

# THE GRAND LODGE OF ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World*

Presents the Annual Oratorical Contest ~ Conducted by The Elks Local Department of Education



**2024**

## **ELKS NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST SEASON**

### **INFORMATION FOR – PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

***This Contest Is Produced & Presented via the Consent of***

**Honorable Leonard J. Polk, Jr.**  
*Grand Exalted Ruler, Grand Patriarch*

**Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr. P.G.E.R.**  
*Grand Commissioner of Education*

**Ms. Margaret D. Scott,**  
*Grand Daughter Ruler*

**Ms. Jessica A. Fenwick P.G.D.R.**  
*Grand Directress of Education*

2024 Theme

**ELKS SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH TO CHANGE THEIR DREAMS INTO THEIR GOALS**

### **Annual National ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**Presented by THE ELKS Grand LODGE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

- Will be conducted on **August, 2024** at the **TBD Jacksonville, FL**

**\*Please Note Exhibit “A” Protocols & Rules to Prevent the Spread of CoVid Virus**

#### **Eligibility**

1. Only traditional High School Juniors and Seniors who are below the age of 19 years old, who carry either school status by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the Elks Inter-National Competition, are eligible to compete in the Inter-national Oratorical Competition. In circumstances of advanced standing students, non-traditional students or home school students, the official local school administration must recognize the students as juniors or seniors in a written letter. Additionally, an accepted source to determine eligibility is the year the students will enter college.

2. Students who have previously competed in their junior year may compete the following year as seniors, except if the student has won first place in the Elks National Contest. Junior competitors beginning with the second-place winner of the **inter-national** and all previous competitors below that position are eligible to compete again in the Elks **Oratorical** Contest.
3. The permanent address of the student who enters a Local Contest is not a factor in determining the Local Contest that the student chooses to participate in.
4. The Elks Certificate of Entitlement is the official form that entitles Contest Winners to their scholarship. It must be clearly explained that the Elks Scholarship can only be awarded once **in a lifetime** to a student.
5. Contestants are to research, write, and present an original speech based on one of the five Grand Lodge Department of Education's Official Topics for the 2024 **IBPOE of W** Oratorical Contest Season.
  - Contestants should utilize current and up-to-date factual - information in their speeches.
  - Contestants must prepare an oration not less than eight (8) minutes or no more than ten (10) minutes and must speak on their chosen topic.
6. **An** original, double-spaced, plus two copies of the speech must be printed and given to the Contest Director (1 week) prior to the contestant arriving at the contest to orate. (3-point penalty)
7. Speech content may not be significantly changed as a contestant advances beyond the state association contest. Fine-tuning of speech to make minor amendments or adjustments to timeline is allowed and encouraged.

Copyrighted speeches are not permitted and should not be used by contestants in the Elks Oratorical Contest and when discovered the contestant will be consequentially disqualified.

- **Contestants may not employ the services of speech writers; when discovered the contestant will be consequentially disqualified.**
- **AI (Artificial Intelligence is prohibited---penalty is disqualification.**

Time Limit Considerations: The Contestant's timing begins after completion of the salutation and stops on the last word.

- The penalty system is in place for those who go over or under the time limit—
  - a. Three (3) points for each 15 seconds over the time limit.
  - b. Three (3) points for each 15 seconds under the time limit.
- The Timekeeper (Judge) shall administer and record the penalty for going over or under the time limit. Time infractions will be reflected (*by the judge*) in the contestant's final score.

The speech is oration; appropriate gestures are allowed. Singing or props are not allowed.

The style used to deliver the speech should be appropriate to the message of the speech.

A dramatic presentation, however, is not acceptable. A dramatic presentation, (for the purposes of this contest), is anything read or performed that has been written by another person (a short story, a poem, etc.) A dramatic presentation also includes acting / performing as an object/thing or as another person.

