

2019 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

GENERAL RULES

1. **Participants must hold active membership** in the Loyal Order of Moose or Women of the Moose. Each individual member is permitted to have one entry in the competition.
2. **All participants must present a valid Moose membership card to contest organizers** prior to participating at each level of the competition: at lodges, districts, associations, and for the final culminating International competition. This does *not* include receipts of recent membership renewal transactions, but rather, a valid, active membership card.
3. **Contest organizers reserve the right to ask for credible identification** (i.e. a drivers' license) to confirm that the name on the membership card is, in fact, the person competing.
4. **ALL active members are eligible to participate**, including winners from previous years' contests and those who have received money in the past for musical performances.
5. **Individuals who hold multiple memberships must decide under which Lodge or Chapter membership they will be competing**. Contestants cannot compete in a Lodge that they do not hold a membership; membership will be verified at Moose International.
6. **There is no charge** for participating in this competition.
7. **Because this is a Karaoke contest, contestants must sing Karaoke songs**. They are not required to read lyrics off of a TV monitor, but the back track must be an original work from another original artist. Singing a cappella without such music would not constitute "karaoke" and could, therefore, lead to disqualification.

LODGE / CHAPTER PARTICIPATION

1. **Participation by a Lodge or Chapter is strongly encouraged, but is not mandatory**. Lodges should make every effort to deliver this fun experience to their members for increased member satisfaction and retention. Failure to host the contest can result in disgruntled members who are not permitted to compete at another lodge. If a Lodge chooses *not* to participate, it is up to the members to voice their concern to the Lodge's Board of Officers in an attempt to persuade them to host the event.
2. **A Lodge that does not occupy physical property should coordinate with a neighboring Lodge** to use their Lodge home for the competition, but this competition should remain completely separate from the hosting lodge's competition, resulting in a different winner from *each* lodge. Members will only compete against members from their *own* Lodge and its affiliated Chapter.
3. **If a neighboring Lodge home is not available**, the Lodge may seek another venue for the competition.

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LODGE COMPETITION

1. **Competition at the Lodge is only open to members** of that particular Lodge and its affiliated Chapter.
2. **Members of stand-alone Chapters** (Chapters whose affiliated Lodges have closed) may compete at neighboring Lodge competitions. Members will only compete against members from the same Chapter.
3. **Lodges are responsible for securing professional karaoke services for competition**, as well as paying all related fees for such services. Lodges are also responsible for securing qualified individuals to serve as judges for competition. Recommendations for selecting judges are defined later in this document.
4. **The number of weeks of Lodge competition should be based on the number of registered participants**. A lower number of registrants allows for a format of individuals performing multiple songs and should allow the Lodge competition to be completed in a minimal number of weeks. A higher number of registrants likely allows for one song per person over a period of several weeks, with a certain number of participants being eliminated each week. A high number of participants will also require more time, and the format utilized should allow the entire competition to be completed in the prescribed time period.
5. **It is anticipated that approximately six minutes will be devoted to each participant**, including introduction of the performer, performance of the selected song, judges' comments and scores, and the change to the next performer. Using this time frame, Lodges with a high number of registrants would require three hours to complete 30 performers singing one song each.

EVENT PROMOTION

1. **The dates and times (and locations, where applicable) of Lodge competition should be advertised to members well in advance**. Information could be posted in the Lodge home, distributed in Lodge newsletters, posted to Lodge websites or Moose Pages sites, sent via email to Lodge and affiliated Chapter members, or sent via regular mail to those for whom there is no email address on file.
2. **There should be a clearly indicated deadline date** by which participants must register for competition. The deadline should be enforced.
3. **Moose International will provide the lodges with promotional posters** to display in a prominent location in the lodge in early fall. Digital copies of the event flyer are also available to lodges to use in promotional emails to their members.

JUDGES

1. **It is recommended that the individuals selected to serve as judges are knowledgeable about music**, and it is preferred that they work in the field of music. Great choices are: music teachers from the local school district, radio or television personalities, and/or local music professionals.

