# INTERSTATE ORATORICAL ASSOCIATION

**February 6, 2025**

Dear Speech Coach:

The Interstate Oratorical Association is excited to host the 151st annual contest at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. Thank you to our 2024 host, University of Illinois-Chicago, for helping us celebrate our 150th year.

Each state may send up to two contestants to participate in the IOA annual contest. States determine how contestants are selected. States without state tournaments are still encouraged to participate and can contact the IOA executive secretary should they have questions about participation.

We will accept bids for the 2027 contest at our annual business meeting. If you are interested in hosting, please contact the committee with questions. Hosts are asked to provide competition rooms, hired judges, a panel of honorary judges for the final round, and luncheon and final round locations. Our 2026 host will be the University of Florida.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I look forward to seeing you in April at our annual contest. Should you not be able to attend, please pass this information on to those from your state that may be interested in participating in this historic annual event.

On behalf of the IOA Executive Committee

Andrea Carlile, Executive Secretary

South Dakota State University

[Andrea.Carlile@sdstate.edu](mailto:Andrea.Carlile@sdstate.edu)

Cell: 217-414-1959

**2025 Location**

Our 2025 host is Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. Rounds will take place on TSU’s campus. Location details will be provided prior to the tournament. At this time there is not a block of hotel rooms, but we will provide information as it becomes available.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**:

**Saturday, April 26**

8:00 am Registration Begins

8:30 am Welcome

9:00 am Rd. 1

10:30 am Rd 2

12:00 pm Rd 3

1:30 pm Luncheon and Announcement of Semi-Finalists/ Business Meeting

**Sunday, April 27**

8:00 am Semi-Final A

10:00 am Semi-Final B

12:00 pm Luncheon and Announcement of Finalists

1:30 pm Finals – Awards will follow immediately

**BASIC TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

**ENTRIES:**

Please submit entries via SpeechWire by April 9, 2025.

**TOURNAMENT FEES**: Each State Association should pay the annual dues no later than tournament registration.

**State Association Annual Dues**

$50 for 2 contestants from one state (will be divided by school)

$40 for 1 contestant from a state

**Entry Fees**

$10 per contestant

**Participation Fee (covers cost of luncheons)**

$50 per coach

$50 per contestant

$50 per additional guest

To select your meal preference please complete the meal ticket section on the SpeechWire Registration. There are three options 1) Standard luncheon 2) Vegetarian 3) Allergen Friendly. If you select the allergen friendly, please email, [Andrea.Carlile@sdstate.edu](mailto:Andrea.Carlile@sdstate.edu) with allergen information.

**Winning Orations**

*Each participant will receive a print edition of Winning Orations. Schools will be provided a digital copy. If schools would like additional copies for their libraries an additional fee of $25 per printed copy will be charged.*

**Additional Copies of Winning Orations**

$25 per printed copy

**JUDGES**: Coaches attending the tournament will judge the preliminary contest rounds. EACH STATE ASSOCIATON OR MEMBER SCHOOL SHALL SEND THE ORATORY COACH OF EACH STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL CONTEST TO ACT AS A JUDGE IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS OR HIRE A JUDGE BEFORE THE STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO COMPETE.

IF THERE ARE TWO CONTESTANTS FROM A STATE, TWO JUDGES MUST BE PROVIDED, EVEN IF THE TWO CONTESTANTS ARE FROM THE SAME SCHOOL. The cost of a hired judge will be **$75.00.** If a school has a problem supplying the necessary judge or judges for their entry, please notify the Executive Secretary as soon as possible for other arrangements**. It is expected that coaches attending will be available to judge through the semifinal rounds.**

**RULES:**

1. The oration must be delivered without the aid of notes or manuscript.
2. No oration shall contain more than 1800 words. (Although no minimum word limit is established, a 1500 word minimum is suggested
3. For purposes of definition, quoted words are those written or spoken by a person other than the orator. Such quoted matter shall be limited to 20% of the total number of words in the oration. Direct discourse, dialogue or other stylistic devices within quotation marks created by the orator SHALL NOT be included in the 20% total.
4. All quoted materials shall be documented.

**Manuscript Submission Guidelines**

1. \*\*\*\*In order to make it easier to complete the publication of Winning Orations digital copies of the manuscript should be shared with [sdsu.4n6@gmail.com](mailto:sdsu.4n6@gmail.com) as a google doc or word document.
2. Include a title for the speech and who coached the piece
3. Include an APA reference page at the end of the manuscript
4. Please make sure sources follow appropriate APA style guidelines and are also hyperlinked to an on-line source when possible.