

Jerry Powell Joins League

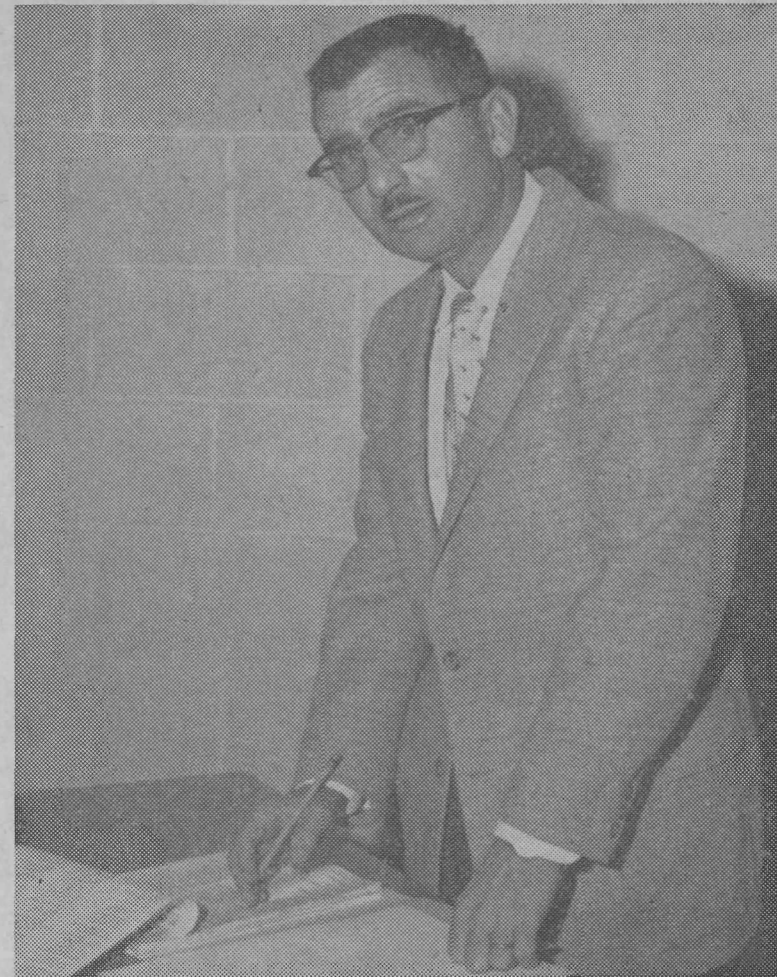
Jerry Rollins Powell, of Odessa, has been appointed director of speech and drama activities for the University Interscholastic League, according to League Director R. J. Kidd.

Powell, presently director of drama at Odessa College, has been teaching speech and drama there for the past four years. He will take over his new duties in January at the close of the fall semester at Odessa College.

Experienced Teacher

The new League official received a BS degree from McMurry College in 1949 and a MS degree from Hardin-Simmons in 1952. Prior to accepting the Odessa College position he taught English, speech and drama for three years at Sweetwater High School and for one year at Andrews High School. During World War II he served in the Navy for 3½ years, logging most of that time on destroyer escort duty in the Pacific theater.

With Paul Peck, director of Music at Odessa College, Powell has co-authored two musicals for his drama students, and his students won the State Junior College Drama Festival at San Angelo in 1955. He is also active in a number of professional organizations, including the Texas Speech Association, the American National Theatre and Academy, and the American Educational Theatre Association.



JERRY ROLLINS POWELL

Five-Conference Meet Proposals Suggested

One Man Staging State Meet Would Face Considerable Task

If one single man were able to stage the University Interscholastic League State Meet it would require the equivalent of almost three years of work—figuring on the basis of an individual's 40-hour work week.

Or, to put it another way, the cash outlay for a State Meet would buy approximately seven low-priced automobiles (without accessories, of course), 67 medium-priced television sets, or one three bedroom home with built-in range and dishwasher.