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- To prevent conflicts of interest, all efforts should be made to ensure that the judges are not biased.** Ideally, the judges should not be Moose members or family members of the contestants. When this is unavoidable, it is recommended that the Moose member is from another Lodge or Chapter.
- Ideally, those individuals who agree to serve as judges should be willing to make a multi-week commitment.** This will ultimately be determined by the number of weeks that Lodge competition will run, which will be based on the number of participants.
- Judges should not be served alcohol while competition is taking place.** There have been cases in other similar contests where judges were continually served complimentary beverages as “compensation” for judging, and their effectiveness was compromised.

SCORING

- The following is the recommended scoring system for competition.** For each of the 15 items, judges award 0 – 5 points. Associations may choose to use or develop their own scoring system for Lodge, District and Association competitions, but the scoring system outlined below is the system that will be used during the International competition finals at the 2019 International Convention in Las Vegas:
 - Vocal Performance (maximum 30 points)**
 - *Was the singer on pitch?
 - *Did the singer hit high notes without sounding weak or straining?
 - *Did the singer choose a song suited to his/her ability?
 - *Did the singer stay in time with the track/music?
 - *Was the singer able to sustain notes and phrases without losing his/her breath?
 - *Did the singer show knowledge/mastery of the song?
 - Song Interpretation (maximum 20 points)**
 - *Was the singer’s phrasing well done (ex. – no breathing at inappropriate times)?
 - *Did singer have his/her own style, or did he/she mimic the original well (either fine)?
 - *Did the singer use loud and/or soft dynamics to make the song come alive?
 - *Was the singer’s vocal rendition suited to the song?
 - Stage Presence (maximum 25 points)**
 - *Did the singer perform the song in an entertaining manner?
 - *Did the singer draw the crowd and you as a judge into the performance
 - *Was the singer enthusiastic/emotionally in sync with the song?
 - *Was the singer confident on stage?
 - *Did the singer show unusual talent, range or skill?
- *A perfect score would be 75 points.** Judges will be provided blank score sheets for each competitor. Each judge will circle the appropriate point value for each of the 15 criteria on the score sheet.

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- 3. In the event of a tie**, the judges will be asked to vote on one contestant for the best “*overall* impression.” For the sake of time, there will not be tie-breaking performances.

DISTRICT COMPETITION (*Optional, per Association’s discretion)

- 1. Due to the number of Lodges in some Associations, the Association Executive Board may determine that District competition is necessary** in order to narrow the number of participants for Association competition to a figure that will ensure Association competition can be completed during the Mid-Year Conference.
- 2. Associations may also determine that it is necessary to send multiple finalists from the District competition to the Association competition** to ensure there is enough contestants at the Association contest to ensure an effective, fun, and entertaining competition. The number of contestants that an Association allows into their Association contest from their Districts is entirely under the Association’s authority.
- 3. If an Association chooses to hold District competitions**, Lodge competitions will have to be completed earlier so that District competitions are completed no later than four weeks prior to the Mid-Year Conference.
- 4. It is the Association’s responsibility to communicate to Lodges its intent to hold District competitions in a timely manner** so that Lodges can schedule their Lodge competitions accordingly, and District competition dates and venues can be secured.
- 5. Each District Executive Board is responsible for determining the date, time and location for District competition**. The format for District competition should allow competition to be completed in one day. The District should communicate with the winners from the Lodges or Chapters within the District to ensure that they are aware of District competition and the need to participate, if they are to have a chance to advance to Association competition.
- 6. Because Districts are part of the Association, it shall be the responsibility of the Association Executive Board to communicate the date by which District competitions must be completed** to the Officers of each District, to ensure the contests are completed in time for the Association contest.

