**Grand Bethel Essay Competition 2018**

Thanks to our Grand Guardian, Teri Stieg, for asking me to chair the Essay Contest again this year; it was a privilege to help in this way and so heartwarming to read each of the essays entered.

This year, the contestants were asked to write their essays answering the question of “What are your dreams for the future, and how will Job’s Daughter’s help you achieve those dreams?”

Each Bethel Daughter’s essay was creative and insightful, and showed the heights of the dreams they have for the future. Our Daughters want to be care givers, award-winning actresses, medical professionals, attorneys, FBI Agents, and teachers. They aspire to help their community while achieving their own aspirations. They truly are our future – and Job’s Daughters is going to help them get there!

There were 21 entrants this year – 3 in Category A, Ages 10-13; 9 in Category B, Ages 14-16; and 9 in Category C, Ages 17-Majority.

I had three English teachers as judges: one of them is a teacher in my district. Another is a Past Honored Queen from Bethel No. 278 in Yorba Linda. The last one is a 25+ year veteran of the classroom – they ALL were impressed with our Daughters’ writing, their hopes and dreams, their community involvement, and how their essays conveyed their hopes and dreams for the future.

I did NOT know whose essay belonged to whom until I tallied up the final scores – as each essay came in, it was coded with a letter and number and stayed that way until Monday night when I added up the scores and determined their averages. After averaging the scores and rounding up or down to the nearest whole number, I found I had to go back and re-tally AGAIN, as I had multiple essays with the same number. Going back, I left the scores averaged to the hundredths place on my calculator and discovered that the winning score was only **.67** ahead of the 2nd place finisher!

There were many more entrants this year than last (there were only nine!), and it made reading their essays much more enjoyable! However, one Daughter put her name and Bethel number on each page of her essay, while another did not follow the rules and have a cover sheet on her essay. Both of these errors cost the writer valuable points and were completely avoidable. One other Daughter did not mail her essay until May 10th – clearly past the May 1st deadline and per the Grand Guardian, unfortunately had to be disqualified.

Into the future: the Entry Form MUST be changed to avoid problems for the next chairman – the entrant’s Bethel number needs to be put here (I had to work with both the Grand Secretary AND Deputies to find all of them!), as well as adding the word “City” to the “Address” line. Many girls only put their street name and number on the form, leaving me to Google the city.

All in all – it was a great experience! If future Chairs have any questions, feel free to contact me!

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