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I.B.P.O.E.W. CANTELL Lodge #1417
735 Ash Street | Alliance, Ohio 44601

Greetings,

My name is Dr. Fendrich R. Clark. I am the Director of Education at Cantell Lodge #1417 of the Improved Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks of the World, Inc., located at 735 Ash St., Alliance, OH 44601. The I.B.P.O.E.W. has been working to improve the lives of individuals living in communities like Stark County since 1898. One example of our commitment to serving the community is our International Oratorical Contest.

Annually, the I.B.P.O.E.W. Grand Education Department awards \$10,000 in scholarship money to the winner of its International Oratorical Contest. There are eight regions who participate in the Oratorical Contest. Each region has a contestant participate at the local/state/regional/national levels. The winning contestant at the local level will move on to the state level. The winning contestant at the State level will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and move onto the Regional level. The winning contestant will receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the Regional level and move onto the National level. The winning contestant at the National level will receive a \$7,500 scholarship for a total of \$10,000. The \$10,000 will be made payable directly to a college or university of the contestant's choice. Click [here](#) to view stories and reports of past Contest winners.

This letter is in effort to assist Cantell Lodge #1417 in recruiting interested Class of 2025 and 2026 students to participate in the 2025 International Oratorical Contest. Below are a few specific details of the Oratorical Contest. A more detailed description of the Contest will be available in the 2025 Grand National Oratorical Contest Rules & Procedure, Application, and Information for Parents & Students Packet, available upon request.

Below are the Contest rules and procedures:

1) Competitors must deliver an original 8-to-10-minute oration on **one** of the following topics:

- The impact of AI and Automation on the Future of the Workforce.
- Roe v. Wade: Synopsis: Women's right to choose.
- Women in Global Political Leadership: Synopsis: Women involved in global political arena is increasing, explain their political impact.
- Student's, Schools, and Cell Phones: Synopsis: Discuss the pros and cons of students having immediate access to cell phones during school hours.

- Global Climate Control: Synopsis: Explore its effect on nature, the economy and living organisms.

2) Speeches need to be well researched, memorized and eloquently delivered.

3) Any high school Junior and Senior who may be interested will need to complete an application and return to Cantell Lodge #1417 by the due date, March 1, 2025.

We sincerely hope that you are as interested in this opportunity for your high school Junior and Senior students as we are, excited, for the chance to bring such a marvelous opportunity to the students of the Alliance-area and its surrounding communities. As stated before, additional information will be available in the forthcoming Information for Parents & Students Packet.

If you have any questions, or to APPLY please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 704-7106 or clarkfr1906@gmail.com.

In Elkdom,

Fendrich R. Clark, PH.D.

Director, Department of Education Cantell Lodge #1417