

Lions of Iowa Centennial Speech Contest*

RULES

1. The Lions of Iowa Centennial Committee **shall** be the governing body of the Centennial Speech Contest.
2. Finalist from each District shall be chosen by December 1st, 2016 and reported to the Centennial Committee by that date.
3. District finalists shall compete in Des Moines, IA during the Lions Mid-Winter Leadership Conference in January, 2017**
4. The contestants **shall** be high school students, in grades nine through twelve during the 2016-2017 school-year.
5. Lions clubs throughout the state of Iowa shall contact high schools in their school districts, to invite and sponsor contestants. School districts without a Lions Club are eligible for invitation.***
6. The contest content shall be pre-scripted speeches, limited to the characters of **Melvin Jones** and **Helen Keller**.
7. The specific speech for each character shall be given from memory, without the aid of notes or prompts.
8. The contestants shall dress in period appropriate business style clothes of the Mid-1920s.
9. The contest materials shall be posted on the Iowa Lions website: iowa.lions.org.
10. The seven Lions districts of Iowa (MD9) shall conduct as many levels of contest as deemed necessary, beginning at the club level.
11. The Lions clubs sponsoring its two finalist shall provide each contestant with a Lions themed lavalier, Lions centennial pin and name badge. The clubs shall provide transportation, for its contestants and coaches, to contest sites.****
12. Each District is encouraged to award finalists at each level of completion.
13. The Melvin Jones and Helen Keller finalist from the Mid-Winter Leadership Conference shall attend the Iowa Lions Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA in June;***** at which time they shall give their presentations. Both of these finalist shall be presented a \$250 honorarium and laque following their presentations.

Addendum

- This contest is independent of any Iowa High School Speech Association programs.
- ** (3) The Lions **Mid-Winter Leadership Conference** will be held at the **Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn**, 6111 Fleur Drive. The dates are Friday, January 6th and Saturday January 7th. The presentation date and times are yet to be determined.
- *** (5) To ensure all high schools in the state are given an opportunity to participate in the contest, where there are no Lions clubs in the school district, clubs in close proximity to the school district may invite participants from that district.

**** (11) Clubs sponsoring contestants may order the lavalier package from their District Centennial Committee member. See the Iowa Lions website for District committee members (www.iowalions.org). Transportation of contestants may be in the form of actual conveyance by a Lion member or a mileage stipend paid by the club, based on the 2017 rate paid by the Lions of Iowa.
- ***** (13) The state **Lions State Convention** will be held at the **Cedar Rapids Marriott**, 1200 Collins Road NE, Cedar Rapids. The convention dates are Friday June 2nd and Saturday June 3rd. The presentation date and time are yet to be determined.



IOWA LIONS
CENTENNIAL SPEECH CONTESTANT

Mary Merry

Eagle Grove High School
Eagle Grove, Iowa

EAGLE GROVE LIONS CLUB SPONSOR



Lions Centennial Speech
STUDENT APPLICATION



District 9 ____

Sponsoring Lions Club _____ Number _____

Student applicant _____

School Name _____ Grade _____

Coach's Name _____

Coach's contact e-mail address: _____

All materials for the speech contest are posted on the Lions of Iowa website:

iowalions.org

Please attest below that you have received, read and understand the
Contest rules by signing below.

Student: _____

Coach: _____

Club officer: _____

Sponsoring Lions club

Please **mail** a copy of this **form**, and a **check for \$10.00** (made out to **Dennis Lee**),
for the lanyard package to:

Speech Contest, 715 NE Third St., Eagle Grove, IA 50533

Helen Keller

Helen Adams Keller was born a healthy child in Tuscumbia, Alabama. At the age of 19 months Helen became deaf and blind as a result of an unknown illness, perhaps rubella or scarlet fever. As Helen grew up she became wild and unruly. She admits that her life changed the day she met Anne Mansfield Sullivan.

Anne began teaching Helen by manually signing into the child's hand. Frustration followed as Helen was learning to spell many words but couldn't comprehend the meaning of the words. Less than a month after arriving, while filling a water pitcher at the water pump, the cool water gushed over Helen's hand as Anne spelled w-a-t-e-r into Helen's other hand. Suddenly the signals had meaning for Helen.

She entered Radcliffe College and while there she started her writing career. She wrote her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, as well as other numerous books and over 475 speeches and essays in her life. She also was a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers. She graduated from Radcliffe College receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude. The first deaf-blind person to do so.

