

THE GRAND LODGE OF ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

Presents the Annual Oratorical Contest - Conducted By The Elks LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



YEAR -2018

ELKS NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST SEASON

INFORMATION FOR ~ PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Produced & Presented via the Consent of

Honorable Dr. Donald P. Wilson,
Grand Exalted Ruler, Grand Patriarch

Ms. Margaret D. Scott,
Grand Daughter Ruler

Mr. John R. Goss, P.G.E.R.
Grand Commissioner of Education

Ms. Betty A. Waters, P.G.D.R.
Grand Directress of Education

THE LOCAL ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ORATORICAL CONTEST

- Will be conducted on (month & day) _____, 2018 at (time) _____ at
- (location and address) _____

Eligibility

1. Traditional high school juniors and seniors, who carry either school status by February 1 of the year of the national competition, are eligible to compete in the national competition. In circumstances of advanced standing students, non-traditional students or home school students, the official local school administration must recognize the students as juniors or seniors. Also used to determine eligibility is the year the students will enter college.
2. Students who have previously competed in their junior year may compete the following year as seniors, except if the student has won first place in the Elks National Contest. Junior competitors beginning with the second place winner of the national and all previous competitors below that position are eligible to compete again in the Elks Contest.

3. The Elks Certificate of Entitlement is the official form that entitles Contest Winners to their scholarship. It must be clearly explained to the contestants that the Elks Scholarship can only be awarded once **in a lifetime** to a student.
4. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original speech based on one of the five Official Topics for Elks Oratorical Contests-Annual Contest Season-Year 2018 identified by the Grand Lodge Department of Education.
5. The original and two copies of the speech must be given to the Contest Director prior to the contestant arriving at the contest to orate.
6. Time Limit consideration: the Contestant's timing begins after completion of the salutation, and upon the first word uttered and stops on the last word.
 - Contestants shall prepare orations not less than eight (8) minutes or no more than ten (10) minutes and must speak on their chosen topic.
 - The penalty system is in place for those who go over or under the time limit—
 - a. Three (3) points for each 15 seconds over the time limit.
 - b. Three (3) points for each 15 seconds under the time limit.
 - The Timekeeper (Judge) shall administer and record the penalty for going over or under the time limit.
7. Time infractions will be reflected (*by the judge*) in the contestant's final score.
8. The speech is an oration; appropriate gestures are allowed. Singing or props are not allowed.
9. Speech content may not be significantly changed as a contestant advances in the contest process. Fine-tuning of speech to make minor amendments or adjustments to time-line is allowed and encouraged.
10. Contestants should utilize current and up-to-date factual information in their speeches.
11. Copyrighted speeches are not permitted and should not be used by contestants in the Elks Oratorical Contest and when discovered the contestant will be consequentially disqualified.
12. The style used to deliver the speech should be appropriate to the message of the speech. A dramatic presentation, however, is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation, for the purposes of this contest, is considered anything read or performed that has been written by another person (a short story, a poem, etc.) A dramatic presentation also includes acting / performing as an object/thing or as another person.
13. Contestants cannot use notes or props during the discourse of their speech and must abstain from any reference of Self-Identification during their oratorical presentation.
14. The Contest Director must evaluate the room or auditorium and decide to make provisions for microphones if the room size creates the need. The use of a microphone will be the option of the Orating Contestant when microphones have been made available.
15. The speaking order for the contestants will be determined before the contest start by a drawing.
16. The judges will score contestants in three (3) categories: Content of Speaker's Topic; Delivery and Presentation; and Overall Effectiveness. Contestants are scored in each area on a range of 1 to 30

or 1 to 35, with a 35 being a perfect score. The scores in each category are then added together for the grand total (100 being a perfect grand total score). The Contestant receiving the highest score (grand total) will be declared the winner, and must progress to the next level of the Elks Oratorical Contest to validate his/her scholarship winnings.

