

# FAREWELL, THANE HASCALL

It seems every Spring, Speech and Debate Coaches across the country are contemplating the question, "Why do I do this?" We are exhausted. Some have to relearn how to enjoy a free weekend... To actually leave school at a normal hour...to balance their own personal check-book and not a team budget...Still, there are others who enjoy spending their summers at speech and/or debate camps...preparing next year's budget and tournament schedule. Regardless of which category you fall under - we have a choice. Unfortunately, Thane Hascall does not. Thane Hascall ends his 32 year career this year at Atlantic High School in Atlantic, Iowa. Thane has been such a wondrous fixture in the Western Iowa District that his presence will surely be missed. He has welcomed new coaches, served as NFL Chairperson, and judged many extra rounds of competition (without a grumble) so that tournaments would not run late.

As the current Chairperson, Thane has showed me that humor and expecting the unexpected at District tournaments keeps one young. He has touched people of all ages either directly or indirectly. The following remembrance from former Spencer High School Coach Jan Cook best exemplifies the gift of Thane

Hascall to this activity.

"One time I had four Lincoln-Douglas Debaters who debated for four years all through high school. They were not National Qualification caliber. That year I also had a sharp policy debater with a nice style of speaking, good refutation skills and the ability to handle philosophical arguments. All were seniors. At that time, it seemed impossible for non-Des Moines schools to ever qualify for Nationals in policy debate, so the policy debater wanted to switch over to Lincoln-Douglas debate for the District NFL tournament. The policy switch-over took it upon herself to prepare LD cases and she performed practice rounds against the other, regular LD debaters. She was good...very good...she was a better Lincoln-Douglas debater than the others who had been doing it for four years. However, we could only enter four LDers in NFL. What should I do as a coach - do I 'play my best' four people as they do in every other extracurricular activity? If so, that would definitely include my former policy debater. I called my friend, Thane Hascall, to see what he had to say. Thane asked pertinent questions such as: Do the original four debaters deserve to go? Did they compete this year with plans to attend Districts? Have they

worked...been reliable...etc? The answer to all those questions were 'Yes...but they won't qualify for Nationals, whereas the policy debater has a real good chance of becoming a National Qualifier.' Thane said: The students come first; people who deserve to compete, should compete.

Our original four LDers represented our school that year and all four made it into the grouping of the final eight at NFL Districts, something that I never felt possible. No, Spencer HS didn't qualify for Nationals, but the four debaters felt proud of their accomplishments and their involvement in high school debate. As for the LD switch-over, she was mature enough to understand and her high school debate highlight was being a winner of IHSSA state policy debate. Sometimes I wonder when I watch school sporting events ...these are our best players, but are they our most deserving players?" Thane and his wife Neva will continue to judge at tournaments. They will never know how many people they have helped. Thanks, Thane - for all that we have learned.

*(Jane Nelson, West Iowa chair submitted this tribute.)*

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## Who is Listening? ...

**Debbie Barron**, SC District Chair writes "You just never know who is listening to our young people when they speak. I received a telephone call from the Governor's office last week. Apparently someone in Columbia was listening when our young people were debating in the District Congress. Of particular interest to the Governor's Office -- Division on Aging was a bill concerning the revocation of drivers' licenses for the elderly.

They asked that our students send copies of pro/con lists or prepared speeches on the topic.

## Welcome Back ...

**Cy Pombier**, great coach at Jackson-Parkside (MI) HS is back in NFL at Jackson HS. **Cy's** daughter **Cathy** who set a record of nine straight perfect scores at the Michigan State Debate Tournament and second in State Extemp now a top officer at Nation's Bank in Washington, DC. She heads Inter-City Development...

## Top 10 ...

**Linc Record's** students at Ft. Wayne-Northrup challenge **David Letterman**. Their "Top Ten" about joining the Speech Team: 10. Who really wants to sleep in on Saturdays. 9. **Linc Record** is Cool! 8. It's fun to ride on a freezing school bus in your dress clothes. 7. Stale donuts taste good when you're asleep. 6. Plenty of time to wait for awards. 5. You get to have pizza every Saturday. 4. You can run up your parents phone bill calling all your friends you make from other cities across Indiana. 3. Speechers are in a league of their own. 2. You get to wake your parents up to give you a ride to school before sunrise. 1. You learn what OI, OO, FX, DX, and IMP mean...

## In Memoriam ...

Young 5 day old daughter of Lafayette-Jefferson (IN) coach **Denise Walker**... **Julia Roberts** former chair of the Kentucky NFL District and debate coach at Paducah Tilghman HS...