Helen worked tirelessly to advocate for the deaf and blind people of the United States and the World. At The International Association of Lions Clubs convention in Cedar Pointe, Ohio she asked the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind", thus inspiring the organization to adopt sight conservation and aid to blind programs. For this Helen received the Lions Humanitarian Award.



Helen Keller's 1925 Cedar Point Speech*

TRANSCRIPT *(amended per HK video)

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night: your work, your independence, gone.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me, that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work for the blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness, no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

Melvin Jones

Melvin Jones, founder and Secretary-General of Lions Clubs International.

What better way to ring in the Centennial than by celebrating the man who started it all? Nearly 100 years ago, Melvin Jones' vision became a reality when delegates of the first Lions club met to inaugurate what would become an international movement to improve the lives of vulnerable people around the world.

Jones' devotion to service embodied the values that have grown Lions Clubs International into the world's largest service organization. His vision carried Lions Clubs International into the 21st century and his legacy will propel it into the next.

Here's how it all began.

Biography

Melvin Jones was born on January 13, 1879 in Fort Thomas, Arizona, the son of a United States Army captain who commanded a troop of scouts. Later, his father was transferred and the family moved east. As a young man, Melvin Jones made his home in Chicago, Illinois, became associated with an insurance firm and in 1913 formed his own agency.

He soon joined the Business Circle, a businessmen's luncheon group, and was shortly elected secretary. This group was one of many at that time devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. Because of their limited appeal, they were destined to disappear. Melvin Jones, then a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, had other plans.

"What if these men," Melvin Jones asked, "who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Thus, at his invitation, delegates from men's clubs met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organization and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Melvin Jones eventually abandoned his insurance agency to devote himself full time to Lions at International Headquarters in Chicago. It was under his dynamic leadership that Lions clubs earned the prestige necessary to attract civic-minded members.

The association's founder was also recognized as a leader by those outside the association. One of his greatest honors was in 1945 when he represented Lions Clubs International as a consultant in San Francisco, California, at the organization of the United Nations. Melvin Jones, the man whose personal code – "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else" – became a guiding principle for public-spirited people the world over, died June 1, 1961 at 82 years of age.

The Power of Music

By MELVIN JONES

Secretary-General Lions International

By Courtesy of Public Speakers' Magazine

SOMETIMES I think we all underestimate the good that is wrought in the lives of men through the songs they sing around the luncheon table, and in their evening meetings.

Music, both vocal and instrumental, have a wonderful effect for good. In it there is harmony; and whether or not we realize it, harmony winds itself into our very souls; and you cannot have discord in souls filled with harmony.

Throughout the country I have witnessed the marvelous power of music, and nearly always it is a power for good. I remember many years ago I was in a western mining camp. In the evening when I had nothing to do I visited what the miners called one of their "joints," a dance hall where men and women mingled together, drinking, singing, dancing. They had a three-piece Mexican orchestra of a mandolin and two guitars.

After watching the proceedings for some time, I went over to the orchestra and asked that "Home, Sweet Home" be played, and then "Nearer My God to Thee." The effect was astounding. At the first strains of Payne's immortal air, the eyes of those roysterers took on a far-away look. Each and every one was thinking of the place of his birth; the scenes of his youth; the father and mother who watched and guarded him in those far-off times. Tears ran down their faces. And when the music of the old church hymn began, men and women, one by one, began to leave the place, and in a few minutes it was deserted.

Recently, in one of the largest golf clubs in the world, the Glee Club of the Chamber of Commerce of that city was rendering various selections. Almost everyone was interested, including an old man who seemed to be living entirely in the past. Practically all the selections, which were classical or semi-classical, held his attention until the singers began "Let the Rest of the World Go By." The harmony was wonderful, and everybody except the old man seemed greatly to enjoy it. He left the room and stood just outside the door. I was interested, and followed him. He had been a failure in life.

"Don't you like that song?" I asked him. "Wasn't that wonderful harmony?"

"Yes," he admitted, "the harmony is wonderful, but the sentiment is all hosh. Your work is with men, and you ought to be glad of it, for on the whole men are loyal and truthful. You can depend on what they say. But the Lord deliver me from women! Few, if any, are dependable."



Melvin Jones

If I were hanged on highest hill,
Mother o' Mine,
I know whose love would follow me
still,
Mother o' Mine.