8. Contestants cannot use notes or props during the discourse of their speech.
9. Constants must refrain from any reference of Self-Identification during their oratorical presentation.
  - The act of referencing self or anyone associated with self, including but not limited to the sponsoring lodge, temple, school association or anything unduly influencing the judges and or audience.
10. The Contest Director must evaluate the room or auditorium and decide to make provisions for microphones if the room size creates the need. The use of a microphone will be the decision of the Orating Contestant if/when microphones have been made available.
11. The speaking order for the contestants will be determined before the contest starts by a drawing.
12. The judges will score contestants in three (3) categories: Content of Speaker's Topic; Delivery and Presentation; and Overall Effectiveness. Contestants are scored in each area on a range of 1 to 30 or 1 to 35 (35 being a perfect score). The scores in each category are then added together for the grand total (100 being a perfect grand total score). The Contestant receiving the highest score (grand total) will be declared the winner. **The Contestant must participate at the next scheduled level of the Elks Oratorical Contest to validate his/her scholarship winnings.**
13. Judges are an important part of the oratorical contest. Impartial judging is the key to fairness and success of the program, which selects an **inter**-national champion. Their qualifications must be carefully considered. Judge's decisions must be determined without bias and their decisions are final.
14. All efforts are made to ensure accuracy. In the event of a mistake, every effort will be made to correct it. Following the last assigned orator's discourse, the judges, timekeepers, tabulators, and contest manager may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation.
15. In the event of a tie, the contest manager will use the alternate (4<sup>th</sup>) judge's score sheet to break the tie and declare a winner.
16. These rules apply only to the Elks Oratorical Contests. No other rules from any national, state association or local oratorical contest or speech group apply.
17. Any concerns or issues shall be dealt with by the Contest Manager.
18. The decisions of the Contest Director concerning the interpretation and application of Elk Oratorical Contest rules will be final.
  - If a Contestant has a grievance, he/she must follow the appeals process as outlined on page 12 of this document to obtain a ruling from the next level of authority.
19. All contestants at the **Local, District, State, State Association, and Regional Levels** must use the same Salutation:
 

**“MR. DIRECTOR, MS. DIRECTRESS, HONORABLE JUDGES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MY TOPIC, “\_\_\_\_\_”.**

20. All contestants at the **National level** will begin with the following statement:

**“GRAND EXALTED RULER, GRAND DAUGHTER RULER, GRAND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, GRAND DIRECTRESS OF EDUCATION, HONORABLE JUDGES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE CHOSEN FOR MY TOPIC, \_\_\_\_\_”.**

**NOTE:**

**The CONTESTANT’S TOPIC MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS A PART OF THE SALUTATION, Not later in the speech. This rule applies at all contest levels.**

21. Contestants will be kept under supervision of the contest chaperones in a special holding area until they are ready to be presented for oration. They will be individually escorted into the room and onto the stage by our Marshall. When they have completed their oration, they will be escorted off the stage by the Marshall or his/her designee to a designated area in the contest hall. After all contestants have orated, the contestants will be introduced, at which time they may introduce their parents, family and friends who have accompanied them. They should also give the name of the Lodge and Temple that is sponsoring them in the contest.

**22. ABSOLUTELY, NO PICTURE TAKING IS ALLOWED WHILE THE CONTESTANTS ARE ORATING!! Upon the completion of all contestants’ orations, photos may be taken.**

- **The audience must refrain from applause until after the winner is announced**

## **Elks Scholarship Info**

The PROGRESSION of Elks Oratorical Contest Scholarship Winners is as follows:

† The LOCAL CONTEST, [*District (if applicable), or State Contest (applicable to multi-state associations)*]  
The winner of the Local, District or State Contest must proceed and compete at:

† The STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST for the opportunity to win a \$1,500.00 Scholarship.  
To certify this winner’ of this State Association Contest, he or she must progress and compete at

† The REGIONAL CONTEST and is awarded the State Association Scholarship Certificate for \$1,500.00  
The winner of the Regional Contest must progress and compete at the National (*Level*) Contest and is awarded the Regional Scholarship Certificate of an additional \$1,000.00 in Scholarship.

† The NATIONAL CONTEST WINNER is awarded an additional \$7,500.00 Scholarship Certificate.  
This winner is declared and certified to receive the **total winnings of \$10,000.00 in Scholarship.**

† Contestants who choose not to compete at the next level of the Elks’ Oratorical Contest competition will lose all previously won scholarship awards from the State Association Level and or Regional Level.

## Elks Oratorical Contest

1. Additional prizes, trophies, and certificates may be awarded from the Local Level up to the National Level at the discretion of the respective committees.
2. The winning contestant of the Regional Contest will receive additional instructions and be required to sign additional paperwork immediately after the contest.
  - We will need to know the mode of travel for the student, and
  - Whether or not a parent or guardian plan to accompany the student.
  - There will be a designated time and place for the student to report to a chaperone.
  - When he/she reaches the National Convention, the Regional Director or Directress or their designee will greet the student and give assistance, if necessary.
  - Once the student has been placed in the hands of the National Chaperones, he/she will not be released until Sunday, after the debriefing meeting, usually not later than 3:00 p.m.
  - We request that you keep this in mind when making the students' travel arrangements.
3. No scholarship monies will be paid to the university or college for the winners of *(all Elk's scholarship)* the State Association, Regional, and National Scholarships until they have successfully completed enrollment for their first semester of college.
4. The student must have the university or college send all information and evidence of his/her enrollment into college and when he/she has been accepted *(the completed documents for the first semester of college)* to:

**C/O Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr. Grand Commissioner of Education**

**Grand Lodge of Elks Department of Education**

**P. O. Box 159, Winton, NC 27986 or 101 H. R. Reynolds Drive, Winton, NC 27986**

**Or**

**Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr. P.O. Box 1124**

**Salisbury, Md. 21804**

5. It is imperative that all student information is kept current and that all forms are completed carefully and accurately in order to receive the Scholarship payments in a timely manner. **Each level must keep accurate documentation of such honorariums**

6. **The Elks Scholarship funds are not paid in one lump sum but are prorated over the school semesters/terms.** If the student should drop out of school, the funds will cease, but will resume once the student returns. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Elks Grand Lodge Department of Education when he or she enrolls, drops out, or changes schools.

<b>The Proration of ELK SCHOLARSHIP ~ PAYMENT Is Determined by the Amount Awarded to The Student</b>		<b>Semester Period of Payments</b>
<b>Scholarship Amount Awarded</b>	Winner of Contest ~ Location	
\$1,500.00	<b>State Association</b>	Two (2) Payments
\$1,000.00	<b>Regional Contest</b>	Four (4) Payments
<u>\$7,500.00</u> <b><u>\$10,000.00</u></b>	<b>National Contest Sum Amount Awarded</b>	Eight (8) Payments

7. **The Elks Scholarship is awarded to winning Contestants with the understanding that the students have a maximum of eight (8) years to receive distribution of their scholarship. Please note that all scholarship funds are paid directly to the college or university. Students do not personally receive scholarship funds.**
8. The National Elks Oratorical Contest will be conducted during the Elks National Convention, which is scheduled for Saturday **August 2024 at the TBD Jacksonville, FL**

9. EACH-YEAR THE **STATE DIRECTOR OF OUR TWENTY-SIX (26) STATE ASSOC. OF ELKS** AND THE CONTEST MANAGING COMMITTEE, MUST PROVIDE A SCHEDULE OF THAT LIST:

➤ **Locals, Districts & State Assoc of Elks, Department of Education**

**Oratorical Contest Dates: ~ To Be Determined**

Each State Assoc. State Director and Directress **must develop a Listing** of the following Oratorical Contest:

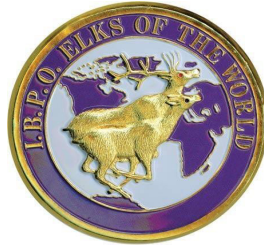
- **Local Lodge(s), & Temple(s)**
- **District(s),**
- **State, &**
- **State Assoc Contests**

- **And publish this listing annually** for the benefit of our Elk Membership and send copies to the Grand Commissioner of Education and the Grand Directress of Education.

# GRAND LODGE OF ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World*

## ELKS ORATORICAL CONTEST APPLICATION



### STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male  Female

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Career objective: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in any other IBPO Elks Oratorical Contest before?  Yes  No

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

**Are you currently a: Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. \_\_\_\_\_, Other (Explain/Official documentation must be provided from school.**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra-curricular Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**List other sources of financial assistance you have applied for:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chosen Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why Did You Choose This Topic?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED COLLEGES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIELD OF STUDY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY HISTORY**

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(City)

(State/Zip)

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored by the Local Lodge: Name & #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Temple: Name & #** \_\_\_\_\_



**THE FOLLOWING TERMS & CONDITIONS MUST BE COMPLIED WITH, TO BE  
AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT OF  
THE ELK'S ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP:**  
*Contestants, parent(s) or guardian(s) must initial each area*

