The largest, most representative, and, we hope, the most important gathering of college students for the school year will convene in Knoxville, Tennessee, March 25. More than seven hundred students representing upwards of one hundred colleges and universities from most of the states of the union will spend the better part of a week in conference and contest. A few will go home with honors. All should return with inspiration, bright memories, and a determination to keep our nation the home of democracy and intellectual liberty.

We are the people. For us the nation was formed and for us the government exists. We meet to discuss its problems and to contribute our part in charting its course. A single narrow ocean which can be spanned in twenty-four hours separates us from the battle fields of another war. If our nation is drawn into that conflict or another shortly following it in a chaotic world, many of the tall youths at our national convention will wear its uniform and follow its flag. To say that isolation or involvement is our problem is no hollow rhetorical figure. If we may be called upon to lay down our lives in defense of the nation we love, we have a right to discuss its policies. The dangers that threaten democracy—from within or from without—threaten us. We meet not in idle declamation. We meet to examine the world in which we live, and to examine the future which must be ours. We blindly entrust the ordering of our lives to no Fuhrer. As free men we accept the responsibility for making our own decisions. During convention days of fierce intellectual competition we are forming a political philosophy which will guide us as citizens during the years to come. May the God of American patriots inspire our efforts and guide our deliberations.
The Rocky Mountain Speech conference, sponsored by the University of Denver, drew students from seven states to Denver February 15-17. The speech progression studying national problems proposed a Pan-American conference to study the possibilities of a union of the federated states of the Western Hemisphere. Southern California; Kansas; and Chadron Teachers, Nebraska Eta, won the debate honors. Adal Jane Ludden and James Harding of Kearney Teachers, Nebraska Zeta, ranked first and third in extemporaneous. William Barton of Southern California was second. Jacqueline Wilkin and Robert Hall, Colorado Alpha of State College, were first and second in oratory. R. Brown of Pasadena Junior College was third. In the discussion-progression Richard Leach of Colorado College ranked first, with Elinor Rogers of Chadron Teachers second, and Larry Weiler of Utah University third.—Rocky Mountain News.

Prof. E. R. Nichols, Jr., College of the Pacific, California Delta, has organized a bureau of student speakers to supply the demand for speakers before clubs, farm bureaus, and other organizations. The students come chiefly from the forensic squads. They list the topics on which they are prepared to speak. Students are then sent out to meet the requests from organizations needing programs. There is no charge. The most constant demand has been for speakers on educational topics.—Pacific Weekly.

Southwestern, Texas Alpha, was represented by eight speakers in the Baylor tournament, January 12-13.—The Megaphone.

Hastings, Nebraska Delta; William Jewell, Missouri Delta; and Northern Teachers, South Dakota Zeta, shared top honors in the women’s debate tournament at the University of South Dakota, January 20.—Hastings Collegian.

Mississippi State split even in a dual debate with Arkansas State February 4.—The Reflector.
NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

The lowest numbered key to be re-ordered recently was No. 235, a replacement. It was ordered by R. E. Runzheimer, who earned Honor in Debate at Wisconsin Alpha, Ripon, in 1918. His membership number is 559. His letter-head now reads, Runzheimer & Co., Consulting Engineers, 221 North LaSalle, Chicago.

The first entries for the national contests of the convention were received at the Secretary’s office February 26. Macalester, Minnesota Alpha, entered everything except the men’s oratory. Alabama College entered debate, oratory, extempore, and the student congress.

Questions and Answers

Must a contestant be a member of Pi Kappa Delta? No, but if he is not a member his application and initiation fee should accompany the entry blank. If he is depending on the Knoxville participation to make him eligible he should send a "tentative" application blank stating that fact together with his initiation fee.

Will entry fees be refunded in case one who is entered cannot be at the convention? Yes.

Should the names of the members of the Student Congress appear on the entry blank? Yes, names and entry fee the same as for any other event. The names of alternates, if your province has such, should appear, but fees for them will be collected only in case they are seated.

What is the general extempore speaking subject? Democracy—Threats from Within and Without.

How long are extemp speeches to be? Not less than six and not more than eight minutes.

Should convention registration fees be sent with entry fees? No, the latter should be paid at Knoxville upon registration.

In case contestants have not been definitely selected by March 8 may several names be placed on the blank for the same event? Yes, in which case the National Secretary should be notified of the definite selection at the earliest possible date. In such a case copies of all the orations being used in the preliminary contest will have to be sent in.

To whom should entry blanks and orations be sent? To the National Secretary, G. W. Finley, Greeley, Colorado.

When you arrive in Knoxville you will probably want to go to your
hotel rooms first so as to get rid of your luggage; you will have made your hotel reservations long before convention time, of course. Then register at the general registration desk in the main lobby of the Farragut Hotel.

