

The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.  
Congress of Christian Education

2018 James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest  
and  
Conference

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
June 25, 26, 27, 2018

Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church  
1217 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301  
Reverend Dr. Jamale Johnson, Pastor

Union Missionary Baptist Association  
Reverend Dr. Jamale Johnson, Moderator

Reverend Dr. N. M. Avery, II, President  
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Ms. Janifer S. Campbell, President  
Congress of Christian Education

Mrs. Mary M. Irving, State Oratorical Director  
Congress of Christian Education

Minister David K. Eggleston, Assistant State Oratorical Director  
Congress of Christian Education

Monday, June 25, 2018

- 4:30 p.m. Registration Opens
- 6:30 p.m. Welcome Program: Youth of the Church
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Program for the Oratorical
- 8:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the J.F. Wertz Conference Choir

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 Classes  
AGES: 4-6  
AGES: 7-9  
AGES: 10-14  
AGES: 15-18  
Adults
- 10:00 a.m. Division I: Preparatory  
Contestants must report by 9:30 a.m.
- 2:00 p.m. Division II: Junior  
Contestants must report by 1:30 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. Division III: Senior  
Contestants must report by 6:30 p.m.
- 8:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the J.F. Wertz Conference Choir

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 Classes  
AGES: 4-6  
AGES: 7-9  
AGES: 10-14  
AGES: 15-18  
Adults
- 10:00 a.m. Awards Ceremony

\*\*\*This program may change; however, this is sample guide for you. \*\*\*\*

# 2018 JAMES F. WERTZ OFFICIAL ORATORICAL TOPICS

## Division I: Preparatory

*How God's Power Unfolds in My Life*

*The Benefits of Living God's Way*

*We Shall Overcome – Just Be Strong*

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## Division II: Junior

*How the Glory of God Shines Through Me*

*The Challenges and Benefits of Living God's Way*

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## Division III: Senior

*How the Power, the Mercy, and the Glory of God helps in My Daily Walk with Him*

# THE 2018 OFFICIAL TIME FOR EACH DIVISION

## Division I: Preparatory

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 3- 4 minutes

Not under 3 minutes but not over 4 minutes

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## Division II: Junior

Grades: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 4 - 5 minutes

Not under 4 minutes but not over 5 minutes

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## Division III: Senior

Grades: 12<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 5- 6 minutes

Not under 5 minutes but not over 6 minutes



# RULES AND PROCEDURES

The term oratory is defined as the art of public speaking; expressiveness or skill in making speeches to the public; or public speaking marked by the use of forceful vocabulary.

The James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest is divided into three levels for contestants: (First) your local church sponsors an oratorical contest. The highest place winners - one from each division - are then eligible to proceed to the oratorical contest held at their District or Association level. (Second) the highest place winners at the District or Association level - one from each division - are eligible to compete at the oratorical contest held at the State level. (Third) the State level is comprised of three Divisions:

Division I: Preparatory; Division II: Junior; Division III: Senior.

First, second, and third place winners in each division at the state level 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.

## CONTESTANTS AFFILIATION:

1. Contestants who compete on the State level are representatives of their District or Association, NOT their local churches; therefore, all contestants must be affiliated with an Association.
2. The District or Association is allowed one representative for each division: preparatory, junior, and senior. All contestants must be a member in "good standing" in their local church, as well as their District or Association. The Congress representative fees for each of their District or Association is \$400.00. The Congress asks that the representation fee be paid by June 2018. Thank you for your cooperation with this financial matter.

## QUALIFICATION FOR CONTESTANTS

1. The oratorical contest is open to all young people in grades 6 to 12 in the year that the contest is being held. Example: a contestant must be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade as of July 1, 2018. Seniors who will graduate from High School as of July 1, 2018 are not eligible to participate.
2. The contestant must prepare a speech on one of the official topics from their division.
3. The contestant entering the contest that have been called into Ministry may participate with the understanding that their speech must be an oration, not a sermon or sermonette.
4. ALL SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED.

## CONTEST RULES

1. All contestants are required to speak on the official topics for their division.
2. All contestants are required to state their official topic first.
3. Each contestant should prepare their own speech. However, the contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech.
4. 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.
5. No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, or their family or the specific geographical or political area from which they originate.
6. The time allowed will not be over or under the specified length for each category. Should the time be over or under the length, the penalty is 5 points.
7. Appropriate Dress is necessary. Remember that you are being judged on your appearance as well as your overall presentation. *Make a good first impression!*
8. The Judges have the final decision of all orations.
9. We will try at all times to have three judges present; however, in the event one of the judges fails to show, we will continue the contest with the remaining judges.
10. All speeches are the property of the Congress of Christian Education, an Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

## Tips for Effective Public Speaking

Here are just a few speaking tips and techniques that may help you develop your skills and become a far more effective speaker.

### Mistakes

- Mistakes are alright
- Recovering from mistakes makes you appear more human
- Good recovery puts your audience at ease – they identify with you more

### Humor

- Tell jokes if you are good at telling jokes
- If you aren't good, it may be best to leave the jokes behind
- There's nothing worse than a punchline that has no punch
- Gentle humor is good in place of jokes
- Self-deprecation is good, but try not to lay it on too thick

### How to use the speaking environment

- If your space is confined, use stronger body language to convey your message
- When you become comfortable with your speaking environment you will learn to enjoy public speaking and become far more effective at standing in front of a group of people and delivering a potent message.
- When it comes to improving your public speaking skills, we have three words:

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!**



## Speech Evaluation Checklist

When you have completed your speech, use the following checklist for revising and editing. Consider each of the questions below.

### FIRST READING

- Are my thoughts clearly stated?
- Are my thoughts centered on one major idea or thesis?
- Did I have to slow up my reading because of faulty mechanics or language usage?

### SECOND READING

#### Introduction

- Have I made introductory comments that are likely to capture the reader's attention?
- Have I included my opinion on the topic (thesis) or stated a central idea?
- Have I implied or stated how I plan to develop the major idea (thesis) or central idea?

#### Body

- Does each paragraph relate to the thesis or central idea?
- Does each paragraph contain one main idea only?
- Do the ideas in each paragraph hang together (coherence)?
- Are the topic sentences for each paragraph supported with facts or examples?

#### Conclusion

- Do I begin my conclusion with a separate paragraph?
- Do the beginning words of my concluding paragraph effectively signal that my discussion has ended?
- Do I refocus on the major emphasis of my speech?