In November Leaguer)

The actual totals revealed the State Meet expenditure for 1957 to be \$13,520.49 for services, judging, medals and trophies, supplies, housing charges, printing, rebate to schools and miscellaneous costs. The estimates of manpower involved came to 651 people expending a total of 5,930 man hours. Fortunately, most of these individuals donate their time and services to the League.

Rebates Expensive

The most expensive item of all State Meet costs is rebates—which came to \$9,116.82 last year. Debate required the greatest number of people—163—and the one-act play contests took the greatest number of man hours—2,240. The complete breakdown for expenses and personnel was:

Figures Stressed

These State Meet figures on expenses and manpower were emphasized recently when the Legislative Council was considering the possibility of expanding the Meet from its present three-conference state to a five-conference size. (See story

The Legislative Council of the University Interscholastic League has requested that proposed changes in the Spring Meet Plan be submitted to member schools for balloting. Should the new plan be adopted, each conference—AAAA, AAA, AA, A and B—would conduct separate district, area (where necessary—probably only in conference B), regional and state meets. This would necessitate some major changes in the present organization.

The greatest changes would involve these factors:

1. Four regional meets would be scheduled for conferences AAAA, AAA, AA and A instead of the eight now held in the present spring meet conferences—AA, A and B.
2. Contestants would necessarily travel greater distances to AAAA, AAA, AA and A regional meets, since north and west Texas would have only two sites and south and east Texas would have two sites.
3. Contestants in track and field events would be restricted to entering at the regional and state meets only the event or events in which they qualified at the next lower meet. Example: if a contestant qualified only in the 100-yard dash at the district meet, he would be allowed to run only in the 100-yard dash at the regional meet. The same situation would apply at the state level as well. The present plan permits each qualifier to state meet to enter as many as five track and field events at the state level.

Math Awards Get Renewal

Actuarial Club Reports Prizes Again Available

League Director R. J. Kidd has received confirmation from the Actuaries Club of the Southwest that the group will again offer eight \$300 Number Sense Awards to qualifying high school math teachers.

These eight cash awards (one for each Region in the State) were made for the first time last year to teachers judged most successful in promoting student interest and participation in mathematics and the Interscholastic League's number sense contests.

Meeting Planned

A meeting will be scheduled soon after the first of the year to set up the criteria for making the awards for the 1957-58 school year. Scheduled to attend this meeting are Kidd and two representatives of the Actuaries Club's educational committee—Gene P. Archer, Dallas, associate actuary of Southland Life Insurance Co. and W. R. Battle, Dallas, associate actuary of Southwestern Life Insurance Co.

It is believed, however, the rules will remain basically the same as those set up last year. Under this plan the winner in each region was determined by a regional committee composed of the director general of the regional meet and the slide rule and number sense contest directors of the regional meet. There was also the stipulation that a candidate must qualify a number sense contestant to the regional meet, although it was not mandatory for the contestant to win at regional in order for his coach to be eligible. In addition, a candidate was required to:

Requirements

1. Secure a personal data sheet from the League Office, prepare it in duplicate, and send one copy to Archer or Battle in Dallas and the other to the director general of the regional meet.
2. Be actively engaged in teaching math in high school and in coaching contestants for the number sense contest.
3. Have a record of successful achievement in teaching mathematics.
4. Be actively encouraging student to participate in the number sense contest.

Objectives

The Actuaries Club of the Southwest, made up of members of the actuarial staffs of many Texas life insurance companies, inaugurated the program to stimulate a greater interest in teaching and studying mathematics. The League has cooperated in the Award plan with the feeling that it provides an excellent opportunity to recognize outstanding high school math teachers and to stimulate interest in the number sense contests.

Last year's winners of the \$300 awards were: Miss Ellabelle Radford, Quanah, Region I; J. F. Crabtree, Stephenville, Region II; Miss Fay Cocanouer, Deatur, Region III; Miss Gergette Ellis, White Oak, Region IV; W. J. Harlan, Liberty, Region V; Miss Juanita Welch, Temple, Region VI; Miss Edith Carman, Pharr, Region VII; Mrs. Elizabeth Hansen, El Paso, Region VIII.