Have you written to Betty Warren, Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas or to Bob Hubbell, Hiram College, Hiram Ohio, your Student Representatives on the Council, about the stunt your chapter would like to put on for Student Night? They want to know all about it.

How many may be entered on a debate team? As many as you like, two of whom shall be used in any given round.

May graduate students participate? No, all contestants must be undergraduates with not more than four years of participation counting 1939-40.

What trophies are given this year? Two trophies for each of the six main events, a trophy to winner of first place on the Student Night program, and certificates of merit to all who rate as high as Excellent or Superior in Oratory, Extempore Speaking, or Debating.

National Vice-President LeRoy T. Laase of Hastings, Nebraska Delta, acting as critic judge in a forensic day debate before the student assembly, at the University of South Dakota, January 19, awarded St. Thomas, Minnesota Epsilon, a decision over the University.—The Aquin.

Principia College, Elsah, Illinois, invited six colleges, each to send two debaters to a limited tournament February 9-10. Five of those invited were Pi Kappa Delta institutions, Augustana and Monmouth from Illinois; and Westminster, Central, and Culver-Stockton of Missouri.—The Augustana Observer.

Hope, Michigan Gamma, was host to sixteen Michigan state debaters January 13. Three rounds of practice debates were held.—Hope College Anchor.


The Pacific Coast Pi Kappa Delta tournament will be held at Redlands, California, California Alpha, March 14-16.
From Oregon comes Frances Anderson, Linfield’s versatile speaker. She has been a power in speaking contests along the Pacific coast for four years, with first place honors in oratory, extempore, debate, impromptu, and after-dinner speaking. Last November she won firsts in extempore and impromptu and second in oratory in the contests of the Western Association of Teachers of Speech. Miss Anderson was born in China and began her education there. During 1938 she spent the summer in study and travel in Germany. She is majoring in economics and plans to enter political and government work on graduation.

Dr. E. L. Harshbarger, debate coach at Bethel, Kansas Xi, was a member of the group representing the Friends, Brethren, and Mennonite churches which conferred with President Roosevelt January 10 in a half-hour conference concerning the position of the historic peace churches in time of war. Prof. Harshbarger reported that “All the officials were insistent that there would be no major European conflict involving the United States.”—*The Bethel Collegian*.

The Etex College Round Table discussed the Pi Kappa Delta question over KPLT of Paris, Texas, January 28, with Miss Maude Webster, debate coach, as the leader of the discussion. A new course in radio techniques and panel discussions is now being offered by the speech department.—*The East Texan*.

“How to Analyze and Counteract War Propaganda” is the title of a pamphlet recently written by Dr. E. L. Harshbarger, debate coach at Bethany, Kansas Xi. The pamphlet is to be published under the auspices of the Peace Committee of the General Conference of his church.—*The Bethel Collegian*.

Central, Iowa Beta, debaters were snowbound one day when they attended the debate tournament at Maryville, Missouri Kappa, January 13.—*The Central Ray*.

Georgetown, Kentucky Alpha, opened its debate season January 11, with two non-decision debates against Centre.—*The Georgetonian*. 
Lorna Moomaw, Virginia Alpha of the State Teachers, has been elected a delegate to the national student assembly at Knoxville. She represents the Province of the South Atlantic.—The Rotunda.

Park, Missouri Beta, has been publishing a history of forensics at the college. The history has been appearing serially in the college paper, The Stylus. The first intercollegiate debate was held in 1897. From then until 1923 Park engaged in 58 decision debates, an average of about two a year. With the rise of debate for women and of tournament contests, the number of forensic contests engaged in has increased rapidly. Park has been especially successful in oratory. Gertrude Graham was a student representative on the national council of Pi Kappa Delta in 1925-1926.—The Park Stylus.

St. Thomas, Minnesota Epsilon, won both the A and B divisions of the debate tournament at Eau Claire, Wisconsin Teachers, January 20.—The Aquin.

Prof. and Mrs. W. A. Behl recently left DeKalb, Illinois Pi, for New York where Prof. Behl will teach public speaking in Brooklyn College. The DeKalb debaters, whom he had coached the first part of the year, gave a farewell party in honor of Prof. Behl and his wife.—The Northern Illinois.

Dr. LeRoy T. Laase, Hastings, Nebraska Delta; and Dr. S. R. Toussaint, Colorado State College of Education, Vice-President and Immediate Past President of Pi Kappa Delta, spoke before the Nebraska Teachers of Speech in Lincoln January 26-27.—Hastings Collegian.

Alda Gregory and Mary Beth Kuhn, Lenoir Rhyne, North Carolina Delta, placed first in the extemporaneous and after-dinner speaking in the Appalachian Mountain Forensic Tournament at Boone, February 1-3.—The Lenoir Rhynean.

