District “F” Youth Education Seminar Presentation 2023

The following information was presented at the seminar, except where I may have mentioned it at one and not the other, or missed completely.

I require a copy of all zone directories, so that branch chairs can be contacted by me directly if questions arise from the Provincial office. Contacting the branch is not sufficient. I also need the names and contact of Zone chairs if they have changed.

General Information available for references:

1) Forms and information can be found at Ontario Command website under Youth Education. Poster/literary, Public speaking, and the revised Video competitions.

2) Veterans Affairs. There are lots of free handouts which can be requested either

by the branches or individual schools. Only requirement is that someone has to make contact to order the free materials.

3) Thomega information is also available through Ontario Command under Youth Education. A set of CDs which can be ordered (expensive but can be charged to Poppy). The CDs have veterans’ stories on them and since many of our veterans are now unable to go out to the schools to give talks, these may be helpful. CDs belong to the branch if they were ordered through the branch and branch can distribute them to various schools but they do belong to the branch. If a school were to order them, they belong to the school. “Canada Remembers”

VIDEO COMPETITION

-This is being run bythe National Foundation out of Ottawa. Entries are to be submitted online by December 15. Information can be found on the Ontario Command website under Youth Education. Can also be found under “RemembranceContests.ca”

-There are only two age groups this year: Grades 7 to 9 and Grades 10 to 12.

-Entries may be by an individual or a group but only the group contact person will be in discussion with organizers, if necessary.

-Video length ranges from 30 seconds to 2 minutes.

-Branch chairs are not involved after they notify the schools, or students, of this event since entries are submitted online

PUBLIC SPEAKING

-All information is again available on the Ontario Command website under Youth Ed

-Dates are extremely important and must be worked backwards from the Provincial

competition. Students must compete at the branch level in order to qualify for the next level up. They may compete in only one branch but it does not necessarily have to be the branch closest to them if they have a conflict in datesand prior commitments. Branch chairs must have their branch competition before the zone competition, so choose your date very carefully after your zone date has been confirmed.

Dates to avoid: -Family weekend Feb 17 to19.-March Break 9 to 17

-Easter March 29 to 31

-Zone convention dates

DATES for Public Speaking either confirmed or to be determined:

Provincial Public Speaking : Saturday May 4, Toronto BR 101 Long Branch

Area F & G: Hosted by District “F” April 20, location ?

District F: Host ? : Date April 13

Zone: Set your date according to the above information

Branch: Set according to your zone date BUT highly recommend they have a date AFTER the Family weekend and BEFORE March break.

ZONE CHAIRS must compile a list of branch dates, and chair contact information, and supply a copy to Provincial Command, Hailey Gobin and myself as soon as possible so that inquiries may be responded to as quickly as possible.

-Award/prize money for Public Speaking DOES NOT come from Poppy funds.

-Chairs of public speaking contests, at all levels, must read the rules aloud to everyone attending, before the speeches begin. Although it is not a specific rule, stress that clapping andstanding during a students’ speech or at the end, is not fair to the other speakers. Some students have worked this into their speeches and it can influence judges

-Although we ask the speakers to state what their topic is, it is recommended that the chair ask the speaker about the content when they register. Some students have given a general topic ie “Teenage years” and then go into a speech about rape. If the chair finds this out before that age group of speakers give their speeches, then the chair can advise parents of younger children in the audience that they may wish to remove their young child from the room for that group of speeches.

POSTER/LITERARY

-National Foundation changed, or added the name of Rabbi Bulki to the literary contest, but it is the same contest

-on some pages, it is written that entries from kindergarten may be accepted but if this is done, it is recommended that the entries are only accepted at the branch level

-On an information page from Ontario Command, there are a number of dates about when winning entries have to be forwarded to the next level. Zone chairs are to ignore the date for sending materials on to me at District, I want them by DECEMBER 20. The Zone chair can then set their date accordingly, giving themselves time to judge and do paperwork which has to accompany the winning entries. I would suggest that branches set their date toward the first week on November and zone towards the end of November

-in the information from Ontario Command website, there is a Public Release of Information form. Branches should make sure the students fill one of these out, especially if photos are taken of the students who placed at the branch level. I recommend that these forms be photocopied and the copy be sent along to the next level of competition, keeping the original at the branch. The same procedure should occur at each level since there are always people taking pictures that may end up in a newspaper or legion magazine and we need to have it in writing that the students/families agreed.

-Plagiarism. Before sending the winning entries on to the next level of competition, chairs are asked to type in the first line or two of a poem to see if anything pops up signifying that the poem was copied. The same goes for essays but you may need to type in an entire paragraph to see if the student has done a cut and paste or copied the entire paper. Do this before you fill in your forwarding sheets so that if there is proof of plagiarism, the second place can be moved up to first, third to second.

-Forwarding sheets. Chairs need 4 blank copies of this, one for Black & White poster, one for Colour poster, one for Essay and one for Poetry. Make sure you print the information, if there is an entry where a signature is not clear, phone the school or the family to get the correct spelling. When completing certificates, the correct spelling is needed. Make sure you have a correct address, phone number, email address for the winning students since sometimes, it is necessary for people at Provincial or myself to contact them.

-chairs are to code all entries on the back, in pencil. This is only needed for the winning entries at the branch before they are sent on to the zone level. Zone chairs should check to make sure this has been done before sending materials on to the District level.

-Statistical sheets seem to present a problem to many people. At the branch level, fill in the total number of Primary Black & White entries which you received. Do this for every category of competition where you just focus on the number of entries in that age competition. At the bottom of the number of individual competition entries, you will then total up the number of entries received at your branch. When this sheet is forwarded to the zone chair, they will add up all of the entries received from each of their branches, again by age and competition giving a much larger number of entries at each level. Total the page and forward it to District. These numbers are important at the Provincial level to see if our competitions are working.

-Items to forward to the next level: -winning entry in each category, properly coded

-forwarding sheet

-statistical sheet

-Release of information sheets

-Prize awards COME OUT OF POPPY for the Poster/Literary competitions.

Prizes at branch cannot be higher than zone, and zone cannot be higher than district.

\*Since teachers are possibly looking at going on strike, when distributing materials in the schools, try adding a paragraph in information to the teachers, asking that the students can take their entries home with them, finish them and submit to branches on their own time, by the branch due date.

Other areas that I forgot to mention:

-Track & Field. If students are interested, or show talent, they should contact Zones 1,3 or 5 to get more information on training locations

-Nijmegen March has been put on hold by DND until 2026, therefore no opportunity to take part until this event is reviewed by DND