

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Elizabeth (Liz) Levin

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Sports Stories – IHSA Oral History project

Interview #SIH-A-L-2017-063

Elizabeth Levin, a teacher of journalism at Downers Grove North High School, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories Illinois High School Association Oral History project*.

Dates: June 2 and June 27 2017 Location: Downers Grove, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Time: 26:29 + 45:21 / 0.43 + 0.75 = 1.18 hrs.

Session 1: Early years and experiences at Downers Grove North

Session 2: Experiences at Downers Grove North, cont.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 21, 2017.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Elizabeth Levin, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-063

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Elizabeth Levin was born in November, 1973 in Bloomington, Indiana. She grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois, and graduated from York High School in 1992. While in high school, Liz was involved with the Model United Nations, French Club, and literary writing. After graduation, she attended the University of Illinois, where she majored in English and graduated in 1996. She then earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1997. Her first teaching position was at Elgin High School, where she taught English and history in 1997-1998. In 1998 she joined the faculty of Downers Grove North, where she has been to date. She has taught English and journalism while at DG North. In addition, Liz has been the writing curriculum leader for the Journalism Education Association (2016-present) and was selected to serve on the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Journalism Advisory Committee for a three year term (2017-2019). She also has been the sponsor for the school's newspaper, *Omega*.

This interview covers the experiences of a successful Journalism coach and the preparation all students need in order to compete in sectional and state meets. Liz discussed the seventeen categories of competition found at the state level, how the IHSA contests fits in with the overall journalism curriculum, and other contests which the students may be involved with throughout the year. She covers the modifications IHSA has made during the years she has been involved with the journalism competitions, and the role the Advisory Committee performs in suggesting future modifications. Liz also talks about the responsibility of hosting a sectional meet, including obtaining judges, proctors, volunteers, and student hall escorts.

Subject Headings/Key Words: IHSA Journalism competitions; IHSA Journalism state meets; Downers Grove North High School; IHSA Journalism Advisory Committee; high school newspapers

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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