1. \_\_\_To advise the Grand Commissioner of Education and the Regional Director in the district where the competition was conducted as to the higher educational institution that I intend to attend at least 30 days prior to the start date.
2. \_\_\_To waive my rights of confidentiality and have copies of all my grades sent to the Grand Commissioner of Education.
3. \_\_\_To notify the Grand Commissioner of Education in writing as to any change in my college enrollment status.
4. \_\_\_To begin my college or university enrollment within two (2) years of the date of your Elk Scholarship Certificate of Entitlement.
5. \_\_\_To complete my college or university studies with a baccalaureate degree within eight years of the date of your Elk Scholarship Certificate of Entitlement.
6. \_\_\_To provide a copy of the Financial Needs Statement presented to the college in support of my financial aid application.
7. \_\_\_To maintain no less than "C" average for the continuation of the scholarship.
8. \_\_\_To recognize that failure to remain in "good academic standing" as defined by the institution may be grounds for the withdrawal of the scholarship.
9. \_\_\_To understand that this scholarship award is pro-rated over eight terms (quarters or semesters) and payable to the institution.
10. \_\_\_To recognize that as an Elk scholarship recipient, I am eligible to win only one (1) Elk Scholarship and will forfeit all rights to this scholarship if/when any of the above listed conditions are violated.
11. \_\_\_The Elks Department of Education has a long-standing policy to support the Oratorical Contest Judges decisions of our Elks Oratorical Contest as being our final and irreversible results of all our contests.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**I VALIDATE THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT**

has been discussed with me. I fully understand and agree with what is required of me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dept. of Education representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The following Elk contact information is provided for your convenience:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your sponsors:

LODGE: \_\_\_\_\_

TEMPLE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**Oratorical Contestant**  
**HOLD HARMLESS STATEMENT**

In consideration of my participation in the activity identified below conducted by the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, Inc., (DBA as the ELKS' Department of Education), the undersigned does hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the ELKS' Department of Education, its representatives, officers, and employees from any and all liabilities, claims, obligations, judgments, suits, damages, expenses, attorneys' fees, incurred or paid, arising out of, or on the account of the undersigned's participation in the event listed below. Be it understood and agreed that my participation in the activity is not required, expected, or considered a function and/or responsibility of the undersigned for or on behalf of the ELKS Oratorical Contest. Therefore, injuries arising from or on account of the undersigned participation in the aforementioned activity will not be compensable from the ELKS' workers' compensation program or other indemnification fund or insurance to which the ELKS' may have access or coverage.

**The Judging of the Oratorical Contest** - I accept the Judges' final decisions as the contest winner.

**ACTIVITY:** Elks Oratorical Contest

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**ELK WITNESSES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE

# ELKS CONTEST ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

## GRIEVANCES & DISPUTES: THE APPEALS PROCESS FOR CONTESTANTS CONTESTANT MUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Local Contest
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District Contest  
*(If applicable)*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> State Contest  
*(Applicable to multi-state associations)*
- 4<sup>th</sup> State Association Contest
- 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Contest
- 6<sup>th</sup> National Contest

\*\*\*\*\*

We recognize that it is human to error... and we plan not to, however if you wish to air your grievance. Please follow the steps outlines below:

- **Starting with** the number one (1) position – below
- Contest errors and omissions shall be presented to the Contest Manager
- Resolve through the Disputes Appeals Process Committee (Director, Directress & Manager)

\*\*\*\*\*

### PROTOCOL & STEPS OF CONTESTANT APPEALS

1	<b>(Name)</b> <b><u>Local Director</u></b>	<b>(Name)</b> <b><u>Local Directress</u></b>
2	<b>(Name)</b> <b>District Director</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	<b>(Name)</b> <b>District Directress</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>
2	<b>(Name)</b> <b>State Director</b> <i>(Applicable to multi-state associations)</i>	<b>(Name)</b> <b>State Directress</b> <i>(Applicable to multi-state associations)</i>
3	<b>(Name)</b> <b>State Association Director</b>	<b>(Name)</b> <b>State Association Directress</b>
4	<b>(Name)</b> <b>Grand Director of Region # _____</b>	<b>(Name)</b> <b>Grand Directress of Region # _____</b>
5	<b>Rev. Dr. William C. Wallace, Sr.</b> <b>Grand Commissioner</b>	<b>Ms. Jessica A. Fenwick</b> <b>Grand Directress</b>
6	<b>Hon. Leonard J. Polk, Jr., Esq.</b> <b>Grand Exalted Ruler</b>	<b>Hon. Margaret D. Scott</b> <b>Grand Daughter Ruler</b>

# THE ELKS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World*

P R E S E N T S

## ***THE 2024 ORATORICAL CONTEST***

- An International Elks Oratorical Competition that is conducted annually in the areas of our Elk Lodges & Temples, Districts, State Association, Regions, and the Grand Lodge Convention for all High School Juniors & Seniors.
- To achieve success in effectively promoting this Oratorical Contest in your schools and community, it is imperative that contact be made with school officials by the Directors and Directresses and Contest Committees ASAP.

