



2023 Speech Contest Resource Guide

Compiled by Julianna C. DeMicco, D37 Contest Chair 2023

Introduction

Contest season is right around the corner! Beginning at the club-level, winners will have the opportunity to compete at the Area, Division and District levels. The District Winner in the International Competition may have the opportunity to compete at the World Championship of Public Speaking in the Bahamas next summer! This year, we will be conducting virtual contests at the Area/Division and a hybrid contest at the District level (pending the DEC decision in January)

Currently District 37 will allow for three (3) contests during this session:

- **International Speech Contest:** open to all paid members who have completed two (2) levels in Pathways OR earned a DTM in the Legacy Program (*please note: as of this year this no longer includes those who've completed 6 speeches in the Competent Communication manual*).
- **Speech Evaluation Contest:** open to all paid members in clubs of good standing.
- **Table Topics Contest:** open to all paid members in clubs of good standing.

In terms of contestants, this year District 37 will allow for the following in terms of contestants:

- **Areas with four (4) or fewer clubs** in good standing to allow up to two (2) contestants per club per contest to the Area level contest (i.e. if your Area has four (4) clubs in good standing your club could send 1 or 2 contestants for the international, speech evaluation and table topics contests.)
- **Areas with five (5) or more clubs** in good standing will be able to send one (1) contestant per club per contest to the Area level contest.
- **Area Directors in Divisions with any number of areas** will be able to send one (1) contestant per area per contest to the Division level contest.
- **Division Directors with any number of areas** will be able to send one (1) contestant per division per contest to the District level contest.

Club Contest Timeline

December 2022:

- Inform club members that contest season is coming and give members time to prepare and think about participating.

January 2023:

- Club Contest Season! Contest Chairs should review the speech contest tutorials and other resources in this handout.
- Clubs should plan to hold contests up to seven (7) days ahead of their respective area contests. Ask your AD, or check the D37 calendar (<https://d37toastmasters.org/>) for dates.
- Areas begin to publicize your contests and source volunteers for your functionaries.
 - AD's please e-mail your selected contest dates and contest masters to Julianna DeMicco (julianna.c.demicco@brighthousefinancial.com) and cc Jody Koonce (jody.koonce@d37toastmasters.org) and Rhonda Walthall (rhonda.walthall@d37toastmasters.org) at earliest convenience.

- At this time, the District is adopting a policy in which only one contest will be allowed during a given period.

February 2023:

- Area Contest Season begins February 6th!
- Areas must hold contests fourteen (14) days ahead of their respective division contests. Ask your DD, or check the D37 calendar (<https://d37toastmasters.org/>) for dates.
- Divisions begin to publicize your contests and source volunteers for your functionaries.
 - DD's please e-mail your selected contest dates and contest masters to Julianna DeMicco (julianna.c.demicco@brighthousefinancial.com) and cc Jody Koonce (jody.koonce@d37toastmasters.org) and Rhonda Walthall (rhonda.walthall@d37toastmasters.org) at earliest convenience.
 - At this time, the District is adopting a policy in which only one contest will be allowed during a given period.

March 2023:

- Area Contest Season continues through March 19th!
- Division Contest Season begins March 20th!
- Divisions must hold contests fourteen (14) days ahead of the District Contest on May 5 & 6th.

April 2023

- Division Contest Season continues through April 20th!
- By April 20th Chief Judges from this year's Division Contests should send the Notification of Contest Winner Forms to the District Speech Contest Chair (if they have not done so already)

May 2023

- May 5th & 6th District to hold hybrid contests at the District Conference to be held at the Sonesta Resort, 5700 Westpark Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Resources

- Speech Contest Page – Toastmasters International resource hub for all things Speech Contests. <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/speech-contests>
- Speech Contest Tutorials – Three short videos that explain speech contest roles, procedure and judging. <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/speech-contests/speech-contest-tutorials>
- District 37 Speech Contest Web Page - Comprehensive collection of resources including several of the links mentioned in this document. <http://d37toastmasters.org/speech-contests/>
- Speech Contest FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions about speech contests. <https://www.toastmasters.org/Footer/FAQ/Speech%20Contests>
- Speech Contest Rulebook – Rules and standard procedures for conducting Toastmasters speech contests. <https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/department-documents/speech-contests-documents/1171-speech-contest-rulebook-2022-2023/1171-speech-contest-rulebook.pdf>
- Online and Hybrid Speech Contest Best Practices – helpful online specific tips to facilitate contests. <https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/department-documents/speech-contests-documents/479-online-speech-contest-best-practices.pdf>