17. Judges are an important part of the oratorical contest. Their qualifications are carefully considered, as the Judges decisions are final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program, which selects a national champion.
18. All efforts are made to ensure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it. Following the last assigned orator's discourse, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators and contest manager may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.
19. In the event of a tie, the contest manager will use the alternate (4th) judge's score sheet to break the tie and declare a winner.
20. These rules apply only to the Elks Oratorical Contests. No other rules from any national, state or local oratorical contest or speech group apply.
21. Any concerns or issues shall be dealt with by the Contest Manager.
22. The decisions of the Contest Director concerning the interpretation and application of Elk Oratorical Contest rules will be final.
If a Contestant has a grievance, he/she must follow the appeals process as outlined on page 10 of this document to obtain a ruling from the next level of authority.
23. All contestants at the **Local, District, State, State Association, and Regional levels** must use the same Salutation:

"MR. DIRECTOR, MS. DIRECTRESS, HONORABLE JUDGES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MY TOPIC, " _____".

24. All contestants at the **National level** will begin with the following statement:

"GRAND EXALTED RULER, GRAND DAUGHTER RULER, GRAND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, GRAND DIRECTRESS OF EDUCATION, HONORABLE JUDGES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MY TOPIC," _____".

<u>NOTE:</u>	The CONTESTANT'S TOPIC MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS A PART OF THE SALUTATION, not later in the speech. This rule applies at all contest levels.
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25. Contestants will be kept under supervision of the contest chaperone in a special holding area until they are ready to be presented for oration. They will be individually escorted into the room and onto the stage by our Marshall. When they have completed their oration, they will be escorted off the stage by the Marshall or his/her designee to a designated area in the contest hall. After all contestants have orated, the contestants will be introduced, at which time they may introduce their parents, family and friends who have accompanied them. They should also give the name of the Lodge and Temple that is sponsoring them in the contest.

26. **ABSOLUTELY, NO PICTURES TAKING IS ALLOWED WHILE THE CONTESTANTS ARE ORATING!! Upon the completion of all contestants' orations, photos may be taken.**

Elks Scholarship Info

The **PROGRESSION** of Elks Oratorical Contest Scholarship Winners is as follows:

- ❖ The LOCAL CONTEST, [*District (if applicable), or State Contest (applicable to multi-state associations)*]
The winner of the Local, District or State Contest must progress and compete at
- ❖ The STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST for the opportunity to win a \$1,500.00 Scholarship.
To certify this winner' of this State Association Contest, he or she must progress and compete at
- ❖ The REGIONAL CONTEST and is awarded the State Association Scholarship Certificate for \$1,500.00
The winner of the Regional Contest must progress and compete at the National (*Level*) Contest and is awarded the Regional Scholarship Certificate of an additional \$1,000.00 in Scholarship.
- ❖ The NATIONAL CONTEST WINNER is awarded an additional \$7,500.00 Scholarship Certificate.
This winner is declared and certified to receive the **total winnings of \$10,000.00 in Scholarship.**
- ❖ Contestants who choose not to compete at the next level of the Elks' Oratorical Contest competition will lose all previously won scholarship awards from the State Association Level and or Regional Level.

Elks Oratorical Contest

1. Additional prizes, trophies, and certificates may be awarded from the Local Level up to the National Level at the discretion of the respective committees.
2. The winning contestant of the Regional Contest will receive additional instructions and be required to sign additional paperwork immediately after the contest.
 - We will need to know the mode of travel for the student, and
 - Whether or not a parent or guardian plan to accompany the student.
 - There will be a designated time and place for the student to report to a chaperone.
 - When he/she reach the National Convention, the Regional Director or Directress or their designee will greet the student and give assistance, if necessary.
 - Once the student has been placed in the hands of the National Chaperones, he/she will not be released until Sunday, after the debriefing meeting, usually not later than 3:00 p.m.
 - We request that you keep this in mind when making the student's travel arrangements.
3. No scholarship monies will be paid to the university or college for the winners of (*all Elk's scholarship*) the State Association, Regional, and National Scholarships until they have successfully completed enrollment for their first semester of college.
4. The student must have the university or college send all information and evidences of his/her enrollment into college and when he/she has been accepted (*the completed documents for the first semester of college*) to:

C/O Mr. John R. Goss, Grand Commissioner

Grand Lodge of Elks Department of Education

P. O. Box 159, Winton, NC 27986 or 101 H. R. Reynolds Drive, Winton, NC 27986

5. It is imperative that all student information is kept current and that all forms are completed carefully and accurately in order to receive the Scholarship payments in a timely manner.
6. The Elks Scholarship **funds are not paid in one lump sum, but are prorated over eight semesters/terms.** If the student should drop out of school, the funds will cease, but will resume once the student returns. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Elks Grand Lodge Department of Education when he or she enroll, drop out, or change schools.
7. The Elks Scholarship is awarded to winning Contestants with the understanding that the students have a maximum of eight (8) years to receive distribution of their scholarship. Please note that all scholarship funds are paid directly to the college or university. Students do not personally receive scholarship funds.
8. The National Elks Oratorical Contest will be conducted during the Elks National Convention which is tentatively scheduled for **August 4, 2018 – Hyatt Hotel - 225 E Coastline Dr Jacksonville, FL.**
9. EACH-YEAR THE **STATE DIRECTOR OF OUR TWENTY-SIX (26) STATE ASSOC OF ELKS** AND THE CONTEST MANAGING COMMITTEE, MUST PROVIDE A SCHEDULE THAT LIST:

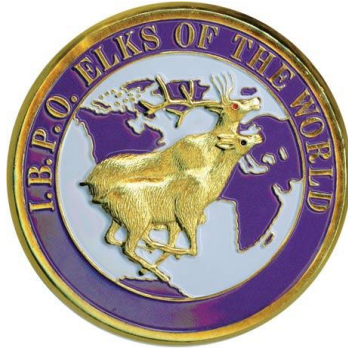
➤ **Locals, Districts & State Assoc of Elks, Department of Education Oratorical Contest Dates**

Each State Assoc State Director and Directress **must develop a Listing** of the following:

- **Local Lodge(s), Temple(s)**
 - **District(s),**
 - **State, &**
 - **State Assoc Contests**
- **And publish this listing annually for the benefit of its membership and send copies to the Grand Commissioner of Education and the Grand Directress of Education.**

GRAND LODGE OF ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World



ELKS ORATORICAL CONTEST APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Phone: (____) _____ Cellular: (____) _____

Email address: _____ Career objective: _____

Ethnicity: _____ Citizenship: _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

High School: _____ GPA: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Jr. High School: _____ Elementary School: _____

Extra-curricular Activities: _____

Community Activities: _____

List other sources of financial assistance you have applied for: _____

Student Topic Chosen:

Why Did You Choose This Topic?

Have you participated in any other IBPO Elks Oratorical Contest before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sponsored by the Local Lodge / Temple of _____ **#** _____

PREFERRED COLLEGES: _____

FIELD OF STUDY: _____

FAMILY HISTORY

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Home Phone: (_____) _____ **Parents Education Achievement:** _____

**THE FOLLOWING TERMS & CONDITIONS MUST BE COMPLIED WITH,
TO BE AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT OF**

THE ELKS ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- 1. To advise the Grand Commissioner of Education and the Regional Director in the district where the competition was conducted as to the higher educational institution that I intend to attend at least 30 days prior to the start date.**
- 2. To waive my rights of confidentiality and have copies of all of my grades sent to the Grand Commissioner of Education.**
- 3. To notify the Grand Commissioner of Education in writing as to any change in my enrollment status.**
- 4. To begin my college or university enrollment within two years of the date of this entitlement.**
- 5. To complete my college or university studies with a baccalaureate degree within eight years of the date of this entitlement.**
- 6. To provide a copy of the Financial Needs Statement presented to the college in support of my financial aid application.**
- 7. To maintain no less than "C" average for the continuation of the scholarship.**
- 8. To recognize that failure to remain in "good academic standing" as defined by the institution may be grounds for the withdrawal of the scholarship.**
- 9. To understand that this scholarship award is pro-rated over eight terms (quarters or semesters) and payable to the institution.**
- 10. To recognize that as an Elk scholarship recipient, I am eligible to win only one (1) Elk scholarship and will forfeit all rights to this scholarship if and when any of the above listed conditions are violated.**
- 11. The Elks Department of Education has had a long standing policy to support the Judges decisions of our Elks Oratorical Contest as being our final and irreversible results of all our contests.**

