

## Ahoy, Region Presidents, 2008 Region Speech Winners, and 2009 Speech Contenders!

Shiver me timbers! Don't be left standing on the dock in Vancouver waving goodbye to the 2009 Convention aboard the *Serenade of the Seas*.

So that this won't happen, you need to be prepared because of the unique nature of the Convention at Sea.

The International Board has granted a waiver to the Speech Contest Rules for this Convention only. The rules state that the Region winner in the non-Convention year has automatic right of entry into the Convention year Region Contest, with only one winner from that contest going onto the International Contest.

The waiver for this Convention means that the 2008 winner (or second place if the winner cannot attend) may also enter the International Contest at Convention without further competition.

Region Presidents, please provide Stephanie Booth, the International Speech Contest Chairman, with the names and email addresses of the 2008 Region Speech Contest 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. 2008 Region Speech Contest Winners, if you haven't already done so make your booking for the Convention at Sea NOW.

For the as yet unknown 2009 entrants we are asking for the help of the Regions. The Cruise line requires us to book well in advance. The Cruise line is holding 4 Cabins (8 beds) for us for the 2009 Entrants. However a deposit of \$250 US must be paid by November 30, 2008, to hold a place, with the final payment due by March 1, 2009. (Approximately USD\$1422.44 minus \$250 deposit = \$1172.44.) A cancellation made within 30 days of departure will forfeit only the deposit amount.

If your Region is able to support your candidate, we are asking you to book a cabin and pay for it now. Regions may pair up so the two contestants can share a cabin and minimize the cost. The cabin can be booked initially under the name of Region 1 Winner, Region 2 Winner, etc. Contact Susan Hajek, [shajek@cruiseshipcenters.com](mailto:shajek@cruiseshipcenters.com) to work through this.

Unfortunately, the Cruise Line has said that we need actual passenger's names by June 1, 2009 (no exceptions). We realize that 6 Regions have their Region Conferences after this date. We want to work with these Regions to see what we can do to ensure you have a contestant in the International contest.

The International Speech Contest will be on Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> in the Theatre, a lovely 900 seat venue, certain to showcase the best of our speakers. It would be such a pity if your Region Winner was left at home for want of a cabin.

**Contact** -- Speech Contest Chairman Stephanie Booth at [traveler@redshift.com](mailto:traveler@redshift.com)  
or Convention Coordinator Doris Ginther at [coordinator@powertalkconvention.com](mailto:coordinator@powertalkconvention.com)

### **Tasks:**

#### **Region Presidents**

- ◆ Notify 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place 2008 Region Speech Contest winners of the waiver and their eligibility to compete directly in the 2009 Convention at Sea.
- ◆ Provide names and email address details immediately to Stephanie Booth.
- ◆ Book cabin for unknown 2009 entrant.

#### **2008 Region Speech Contest winner**

- ◆ Book your cabin now.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Booth, DC  
POWER*talk* International Speech Contest Chairman