Several South Dakota chapters met with Dakota Wesleyan January 27 for a non-decision practice tournament.—Huron Alphomega.

Eleanor Phillips and Geraldine Dierking, Central, Missouri Gamma, the only women's team entered, tied with Monmouth, Illinois Zeta, for first place in the Principia College Tournament February 9-10. On February 10 Miss Dierking and Mr. Conrads of Principia broadcast a debate over 100 stations of the Columbia Broadcasting Company, the program originating at KMOX, St. Louis, Missouri.

A proposal of Clarence K. Streit, an American newspaper man, for a federation of fifteen democracies, a plan known as "Union Now," was discussed at Kent State University January 13. Nine Ohio colleges and universities sent teams to participate in the discussion. Each college represented a different nation. They set up a Congress of Nations. Each group presented the problems of the nation it represented. The purpose of the discussion was to see if the "Streit Plan," proposed by Clarence K. Streit, former Geneva correspondent of the New York Times, was practical and what amendments and improvements should be incorporated into the "Union Now" plan. Prof. J. N. Holm of Kent State was in charge of the meeting.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Speech Training Comes In Handy

Paul M. Hawkins, Doane, Nebraska Gamma, 1938, who served as president of the senate in the student congress at the last national convention, writes that last year he acted as investigator for the Claims and Appropriations committee of the Nebraska Unicameral legislature. Since July 1 he has been State Bond Examiner. He is also taking some law work at the University of Nebraska.

"Little did I realize at the time how much I was going to use the experience and training which I received from my work in PKD," he states. "My work at the legislature consisted of giving oral reports to the legislature. I was selected from a group of twelve applicants in some part on my speaking ability. My speech training comes into play every day in my present position—talks to the ninety-three boards of county commissioners in the state, talks to conventions, and the everyday meeting of new people. These are just a few of the ways in which I find my speech training coming in handy. You may always count on me as a loyal booster for PKD."

Southeast Missouri Teachers, under the direction of National President Rose, traveled extensively February 9-16. They debated American University, Washington, D. C.; State Teachers, Farmville, Virginia; Johnson City, Tennessee; and Maryville College, also of Tennessee.—The Capaha Arrow.

Dr. Hugh Seabury, Southwestern Teachers, Texas Lambda, participated in the panel discussion on "The Problem of Teacher Training in Speech Education" at the meeting of the National Association of Teachers of Speech in Chicago, December 27-29.—The College Star.

Robert Short and Edward Larking of St. Thomas, Minnesota Epsilon, met a South Dakota University team in a special debate before a high school audience in Madison, South Dakota.—The Aquin.

Clifton Cornell and Robert Newman, Kirksville Teachers, Missouri Theta, came through the Maryville Teachers tournament undefeated January 13.—Teachers College Index.

Stephen Grubb and Norvin Sell, Chadron Teachers, Nebraska Eta, were among the five undefeated teams in the McPherson, Kansas, tournament January 6.—The Eagle.

Helen Faugust and Curtis Larson represented Hamline, Minnesota Delta, in the state oratorical contests February 16.—The Hamline Oracle.
The Gilstrap twins, Margaret and Marie, are coming back. They were at Topeka in 1938. They are both special distinction members and have been consistent debate winners for years. When they reach Knoxville with the rest of their seven-member delegation from College of Puget Sound, Washington Alpha, they will already have won honors for distance traveled to attend the convention. Their coach, Dr. Charles T. Battin, outside of the actual founder, Professor Nichols of Redlands, will probably win the honor of being the oldest there in membership. He holds membership certificate number 2 and wears key number 8. The Washington globe-trotters will have to cross four snow covered mountain ranges and travel three thousand miles to reach Knoxville. But they are used to magnificent distances. They often travel fifteen hundred miles to attend their provincial conventions. The Gilstraps will not be the only twins at the convention. The Kjorlie sisters from Concordia will debate for Minnesota Zeta. Perhaps the debate committee will be able to schedule a contest between the two families.

Normal University, Illinois Eta, was represented at the forensic meet at Eastern State Teachers by eighteen debaters. Four teams spoke at the Whitewater, Wisconsin, Teachers tournament February 16-7. Eight debaters represented the institution at the Manchester, Indiana, tournament February 23-24. Men and women participated in the Northern tournament at St. Thomas, Minnesota Epsilon, March 4-6. A number plan to compete in the state tournament at Lake Forest March 15-16.—The Vidette.

Heidelberg, Ohio Beta, and Earlham College of Indiana gave a radio debate January 27 over Station WBNS of Columbus.—The Kilikilik.

Nine colleges attended the annual non-decision practice tournament sponsored by Iowa Wesleyan January 27.—Tiger.