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ASSOCIATION COMPETITION

- In order to allow proper preparation time for Association competition at the Mid-Year Conference**, each State/Provincial Moose Association will determine the date by which all Lodge competitions must be completed and names of winners submitted to the designated person within the Association (i.e. Association Secretary, Associations Liaison, and Association Activities Committee Chairman).
- Associations will need to communicate to all Lodges when Lodge competitions need to be completed.** It is recommended that Lodge competitions be completed no later than four weeks prior to the Association Mid-Year Conference to allow competitors to make necessary travel arrangements.
- Each Association will be responsible for securing space for Association competition at the Mid-Year Conference**, including details on any food or beverage that will be available. The Association is also responsible for securing professional karaoke services for Association competition and paying all associated fees.
- Association level Judges** – The Association is responsible for securing the judges for Association competition. It will be up to the Association to determine whether or not lodging will be provided for judges. As with Lodge competition, it is recommended that the individuals selected to serve as judges are music teachers from the local school district, radio or television personalities, or local music professionals. Also, judges should not be served alcohol while competition is taking place.
- Associations should send their winning member's information to the contest supervisor, utilizing the 'Association Winner's Form'** available on the Moose International website under: *Programs & Events / Karaoke*. This form will ensure that Moose International receives all pertinent information about each contestant in a timely manner. Send the completed form to the Moose International contest supervisor in the Activities department. The form requires the following information:
 - Member's first & last name** (as it appears on their membership card)
 - Membership ID #** (Please verify the member is an active member in good standing)
 - The expiration date of the member's membership** (ensure member is still active)
 - Member's email address** (sometimes this info is outdated in their membership record)
 - Member's phone number** (sometimes this info is outdated in their membership record)

This winner's notification form should be sent in from the Association, NOT from the contestant, regardless if the contestant is directly sending the video recordings to Moose International.

- At the conclusion of the Association contest the **Contestant will upload the two required MP4 video performances to YouTube** AND send the link (link to upload may be provided) to Moose International to ensure the prescribed deadline is met.

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

1. **Following the conclusion of Association competitions**, all Association winners will be asked to commit to the terms of the International contest, should they be chosen to move forward. This allows the runner up to take the title if the winner cannot travel to the competition city (i.e. has work conflict).
2. **All contestants are responsible to ensure that two digital/MP4 VIDEO recordings of themselves, singing karaoke songs, are uploaded to YouTube. The link (link may be provided) of these videos are to be forwarded to the Moose International Activities Department. THIS IS THE ONLY FORM OF SUBMISSION.**
 - a. ****IMPORTANT: For judges to fairly and effectively judge these criteria, it is required that videos of the contestants' performances are submitted at the International level of the contest, as opposed to submitting just audio recordings. If an Association winner submits an audio-only recording to Moose International, the "Stage Presence" section of the score sheet will be scored as a "zero" by all three judges, reducing the total points for the overall performance.***
 - b. **Recordings MUST be uploaded to You Tube, with the link forwarded (link may be provided) via email to Coordinator of Activities Gordie Dailey at Moose International gdailey@mooseintl.org.**
3. **The panel of judges will narrow the field from 43 to 7**, and those 7 finalists will be invited to the 2019 International Convention in Las Vegas, NV, to participate in the finals for cash prizes.
4. **Each finalist will also receive round-trip airfare (or equivalent) and two nights lodging at the Moose International-designated hotel.** If a contestant opts to drive to the contest, and the mileage costs exceed the standard airfare cost for the same trip, the contestant will receive the value of the comparable airfare *instead*, after a cost comparison is conducted. Additionally, *reasonable* ground transportation costs will be reimbursed to contestants who ***provide timely and appropriate supportive documentation***, along with the completed expense form, provided by Moose International.
5. **The first, second, and third place winners in the International competition will win \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000**, respectively. Winners must submit W-9 forms to Moose International to be compensated prize money (form provided by Moose International).

For further clarification on any of the Moose International karaoke contest rules and/or guidelines, please contact the Coordinator of Activities & Heart of the Community Gordon Dailey at 630-966-2214 or his Assistant Camille Ruffino at 630-966-2213.