

## Instructions to Club Presidents - 2019-2020 Contest

Dear Club Presidents:

We are gearing up for the Annual Rotary Speech Contest. The process can start as early as December (with clubs contacting local schools) and culminates at the finals held at the District Conference on April 25, 2020.

This year's theme for our speech contest: *"Making Connections as We Create Lasting Change"*.

The target dates to complete the Club level contest are February through March 2020, and for the Area contest the final date is no later than April 15th. Names of the area contestants moving on to the district contest are due to Jeanne Schmidt Herron no later than April 15, 2020. The district awards will be \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second, and \$500 for third. Suggested Club or Area awards should be left to the discretion of the local club or area.

All speech documents and information are being available through the District website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50138/sitepage/district-speech-contest>. Those clubs that have participated over the years know what an exceptional opportunity the contest provides the young people in our communities. Each year, talented students demonstrate their speaking skills in front of Rotarians, guests and families . . . it is amazing to watch! Again this year, we will be providing students an opportunity to display their talent.

When contacting your local high schools to promote the Rotary Speech Contest, you may want to consider asking to speak to the following staff members:

ASB Leadership Teacher/Adviser  
FFA Teacher/Adviser  
Key Club Adviser

Interact Club Adviser  
English Department Chair  
Speech and Debate Coach/Adviser

I am the contact and coordinator for the area winners only. Names and contact information are due to me by April 15, 2020. The club and area contests are to be handled and delegated by the club presidents and AG's.

Thank you in advance for promptly responding and supporting the Speech Contest again this year.

Jeanne Schmidt Herron  
Rotary District 5190 Speech Chair  
530-913-9784  
[jeannethecarwasher@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannethecarwasher@yahoo.com)

**2019-2020 District Speech Contest  
ASSISTANT GOVERNORS  
Important Points**

1. I'll be communicating with one contact person per area regarding Club, Area and District speech contests. If that contact person is someone other than the area Assistant Governor, please forward his/her name, address and email address to me ASAP. The contact person must have email.
2. You must let me know no later than April 15, 2020, if you will have an area contestant in the District Speech Contest.
3. It's okay if you decide to combine with another Area and send one contestant representing two Areas. I must know this by April 15, 2020. You may invite your Area contestant and his/her family to attend the conference lunch directly after the contest as guests of your area. The first-place contestant will be performing the winning speech during the Saturday lunch meal as the guest of the District Committee. Two guests may join them for the luncheon.
4. Your club contests must be completed by March 2020. Your Area's deadline is April 15, 2020. Please email the name of your Area winner to me immediately after the Area contest, no later than April 15, 2020.
5. The District Speech Contest is to be held the morning of April 25, 2020, time TBD, at The Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada.
6. All Area Speech contestants' names must be forwarded to Jeanne Schmidt Herron no later than April 15, 2020, in order to participate in the District finals.
7. Each Club/Area is responsible for all prizes and trophies at the Club/Area contest level. The District will pay the District cash prizes. The cash prize amounts for the District contest are: \$1,000 for 1st, \$750 for 2nd and \$500 for 3rd. All Fourth-Place finishers will receive a cash prize of \$50.00 for their participation.
8. It is you or your designee's responsibility to make all arrangements with your Area winner to attend the District conference contest. This includes informing your contestant of time, location, etc. It is important that the first level of communication comes from the Area Speech Chairperson. As a follow up, I will be communicating with your Area contestant before the day of the District contest.

Thank you!

Jeanne Schmidt Herron

Rotary District 5190 Speech Chair

530-913-9784

[jeannethecarwasher@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannethecarwasher@yahoo.com)

## 2019-2020 District Speech Contest Additional Instructions for Club & Area Speech Chairs

1. Follow the instructions described in the "Checklist for Club Speech Contest Chairman" to prepare for the Club, Area and District Conference contests.
2. Once contestants have arrived, have them draw a number from a box to determine their speaking order.
3. The Master of Ceremonies of the contest should introduce the contest to the club by stating the speech contest theme and briefly listing the rules. Explain that the speakers will be introduced by *NUMBER ONLY*, with **no mention of names or school affiliation** until after all contestants have given their speeches. Also explain that there is to be no applause between speakers so that judges are not influenced by the audience, and that there will be silence between speakers to allow the judges an opportunity to rate the speakers. Do not point out the judges before the contest.
4. Introduce the first speaker as "Speaker Number One," etc.
5. After the last speaker is done and there has been enough time for the judges and timekeepers to compile their results, have someone collect the judges' rating forms and the timekeeper's form and give to the teller. It is helpful to have one of the judges selected as the person to let the MC know they are ready for the next contestant.
6. Have the audience applaud for all of the speakers at the conclusion of all of the speeches only. Invite each speaker up by number and have them give their name, grade, school, extra-curricular activities, plans for the future and anything else you want to include.
7. The teller should be ready at this point. If you have more than four speakers, say that those scoring fourth and below are tied for fourth place. Introduce the fourth-place winner(s), the third-place winner, then second, then first. Explain that the winner will now go on to represent the Club/Area at the next level.
8. Be sure to thank the judges, tellers, timekeepers, Club/Area AG's, and anyone else responsible for the contest. Also thank the high school speech teachers, if present.

**Thank you for helping make our District Speech Contest a success!**