Date: _____ Parent Signature _____

Date: _____ Parent Signature _____

Date: _____ Student Signature _____

I VALIDATE THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Has been discussed with me and I agree and fully understand what is required of me.

Parent/Guardian Date

Parent/Guardian Date

Student Date

Dept. of Education representative Date

The following Elk contact information is provided for your convenience:

Name _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name of your sponsors:

LODGE: _____

TEMPLE: _____

LOCATION: _____

ELKS CONTEST ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

GRIEVANCES AND DISPUTES & THE APPEALS PROCESS FOR CONTESTANTS

Local Contest
District Contest
(If applicable)
State Contest
(Applicable to multi-state associations)
State Association Contest
Regional Contest
National Contest

“We recognize that it is human to error... and we plan not to, however if you wish to air your grievance, please follow the steps outlined below;

- **Starting with** the number one (1) position – below
- Contest errors and omissions shall be presented to the Contest Manager
- Resolve through the Disputes Appeals Process Committee (Director, Directress & Manager)

PROTOCOL & STEPS OF CONTESTANT APPEALS

1	(Name) <i>Local Director</i>	(Name) <i>Local Directress</i>
2	(Name) <i>District Director</i> (if applicable)	(Name) <i>District Directress</i> (if applicable)
2	(Name) <i>State Director</i> (applicable to multi-state associations)	(Name) <i>State Directress</i> (applicable to multi-state associations)
3	(Name) State Association Director	(Name) State Association Directress
4	(Name) Grand Director of Region # _____	(Name) Grand Directress of Region # _____
5	Mr. John R. Goss Grand Commissioner	Ms. Betty A. Waters Grand Directress
6	Hon. Dr. Donald P. Wilson Grand Exalted Ruler	Hon. Margaret D. Scott Grand Daughter Ruler

Oratorical Contestant

HOLD HARMLESS STATEMENT

In consideration of my participation in the activity identified below conducted by the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, Inc., (DBA as the ELKS Department of Education), the undersigned does hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the ELKS Department of Education, its representatives, officers, and employees from any and all liabilities, claims, obligations, judgments, suits, damages, expenses, attorneys' fees, incurred or paid, arising out of, or on the account of the undersigned's participation in the event listed below. Be it understood and agreed that my participation in the activity is not required, expected, or considered a function and/or responsibility of the undersigned for or on behalf of the ELKS Oratorical Contest. Therefore, injuries arising from or on account of the undersigned participation in the aforementioned activity will not be compensable from the ELKS's workers' compensation program or other indemnification fund or insurance to which the ELKS may have access or coverage. The Judging of the Oratorical Contest - I accept the Judges final decisions as the contest winner.

ACTIVITY: **Elks Oratorical Contest**

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
PRINT

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN NAME: _____
PRINT

PARENT or GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

ELK WITNESS

PRINT NAME: _____
TITLE

Attested By: _____
SIGNATURE

THE ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

PRESENTS

THE 2018 ORATORICAL CONTEST

- An International Elks Oratorical Competition that is conducted annually in the areas of our Elk Lodges & Temples, Districts, State Association, Regions, and Grand Lodge Convention for all High School Juniors & Seniors.
- To achieve success in effectively promoting this Oratorical Contest in your schools and community, it is imperative that contact be made with school officials by the Director and Directress and Contest Committees ASAP.

THE ELKS AWARDS ANNUALLY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS UP TO \$10,000.00 to the Grand Lodge Contest National Winner

COMPETING CONTESTANTS MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE FIVE (5) ORATORICAL TOPICS FOR 2018

1. Should Schools block the use of YouTube?

Synopsis: If so, describe the significance for activating the use of YouTube. Explain the Pro and Con of the use of YouTube.

2. Year round education is not a good idea for student learning.

Synopsis: Some states could allow year round schools and others refuse. Consider the impact that this decision may have on all students competing from state to state as students graduate from grade schools.

3. Teachers should not be allowed to contact students through social media.

Synopsis: Explain the benefits of communication between teacher and student in this day and age often necessitates the ability to discuss assignments, projects, and expectations outside of the 45/60/90 minutes a day.

4. The United States Federal Government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

Synopsis: Should Universal health coverage be the federal government's responsibility?

5. Administrations executing policies of cutting Public School Budgets

Synopsis: Discuss the impact of inadequately funding for public schools.

Elks Annual National Convention

119TH GRAND LODGE & 115TH GRAND TEMPLE

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, Incorporated

TRIAL - SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Friday - August 3, 2018

12:00 Noon – 7:00pm	Brothers & Daughters Registration
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Cabinet Meeting for the Grand Lodge and Grand Temple
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Department of Education Pre-competition Planning Meeting
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Ritualistic Opening of The Grand Lodge & Grand Temple
9:00pm – 12:00am	Midnight Disco – Benefiting <u>Sickle Cell Anemia</u> – Dress Code RED

Saturday - August 4, 2018

9:00 am to 10:30 am	Joint Opening Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge and Grand Temple <i>Lovejoy Award</i> - <i>Special People Award</i>
11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Elks Oratorical Contest (Contestants 1-4)
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	1st Annual Department of Education Awards Luncheon
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Elks Oratorical Contest (Contestants 5-8)
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm	Grand Lodge PGER Degree - Grand Temple PGDR Degree
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Antlered Guard Meeting
8:00 pm to 11:30 pm	Grand Charity Ball

Sunday - August 5, 2018

9:00 am to 11:00 am	Joint Memorial Service -Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, <i>Grand Chaplain</i>
11:30 am to 1:30 pm	Chaplains & Shrine Depart. Luncheon and Annual Fashion Show
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Medical Department Program
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	New Past Grand Candidates Assemble
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm	Past Grand Joint Collaring
11:00 pm to 11:30 pm	Eleventh Hour Toast – The New Past Grands First Toast “You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes”

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS:
REGARDING THE ELKS 2018 SCHOLARSHIP

TO: HIGH SCHOOLS DRAMA/SPEECH/ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS/GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

FROM: The Local Elk Lodge and Temple Department of Education
Of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

Local Elk Point of Contact: _____ Phone _____

Subject: THE ELKS ORATORICAL CONTEST ◇ \$10,000.00 Scholarship

This is an invitation for any high school student (junior or senior) to participate in our Annual Oratorical Contest.

Participants must complete the four (4) simple steps listed below.

- (1) The student must submit an application and prepare a speech for not less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes and it must be memorized.
- (2) The student must write and present a speech based on one of the five (5) Official Topics for all Elks Oratorical Contest identified for Year 2018.
- (3) The content must be original and should exemplify evidence of research of the speech subject matter.
- (4) The student who wins the contest must participate in the succeeding level(s) of competition advancing to the National Contest.

THE WINNER OF THE LOCAL, DISTRICT, AND / OR MULTI-STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST WILL RECEIVE PRIZES AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF COMPETITION TO WIN THE COVENANT ELKS SCHOLARSHIP.

SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTIONS:

- The Local Contest Winner will receive a certificate, trophy, and / or cash prize.
 - The District and/or Multi-State Contest Winner will receive a certificate, trophy and/or cash prize. (If applicable)
 - The STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST Winners will receive a \$1,500.00 Elks' Scholarship
 - The REGIONAL CONTEST Winners will receive an additional \$1,000.00 Elks' Scholarship
 - The NATIONAL CONTEST Winner will receive an additional \$7,500.00 Elks' Scholarship
- With The Total Aforementioned Awards Creating the*

Grand Sum Total of (ten thousand dollars) \$10,000.00 ELKS' SCHOLARSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

REGION 1. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, Montreal, Canada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont

*Brother Daniel Morgan, Regional Director
5 Brighton Court, Bordentown, NJ 08505*

*Daughter Emily D. Johnson, Regional Directress
5905 West Oxford Street, Philadelphia, PA 19151*

REGION 2. Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

*Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr., Regional Director
917 Colony Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804*

Vacant - Regional Directress

REGION 3. Ohio, Michigan, Illinois-Wisconsin, Kentucky-Indiana

*Brother C. Gregory Robinson, Regional Director
5534 Ridgcrest Road, Louisville, KY 40218*

*Daughter Darlene M. Smith, Regional Directress
4836 Briargrove Drive, Groveport, OH 43125*

REGION 4. Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico

Vacant - Regional Director

*Daughter Sylvia Riley, Regional Directress
425 South French Avenue, Fort Meade, FL 33841*

REGION 5. Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Panama, Tennessee and Texas

*Brother Howard J. Austin, Regional Director
P.O. Box 681, Belzoni, MS 39039*

*Daughter LaVerne Grigsby, Regional Directress
2014 Lewisburg Pike, Franklin, TN 37064*

REGION 6. Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming

*Brother Roderick Barber, Regional Director
7416 Falconer View, Colorado Springs, CO 80922*

*Daughter Wilda V. Woods Regional Directress
2738 Amick Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310*

REGION 7. Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington

*Brother Michael Jenkins, Regional Director
2484 Baltic Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533*

*Daughter Marian F. Dixon, Regional Directress
2540 Greenstone Court, San Jose, CA 95122*

REGION 8. The British West Indies and the Bahamas

*Brother Trevor Whyllly, Regional Director
4955 SW 9th Street, Margate, FL 33068*

*Daughter Angela Poitier, Regional Directress
P.O. Box N-10210, Nassau, BAH*

A CHRONICLE OF THE HIGHPOINTS OF THE ELKS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The annual Elk's Oratorical Contests is the pinnacle of Scholarship Programs conducted by the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (*I.B.P.O. Elks of W.*), an international, nonprofit, community - based fraternal organization. The organization began in 1898, in excess of 117 years ago, and was born out of a need for neighbors to band together to provide assistance to those less fortunate than themselves. The concept grew and eventually fraternal lodges sprung up throughout the United States, Canada, Central America and The Caribbean Islands. In 1903, the Daughters (*Ladies*) of Elks were organized and the Grand Temple of Women became an auxiliary to the Grand Lodge.

Each year, between the months of March and May, approximately 1,500 local Elks Lodges and Temples around the world of Elkdom sponsor Oratorical Competitions involving youth who are preparing to attend college. Local winners compete in state contests, and state winners of State Association Contests are guaranteed college scholarships of \$1,500.00. The Regional contests are conducted during June and July in eight (8) Regions and the Winners of the Region's Contest are guaranteed an additional college scholarship of \$1,000.00. The National competition winner is awarded an additional \$7,500.00 amounting to a grand total of \$10,000.00 of Guaranteed College Scholarship.

Oratorical competitors research the current topic assigned by the Elks Department of Education and develop a speech to demonstrate their comprehension and ability to articulate an informed oral presentation without a script to a live audience and judges.

The Department of Education is proud of all its former competitive oratorical winners' abilities; in fact, some of the nation's greatest scholars and community leaders have been successful scholarship competitors, namely:

- **Dr. Dorothy I. Height** received an Elks scholarship which helped her to **attend** and graduate **from Barnard College** in 1929.
- **Thurgood Marshall** received an Elks scholarship and **attended Howard University School of Law where** he graduated first in his class in 1933.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** received an Elks scholarship and attended and graduated from **Morehouse College** in 1948.
- **Oprah Winfrey** received an Elks scholarship and **attended Tennessee State University where** she graduated in 1973.