

## **Oratorical Topic 2010-11:**

**“If I Were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I Would Address would be...”**

Oratorical Awards: The Iowa District gives a \$2,500 scholarship to the boy winner and the girl winner. The District awards plaques for runners up.

Clubs can give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner and a medallion for the club contest. The awards may be given as a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize.

How to begin: Give the TOPIC to the teachers NOW. This is so they can put it in their curriculum for next spring. If every student has to prepare the speech for class, they can then choose if they want to give it in the Optimist Oratorical Contest.

(Teachers might want to be encouraged to give extra credit for the kids who give their speech in the contest)

Also give the information to the Guidance Counselor for scholarship purposes. Give the information to the libraries, and home schooled as well.

You need to “sell” this event. Let the teachers know it is a confidence and leadership builder for the kids. It also gives them scholarship opportunities that are only offered by doing this contest.

Go to [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) Click on Members Click on Optimist Leaders

Click on Leadership Information Scroll down to Programs Resource Materials

Click on Oratorical Contest Club Chair Packet. All the forms and information is in this packet. (This is currently 2009-10 info but it doesn't change a whole lot)

I asked our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher why she has her students participate in the contest every year and this is what she said, “Participating in the Optimist Oratorical contest allows the students to experience public speaking beyond the classroom. The make up of the audience, the location, and the competition itself all become new variables to the delivery of a well-practiced speech. For every student, the ability to organize their thoughts, listen to their own voice, experience the passage of time while speaking, and be concise are life-long skills. This experience becomes a powerful component in the development of their self-concept and awareness of their value in the community”

Next year the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter conference (District Oratorical finals) will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. This is earlier than usual so the club competition will have to be done no later than April 2<sup>nd</sup>, perhaps even a week sooner than that as Easter will fall in the time frame.

## **Essay Topic 2010-11:**

**“How My Education is the Key to a Successful Future”**

Club prize applies the same as Oratorical rules. District is a \$2500 scholarship for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Feb 28, 2011 is the deadline for the District.