***The Elks Awards Annually College Scholarships Up To \$10,000.00 to the Grand Lodge Contest National Winner***

### **COMPETING CONTESTANTS MUST CHOOSE ONE (1) OF THE 2024 - FIVE (5) ORATORICAL TOPICS**

1. *Impact of the Supreme Court's Decision to declare Affirmation Action Unconstitutional:*
2. *Gun Violence in America: Synopsis—Extreme Results of the Second Amendment Right*
3. *Equal College Admission Requirements: Synopsis—Discuss the Supreme Court's decision to declare race unconstitutional and should not be used for college admission*
4. *Should transgender or non-binary athletes be permitted to compete against traditional binary and or traditional accepted birth gender athletes?  
Synopsis— Explore options for gender identification*
5. *Teaching Race and Racism to middle and high school students (CRT): Synopsis— Some parents and politicians believe it fuels the flame of racism, the contestant must analyze the pros and cons of this argument.*

## Important Notice to Students Regarding the ELKS 2024 Scholarship

**Subject: THE ELKS ORATORICAL CONTEST - \$10,000.00 Scholarship**

This is an invitation for any high school student (junior or senior) to participate in our Annual Oratorical Contest.

Participants must complete the four (4) simple steps listed below.

- (1) The student must submit an application and prepare a speech for not less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes. The speech must be memorized.
- (2) The student must write and present a speech based on one of the five (5) Official Topics for all Elks Oratorical Contest identified for Year 2024.
- (3) The content must be original and should exemplify evidence of research of the speech subject matter.
- (4) The student who wins the contest must participate in the succeeding level(s) of Competition advancing to the National Level.

THE WINNER OF THE LOCAL, DISTRICT, AND / OR MULTI-STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST WILL RECEIVE PRIZES AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF COMPETITION TO WIN THE COVENANT ELKS SCHOLARSHIP.

### **SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTIONS:**

- The Local Contest Winner will receive a certificate, trophy, and / or cash prize.
- The District and/or Multi-State Contest: *(If applicable)* Winner will receive a certificate, trophy and/or cash prize.
- The STATE ASSOCIATION CONTEST Winners will receive a **\$1,500.00 Elks' Scholarship**
- The REGIONAL CONTEST Winners will receive an additional **\$1,000.00 Elks' Scholarship**
- The NATIONAL CONTEST Winner will receive an additional **\$7,500.00 Elks' Scholarship**  
*With The Total Aforementioned Awards Creating the*
- Grand Sum Total of *(ten thousand dollars)* **\$10,000.00 ELKS' SCHOLARSHIP**



## **A CHRONICLE OF HIGHPOINTS OF THE IBPOE OF W SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The annual Elk's Oratorical Contests is the pinnacle of Scholarship Programs conducted by the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (*I.B.P.O. Elks of W.*), an international, nonprofit, community - based fraternal organization. The organization began in 1898, in-excess of 123 years ago, and was born out of a need for neighbors to band together to aid those less fortunate than themselves. The concept grew and eventually fraternal lodges sprung up throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, and The Caribbean Islands. In 1903, the Daughters (*Ladies*) of Elks were organized and the Grand Temple of Women became an auxiliary to the Grand Lodge.

Each year, between the months of March and May, approximately 1,500 local Elks Lodges and Temples around the world of Elkdom sponsor Oratorical Competitions involving youth who are preparing to attend college. Local winners compete in state contests, and state winners of State Association Contests are guaranteed college scholarships of \$1,500.00. The Regional contests are conducted during June and July in eight (8) Regions and the Winners of the Region's Contest are guaranteed an additional college scholarship of \$1,000.00. The National competition winner is awarded an additional \$7,500.00 amounting to a grand total of \$10,000.00 of Guaranteed College Scholarship.

Oratorical competitors research the current topic assigned by the Elks Department of Education and develop a speech to demonstrate their comprehension and ability to articulate an informed oral presentation without a script to a live audience and judges.

The Department of Education is proud of all its former competitive oratorical winners' abilities; in fact, some of the nation's greatest scholars and community leaders have been successful scholarship competitors, namely:

- **Dr. Dorothy I. Height** received an Elks scholarship which helped her to **attend** and graduate **from Barnard College** in 1929.

**Thurgood Marshall** received an Elks scholarship and **attended Howard University School of Law**. He graduated first in his class in 1933.

- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** received an Elks scholarship and attended and graduated from **Morehouse College** in 1948.
- **Oprah Winfrey** received an Elks scholarship and **attended Tennessee State University** where she graduated in 1973.