Carl Iverson, St. Olaf, Minnesota Beta, won the men’s state oratorical contest. Curtis Larson of Hamline, Delta, was second, with John Rogers of Carlton third. In the women’s contest, Margaret Thlamann, Gustavus Adolphus; Barbara Hudson, St. Olaf; and Helen Faugust, of Hamline, won the honors.—The Hamline Oracle.


Sioux Falls, South Dakota Epsilon, won the women’s tournament at the Red River Valley Tournament sponsored by Concordia, Minnesota Zeta, February 9-10. Barbara Dailey and Marian Maxwell of Macalester, Minnesota Alpha, were second.—The Mac Weekly.

Claude Hogan won the new feature of the Stockton Junior College tournament, The Town Hall, February 16-7. He represented College of the Pacific, California Delta. Lois Archibald, also from California Delta, won the women’s extempropore.—Pacific Weekly.

Augustana, Illinois Xi, junior debaters piled up a record of seven victories out of eight debates at the North Park College tournament in Chicago February 10.—The Augustana Observer.

Don Hoke, Abe Van DerPuy, John Eichhorn, and Lyle York of Wheaton, Illinois Mu, helped Alabama College open its forensic season February 6 with two debates.—The Alabamian.

Southwest Teachers, Texas Lambda, were represented by twenty-five speakers in the Baylor tournament January 12-13.—The College Star.
Phyllis Roberts, Northern Teachers, South Dakota Zeta, who won second place in women’s oratory at the last Pi Kappa Delta convention, is now a successful high school speech teacher and forensic coach at Watertown. In a recent state contest, where the students did not deliver original orations, Miss Roberts’ orator won a superior rating. In the same contest a competing orator from Aberdeen, speaking an oration Miss Roberts had written and used in her college days, also finished with a superior rating.—The Exponent.

Park, Missouri Beta, and Wentworth Military Academy closed a series of off-the-campus debates with a contest before the Optimist Club of Kansas City February 15. They discussed the economic aspects of the cash-and-carry plan. Park debaters also appeared before the Banker’s Institute of Kansas City.—The Park Stylus.

Faythe Mantel, Northern State Teachers, South Dakota Zeta. Selected as the outstanding debater of the University of South Dakota Women’s Debate Tournament.

Georgetown, Texas Alpha, went to the semi-finals in the Mid-South tournament at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, February 9-10. The tournament is sponsored by the Alpha and Beta chapters, Henderson Teachers and Ouachita, both in the same town. Fifty-four teams entered the tournament this year.—The Megaphone.

Mary Agnes Pehl, Southwest Teachers, Texas Lambda, won first place in women’s oratory at the Baylor tournament, January 12-13. Speaking against representatives from seven states, Miss Pehl was declared winner of the final contest by a unanimous decision of the judges.—The College Star.

Bethel, Kansas Xi, and Wentworth Military Academy were the only undefeated teams in the Tri-State tournament at Hutchinson, Kansas, January 26-7.
"The Student Speakers Bureau," an attractive sixteen page pamphlet put out by Kansas Zeta chapter and the Forensic Department of Kansas State Teachers of Emporia, lists and pictures twenty-three students who are prepared to furnish programs to Kansas audiences. This booklet describes the plan worked out by Dr. George R. R. Pflaum, former National President of Pi Kappa Delta, to supply audiences with good programs and to provide speaking opportunities for students majoring in speech. All the students listed are experienced speakers, many of them from the debate squad. They are prepared to discuss pump priming, isolation, the scenic attractions of Kansas, athletics, socialized medicine, speech personality, interior decorating, water color, cosmetics, music, and the attitude of the present day college youth toward war. The only expense to the organization is the cost of transportation for the speakers.

A Republican named Webb, from Oklahoma Aggies, running on a coalition Republican and Democratic ticket, was elected speaker of the house at the student legislative assembly at Topeka, Kansas, December 7-9. James Gould of Kansas State, the Independent candidate, sacrificed his chances of being elected to preserve the unity of his party. Representatives from eighteen Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois colleges participated in the meeting, the sixth annual assembly.

"Since early in September, the secret aspiration and hidden hope of every forensic competitor on the Linfield, Oregon Alpha, college campus is to become a member of the three-member team which will make the biennial trans-continental debate tour, the climax of which will be the National Convention at Knoxville."—Bill Powell.

Clyde Willbern and Kathleen Jones were awarded the degree of special distinction in debate, and in oratory and debate, by the Texas Lambda chapter.

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non-decision debates generally preferred less formality. The tabulation showed that debates should be:

About as they are .................. 37.9%
Less formal ........................ 33.4%
No opinion ......................... 19.5%
More formal ....................... 9.2%