In conference B however, eight regional meets would be retained, since the conference B schools provide such a large percentage of League membership. This would require track and field preliminaries for conference B schools to reduce the number of finalists from the eight conference B regions to eight contestants in each event, as in the "A" conferences.

Literary and academic contestants would qualify from the district to the region (via area meets for the conference B schools) and from the region to the state meet as is presently done, since only first and second place winners now qualify and since contestants are already restricted to entering only the event in which each qualifies.

It is also probable that the present League membership fees will be increased if the proposed spring meet plan is adopted. No definite figures have been determined, but an increase of ten to twenty percent is likely to offset the additional state meet costs for housing, judging, administration, printing, etc.

The sites of the four "A" conference regional meets suggested in the proposed plan cannot, of course, be determined at this time. Regardless of the meet locations, however, the new arrangement will certainly require considerable travel for some schools qualifying to regional meets.

For example, the "top half" of the state, including the area from El Paso, Odessa and the Panhandle to far northeast Texas, will be served by only two regional sites, while the "bottom half" of the state, roughly the Beaumont to Austin to San Antonio to Brownsville area, will be served by the other regional meets. Some suggested "top half" locations are Lubbock, Odessa, Commerce, Dallas, and Kilgore, while some possible "bottom half" sites are Victoria, Brenham, Houston, San Marcos and Kingsville. Other sites, of course, may be considered before the final locations are determined.

All regional meets will be held on the weekend immediately preceding the state meet weekend. In order to conduct state meets in five conferences, at the same site

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860 Schools Sign for Music Competition

By F. W. SAVAGE

Director of Music Activities

The largest number of junior and senior high schools which have ever registered for music competition completed filing music acceptance cards on December 1.

Eight hundred and sixty junior and senior high schools units signified their intention to participate in some phase of music competition during the school year, 1957-58, representing a gain of approximately six percent over the preceding year. Region VII leads in the greatest increase having gained a total of ten new eligible schools for the year. Region XI ranks second having gained eight schools.

Junior High Lists Out to Schools

Junior high school assignments for 1957-58 participation in League literary contests at district meets have been mailed from the League office, along with special contest rules and suggestions for organizing the districts.

Based on the district memberships for last year, there are 43 junior high school districts this year. These schools are eligible to compete at the district level in debate, declamation, poetry reading, extemporaneous speaking, one-act play, ready writing, spelling and plain writing and number sense. Winners in junior high spring meet will not advance to a higher meet after the district competition.

Individual Initiative

The League Office has not appointed any individual to act as organizing chairman in each district. The initiative for this organization rests with each member school, and teachers or school administrators needing help in organizing the meet or interpreting the rules should contact the League Director, Box 8028, University Station, Austin 12, Texas.

Unless the League Office has been specifically advised, the new junior high assignments do not include large elementary schools with only seventh and eighth grades. These, however, may be assigned to a district upon application to the Junior High School Executive Committee and with the approval of the State Executive Committee.

Rule Modifications

In some of the junior high contests there are special rules or rules modifications, and these are fully explained in the material mailed with the district lists. In all other cases the contest rules outlined in the *Constitution and Contest Rules* will apply.

The special rules, however, can be further modified if such changes would better suit the needs and interests of the students in the district. The District Junior High Schools involved, or their designated delegates, can change these rules to fit their needs by mutual consent of all schools involved.

Region V Largest

In spite of the creation of another region, XII, and the transfer of counties to neighboring areas, Region V is still the largest in the state insofar as participation is concerned, with 113 school units eligible to enter. The same conditions, essentially, pertain to the second ranking region, No. VI, which has 90 eligible schools in spite of recent losses to other areas.

Region II ranks third with 71 eligible schools followed by Regions III, IV, X, XI, and I with 66, 64, 62, 61 and 55 respectively. Region XII with 53, and the smallest, Region XVI with 31, bracket the remaining regions.

Conference A Largest

Inquiries are frequently made concerning the total number of schools participating in each conference. Conference A, with 171 eligible schools, is the largest. Region IV has the largest number of Conference A schools registered, with a total of 19. Region IX has the smallest number with only two Conference A schools eligible for competition.

Conference C, junior high schools containing only the seventh and eighth grades or with less than five hundred students enrolled, ranks second in the total number of schools with 158 registered this year. Region V has the largest number of these schools with 19, followed closely by Region XI with 17.

Conference AA ranks as the third largest conference with 153 schools registered for competition. Region VI has the largest number of AA schools, having signed up 18 units. Region III, with 17, ranks second, and Regions VIII and XVI tie for last place with five schools each.

Dead Heat

Conference B and CC run almost a dead heat for fourth place honors with 119 and 110 schools respectively. Region VI has the largest number of B schools, 17, while Region V has the largest number of the larger junior high schools, 23.

Conference AAA and AAAA are the smallest in the state. The Conference AAA list contains the names of 80 eligible schools while the AAAA list shows only 69. Region V ranks first with both conferences, with fourteen AAAA high schools and ten AAA schools. Region X has the second largest number of AAAA schools, with twelve registered, and Regions IV and VI tie for the second largest number of AAA high schools with nine each.

Junior Highs Gain

It is interesting to note that 268 conference C and CC units have registered for competition this year. This constitutes 31% of the total number of schools registered. It is also perhaps significant for planners to note that the largest gains were shown in regions in the

eastern and southeastern portions of the state, while losses were shown only in the central and northern areas.

Chess Players Offer Assistance

The Texas Chess Association, although turned down last month by the Legislative Council on a request to add a chess contest to the schedule of League competitions, is still anxious to assist schools in the establishment of chess clubs.

C. H. Bone, Baytown, TCA president, pointed out to the Council that chess clubs have become quite popular in a number of Texas high and junior high schools, and that the Association stands ready to assist all schools in the formation of such clubs. A recent letter from TSA Secretary Homer H. Hyde, San Antonio, reiterated this offer.

Hyde suggests that principals or teachers interested in forming a school chess club write him for a roster of chess players in their communities. These players could lend valuable assistance as chess instructors or advisers in the club formation. Hyde's address is 231 Cherry Ridge Drive, San Antonio.

Amarillo's Norman Proves Long-Time Friend of League

More than 40 years ago, R. B. Norman, an athletic young high school student at Rule, Texas, began Interscholastic League activities by winning three district track meet events in the first year of that school's entrance into the League.

Today, Norman is in his twenty-ninth year as principal of Amarillo High School and is one of the League's strongest friends.

No Dash Then

This educator, who started off by winning the broad jump (with a jump of 20 feet, 8 inches), the baseball throw (132 yards), and the quarter-mile "run" ("It hadn't developed into a dash in those days"), has served eight years as member of the League Advisory Council and was chairman of subcommittees which wrote the present Awards Rule, Amateur Rule, and the Age and Semester Rule.

After his taste of organized sports in high school, Norman went to Simmons College where he lettered in baseball as a pitcher for four years. In 1917, against Howard Payne, he pitched a no-hit, no-run ball game, and then came back the next day to blank the same team for the first eight innings before allowing two hits in the ninth.

After graduation, he became principal of a rural school at Saragosa where he coached boy's and girl's basketball and declamation. As principal and coach at Pecos he coached football, basketball, baseball, track, debate, declamation, and extemporaneous speech. While superintendent at Colorado City he was also assistant football coach.

Headed Many Groups

During his professional career Norman has held the presidency of many groups. Some he has headed include the Texas High School Principals and Supervisors Association,

the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, the Panhandle School Administrators Association, and the Texas State Teacher's Association (district IX).

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R. B. NORMAN

