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Rev. James Clanton
Fourth Vice-Moderator

March 31, 2021

Congress of Christian Education
Auxiliary to Wake Missionary Baptist Association
James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Information

Greetings Moderators/Pastors,

Below is the information relative to the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Please share with all appropriate staff under your leadership. We are strongly urging all churches to encourage your young people to participate in the Oratorical Contest.

The Oratorical contest will be held virtually this year. Each contestant will be given a time slot and the link for the presentation. We will begin with Division I thru III. Each contestant is allowed 4 guest which will include the Pastor. More information will follow.

Date of Contest: May 1, 2021 – Time: 1:00.

All applicants and speeches must in the post office of WMBA, INC., by April 3, 2021. Please mail application to:

Nellie Tillman

3706 Burtons Barn Street

Raleigh, NC

Applications and speeches must be typed.

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PLEASE NOTE:

THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE CONTESTANT PER DIVISION FROM EACH PARTICIPATING CHURCH.

The Oratorical Contest is open to all young people in grades 6-12 in the year that the contest is being held.

Division 1- Preparatory: (Grades 6th, 7th, 8th)

Contestant must be entering Grades 6 as of July 1, 2021

Time: 3-4 minutes (Please note: Not under 3 minutes and not over 4 minutes)

Division I – Topics:

The Power of Love

Why Jesus Came

The Attitude of Gratitude

Division II – Junior: (Grades 9th, 10th, 11th)

The Power of a Godly Testimony

Strong Faith-Strong Finish

Time: 4-5 minutes (Not under 4 minutes, but not over 5 minutes)

Division III- Senior

“Glorifying God through Our Commitment to Christ-Centered Evangelism”.

Acts 14:21; Matthew 9:35; Romans 1:16; and John 14:6.

THE CONTESTANT MUST BE A 2022 Graduating Senior.

Seniors who will graduate from High School as of July 1, 2021 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

Senior Division Topic:

Time: 5-6 minutes: (Not under 5 minutes, but not over 6 minutes)

RULES AND PROCEDURES

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest is divided into three level for contestants:

- **Your local church sponsors an oratorical contest. The highest place winner from each division- are then eligible to proceed to the next level.**
- **WMBA is level two for oratorical contestants. The highest place winners at the Association level- one from each division is eligible to compete at the state level.**
- **On the state level there are 3 divisions as well. Preparatory, Junior and Senior. First and second and third place winners in each division are honored with a trophy and a monetary award.**

- The contestant who places first in the Senior Division also has the honor of competing on the national level at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

RULES:

- The contestant must prepare a speech on one of the official topics from their division.
- The contestant entering the contest who has been called into the ministry may participate with the understanding that their speech Must be an ORATION, NOT A SERMON OR SERMONETTE.
- ALL SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED
- All contestants are required to speak on the official topics for their division.
- All contestants are required to state their official topic FIRST.
- EACH contestant should prepare his/her own speech. However, the contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech.
- The use of props, such as special costumes, clothing, books or other items will not be permitted. Bibles, notes, papers or anything that can be construed as a prop cannot be taken to the podium by the contestant.
- No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, or their family or the specific geographical or political area from which they originate.
- The time allowed will not be over or under the specified length for each category. Should the be over or under the designated, THE PENALTY IS FIVE (5) POINTS!
- Appropriate dress is necessary. Remember, you are being judge on your appearance as well as your overall presentation. MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION.
- THE JUDGES HAVE FINAL DECISION OF ALL ORATIONS.
- We will try to have 3 judges at all times, however, in the event one of the judges fail to show, we will continue the contest with remaining judges.
- Once applications are submitted, all speeches are the property of The Congress of Christian Education. (This applies to WMBA, INC, AND THE Congress of the GBSC of NC).
- ALL INFORMATION ON APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED.

CONTESTANT'S AFFILIATION

- Contestants who compete on the State Level are representatives of their Association, not their local churches, therefore, all contestants must be affiliate with an Association
- The Association is allowed one representative for each division; Preparatory, Junior, and Senior.

- **ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE MEMBER IN “Good Standing” IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCH, AS WELL AS IN THEIR ASSOCIATION.**

2021 APPLICATION INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS:

- **There must be an oratorical contest entry form submitted. (Application)**
- **SPEECHES must be typed—double spaced, using Times New Romans, Font Size (12)**
- **A current picture must be submitted along with the application.**
- **The application must be completed in its entirety. APPLICATION THAT ARE NOT TOTALLY COMPLETED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- **All requested signatures must be visible.**
- **APPLICATIONS & SPEECHES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ON SITE.**
- **ALL ORATORICAL CONTEST APPLICATIONS AND SPEECHES MUST BE IN THE POSSESSIONS OF WMBA’S CONGRESS BY APRIL 3, 2021.**

Information regarding the State Congress Oratorical Contest will be forth coming.

Please contact me for any questions at: (919-757-4840) or nellie_t@yahoo.com.

Blessings,

Sister Nellie Tillman

Congress of Christian Education

Wake Missionary Baptist Association