

## **OLD GUARD ORAL COMPETITION RULES**

The highlight of each conference program is a competition among Student Members (in most cases, undergraduates--see explanation below under "Contestants") selected previously by their Student Sections. Individual Student Member compete through oral presentations. Each presentation is fifteen minutes followed by a five minute "question and answer" period. The number of speakers per school varies among Regions, but **IN NO CASE MAY THERE BE MORE THAN TWO CONTESTANTS FROM ANY ONE STUDENT SECTION.** Each presentation shall be made by one contestant. Any questions regarding procedure shall be resolved by the Student Section Advisor and Regional Vice President before the Conference. **Each student member making an oral presentation will receive his/her first year's dues as an Associate Member, compliments of the Old Guard.**

### **6. CONTESTANTS**

To be eligible to participate, each contestant must be a Student Member who:

- a. has not received an engineering degree;\* and,
- b. has been selected by his/her Student Section to participate; and,
- c. has been certified by the ASME Field Offices or VP BMID as a Student Member in good standing.

To be thus certified, a new Student Member must have filed an application and paid the required dues prior to March 15th; the same holds true for a continuing Student Members.

At least two (2) weeks before the date of the Conference, either the Student Section Advisor or Chair of the Student Section shall advise the Student Section Advisor of the Host Student Section and the Regional Office of the names of their contestants and the titles of the presentations. The Regional Office will then certify the eligibility of the contestants.

### **7. NATURE AND MANNER OF PRESENTATION**

It is recognized that an engineer, like all professionals, must possess a well-developed ability to communicate, both orally and in writing. The competition at Regional Student Conferences is designed to emphasize the value of an ability to deliver oral presentations. Subject matter is to be related to some area of the broad field of engineering. A major portion of a contestant's total score is determined through an evaluation by the judges of the competitor's relative capability to communicate orally, including evidence of a talent to respond effectively in a "question and answer" period. A Scoring Sheet with instructions for use of the scoring sheet can be found on pages 49-51.

**A written paper or manuscript is not required.**

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\* Student Members who complete the requirements for their baccalaureate engineering degree, or who actually receive that degree at the end of a term, semester, or quarter, a short time before a scheduled conference may still participate. These Student Members, however, must not have completed their degree requirements before December 1st of the calendar year prior to the Conference.

The topic is to be related to a technical, economic, or environmental aspect of engineering or any other basic engineering theme, provided it pertains to some sphere in which an engineer is or should be involved. Furthermore, a competitor may utilize any available resource but must realize that the presentation is to be an individual effort. Assistance in the use of visual aids is advisable. Good practice and courtesy suggests credit be given during the presentation for any outside help related to the reported project.

The Presentation's duration is fifteen (15) minutes plus five (5) minutes for "questions and answers" immediately thereafter. Any time remaining or runovers of the fifteen minutes must be added to or subtracted from the five minute discussion. Questions are limited to the Student Members at the Conference, except those Student Members from the competitor's own Student Section. If you have a question, please stand, identify yourself and your school, and then proceed with the question.

## 8. **CONDUCT OF THE CONTEST**

The Chair of the Host Student Section usually presides during the contest and ensures that there is adherence to the time schedule given in the printed program.

The Host Student Section must appoint two timekeepers, selected from non-contestant Student Members from two visiting student delegations. They are introduced by name and college at the beginning of each session and instructed as follows:

- At the end of twelve minutes, the first timekeeper will rise to signal to the speaker that there are three minutes remaining.
- After the speaker nods to acknowledge the signal, the timekeeper will sit down.
- At the end of fourteen minutes, the second timekeeper will rise to signal to the speaker that there is one minute remaining.
- After the speaker acknowledges the signal, the timekeeper will sit down.
- At the end of fifteen minutes, both timekeepers will rise together and remain standing until the speaker concludes the presentation.
- Both timekeepers will rise at the end of five minutes to terminate the discussion period.

The contest is to be judged throughout by the same individuals, preferably ASME members of mature judgment, who are selected along with one or two alternates. Local ASME Sections and the cognizant Vice President will be pleased to cooperate in the search for judges. As an alternative, some regions use one faculty member and one student from each school as judges, with the faculty and student not judging their own presenter(s).

Judges are to use the Scoring Sheet provided as the basis for judging all the Regional Student Conferences. The Scoring Sheet has been developed for the convenience of the judges in evaluating the presentations in competition. Scoring Sheet samples should be sent to the judges for familiarity ahead of the contest. Judges should be informed that they must agree to serve through the entire contest, be it one or two days.