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
Mother o' Mine,
I know whose tears would come down
to me,
Mother o' Mine.

If I were damned of body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make
me whole,
Mother o' Mine.

The melody filled the room, the sentiment went to our hearts. Then this old man, foreign-born and widely traveled as he was, who wanted us to believe that his failure in life had been due to confidence betrayed by woman, went slowly to his locker and took out a photograph. It was old,

soiled and worn from much handling, but he looked on it with tear-filled eyes. It was a picture of the greatest mortal who had ever lived on earth. It was his mother. I left him without a word. Nothing that any of us could have said or done would have softened that old man's heart and laid bare the soul of him as that song had done.

I have seen clubs go into session listless, dead, no pep, no energy. The members were filled with discord, envy, selfish ambitions. Then the club song book, and the singing. As the meeting went along, the character of the meeting underwent an entire change. The men became brothers, united in a good work, thinking of the noble work they were engaged in, forgetting self, under the witching spell of that great inspiration of harmony.

Thus in the wild mining camp, in the griefs and misfortunes of life in the city, in gatherings of business and professional men, music is forever working for good.

"God sent his singers upon the earth
With songs of sadness and of mirth,
That they may touch the hearts of men
And bring them back to heaven again."

Someone has said that music is a means of expressing man's feeling without words. Above the clouds is the sky; beneath the foam is the sea. Long before man had a name for any thought or thing, he had hopes and fears and passions. These were crudely manifested in his tones.

Had there never been human affection, there never would have been uttered a strain of music. Language is not subtle enough, tender enough, to express all that we feel and when language fails, our highest and noblest

Melvin Jones Speech

Lions and Guests,

Today I am going to share with you, excerpts from an article I wrote for the April, 1927 issue of The Lion magazine.

“Sometimes I think we all underestimate the good that is wrought in the lives of men through the songs they sing around the luncheon table, and in their evening meetings.”

“Recently, in one of the largest golf clubs in the world, the Glee Club of the Chamber of Commerce of that city was rendering various selections. Almost everyone was interested, including an old man who seemed to be living entirely in the past. Practically all the selections held his attention until the singers began Let the Rest of the World Go By. The harmony was wonderful and everybody except the old man seemed greatly to enjoy it. He left the room and stood just outside the door. I was interested and followed him.”

“Don’t you like that song?” I asked him. “Wasn’t that wonderful harmony?”

“Yes”, he admitted, the harmony is wonderful, but the sentiment is all bosh. Your work is with men, and you ought to be glad of it, for on the whole men are loyal and truthful. You can depend on what they say. But Lord deliver me from women! Few, if any, are dependable.”

“Just then, the baritone soloist began to sing Mother O’ Mine. The melody filled the room, the sentiment went to our hearts. Then this old man, who wanted us to believe that his failure in life had been due to confidence betrayed by woman, went slowly to his locker and took out a photograph. It was old, soiled and worn from much handling, but he looked on it with tear-filled eyes. It was a picture of the greatest mortal who had ever lived on earth. It was his mother. I left him without a word. Nothing that any of us could have said or done would have softened that old man’s heart and laid bare the soul of him as that song had done.”

“I have seen clubs go into session listless, dead, no pep, no energy. The members were filled with discord, envy, selfish ambitions. Then the club song book, and the singing. As the meeting went along, the character of the meeting underwent an entire change. The men became brothers, united in a good work, thinking of the noble work they were engaged in, forgetting self, under the witching spell of that inspiration of harmony.”

Thank you for your kind attention. MJ

LIONS CLUBS OF IOWA
Centennial Speech Contest

MD9 Lions Centennial Speech Contest

District 9 ___

Performer _____

Club #: _____

Final Rating/Score _____

Judging Note: We agree with the belief of the IHSSA that judges are expected to encourage students through recognizing strengths and providing suggestions for enhancing their communication skills, communication skills. Competent judging provides a balance of these comments which can easily be interpreted by the performer.

Judging Categories	Score 1-5	Strengths/Suggestions
INTERPRETATION		
Projection of intended purpose		
Projection of emotion		
Established mood		
Demonstrates analysis of material		
VOCAL DELIVERY		
Volume		
Pronunciation		
Timing/Pauses		
Articulation		
Vocal variety		
Physical Delivery		
Appropriate use of gestures		
Facial expressions		
Effective use of eye contact		
Appropriate Period Apparel		

65 possible points

Comments must justify the rating!

Judge: _____