
8.1.0 JOURNALISM

8.1.1 THE WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PRESS ASSOCIATION

8.1.2 CLASSIFICATIONS

Wyoming high schools are divided into classifications according to size for the yearbook and newspaper state contests. School classification will be the same as designated for athletic and other nonathletic competition, 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A.

8.1.3 DUES

Dues in the WHSSPA are in addition to school dues paid to the WHSAA. The amount of dues are established by the Executive Board of the WHSSPA and are \$35 per school. Only high schools that are members of the WHSSPA and that pay activity fees to the WHSAA may place entries in the WHSSPA publications contests. WHSSPA dues are used to purchase awards for winners of contests and to pay other expenses of the organization.

Each school sending representatives to the annual Journalism Convention shall pay an additional registration fee to cover costs of the convention. An additional judging fee is also assessed to schools that wish to receive a publication critique.

8.1.4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the WHSSPA are:

1. to upgrade the quality of student publications
2. to encourage student participation through intrastate competition
3. to recognize student achievement
4. to introduce students to journalism as a career

8.1.5 INSIGNIA

The insignia of the WHSSPA is a Pony Express rider encircled by the name "Wyoming High School Student Press Association". This is available to all member schools and may be obtained through the WHSAA. This insignia is carried as a part of the masthead of Wyoming high school newspapers.

8.1.6 OFFICERS

Officers of the WHSSPA are high school faculty members, elected annually during the Journalism Convention. Past-presidents of the WHSSPA act as a nominating committee to draw up a slate which is presented to the high school advisers present at the convention. Officers are President, Executive Director, and Secretary. The Executive Director's term is unlimited. The President serves a 1-year term, while the Secretary serves a 3-year term. Officers may be reelected. Additional members on the Executive Board include the immediate Past-president, JEA State Director, and others as designated by the elected officials.

WHSSPA officers serve as a planning committee for the annual Journalism Convention in cooperation with the Commissioner of the WHSAA. In addition, it is their responsibility to conduct any necessary matters of business that occur between conventions and make decisions on behalf of the WHSSPA.

8.1.7 HANDBOOK

Officers of the WHSSPA have authorized publication of a Journalism Handbook for the WHSSPA. This handbook includes the constitution of the association, a history of high school journalism in Wyoming, this section of the WHSAA handbook, a list of Past-presidents of the WHSSPA, and all guidelines/judging forms for publication contests. A copy of the Journalism Handbook may be obtained from executive officers of the WHSSPA or the WHSAA office.

8.1.8 PUBLICATION CONTESTS

The WHSSPA sponsors several contests to help achieve the set objectives of the association. Newspapers to be entered for competition are to be sent to the WHSSPA Executive Director in the spring and yearbooks are submitted in late summer or early fall to be distributed to selected judge(s). Specific deadline dates are set by the officers annually and notification of the deadline date is sent to each school in March or April to guarantee compliance with a follow-up notice sent in late August for any new yearbook adviser who may not have received the first notice. A Runner-up and an All-State winner will be named in each school classification.

A photography contest is held at the annual convention. Photographs which may be entered in the contest must have been printed in a publication from contest time to contest time, either school newspaper, magazine, yearbook or a local newspaper. There are six categories into which photographs may be classified: news photo, feature photo, sports photo, portrait, special effects photo, and color photo. Any school may enter up to six photos in each category. A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in each category will be named if entries are sufficient, and certificates will be awarded. One grand sweepstakes picture and one runner-up from all photos will be chosen.

Additional competitions will be scheduled on an annual basis and conducted during the convention. Attendance at the convention is not required to enter newspapers, yearbooks, or photographs into competition. However, winners of those competitions, as well as winners of convention contests, will be announced at the convention.

8.1.85 WHSSPA Video Broadcast Submission Requirements and Guidelines

1. Member schools may submit entries in any or all of three categories: News Story, Sports Story and Feature Story. Entries must have aired during the previous school year.
2. Any member school may submit one entry per category, for a maximum total of three entries.
3. Cost per school is \$30, regardless of the number of entries.

4. Each entry should be the only video on a single VHS tape, rewind to the starting point. Each tape should clearly label category, name of school and student(s) name(s).
5. News Story and Sports Story maximum length is two minutes. (1:15 is standard and should be generally observed for both News and Sports). Feature Story maximum length is four minutes. (2:00 is standard in Feature, but if the Feature is aired in two parts, 4:00 is acceptable)
6. If videos and judging evaluations are not to be picked up at the State Convention during the awards ceremony, they should include a SASE for their return.
7. 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A school entries will be judged together.

8.1.9 CONVENTION

The state Journalism Convention is held in October. Convention sites are selected from those schools extending an invitation to host the event.

Days of the convention are designated as Monday and Tuesday. This is to allow student athletes and others with weekend commitments the opportunity to attend the convention without missing football/volleyball games, homecoming events, etc.

Format of the convention allows for workshop/learning sessions planned for both novice and advanced high school journalists. These sessions are in the form of short course lectures, panel discussions, individual seminars, hands-on workshops and other such methods as deemed appropriate for teaching journalistic techniques to students. Separate sessions will be designed to provide newspaper emphasis and yearbook emphasis; other workshops may be planned to meet identified needs of the group. Contests will be planned for convention participants in writing and other contests as are appropriate for high school journalists.

Awards will be given for winners of the contests during the awards assembly at the convention. In addition, winning newspapers and yearbooks are also announced. Pony Express Awards are to be given as certificates of appreciation and to be presented to those individuals and groups who contribute to the success of the WHSSPA. Pony Express Awards may be given at the convention, or they may be announced at a business meeting of advisers of the association and awarded in an appropriate manner at the discretion of the executive board.

Outside speakers are brought to the convention to provide insight in current career opportunities, trends in publications, and serve as motivational speakers. In addition, career writers and publishing authors are invited to address the convention participants. Yearbook publishing companies are invited to attend and urged to set up display tables. In addition, representatives may be invited to present workshops. Other business firms with interest in high school journalism are also invited to participate. Planned involvement, however, should be coordinated by the planning committee of the WHSSPA.

8.1.10 SCHOLARSHIP

A \$500 journalism scholarship is funded by Walsworth Publishing Co. and the WHSAA, and is open to any Wyoming high school senior. The adviser of the student must approve the application which should include a portfolio illustrating examples of the student's work, a transcript of the student's grades, three letters of recommendation, and a letter of intent to major in journalism. The application must be received by the WHSSPA executive committee by March 1. The scholarship will be mailed directly to the registrar of the institution.