

## **Founder's District Guidelines for 2018-2019 Area and Division Speech Contests**

This year, the District leaders have decided to hold two speech contests; the International Speech Contest and Table Topics Contest that begin at the Club level and progressing to the Area, Division, and District. The winner of the District International Speech Contest will progress to the Regional Quarterfinals via video. The first-place winner for Region 2 will advance to the International Speech semi-finals in Denver, Colorado in August 2019. There will be two semi-final rounds, and the top seven will advance to the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The District Speech contest is scheduled to be held on May 4, 2019. Division contests are scheduled during the months of March and April of 2019. Area contests may be held at any time between October 2018 and February 2019 at the discretion of the Division Director for each Area. Club contests in each Area should be completed two weeks before the Area contest.

The District Leaders voted to allow one contestant from each Club to advance to the Area contest irrespective if the Area has four or five Clubs. All Areas may only advance one contestant from each Area to the Division contest regardless of the number of Areas in the Division.

Toastmasters International has stated that combined Area contests are "strongly discouraged" but not forbidden. This type of format features all of the contestants from Area 1 to compete immediately followed by Area 2 in one contest and then, again, all the contestants from Area 1 immediately followed by Area 2 for the other contest, with a single announcement of winners at the completion of the event. This is a more streamlined approach but, again, is strongly discouraged.

It is left to the discretion of the Division Directors to coordinate separate or combined Area contests in their Division. We encourage Areas to conduct separate contests as much as is feasible as this provides greater opportunity for leadership building skills and is a better experience for both contestants and spectators.

Division Directors, Area Directors, Contest Chairs, and Chief Judges are expected to know and understand the current 2018-2019 speech contest rules. Please read the contest rulebook thoroughly. If there are any questions about rules, please contact the District Chief Judge, David Hosmer.

New to 2019 contest is that Districts will need to video tape the contest and provide their first-place winner's speech video to World Headquarters for judging in Regional Quarterfinals. Videos will be judged and one contestant from each of the 14 Regions will advance to the Semifinals, to be held in Denver, CO in August 2019. Semifinals will be split into two rounds, each consisting of seven speakers. Three contestants from each semifinal will advance to compete in the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Contestants must be eligible at each level of the competition, from Club to District, and it is the responsibility of the contest chair at each level to confirm eligibility. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the District Chief Judge, David Hosmer

It is important to maintain the integrity of the District's financial transactions and the non-profit status of Toastmasters International. All expenses dealing with speech contests or any other Area/Division/District

event must be reported, processed, and reimbursed via the Concur accounting system. All cash/check receipts must be accounted and delivered to the District Finance Manager, David Clark. Paying expenses using cash receipts is a violation of the non-profit status for Toastmasters International and should never be done.

The District maintains a list of trained contest judges, and it is a policy of Founder's District, not Toastmasters International, to utilize the trained judges as much as possible, especially at Division and District levels. Individual Area contests may have a wider latitude in selecting judges as the contest rulebook only requires judges to have been a paid member for six months and completed a minimum of six CC manual speech projects or two Pathways Levels. At individual Area contests, there should be an equal number of voting judges from each Club in the Area, or a minimum of five voting judges plus a tie breaking judge and a chief judge. For combined Area contests that are sharing judges, it is best to use the trained judges list to recruit judges from outside of the Division.

The District will host training sessions for speech contests on December 9<sup>th</sup> and January AD/DD Makeup Training. We recommend all contest planners to attend this training as much is changing this year and we hope to correct any ambiguities and answer all questions to ensure a safe, fair, and consistent contest experience for everyone.

The Program Quality Director (PQD) is ultimately responsible for the fairness and quality of all speech contests occurring in the District. Please confer with the PQD, Lori Shapiro, for any questions regarding the proper conduct of our speech contests.