university associations.

Section 3. The orations for the interstate contest shall be printed according to the following uniform standard: They shall be set in brevier type, the body of each page being four inches wide and six inches long, with a margin one and one-half inches in width. Fifteen of the orations shall contain the name and the university of the author, and five shall be printed with name and university omitted.

Article VII. Section 1. The league shall pay all necessary expenses connected with the contest, including prizes and all necessary expenses of judges, the president and secretary and of the vice president when acting as president.

Section 2. As testimonials of awards of success there shall be awarded as first honor \$20 and as second honor \$10.

Section 3. The executive committee exceed \$5 on each local association to meet the necessary expenses incurred before the first contest.

Section 4. The executive committee shall have the power to sell the privilege of contest over the sale of tickets to the local association where the contest shall be held or to any private individual who shall furnish satisfactory guaranty, provided the amount of the consideration be at least sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of the league as stipulated in section one of this article and \$20 in addition to provide for the current expenses of the league until the next ensuing contest.

Article VIII. Section 1. This constitution shall go into force upon its adoption by at least four state university associations.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the league by a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. All questions involving parliamentary forms not provided for by this constitution shall be referred to "Roberts' Rules of Order."

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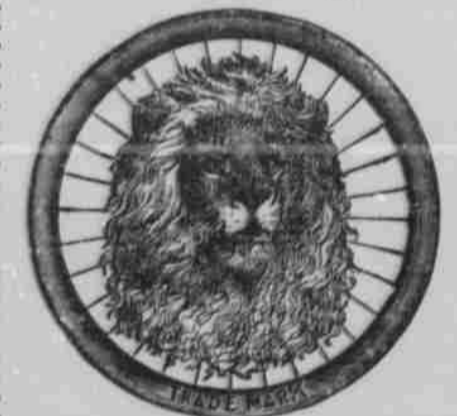
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