



**Kansas District**  
**Oratorical Contest – 2016/17**

- Purpose:** Provides our youth an opportunity to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship.
- Enter:** Contestants must give their speech at the local optimist club contest. There are separate girl and boy contests. Winners of the Club Contests advance to Zone Contests and winners of the Zone Contests move to the District Contest. One boy or girl District winner (not both) can move to the Regional/World Contest which will be held in St. Louis, MO (e.g. 8 Regional Contests first day, World Contest finals second day).
- Eligibility:** Contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016 (e.g. contestants must still be 17 as of October 1, 2016).
- Topic:** "What the World Gains from Optimism"
- Length:** The speech should not be under 4 or over 5 minutes in length.
- Prizes:** Club Level - Medallions for first, second, and third place girl and boy winners. Certificates are available at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). Clubs are allowed to give monetary/cash awards up to \$500 for the contest in addition to the official medallions. The Club level awards may be given in the form of a scholarship, savings bond or cash prize but are completely discretionary. Medallions may be obtained from Optimist Supply ([www.optimiststuff.com](http://www.optimiststuff.com)) or from our District Supply Chair, Dennis Young ([adedyoung@kc.rr.com](mailto:adedyoung@kc.rr.com)) which will save on postage.
- Zone Level -Plaques for girl and boy winners. Certificates may be created by the District and templates are available on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). (District will supply the plaques and certificates.)
- District Level - Plaques and \$2,500 scholarships for each winner. Certificates for all participants.
- Regional/World - Scholarships are awarded to each Regional winner in US dollars (at least \$5000). In addition, scholarships in the amounts of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5000 will be given to the first, second and third place World Champions. (An additional scholarship may be awarded to participants by Saint Louis University at its discretion.)
- Deadlines:** **Club Contest Finish Date – By March 25, 2017**  
**Zone Contest Finish Date – By April 15, 2017**  
**District Contest Date – April 29, 2017** at the District 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting  
In Ottawa KS (Afternoon Contest)

## Regional Contest Divisions:

Zone 1	Host Lt. Gov., Kris Kirkes
Zone 2	Host Lt. Gov., Dale Fox
Zone 3	Host Lt. Gov., Clara Herbel
Zone 4	Host Lt. Gov., Walpole

Host Lt. Governors are responsible for the Zone contests but certainly can have another Optimist run the contest. **Note that for the Zone contest, there needs to be at least 3 boys and 3 girls participating. If say only two boys or two girls participate then both would move on to the District Contest. No plaque would be presented.**

If a Zone does not have at least 3 clubs competing, we may look at moving participating clubs from another Zone to that Zone contest.

**Judges:** At the club level judges may be optimist members. At all other levels, judges must be non-optimists who are not acquainted with the contestants. Judges should have expertise in the public speaking. (It is a good idea to have one backup judge)

**Recruiting of Contestants:** Public, private and parochial schools (high, junior high, middle & grade), home schoolers, church youth groups, boys and girls clubs, 4-H clubs, scout troops, YMCA/YWCA, Department of Child and Family Services.

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**For Information on  
"What and How to Do"  
Forms, Rules and Much  
More:**

[www.optimists.org](http://www.optimists.org) Click on Programs (top of page);  
click on Scholarship Programs, then Oratorical Contest.  
Certificate templates are also available at this location.