

Optimist International Oratorical Contest (UPDATED 10/10/23)

Sponsored by: Barge Canal Optimist Club

Contest Dates: Club Contest Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Lockport Public Library, 23 East Avenue, Lockport. Detailed instructions will be emailed on February 8 to all contestants who have completed the application process.



Zone 2 Contest will be held Saturday, March 16, 2024 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM at the Lockport Public Library, 23 East Avenue, Lockport. This contest will only be held if more than one Club in Zone 2 holds a contest.

New York New England District Contest, Saturday, April 27, 2024. This contest will be held at the NY NE District 3rd Quarter Conference at Burstone Inn New Hartford, NY. Details will be emailed to all qualifying contestants. Winners will be awarded scholarships at this level.

World Regional Contest & World Champion Contest July 18-19, 2024 at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Who is Eligible: Contestant must be a student and under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2023 (and not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution) in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

Theme: **“How to Change the World with Optimism”**

How to Apply: Interested students should prepare a 4 to 5-minute speech on the assigned topic to be presented at the local contest. The speeches are judged at the Club level, Zone level, and then at the District level. Complete Application and return to Peggy Allen at below address, or email by **February 5** to confirm contest eligibility. No one will be accepted after that date.

Scholarships: District Level \$2,500 1st place, \$1,500 2nd place & \$1,000 3rd place, Regional Level \$5,000, World Champion \$15,000 1st place, \$10,000 2nd place & \$5,000 3rd place

Contact: Peggy Allen, 109 Roosevelt Drive, Lockport, NY 14094
716-434-9708, pallen08@roadrunner.com

Contest Website: <https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm>