

**What's New and What's Not New,
in the Essay, Speech, and Outstanding Youth Contests**
By Carolyn Stroud, District 2-EI Youth Contest Coordinator

STATE

First, we'll take a look at the State level. The biggest change is with the **Outstanding Youth Award Contest**. For the first time, an additional **750-word essay** about "Volunteerism and Its Importance" has been added to the category which includes the personal biographical information. This personal biographical information is to be compiled into a **Curriculum Vitae**, which is just a fancy word for a detailed resume. Both the Curriculum Vitae and the essay on volunteerism together add up to only 5 percent of the judging criteria. The other 95 percent comes from the judges' evaluation of the contestant's transcript and GPA -- 20 %, 3 letters of recommendation --15%, community service and leadership -- 30%, and the personal interview of the contestant conducted by the judges -- 30%.

Last year's **diabetes essay contest** topic was about Type 1 diabetes or juvenile diabetes, whereas this year's topic is about Type 2 diabetes or adult-onset diabetes—education, prevention, detection, and treatment—how improvements can be made to these four areas and how young people and their peers can impact the same. As always, emphasis will be on **authenticity and current information**—60%, including a **bibliography** of sources. FYI -- some students are more familiar with the term "Work Cited" than the term "Bibliography." The State Rules do not indicate specifically how the contestant should give credit to sources within the essay, as in parenthetical citation or by using direct attribution, in case a student contestant asks. Evidently, that is up to the student. Another 25 % is based on personal presentation techniques, and 15% is based on grammar and the contestant's ability to develop and relate to the topic. Students should be reminded to stay away from the topic of Type 1 diabetes issues, although Type 1 diabetes can be defined so as to distinguish it from Type 2.

As in the past, **drug awareness speech** contestants are not allowed to use index or cue cards or any other mnemonic device. They may not use video equipment either. The prompt asks the contestant **to make a case for and to support a decision** on whether it is more effective for society to deal with drug addicts and users as criminals or as individuals who can be rehabilitated. Contestants should be encouraged *to take a stand* rather than to vacillate back and forth on the pros and cons of each. The speech must last between 5.5 and 7.0 minutes. As in the past, sources of data and quotes in the speech should be identified by title, author, and date published (year if known). New to the speech contest, beginning last year (2010), a printed copy of the speech must be received within two weeks of the MD-2 State Convention, otherwise any awards earned in the contest will be forfeited. The **printed copy** of the speech is **NOT REQUIRED** at the district competition in January.

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DISTRICT

The district website has been **updated and reformatted** to reflect

- each Opportunities for Youth contest's *rules* and *deadline* for the 2011-2012 year
- the dates and locations of both the District and State contests
- the new leadership team for the 2011-2012 District contests
- the specific documents needed for the District competition at the Mid-Winter Conference in Abilene on January 28, and
- the additional State documents that will be required by the top two winners in each contest prior to the State convention in Houston in May. Both winner and runner-up provide the necessary documents for State competition, in the event that the winner becomes unable to attend.

A great big **THANK YOU** to **Lion Bob Nelson** for his prompt work on the district website (<http://lions2e1.org>). He placed the info on the website within minutes of receiving!

Unlike the last few years, **all documents and photos (contest package) for all three contests are to be mailed to one location**—1407 Crescent Drive, Graham, TX 76450, to the attention of the District Contest Youth Coordinator, Lion Carolyn Stroud. When the district youth contest rules were updated for the three contests, no contest chairpersons had been recruited. Thus, the district website initially asked that all documents for all three contests be mailed to the address of the already recruited District Youth Contest Coordinator.

Since that time, individuals from the district have graciously offered their services to help with the contests. Our utmost thanks to Lion Teresa Cross Whitsel, IPDG Hugh E. Stroud, and PDG Virgie Mitchell, who volunteered to help with these contests during or shortly after the October cabinet meeting. They will serve respectively as this year's Diabetic Awareness Essay Chairperson, Drug Awareness Speech Chairperson, and Outstanding Youth Award Chairperson.

For the year 2011-2012, these three Lions will serve their area of responsibility in the capacity of Contest Chairpersons, with their primary duties falling upon the actual contest date -- January 28. They will see that the contestants, judges, and other officials (timekeepers, guardians of the door, etc.) are cordially welcomed and supplied with whatever is needed on the contest date; that their respective contest runs as smoothly as possible; that all the contestants are thanked for their participation and are introduced after the judges have been dismissed to deliberate; that the winner and runner-up are announced during the luncheon or other designated appropriate time; that a group photo of all contestants and photos of the winners are taken before the contestants depart for their respective homes; and that the two top winners know exactly what documents are required for State, to whom the information must be mailed, and when.

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Our sincere thanks go to the past leadership of **PDG Billy Wood, Lion Bobby Riggs,** and our beloved **Lion Shirlee Gates** for laying the groundwork in District 2-E1 for a set of common general rules which apply to all three contests and for their outstanding work individually. The general rules have been updated where necessary and are found on the district website, along with updated rules for each youth contest. The work of these Lions has established an expectation of strong competition from our district at the State level. Let us continue in that tradition and strive to have as many contestants as possible at the district youth contests, to be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church, at 5th and Orange Streets, Abilene, TX, on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Questions may be directed to Lion Carolyn Stroud at stroudcg@sbcglobal.net or home phone 940.549.7147 or cell phone 512.731.8149. If she is unable to be reached, please check the district website for phone numbers or email addresses of the respective youth contest chairperson, or the district governor.